

Journal #5036 from sdc 9.28.21

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Did You Know?



CNN.COM

Fossilized footprints show humans made it to North America much earlier than first thought

Unequivocal evidence that humans were in North America at least 23,000 years ago

Breaking news: IndiJ Public Media, the company that brings you Indian Country Today, is now officially a “public charity” under the law also known as a 501(c)(3) organization. We are an independent, nonprofit news company.

This has been a long process. And a quick one.

The long process goes back 40 years to the Lakota Times. The newspaper was started as a for-profit venture by Tim Giago. Then the company was owned by the Oneida Indian Nation, then the National Congress of American Indians. Since March we have been on our own as IndiJ Public Media. But what was missing, until this week, was the legal framework of a nonprofit.

The long process should include other Native media ventures, too. During the 1970s the American Indian Press Association was an Indigenous version of the Associated Press. It was based in Washington, D.C., (and later Albuquerque) and produced copy for tribal media across the country. The press association was brilliant and the bylines are familiar ones today, including Suzan Shown Harjo, Gary Fife, Tom Richards Jr., and of course, Richard LaCourse.

Yet the press association failed. One huge reason is that the IRS rejected the organization’s application to be a nonprofit organization. There was no real track record for nonprofit media and the IRS said a press association was more of a trade group. So there was little foundation support and the tribal newspaper “clients” did not have the resources to support the press association. A worthy experiment.

Of course the world has changed a lot since the 1970s. Now there are lots of nonprofit newsrooms and it's part of the legal fabric. We were sure we would get the IRS’ blessings ... we just did not know when.

As IndiJ Public Media’s President Karen Michel told the staff Wednesday: “I’ve been waiting for this approval for what seems like a long time. Now that we have it, I am overjoyed by what it represents for our company. We are an independent, nonprofit news organization devoted to serving our Indigenous people with quality journalism. Each one of you makes that happen each day, and I am blessed to be part of it.”

While we waited for that IRS stamp, we didn’t wait. We asked everyone we could think of for funding. A few foundations found “work arounds” to keep funding us. Individuals contributed record amounts. So far this year nearly 5,000 people have given an average of \$35, for a total about \$160,000. August was a fundraising month and we received more than \$24,000 from readers. September is a “quiet” month where we are not making direct pitches ... still we have received some \$11,000 anyway. Thank you for that.

The best thing about reader contributions is that it keeps our news free. There are no subscriptions, even for our newsletters. Other media can use our content, again, for free. This is important because it elevates public service as our only priority.

So what does our nonprofit status mean? First the approval is retroactive, officially beginning in November of 2020. Second, there are some foundations that have been eager to support us that could not even consider a proposal without that 501(c)(3). This means we can pitch ideas now — and see where they lead.

The quick process I mentioned started in October 2017 when the Oneida Indian Nation donated the assets of ICT to the nonprofit arm of NCAI. That began a process that led to our shift to become an independent nonprofit company. When I first met with NCAI that fall I told that organization's leadership it would take us at least five years to break-even. We are way ahead of that schedule and now IndiJ Public Media has the structure in place to make this all work.

ICT's growth has been phenomenal. But the thing is we still have a long way to go. Our goal is a sustainable news company that serves Indigenous communities. I can't wait until our newscast is available, in every community. Our voices. Our words. News that is written by us. For us.

To make that happen: We need a lot of help. We need more producers for the television newscast. More equipment. We need more reporters and editors stationed across Turtle Island. We need our share of the philanthropic funding directed toward the media.

Thank you for reading and supporting ICT.

Mark Trahant
Editor, ICT



"Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

— *Calvin Coolidge*

DOE Tribal Webinar Series - Building Electrification: Why and How

Join the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy on September 29, 2021 for the next session of the 2021 Tribal Energy Webinar Series entitled “Building Electrification: Why and How”.

Date: September 29, 2021

Time: 1:00PM to 3:00PM EDT

Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4144426975997552397>

The goal of building electrification is to utilize electricity rather than fossil fuels for building heating and cooking applications. Doing so can improve indoor air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This webinar will explore this trending topic on the path to a clean energy future.

Background

Hosted by the DOE Office of Indian Energy, the 2021 Tribal Energy Webinar Series will focus on how tribes can improve community resilience, foster economic development, and support environmental stewardship.

Learn more about the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs: <https://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/office-indian-energy-policy-and-programs:42 PM>

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Actor Mark Ruffalo and actress/author/activist and Emmy Award-winner Sarah Eagle Heart are partnering with documentary film studio XTR as executive producers on...

