

RAVEN'S CIRCLE

JUNE/JULY 2023 // CIRI NEWSLETTER



Culvert-replacement projects, such as this one in Tyonek, are aimed at increasing and improving salmon habitat. Photo courtesy of TTCD.

TRIBAL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS PRIORITIZE TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

In Alaska, tribal conservation districts (TCDs) combine local knowledge with technical resources to actively manage natural resources on traditional lands, the goal of which is to set local priorities for conservation and ensure sustainable use of natural resources for subsistence, economic opportunity, resource development and cultural preservation.

“TCDs are a way for conservation to be driven by the tribe and community,” said Laurie Stuart, executive director, Tyonek Tribal Conservation District (TTCD). “They implement tribally led habitat restoration projects that support subsistence species and oversee projects that increase the value of tribal lands and create jobs.”

HISTORY OF TCDs

Following the devastation of the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt recommended the Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Act be signed into law by all state governors. This act gave states a step-by-step guide to create conservation districts and laid out their powers and responsibilities. Alaska's soil and water conservation districts formed after the Territory of Alaska enacted legislation in 1947, with local farmers and landowners creating districts in their respective areas. In 2005, TTCD became the first Tribal Conservation District formed in Alaska under federal jurisdiction. It was formed through a mutual agreement among the Native Village of Tyonek, Tyonek Native Corp. and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Today, there are 21 TCDs in Alaska, three of which—Eklutna, Knik and Tyonek—are in the Cook Inlet region.

Some TCDs are formalized as a department within the tribe, some are 501(c)3 entities governed as tribal entities, and others represent and are governed by a consortium of tribes. It is estimated that each of the 21 Alaska

TCDs serves approximately 423 tribal and community members.

Regardless of classification, all TCDs were formed to facilitate technical and financial expertise to meet their stakeholders' conservation priorities.

CHALLENGES...

Though all 21 Alaska TCDs hold formal agreements with the USDA, they receive no base funding and must pursue competitive opportunities. TCDs work with federal (Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), state (Alaska Department of Fish and Game) and local agencies—along with universities, nonprofit organizations and others—for technical expertise, funding opportunities and partnerships.

There was an active Alaska Tribal Conservation Association from 2012 to 2019, incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit. But this model of an independent association—which required an executive director, board members and a separate operational budget—proved unsustainable.

“There is currently no formal avenue for TCDs to collaborate and share resources,” Stuart said. “There are organizations that see the potential of TCDs and want to create centralization or incubating programs housed within their own organizations, but these efforts create an additional layer of bureaucracy between communities and federal agencies, divert direct funding opportunities from TCDs and perpetuate a scarcity approach to TCD capacities, which disrupts tribally led, community-driven priorities.”

“One of the challenges Alaska TCDs are working to address is getting tribal and rural agricultural projects registered as federally recognized ‘farms’ so they qualify for USDA programs,” said Theo Garcia, environmental director for Knik Tribal Council. “A second hurdle is access to training certifications. TCD staff have been unable to become certified as conservation planners because

TCDs IN THE COOK INLET REGION

EKLUTNA TRIBAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- Established 2016
- Goals are to improve food security through community agriculture; provide effective and inclusive outreach and education; monitor, conserve and restore fish and wildlife habitat; and continue to build and maintain a strong ETCD organization.
- Community garden will have harvestable crops for the first time in 2023.

KNIK TRIBAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- Established 2014
- Manages 20 acres of land for dryland food production. Collaborates with partners to address food security and promote TCD capacity.
- Recipient of an Equity grant with U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2022, which provides technical assistance to TCDs and tribes in the southcentral area.
- Conservation efforts are rooted in culturally informed land management and community engagement, from youth to Elders. Goal is to build educational and research capacity in the environmental and agricultural sciences. Working to adopt sustainable, conservation-based practices for its agricultural lands.
- Aims to expand local food production to provide Alaska Native communities with nutritious, storable food and alleviate pressures on wild food populations.
- Experimenting with alternative sources of locally sourced organic fertilizers. Working to protect fisheries and restore streambanks through practices on agricultural field margins and around riparian (wetlands adjacent to rivers and streams) areas.

