When CIRI shareholder Greg Encelewski was a boy, his son, Ivan, also a CIRI shareholder, says, “The rivers were full; you could practically walk across the water on the backs of King salmon. My generation, the rivers were still pretty plentiful. But my kids are growing up in a totally different atmosphere.”

As the executive director of Ninilchik Traditional Council (NTC), CIRI shareholder Ivan Encelewski has a lot on his plate. But fighting for subsistence rights for the people of Ninilchik has been one of his main concerns. It’s also part of what drew his father, Greg, back into local Alaska Native politics. After serving as one of the...
CIRI Launches Podcast

Satisfy your “CIRIosity”

How did CIRI end up with property in Hawaii through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act?

When former CIRI president and CEO Margie Brown was an assistant land planner, did she really receive a $7 million check for CIRI oil royalties made out to her?

What does CIRI’s land story have to do with “The Sound of Music”?

These questions and more are answered in CIRI’s new podcast, CIRIosity. The podcast, produced by CIRI’s Corporate Communications department, just launched and is available on iTunes. Listen to CIRIosity to learn more about CIRI, its shareholders and descendants, its businesses and its affiliated nonprofits.

The first episode—Our Land, Our Legacy—explores the history of CIRI’s land entitlements and how the young company’s aggressive pursuit of a fair settlement set the company on the trajectory of prosperity. Much of the success CIRI enjoys today can be traced back to the perseverance of CIRI’s early leadership in fighting for and negotiating the Historic Cook Inlet Land Exchange.

Listen, learn and satisfy your CIRIosity! The podcast can be found at www.ciri.com/ciriosity. Through a podcast app, you can subscribe in iTunes or the RSS feed (for Android devices) and new episodes will be automatically downloaded to your smart phone.
Weldin Construction is leading the effort to improve the 2525 C Street parking lot, a project aimed in part at attracting new tenants to the building.

By now, you’ve read all about CIRI headquarters’ move to the Fireweed Business Center. Maybe you’ve even had a chance to visit the Shareholder Relations department on the top floor.

But CIRI’s work at its old C Street location isn’t done. Since July 6, after the company’s move, heavy equipment and workers with Weldin Construction, a CIRI subsidiary, have been tearing out old retaining walls and timber curbs from the parking lot in an effort to “spruce things up,” according to CIRI Real Estate Project Manager Robert Gransbury.

“Weldin has been a pleasure to work with and they’ve been really responsive,” he continues. CIRI and Weldin have been able to respond to changes with flexibility while working through an evolving project scope.

The project started as a landscaping effort to remove aging timber curbs and retaining walls, but gradually evolved into a civil construction job for Weldin. In addition to replacing retaining walls, installing curbs and gutters and restriping the lot, Weldin brought on an arborist to provide tree root care and protect the existing trees onsite.

CIRI also coordinated with Conus Design to replace any trees that had to be removed with species that would match the existing look and feel of the site. “It was a priority to protect the existing trees onsite, which have been there since the site was originally developed,” says Gransbury.

“Weldin has been a real pleasure to work with and they’ve been really responsive,” he continues. CIRI and Weldin have been able to respond to changes with flexibility while working through an evolving project scope.

The project is slated for completion by the end of August.
Between graduating from high school and becoming a stay-at-home mom to two small children, Schollenberg attended the University of Alaska Anchorage and earned a degree from Eastern Oregon University before landing a job at The CIRI Foundation and running her own photography business. Now, with her husband running his own surveying business, she focuses on raising their kids and on her position as the youngest member of the Ninilchik Traditional Council board of directors.

“They snatched me up as soon as I moved here!” Schollenberg says. She’s using her first board position to emphasize the role of education in her community, and the effort has been “a big learning curve.” She sees opportunities to expand on the Tribe’s current programs—like the community garden, the educational fish net and the teen center—and to include more community members in the Tribe’s efforts.

“When your population is so small, a handful of people is a lot,” Schollenberg admits. “But I think it helps, especially with the youth, to have a younger person walking the walk and getting involved.”

Of course, there are challenges. The council works hard to create opportunities for people, but the interest isn’t always there. “You hope that when you present someone with something to do, you’re going to get a ton of people who want to do it, but the reality of living in a small town is people are busy or they’re only here part of the time.”