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NATIVEONLINE.NET

### Mark Ruffalo, Sarah Eagle Heart Co-producing Film on Present-Day Fight for Black Hills

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### Pacific Harmony by Handcrafted Movement

From [Handcrafted Movement](#) is the Pacific Harmony, a 28' tiny house with a main level master bedroom, guest loft, and high-end finishes throughout.





The exterior consists of white board and batten siding with Pacific Cedar accents, a black standing seam metal roof, and a black accent piece next to the front door. The tiny house also comes with an exterior deck, cedar posts, swing, and table and chairs.

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### **Upcoming ONAP Virtual Training Opportunities**

#### **October 6-7 - Maintenance Training**

This course will provide participants with ideas and methods to develop and improve the effectiveness of the housing maintenance operation. Preventative maintenance, routine, non-routine, and deferred maintenance will all be addressed as well as the laws, regulations, leases and other documents that effect maintenance. Particular emphasis is placed on providing good customer service.

**Register [HERE](#)**

#### **October 13-14 - Alternative Funding Sources**

The course will focus on how to develop, finance, and manage Tribal affordable housing projects utilizing NAHASDA, Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC), Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program (AHP) and other gap financing programs. Discussion will include managing investor expectation and complying with program rules and requirements.

**Register [HERE](#)**

#### **October 20-21 – Labor Standards**

This training course provides guidance for recipients and sub-recipients of Indian Housing Block Grants (IHBG) on the requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act, as well as related statutory requirements such as Fair Labor Standards Act, and the option of adopting Tribally Determined Wage Rates as allowed under NAHASDA.

**Register [HERE](#)**

#### **November 17-18 - Low Income Housing Tax Credits**

This course will focus on how to develop, finance and manage affordable housing projects primarily utilizing NAHASDA, Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC), and other gap financing programs. Discussion will include the necessary steps when planning an affordable housing project, information about how to prepare for and navigate the LIHTC application and closing process; secure appropriate GAP financing, leverage NAHASDA funds, manage investor expectations, and comply with program rules and requirements.

**Register [HERE](#)**

### **December 7-9 - NAHASDA Intermediate**

This virtual 3-day training will provide attendees with comprehensive information regarding NAHASDA. Participants will become familiar with all program activities, including rental housing, homebuyer programs, rehabilitation, and housing and crime prevention services. Other major topics that will be covered include the IHBG formula, eligible program participants, income verifications, other federal requirements, financial management and program administration.

**Register [HERE](#)**

### **National Indigenous Women's Resource Center**

Sign up for our co-sponsored training with the Puyallup Nation, A Virtual Peer-Led Primer on Responding to MMIR. Take a virtual field trip with NIWRC and the Puyallup Nation!



This training features:

- Presentations from Tribal Culture Keepers
- Virtual Tour of Cultural Center and Fisheries
- Policy and Legislative Updates
- Traditional Healing and Cultural Practices

**PEER TO PEER TRAINING**

**A Virtual Peer Led Primer on Responding to our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives**

September 28 – 30, 2021

**Register: [niwrc.org/events](https://niwrc.org/events)**

  
NATIONAL  
INDIGENOUS  
WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER



“Pray that there's intelligent life somewhere up in space, 'cause there's bugger all down here on earth.”  
— Monty Python

## U.S. Department of Treasury Capital Projects Fund

The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) has released guidance for the [Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund](#) (CPF) program established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This program provides \$10 billion for eligible governments (State, territories, freely associated states and Tribes) to carry out critical capital projects that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Capital Projects Fund Guidance, now available at [treasury.gov/CPF](https://treasury.gov/CPF), describes how governments may access and use these funds.

A key priority of this program is to make funds available to recipients that would like to make investments in high-quality, affordable broadband infrastructure and other digital connectivity technologies focused on closing the digital divide. This pandemic has shown us that broadband infrastructure is indispensable for access to critical services and participation in aspects daily life, including remote work, telehealth, and distance learning. The guidance provides information about eligible areas for investment and technical standards, and encourages projects in economically distressed areas, supports community empowerment, and encourages strong labor practices.

### WEBINARS:

- States/territories: September 30, 2021 at 3:00 PM ET. Register [here](#).
- Tribal governments: October 6, 2021 at 3:00 PM ET. Register [here](#).