TYONEK TRIBAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- Established 2005
- Covers 6.6 million rural acres of the upper/Western Cook Inlet area of Alaska, defined as the traditional hunting and fishing grounds of the Tebughna/Tyonek people.
- Since 2014, has created and managed the rural Tyonek Community Farm, a 1.5-acre operation. Harvests are distributed to local households, the Tebughna School and the Elders Lunch program.
- TTCD's fish-passage program has replaced 12 culvert barriers over the past 10 years, working with Tyonek Native Corp. as the landowner.
- In partnership with Tyonek Native Corp., the Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, currently facilitating the largest fish passage project (\$3.6 million) in the state of Alaska at Lower Tyonek Creek.
- Other priority programs focus on cataloging salmon habitat, monitoring for invasive aquatics, mitigating infestations of northern pike in salmon streams, networking with other TCDs and agencies on early-detection rapid-response activities, and education and training for Tebughna youth. /

BOARD CORNER

A message from outgoing CIRI Board Director Roy Huhndorf

I was born on the Yukon River at Nulato and lived most of my life in Anchorage. It was a fellow CIRI Shareholder, Donald Watson, who encouraged me to get involved with CIRI (then Cook Inlet Native Association).

Don and I worked together in the freezer of a wholesale grocer in Anchorage. He joked, “You know why they put you in the freezer, don’t you? It’s because you’re an Eskimo.” Don was an Indian from the Yukon. “But don’t be disheartened,” he said. “This is a good place to be—the bosses don’t come in here because it’s too cold, and we can talk about the things we want talk about.” He wanted to talk to me about CIRI. This was in 1968, and I’ve been involved with the company ever since. I was president and CEO from 1972 to 1998 and served on the Board from 2002 to 2023. I feel very honored to have served all these years.

I want to share another story, one I remember very clearly: In 1975, a fellow regional corporation president came up to me and said, “I feel sorry for you, Roy.” I asked him why, and he said, “CIRI will be the first regional corporation to fail, mark my words, because you don’t have a homogenous Alaska Native culture.” As it turns out, what he described as our weakness ended up being our strength.

In those early years, our Shareholders came from a multitude of geographies and walks of life, including those who had been sent away from home by the federal government for “re-acculturation” in far-away boarding schools. In those schools, loneliness and cultural deprivation instilled a resolve to survive and a commitment to find a better way for their own children. When the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) passed in 1971, those very people provided the knowledge that would make the company work.

ANCSA gave CIRI title to 1.25 million acres of surface estate and 2.25 million acres of subsurface estate within the Southcentral Alaska region. Situated in the most populated part of the state, CIRI was faced with the reality that much of the land in the region was already in private hands, set aside for the state, owned by the military, or off limits for parks and wildlife, leaving “glaciers and mountaintops” for land-entitlement selections.

CIRI leaders refused to accept what would have been deficient selections and began a battle to obtain resource-rich lands in our region. Signed into law in 1976, the Cook Inlet Land Exchange—a three-way land exchange between CIRI, the State of Alaska and the federal government—helped lay the foundation for CIRI’s future successes, including a solid financial grounding.

I’m very proud of the way we came together—and continue to come together—for the benefit of our people. Thank you, again, for the privilege and honor of serving you all these years. Though I will no longer serve on the Board, I remain a proud member of our CIRI family. 🐟



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Thank you to all those who turned out, either in person or via webcast, for our 2023 Annual Meeting, held Saturday, June 3 in Anchorage. Seeing you, our Shareholders and Descendants, at our first in-person Annual Meeting since 2019 provided a fantastic kick-off to the summer—coming together as members of our CIRI family, hearing updates about your families and your lives, and celebrating Alaska Native culture and heritage.

With more than 100 inches of cumulative snowfall over the winter and record-cold temperatures in April, the Cook Inlet region experienced a later-than-average spring. Now that summer has finally arrived, we are busy soaking up every moment! Our region provides us with an abundance of wild resources—birds and mammals, fish and plants—to not only nourish ourselves, but to continue our rich and diverse cultural traditions.

I spent my childhood in Kodiak and Seward, Alaska, with a three-year stint in my father’s home state of Wyoming. I remember gardening with my grandfather and sampling produce “straight off the vine” (my grandfather carried a saltshaker in the chest pocket of his overalls for just such a purpose). When we moved to Seward, we fished for salmon and halibut, and a dear family friend taught us to smoke and store fish. I grew up in primarily urban environments, and it wasn’t until I was an adult that I was invited to fish camp and given the opportunity to fish a tribal net.

Regardless of where we live, subsistence practices are closely bound to the lifestyle of Native people and are key to maintaining and preserving our cultures. Knowledge about harvest techniques and preparation methods, the wise use of resources, and

the concepts of gratitude and sharing are passed down from Elders to young people through participation in subsistence activities, keeping alive these traditions and values.