It takes a certain type of person to live in such a small, remote community, she points out. As with many villages in the Cook Inlet region, there’s not a lot to do in Ninilchik unless you make the effort to look. Schollenberg makes the effort.

“In the winter, there’s not much; then again, most everyone I know ski or ice fishes or rides their snow machine,” she says. In the summer, there’s fishing—Schollenberg worked with her father, a set-net fisherman, until she graduated from high school—and clamming, though recent efforts to increase the dwindling clam population have shut down popular beaches.

Still, the customs Schollenberg remembers from her own childhood are already being passed down. Her three-year-old son asks on a regular basis when he’ll be able to go clam digging again. “It hasn’t taken long for traditions like that to be instilled,” Schollenberg says. “You don’t get that kind of thing in a big city.”
He points to young people, like Whitney Schollenberg, who grew up in Ninilchik then moved away for education (see “Local Perspective”). Some, like Schollenberg, end up returning to the village to pursue local jobs and invest in the community they remember.

But a key to retaining a sense of heritage, Ivan says, is maintaining the subsistence way of life—and that’s one battle that he and his father are still waging.

"As important resources dwindle, that sense of community and that cultural aspect will wane," he explains. "And that’s concerning because I think that’s a lot of what brings people back, too—those things they’re attached to, the beauty and the resources and the subsistence here."

Recent years have seen clam digging close on beaches near the village because of low numbers of razor and other clams. Locals have fought for subsistence fishing rights and for the right to set a net in the Kenai River. "It’s been a long and arduous battle," Ivan says. "We started with trying to get an early season for moose hunting, and we’ve slowly made gains, but it takes years to fight the system."

"It’s an issue of food rights and food security," adds Greg. "The younger generations have been taught by their Elders to smoke and eat fish—it’s part of our diet and part of our culture, part of our whole spirit."

To maintain that part of the local culture, Ninilchik will keep seeking fair subsistence regulations. In the meantime, NNAI and NTC are doing what they can to keep growing local opportunities and strengthening relationships. "I think that’s what’s been most beneficial for the whole community," says Ivan. "Being on the same page, getting rid of infighting—working together to move forward.”

Ninilchik is an ANCSA-designated village of the Cook Inlet region.

"I guarantee if this Tribe wasn’t here, this community would have dwindled. We’re proud of not only the employment we’ve been able to provide through the Tribe and our for-profit endeavor, but of making those positions the kind people want to come back for."

– IVAN ENCELEWSKI
Marlene Annette Andrews, 40
Marlene Annette Andrews passed away Feb. 28, in Dillingham, Alaska. Ms. Andrews was born Aug. 1, 1974, in Dillingham, Alaska. She is survived by her husband, John Andrews; son, Glenn Andrews; step-son, Tyrone Andrews; mother, Hazel Schroeder; and mother-in-law, Sassa Andrews.

Joseph Daniel Belmont, 32
CIRI descendent Joseph Daniel Belmont passed away early last spring in Anchorage. Mr. Belmont was born August 21, 1982, in Fairbanks, Alaska. He is survived by his mother, CIRI shareholder Dona Marie Carroll; brother, Nicholas John Belmont; niece, Zohr Angel Marie Belmont; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Chena Jean Hall, 27
Chena Jean Hall passed away July 9, at home in Anchorage. Ms. Hall was born Nov. 18, 1987, in Bethel, Alaska. She is survived by her brother, Reeve Hall, and grandmother, Juanita Treat.

Roylene “Ronnie” McElroy, 73
Roylene “Ronnie” McElroy passed away May 13, at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno, Nev. Ms. McElroy was born Sept. 26, 1941, in Anchorage. For nearly 58 years, Ms. McElroy lived and worked in almost every community throughout Alaska. Prior to retiring in Nevada, she worked for the State of Alaska in payroll accounting. She will be remembered for her interest in current events, her love of gardening and her interest in current events. Her love of gardening and her interest in current events.