**Today's selection -- from *Merchant Kings* by Stephen R. Bown.** In relation to the economy of its time, and though it was chartered two years after the much smaller British East India Company, the mammoth Dutch East India Company may have been the largest company in history. It was given the powers of a government:

"[Dutch] investors quickly grasped the great potential of securing a full cargo of spices [from the East Indies]. Aided by the wealth of practical advice on navigation and local customs that had been detailed in Linschoten's newly published *Itinerario* and the experience of de Houtman's surviving crew, they formed a new company. The new commander would be Jacob Corneliszoon van Neck, and the seven ships in the expedition would be armed -- they did not expect to be welcomed by the Portuguese. Van Neck, a levelheaded, diplomatic trader, formed friendly relations wherever his ships stopped throughout the Spice Islands. He returned with a full cargo of spices, particularly pepper, that brought a staggering 400 per cent return on invested capital, and the race was on. By 1598 five separate trading companies had launched twenty-two ships to the spiceries. Wherever they sailed in the Indies, they announced themselves as enemies of the Portuguese and as a result were warmly welcomed by the islanders. Within a few years, the mariners and merchants of the numerous Dutch trading companies had explored nearly every coast and visited every port in the region. In 1601 alone, sixty-five Dutch ships left for the Spice Islands.

"The Dutch merchants were so successful, swarming and overwhelming the Portuguese traders, that they started to compete with each other, lowering the price of spices in Europe and raising

them in the East Indies. The investors, now worried, came upon a simple yet effective solution: they would form a single company to limit competition among themselves and combine their efforts against the Portuguese and Spanish. The merchants of Amsterdam approached the States General, the governing body representing all the provinces of the United Netherlands, requesting a monopoly for themselves only and excluding merchants from other Dutch cities and provinces. For years the States General had been admonishing merchants from the various provinces to cease their cutthroat competition and join in common cause against their enemies. Their warning met with bitter opposition, however: each region feared losing its independence. Yet, after much negotiating, on March 20, 1602, the Dutch East India Company, the VOC, was formed under the auspices, direction and coercion of the States General. The company was to have a twenty-one-year monopoly on all trade with the East Indies.

"The new company's governing 'Council of Seventeen' gentleman merchants met periodically in their offices in Amsterdam. Eight were representatives from the Amsterdam city government, four hailed from Middelburg, and one each came from the cities of Enkhuizen, Hoorn, Delft and Rotterdam. The final director was elected in rotation from cities other than Amsterdam, so that Amsterdam itself, the Netherlands' largest commercial centre, could never hold a majority of the votes and decision-making power. Theoretically, any Dutch citizen could become a shareholder, but soon the entire enterprise was governed by a small number of powerful merchants, with capital invested for a ten-year period rather than in each voyage. This venture, the world's first 'joint stock company,' was set to become the world's largest single business enterprise of the seventeenth century. Mere days after the initial public offering, and before the first shareholders had even paid for their shares, those shares were being traded on the Amsterdam stock exchange for a 17 per cent premium.



**Japanese export  
porcelain plate  
(Arita ware) with the  
VOC's monogram  
logo**

"More significantly, the new monopoly was granted powers over the Eastern trade, not normally the province of merchants.



"It would be a private commercial corporation operating free from the direct control of the government of the United Netherlands, yet it would have the authority to make decisions in the name of that government. The VOC could make treaties and declare war or peace in the name of the States General, construct forts and arm them with cannons, hire troops, establish colonies, dispense justice and enact laws, even issue its own currency -- its coins were not stamped with the symbol of a nation or head of state, but with the company insignia. The VOC would essentially operate as a state within a state. In the ensuing years, it forged its way around Africa in the wake of the Portuguese and proceeded to battle them for control of the spice trade, rapidly displacing its erstwhile enemy. The historian Philip D. Curtin has commented wryly, 'The VOC began with its military force more important than its trade goods. It was less a capitalist trading firm than it was a syndicate for piracy, aimed at the Portuguese power in Asia, dominated by government interests, but drawing funding from investors rather than taxpayers.'

"The first VOC fleet sailed from Amsterdam on December 18, 1603, with orders not only to trade but to attack Portuguese ships and forts wherever possible. The VOC's relentless assault on the Portuguese progressed relatively smoothly and rapidly, the company pursuing trade and war with equal vigour. In the first years of its existence, cargoes on VOC ships sent out by the Council of Seventeen were weighted as heavily with guns and ammunition as they were with trade goods and silver bullion. When VOC ships clashed with Portuguese galleons, the Dutch almost always won. In 1605 the VOC captured the Portuguese fort on the island of Ambon, its first territorial acquisition, and continued its conquest rapidly. Within a few years the Dutch company spread across the East from Arabia to Japan, with a vast network of trade depots, forts and factories, many of them seized from the Portuguese, who retreated from this violent onslaught."

### **George Murry**

This starts my 22nd year of teaching middle school. Yesterday was quite possibly one of the most impactful days I have ever had. I tried a new activity called "The Baggage Activity". I asked the kids what it meant to have baggage and they mostly said it was hurtful stuff you carry around on your shoulders. I asked them to write down on a piece of paper what was bothering them, what was heavy on their heart, what was hurting them, etc. No names were to be on a paper. They wadded the paper up, and threw it across the room. They picked up a piece of paper and took turns reading out loud what their classmate wrote. After a student read a paper, I asked who wrote that, and if they cared to share. I'm here to tell you, I have never been so moved to tears as what these kids opened up and about and shared with the class.