This spring, Cook Inlet region leaders came together to identify economic, social and cultural priorities for our region. Along with protecting self-determination and revitalizing Alaska Native culture and identity, subsistence was identified as one of top three region-wide priorities. I am excited to work with other Cook Inlet leaders as we come in closer alignment on our shared goals and values around subsistence and conservation.

It was announced in April that I will be stepping down from my current position at the end of this year. As such, this was my last Annual Meeting as your president and CEO. I am excited to spend more time with my family, traveling, and engaging in community-service and volunteer work. My passion for CIRI, its mission and my fellow Shareholders and Descendants will not change. I will always be a proud Shareholder and member of the CIRI family.

Please mark your calendar for CIRI’s next in-person gatherings, our Friendship Potlaches! This year’s potlaches will be held Saturday, Oct. 14, in Kenai, Alaska; Sunday, Oct. 22, in Anchorage; and Saturday, Nov. 4, in Puyallup, Wash. I hope to see you there!

Warm regards,

Sophie Minich

CIRI President and CEO

CIRI MOURNS THE RECENT PASSING OF FORMER BOARD DIRECTORS

Original CIRI enrollees and former CIRI Board Directors Gosta Dagg, William “Bill” English, Helen (Nagy) Josefsen and Leo Stephan recently passed away. They leave a legacy of service to CIRI Shareholders and Descendants, and we send our condolences to their families.

GOSTA DAGG // MAY 9, 1939–APRIL 20, 2023

CIRI Shareholder Gosta Dagg (Yup’ik) passed away April 20 at home in Everett, Wash. He was 83.

Mr. Dagg served on the CIRI Board of Directors from 1974 to 2006. He was born in Anchorage to Josephine Helena Dagg and Gosta Svante Emil Natt Och Dag. After graduating high school in Anacortes, Wash., he worked as a cook on a cannery tender in Bristol Bay to support himself through business and law degrees from the University of Washington.

His career included stints at the Washington State Office of the Attorney General and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Puget Sound Agency, as well as in private practice. Once retired, Mr. Dagg enjoyed travel, golf and fishing. The house he designed and built on Garrison Bay in the San Juan Islands became the gathering spot for extended get-togethers with family and friends, creating many happy memories.

Mr. Dagg is survived by his wife of 55 years, Carole Estby Dagg; children, Emily Dagg and Rolf Dagg; three grandsons; and siblings, Barbara Carlsen and Joan Bunten. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Providence Hospice and Home Care of Snohomish County.



WILLIAM “BILL” ENGLISH // JAN. 31, 1923–JAN. 11, 2023

CIRI Shareholder William “Bill” Deshay English (Inupiat) passed away Jan. 11 at home in Anchorage. He was 99.

Mr. English served on the CIRI Board of Directors from 1988 to 2006 and 2007 to 2010. He was born in Coldfoot, Alaska, to Agorak and William English, and grew up along the Koyukuk River before being sent to live with his father’s family in California as a teenager. He graduated from high school in California, after which time he returned to Alaska and enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving from 1943 to 1945. Following World War II, he pursued his childhood dream of becoming a pilot.

Mr. English held the distinction of being the first Alaska Native commercial airline pilot, the first Alaska Native person to earn an airline transport rating and the first Alaska Native person to be designated as an FAA pilot examiner. He flew commercially for 37 years and was honored as an Aviation Legend by the Alaska Air Carriers Association in 2012 and inducted into the Alaska Aviation Museum’s Hall of Fame in 2014. He received the CIRI Elder of the Year award in 2019.

Mr. English co-founded the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics in the 1960s and served as its first master of ceremonies. In addition to the CIRI Board, he served on the Cook Inlet Housing Authority board of commissioners.

Mr. English is survived by his children, Sharon and son Bill Jr.; grandchildren, Gretta and Wiley; and numerous relatives in Alaska and California. His family is eternally grateful to the many individuals and organizations that helped care for him in his final months, including Providence Hospice Alaska, Alzheimer’s Resource of Alaska and Veterans Affairs of Alaska.



HELEN (NAGY) JOSEFSEN // APRIL 8, 1934–OCT. 15, 2022

CIRI Shareholder Helen (Nagy) Josefsen (Yup’ik) passed away Oct. 15, 2022, at Central Peninsula Hospital in Soldotna, Alaska. She was 88.

Ms. Josefsen was a founding member of the CIRI Board of Directors, having served from 1972 to 1974. She was born in McGrath, Alaska, to Helen and Leroy Crawford. The family moved from Fairbanks to Seldovia, Alaska, when Josefsen was 11. She was an accomplished Alaska Native multidisciplinary artist whose mediums included beading, fiber arts, painting and woodwork. She owned beauty salons in both Homer and Seldovia and was involved in the restoration of Saint Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Seldovia and helped establish the Seldovia Museum.

Ms. Josefsen is survived by her children, Marilyn Nagy, Trinket Gallien, Laurence Nagy and Louis “Lou” Nagy Jr.; grandchildren, Laurie Gallien, Naomi Gallien, Kristy Gallien, Nolan Nagy, Forest Nagy and Sterling Nagy; and two great-grandchildren.



LEO STEPHAN // OCT. 19, 1929–MAY 28, 2023

CIRI Shareholder Leo Stephan (Athabascan) passed away May 28 at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage. He was 93.

Mr. Stephan served on the CIRI Board of Directors from 1974 to 1996. He was born in Eklutna Village, Alaska, to Mary Elizabeth and George Stephan. His grandfather was Simeon Ezi, the last chief of Upper Cook Inlet. He worked as a commercial fisherman and auto mechanic and for the Alaska Railroad and City of Anchorage. In addition to serving on the CIRI Board, he was a board member and president of Eklutna Inc.

Mr. Stephan lived a subsistence lifestyle and taught at the Native Village of Eklutna culture camps. Later in life, he enjoyed sport fishing and camping.

Mr. Stephan is survived by his sons, Lee, Lester and Lewis Stephan; daughters, Gloria Lorah, Mary Charmley, Angela Waskey and Raven Stephan; 16 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and several nephews and nieces. The family wishes to thank Providence’s ER nurses, the 5N medical staff and Dr. Cody Augdahl. Special thanks to friend and home visiting nurse Wayne Christiansen.



“NATIVE AMERICA CALLING”

KNBA AWARDED NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL



Koahnic President and CEO Jaclyn Sallee celebrates at the KNBA Alaska Native Art Auction Gala, held March 25 in Anchorage. Photo courtesy of KNBA.

A big congratulations to KNBA 90.3 FM and “Native America Calling” for receiving a National Humanities Medal! The medal, inaugurated in 1997, “honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation’s understanding of the humanities and broadened our citizens’ engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy, and other humanities subjects,” according to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Through its interactive shows on the radio and online, “Native America Calling” educates the American public about Indigenous issues while preserving Indigenous history and culture to honor their contributions that strengthen the sacred Nation-to-Nation relationship.

“‘Native America Calling’ was developed in 1995 by Native producers working together from Alaska, New Mexico and Nebraska to create a much-needed broadcast forum for Native public affairs,” Koahnic President and CEO Jaclyn Sallee (Inupiaq) said. “Over the last three decades, ‘Native America Calling,’ other Native-made programming and Native-operated radio stations have ensured that Native voices and viewpoints are part of our national conversations.”

President Joe Biden awarded the 2021 medals on March 21, 2023. The ceremony was among the backlog of White House events postponed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WINNERS’ CIRCLE

To increase participation in certain programs, CIRI holds periodic prize drawings from the names of those enrolled who meet certain criteria and have a current mailing address with CIRI. If CIRI has returned mail, a different winner will be selected. Visit the CIRI website or call (907) 263-5191 or (800) 764-2474 to learn more. The following Shareholders and Descendants have been selected as winners for the most recent CIRI drawings:

DIRECT DEPOSIT DRAWING

The direct deposit instruction must be current with CIRI to win.

First quarter drawing for \$500:
• JESSICA BISSETT PEREA

eNEWSLETTER DRAWING

Shareholders enrolled in the eNewsletter program with a valid email address on file.

First quarter drawing for an iPad or \$400 cash:
• ADELLA WILLIAMS

CONFIRMED, REGISTERED DESCENDANT DRAWING

Direct lineal Descendants of CIRI Shareholders who are not themselves Shareholders, who have submitted legal documents substantiating descent and who have a valid email address on file.

First quarter drawing for a Kindle Fire HD or Amazon gift card:
• SAVA CRANDALL (YOUTH)
• EDWARD SWANSON (ADULT)

QENEK ACCOUNT DRAWING

Shareholders and confirmed Descendants who have created a Qenek account or accessed an existing account during the preceding quarter.

First quarter drawing for a YETI cooler:
• JAMIE OSKOLKOFF

GREENLINK DRAWING

Shareholders who have a valid direct deposit instruction and email address on file and who have opted into electronic delivery of certain materials.