Things like suicide, parents in prison, drugs in their family, being left by their parents, death, cancer, losing pets (one said their gerbil died cause it was fat, we giggled and on and on.

The kids who read the papers would cry because what they were reading was tough. The person who shared (if they chose to tell us it was them) would cry sometimes too. It was an emotionally draining day, but I firmly believe my kids will judge a little less, love a little more, and forgive a little faster.



This bag hangs by my door to remind them that we all have baggage. We will leave it at the door. As they left I told them, they are not alone, they are loved, and we have each other's back.

I am honored to be their teacher.

## **An Ark for Vanished Wildlife**

*Sam Knight, The New Yorker*

Knight writes: "When people ask Gow where his animals are supposed to live-the boar, the cranes, the pine martens, the snakes-he replies: everywhere."

[READ MORE](#)

## **Jane Goodall Joins Campaign to Plant a Trillion Trees by 2030**

*Michael Shapiro, National Geographic*

Shapiro writes: "Jane Goodall, the renowned primatologist, is launching Trees for Jane on Tuesday, joining a global campaign to combat climate change by planting a trillion trees by 2030."

[READ MORE](#)

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Explore the [Repository at University Nevada Reno relating to the lives of the Dann sisters and the Western Shoshone Defense Project](#) dedicated to maintaining the Shoshone tradition of respect for and life in harmony with Mother Earth.
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## **Research reveals potential of an overlooked climate change solution**

Earlier this month, President Biden urged other countries to join the U.S. and European Union in a commitment to slashing methane emissions. Two new Stanford-led studies could help pave the way by laying out a blueprint for coordinating research on methane removal technologies, and modeling how the approach could have an outsized effect on reducing future peak temperatures.

Read in [Phys.org](https://apple.news/A6-d0yvx2S7Klfo0CFD-ZCA): <https://apple.news/A6-d0yvx2S7Klfo0CFD-ZCA>

## **[Bay Area high school rescues 4,000 endangered salmon from the drought - they'll grow up on campus](#)**

By SF Chronicle, 9/26/21

During fifth period at Petaluma's Casa Grande High School last week, students scooped tiny, wriggling fish out of a tank. They weren't dealing with classroom pets. Instead, the 17-year-olds were taking care of some the state's last remaining coho salmon at a fish hatchery right on the school's campus.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

On, 26 September 1950, a US naval ship sprayed *Serratia marcescens* and *Bacillus globigii* bacteria into the air roughly two miles off the coast of San Francisco for entirety of six days as part of a secret experiment in biological warfare. United States Officials believe that they exposed all of the city's 800,000 residents, which they considered a successful experiment. This bacteria was considered to be harmless, however 11 people checked into Stanford hospital with serious and unusual urinary tract infections, one of whom died. Senate subcommittee hearings held later included the military admitting to conducting open-air biological warfare tests 239 times, including in Minnesota, Key West, Panama City, on the New York subway, in Washington DC and elsewhere. (via Majadi Baruti ) <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/.../1950-us-released.../>



- In July 1972, a Delta rocket launched the small Earth Resources Satellite. Its mission was to capture multi-spectral imagery of the planet and [assess changes over time](#). Data from the polar-orbiting satellite proved so useful that in 1975, NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey renamed it Landsat 1. The partners continued launching a succession of increasingly sophisticated "Landsat" satellites to continue observations. In 2013, Landsat 8 launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, 160 miles northwest of Los Angeles, California.
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- Data amassed by the satellites is an impartial record of tropical deforestation in the Amazon, increasing water scarcity in the Western U.S., and ice losses in the vast majority of Earth glaciers. It is irrefutable proof of what environmental protection organizations and activists have claimed. In 2020, scientists published their conclusion in the journal Remote Sensing of Environment that "Landsat has provided a critical reference for assessing long-term changes to Earth's land environment due to both natural and human forcing."
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- On Monday, just after 11 a.m. PT, NASA launched an Atlas V rocket carrying Landsat 9 from the newly renamed [Vandenberg Space Force Base](#). The satellite separated successfully from the rocket a half hour later and will orbit at 438 miles above the planet. The new satellite has an upgraded thermal infrared sensor and backup systems allowing the instrument to function for a longer time. Landsat 9 is expected to continue another 50 years of Earth observations, which are used in research around the globe.  
(ArsTechnica, Independent)
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- [Earth glows mystical green in epic aurora image from the International Space Station \(CNET\)](#)