First quarter drawing \$500:
• KAREN COFFEY

2023 BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2023 election of CIRI Directors! CIRI Shareholders elected five Directors at the 2023 Annual Meeting, held June 3 in Anchorage: **John J. Estabrook Jr., Carol A. Gore, Robert E. Harris, Cheryl L. Mulcahy and Samuel G. Spangler.** All will serve three-year terms ending June 2023. The Board convened after the Annual Meeting and elected the following Board officers:

Chair: Douglas W. Fifer

Vice chair: Samuel G. Spangler

Secretary: Cynthia L. Muller

Assistant secretary: Robert E. Harris

Treasurer: Rolf A. Dagg

Assistant treasurer: Michelle B. Lindersmith

Chair Emeritus: Thomas P. Huhndorf

A special thank you to departing Board Directors Roy Huhndorf, Katrina (Dolchok) Jacuk and Pat Marrs for their many years of dedicated service!



COUNCIL PRESIDENT: ALFRED TELLMAN

Congratulations to CIRI Shareholder Alfred Tellman, who was recently elected president of Knik Tribal Council. The Council is comprised of five elected members who serve staggered two-year terms. They are appointed by vote during the annual election by eligible voting members. Located in Palmer, Alaska, the Knik Tribe provides services to Alaska Native/American Indian people residing in the tribal service area, including housing and energy assistance, education and job training, health care and traditional/educational subsistence activities.



HIGH-SCHOOL GRADUATION: WINTER ANARUK

CIRI Shareholder Samuel J. Anaruk and his wife, Christina, are pleased to announce the graduation of their daughter, CIRI Descendant Winter Angifak Concepcion Anaruk, from Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School. Winter plans to study wildlife biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.



PUBLISHED: LESLIE COLBURN

Congratulations to CIRI Shareholder Leslie Colburn, whose story about her three-legged cat, S'more, was published in "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Lessons Learned from My Cat." Leslie's story was one of 101 chosen for the publication. The book was released Feb. 14 and is available for purchase on Amazon, or visit Leslie at her website (leslicolburn.com) or on Instagram (@leslicolburn.books).

2023 ANNUAL MEETING PRIZE WINNERS

eVOTE PRIZE WINNERS

Shareholders were given the option of completing an electronic proxy (eProxy) using CIRI's web-based proxy system. If submitted by the appropriate deadlines, eProxies qualified Shareholders for the 2023 Early Bird prize drawings as well as \$13,000 in eVote prizes.

Date of Prize	Shareholder	Location	Amount
May 5, 2023	Shelly A. Jensen	Anchorage, Alaska	\$4,000
May 5, 2023	Gerald P. Mita	Canyon Country, Calif.	\$1,000
May 5, 2023	Karen M. Standifer	Tyonek, Alaska	\$1,000
May 12, 2023	Michael B. Cook	Summerville, S.C.	\$2,000
May 12, 2023	Carlene D. Williams	Bellingham, Wash.	\$2,000
May 19, 2023	Harold F. Rudolph Jr.	Anchorage, Alaska	\$2,000
May 23, 2023	Michelle L. Chivers	Anchorage, Alaska	\$1,000

EARLY BIRD PRIZE WINNERS

A quorum is the minimum number of members or shares that must be represented at a meeting to make the proceedings of that meeting valid. To ensure a quorum is achieved for the Annual Meeting of Shareholders, CIRI's Early Bird Prize drawings reward Shareholders who submit a valid proxy for any proxyholder or candidate by certain dates in advance of the meeting.

Date of Prize	Shareholder	Location	Amount
May 5, 2023	Thomas O. Paddock Jr.	Juneau, Alaska	\$1,000
May 5, 2023	Cherly A. Wilga	West Kingston, R.I.	\$1,000
May 5, 2023	Rosalie L. Johnson	Fairbanks, Alaska	\$1,000
May 5, 2023	Todd M. Masters	Anchorage, Alaska	\$1,000
May 5, 2023	Maya A. Edwards	Cornelius, Ore.	\$500
May 5, 2023	Kevin W. Lovell Decker	Chickamauga, Ga.	\$500
May 12, 2023	Dane T. Waisanen	Anchorage, Alaska	\$2,000
May 12, 2023	Jennifer M. Hetzler	Signal Mountain, Tenn.	\$2,000
May 12, 2023	Wanda L. Riley	Kirby, Wyo.	\$500
May 12, 2023	Zena M. Williams	Hoquiam, Wash.	\$500
May 19, 2023	Tamar Vartanian	Anchorage, Alaska	\$500
May 19, 2023	Rhondel E. Venner	Reed City, Mich.	\$500

ANNUAL MEETING WEBCAST PRIZE WINNERS

Two names were chosen from the list of those who RSVP'd to attend the Annual Meeting via webcast, and one name was chosen from the list of webcast attendees.

Date of Prize	Shareholder	Location	Amount
June 3, 2023	Teresa L. Standifer	Anchorage, Alaska	\$100 Visa gift card
June 3, 2023	Lindsay F. Townsend	Anchorage, Alaska	\$100 Visa gift card
June 3, 2023	Wanda B. Baltazar	Kotzebue, Alaska	\$100 Visa gift card



RECIPE

PEROKE – FISH PIE

THANK YOU TO CIRI SHAREHOLDER ALEXIS COLBERG-NELISSEN FOR SHARING HER RECIPE WITH US!

Peroke is a savory pie made most often with fish, though it may contain moose or other game meat.

START TO FINISH: 90 minutes (30 minutes active)

SERVINGS: 6-8

INGREDIENTS FOR PIE FILLING:

- 4 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 2 cups carrots, sliced or diced
- 2-3 cups cabbage, chopped
- ½-1 cup onion, chopped
- 3-4 cloves garlic, minced or chopped
- 1 cup cooked rice, cooled
- 16 ounces canned or jarred salmon
- Salt and pepper, to taste

INGREDIENTS FOR PIE CRUST:

- 1 cup vegetable shortening, such as Crisco
- 2 cups flour, sifted
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ cup cold water

DIRECTIONS:

1. Sauté carrots, cabbage, onion and garlic in butter. Add salt and pepper to taste.
2. Combine vegetable mixture with salmon and rice and set aside.
3. Mix shortening, flour and salt with fork until crumbly. Add ½ cup cold water, mixing well.
4. Remove dough from bowl and place on a clean, floured surface. Cut the dough in half and form each half into discs. Use your hands or a rolling pin to roll out each disc to approximately 1/8-inch thickness. If the dough is sticking to the surface or rolling pin, add a small amount of flour as necessary.
5. Gently press one disc of rolled, flattened dough into dish so it lines the bottom and sides of dish. Poke a few holes in the dough and fill with salmon mixture.
6. Top with the second disc of rolled, flattened dough. Trim the edges and crimp. Poke a few holes in the top crust so steam can escape.
7. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees and continue baking for an additional 45 minutes or until crust is golden brown.

USDA-required courses relevant to projects in Alaska are undeveloped and/or unavailable in the state.”

“A lot of the folks who did the hard work in the beginning have left us, taking that institutional knowledge with them,” Stuart added. “This is occurring on the federal level as well, which means we are constantly re-training new program managers or waiting for agencies to develop new protocols for funding opportunities.”

Additional challenges include lack of matching funds needed to apply for many federal grants; too few non-federal funding opportunities; and staffing issues, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

...AND OPPORTUNITIES

In April, it was announced that TTCD will serve as project-partner lead on the Restoring Access to Tyonek Creek project (\$780,000). The project is part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, which includes National Fish Passage Program projects. The organization has been restoring salmon habitat through culvert work since 2012. This culvert—TTCD’s 13th—will be its largest to date.

“Habitat monitoring and restoration is one of TTCD’s four program areas addressing conservation needs and goals in our district,” Stuart said. “Salmon is a primary subsistence resource for Tyonek and a major component of the community’s cultural identity. For this reason, protecting fish habitat and improving fish passage has been a major priority for TTCD since our formation. This project will enable us to open a total of 31 miles of stream habitat for subsistence salmon populations.”

Located approximately 40 air miles from Anchorage on a bluff overlooking the northwest shore of Cook Inlet, Tyonek is home to the Tebughna, or “Beach People.” Many of the village’s 175 residents still look to the water for subsistence.

The Restoring Access to Tyonek Creek project comes on the heels another large-scale fish-passage project: In 2021, TTCD worked with CIRI and other partners to replace culverts on tributaries of Indian Creek and the Chuitna River, opening a total of 2.8 upstream miles

and 78 acres of habitat for the migration and movement of adult and juvenile salmon. The culverts were part of a 10-year fish passage prioritization plan developed in 2011, the efforts of which have collectively reopened 44.1 miles of salmon habitat. “It was a 10-year prioritization plan, but we continue to implement projects based on these priorities,” Stuart added.

Eklutna and Knik are making strides of their own: Carrie Brophil, land and environment director for the Native Village of Eklutna, said Eklutna’s community garden is “up and growing.” Through a grant partnership with other local TCDs and Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the village is working to propagate native plants, as well as working on an education project to help start community gardens in other areas of Alaska.

For Knik, the focus is on stream-bank restoration work using native plants and addressing the issue of food insecurity. The tribe began the development of several potato fields in 2020. In 2022, a whopping 27,000 pounds of potatoes were harvested and distributed to tribal and community members. “TCDs build on the strengths of the tribes and communities they serve,” Garcia said.

According to Stuart, future opportunities include “working toward a co-created tribal conservation district network led by TCDs” and pursuing collaborative projects. “Habitat restoration anywhere in the upper Cook Inlet is good for the salmon populations of all the tribes,” she said. “And mitigating invasive species in any district helps to protect the habitat in all of our districts.”

“Sometimes applying for a limited number of grants can feel like a competition, but we’ve been able to find niches and partnerships with other entities,” Garcia added. “TCDs provide services that enhance and preserve our traditional lands, and that benefits everyone, regardless of location.”

In June, TTCD and Knik Tribe were awarded a U.S. Fish and Wildlife grant to work together on a waterweeds-mitigation project in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and expect to receive additional funding for such joint projects. /



IMPORTANT DATES

- Aug. 28, 2023** CST Elders Distribution direct deposit deadline
- Sept. 1, 2023** CST Elders Distribution change of address deadline
- Sept. 4, 2023** Labor Day: CIRI offices closed
- Sept. 8, 2023** CST Elders Distribution
- Sept. 11, 2023** Third quarter direct deposit deadline
- Sept. 22, 2023** Third quarter change of address deadline
- Sept. 29, 2023** Quarterly CST distribution
- Sept. 30, 2023** Quarterly participation prize drawing deadline

THE RAVEN’S CIRCLE WOULD LIKE TO FEATURE OUR READERS’ FAVORITE RECIPES!

To submit and view more, visit ciri.com/recipes



CONDOLENCES

GEORGIA JEAN ANDERSON, 89
DARRELL JOHN BAKER, 56
PATRICIA LETA BARBER, 57
HAROLD JON BATT, 70
JAMES ANDREW BROWN, 62
TONYA RAE CARLSON, 53
JEWELL STEPHENS COLOVICH, 90
PAUL WAYNE DAVIDSON, 81
GERTRUDE JEAN DAVIS, 73
MAE DEMIDOFF, 91
GARY RICHARD FRANZEN, 68
DIANNA LYNN GASKINS, 70
RITA FAY HAKALA, 81
KAREN EILEEN HANAMAN, 62
JENNIFER GRACE HARRIS, 34
WANDA JEAN HAUGDAHL, 58
JOHN R HILLBORN, 60
LINDA MAE HOYT, 73
REBECCA LOUISE KIRSCHNER, 68
KELLIE DEAN KVASNIKOFF, 59
DEANNE MARIE, 81
CAROL JOAN MATTSON, 87
CHERYL RENE MALE, 60
LARRY LEE MARKS, 63
ROYCE RAYMOND NICKALASKI, 57
GEORGE LEE O'DONNELL, 54
GERALD TANNER O'HALLORAN, 53
LINDA LOUISE PHILLIPS, 73
RAYLENE RANNEY, 62
IRENE J ROBINSON, 88
PATRICIA LYNN ROSSER, 64
JOHN ROBERT RUNKLE, 68
FRANK SARACOFF, 90
SANDRA LEE SHAGINOFF, 80
GARY LEWIS TANAPE, 55
MICHELLE ANN TREMBLAY, 66
LEO GEORGE WHEELER, 72
MARY JEAN YENNEY, 91

IN MEMORY

ELIZABETH FOSTER CONRAD, 95

Elizabeth Foster Conrad passed away May 10 at home in Alberta, Canada. Ms. Conrad was born March 2, 1928, near Selawik, Alaska. Along with her husband, she enjoyed hunting, fishing and berry picking. She taught beading and served as an Elder program advisor with Southcentral Foundation. She is survived by her children, Carmen (Tuck) and William Mainord; grandchildren, David, Valerie, Gregory, Gayle, Bryant, Jacinda and Daniel; and great-grandchildren, Charles, Katie, Chloe, Camille, Brielle, Nathaniel, Kara, Dana and Audrey.



CHRISTOPHER MARION STONE JACOBSSON, 45

Christopher Marion Stone Jacobsson passed away Jan. 27 at home in Newport News, Va. Mr. Jacobsson was born Dec. 19, 1977, in Lake Oswego, Ore. He is survived by his daughter, Kayla Jacobsson; sister, June Gustafson; nephews, Luke and Zachery Layman; cousins, Anthony Viera, Theresa Jacobsson, Andy "Flex" Jacobsson, Tracy Craig and Carly Brooks; and many more.



STEVEN BLACKJACK JOHNSON, 65

Steven Blackjack Johnson passed away March 5 at home in Walla Walla, Wash. Mr. Johnson was born Sept. 2, 1957, in Los Angeles. He is survived by his wife, Jill Johnson; brothers, Fred, Mike, Ken and Robert Johnson; sister, Jane Vollant; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

VIOLET NORA MACK, 85

Violet Nora Mack passed away Oct. 17, 2021, in Kenai, Alaska. Ms. Mack was born Jan. 13, 1936, in Golovin, Alaska. She is survived by her children, Larry L. Jones, Roland P. Jones and Alfred C. Jones.

RAY MCCORD, 93

Ray McCord passed away Oct. 4, 2022, at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Mr. McCord was born Dec. 3, 1928, in Tyonek, Alaska. He is survived by his sister, Nancy Wesson; and daughters, Karen Standifer, Valerie McCord and Cynthia Palmer.



TERRY J. ROSS, 45

Terry J. Ross passed away May 10 in Camas, Wash. Mr. Ross was born Sept. 9, 1977, in Anchorage. He is survived by his mother, Clara Beckman; daughters, Terra and Jessica Beckman; sisters, Cheryl Castillo, Michelle King, Barbara King and Jeanna Beckman; and brothers, William Ross, Bryan Ross, Jerry Ross, Richard Beckman and Vincent Beckman.

MISSING SHAREHOLDERS

The following CIRI Shareholders do not have a current mailing address on record. When CIRI mail is returned as undeliverable, the distributions are held, and the Shareholder does not qualify to participate in any prize drawings until the address is updated. Shareholders with Qenek accounts may update their addresses via the portal. Alternatively, Shareholders may visit CIRI's website or call Shareholder Relations at (907) 263-5191 or (800) 764-2474 for address change forms and information.

(As of 6/29/2023)

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Zena Teresa Agwiak
John Thomas Anderson
Shauna Lee Awalin
Roseanna Alexandria Baehm
Natasha Mae Beasley
Thomas Michael Bellinger
Stanley J. Bismark
Phillip Jay Black
Elliott Dale Bradley Jr.
James Patrick Brown
Katarina Elise Burton
David Cabanes
Daniel Forrest Call
Richard Lee Chamberlain
Stacy Amber Faith Chuiitt
Eric Travis Clark
Kenneth Lee Clark
Michael James Cooper
Linda Marie Cromarty
Bryan Jack-Ross Crow
Alyssa Joy Danner
Kamakana Charles-Nukapigak Danner
Marcia K. Denison
Mario Lanza Dyer
Lorraine Max Edenfield
Wolfgang Von Foreman
Wesley Frank Fraley
Drake Edward Frostad
Anthony Lane Fry
Kayla Rochelle Gabby
Carlos Jaime Garcia
Ricole Maria Garcia-Olivera
Joshua Allen Gosser
Nicholas Ross Grainger
Tylor William Graves
Jade Ariane Grunert
Dahmir Lamarr Hale
Jason David Harrington
Jimmie D. Hartley
James Douglas Hatten
Dawn Lenore Hernandez-Robledo
Matthew Michael Holmes
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Elsie Theresa Luke
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Loanne Joyce Martin
Michael West Mason
John Kelly McConnell
Tessie Pamela June Meehan
Jeffrey Brian Meeks
Jessica Ann-Marie Merlino
Melody Ann Miller
Lucy Jean Mogg
Forrest James Nayukok
Gus William Nelson
Jennifer Dawn Marie Newton
Godfrey Nicolle
Quentin David Norman
Nicholas Gabriel O'Donnell
Nolan Ryan Ogle-Endresen
Florence Helen Okpealuk
Quinn Edward Oksoktaruk
Lena Pauline Oksoktaruk-Wood
Brandon Kelly O'Neill
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Jerry Shane Phillips
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Submit ideas, stories and recipes to info@ciri.com



JUNE/JULY 2023 // CIRI RAVEN'S CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

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