Mikeal Howard Messinger, 54
Mikeal Howard Messinger passed away April 21, at the Heart of Care assisted living facility in Anchorage. Mr. Messinger was born July 28, 1960, in Wrangell, Alaska. He is survived by his daughter, Candace Grissom; grandchild, Mason Grissom; brothers, Laurie and Erik Broad and Robert Kuntz; and sisters, Dorothy Gladiso and Carla Knapp.

Jessie Ellacenda Wesley, 60
Jessie Ellacenda Wesley passed away June 16, at home in Big Lake, Alaska. Ms. Wesley was born January 29, 1956, in Noatak, Alaska. She is survived by her husband, Melford Wesley Sr.; daughters, Elizabeth and Jessica Wesley; grandchildren, Nicholas, Griffin, Alexander and Duane McElroy; and great grandchildren, Nicholas, Griffin, Alexander and Duane McElroy.

SAFETY FIRST AT FIRE ISLAND WIND

Each of the 11 turbines at Fire Island Wind (FIW) stands about 262 feet tall—and for the crews who maintain and repair those turbines, working at such great heights carries with it inherent risks. That’s why CIRI staff and FIW Operations and Maintenance worked with contractor UpWind Solutions to hold a four-day Competent Climber safety training course in June.

Training included a review of fall restraint and protection systems, as well as an opportunity to practice using emergency self-rescue equipment in the field. Participants also learned techniques for assisting rescues involving a co-worker. FIW staff were trained using the same rescue equipment employed by UpWind Solutions, making joint rescues between the two teams possible in an emergency situation.

SHAREHOLDER 101
How does CIRI pay its resource revenue distributions?

In June, we took a look at what’s meant when someone is designated as an “at-large shareholder.” This month, we explore how CIRI pays out its resource revenue distribution—which depends on the type of shares each shareholder owns.

The lands some of the regional corporations received pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) were richer in natural resources than others. To even things out, Section 7(i) of ANCSA requires that the Alaska-based regional corporations share a portion of their resource revenues with each other.

Under ANCSA Section 7(i), each of the twelve Alaska-based regional corporations must contribute 70 percent of its net resource revenues to a pool that is then divided among all twelve regional corporations, including itself. Generally speaking, net revenues are derived using a complicated formula that determines the net proceeds of oil, gas, mineral and timber development on ANCSA lands, after the deduction of allowable exploration, development, production and other allowable costs. The percentage of the revenue pool each corporation receives is based on the number of original enrolees that corporation had at the time ANCSA was enacted.

So, CIRI gets a percentage of all regional corporation’s 7(i) distributions. What happens then? Under Section 7(j) of ANCSA, that money is divided equally between CIRI and the ANCSA village corporations and at-large shareholders in the Cook Inlet region. Thus, CIRI keeps 50 percent for things like shareholder dividends, reinvestment, operating expenses and paying taxes.

Because the annual amount of 7(i) revenue shared by CIRI and the other corporations depends on all corporations’ collective resource activities, the amount of 7(j) moves varies from year to year. That’s why CIRI calculates the amount of its resource revenue distribution every year shortly after it audits its financial statements for the previous year are approved. CIRI then publishes that information in the Raven’s Circle and on its website, with the actual distribution made shortly thereafter, typically in early- to mid-April.

YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to our first Youth Educational Incentive winners!

GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 3.5 AND ABOVE:
$100 GIFT CARD AND PERFECT ATTENDANCE:
$100 GIFT CARD

Morgan Elizabeth Baker, Aleut
Child of Rachael E. Baker
West Plains, Missouri

GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF 3.5 AND ABOVE:
$100 GIFT CARD

Mauri Bella Butzke, Iñupiaq
Child of Jonathan R. Butzke
Anchorage, Alaska

Hannah Jade Julissuen Gibbs, Dena’ina
Athabascan/Aleut
Child of Charlene Julissuen
Anchorage, Alaska

Caleb Jonathan Huffman, Dena’ina
Athabascan
Child of Lisa K. Huffman
Anchorage, Alaska

Matthew Randa Minium, Iñupiaq
Child of Henrietta G. Minium
Nikiski, Alaska

Scout Catherine-Grace Morgan, Iñupiaq
Child of Virginia M. Parry-Morgan
Columbus, Ohio

Mackenzie Jo Olander, Iñupiaq
Child of Heather L. Summers
Corapolis, Pennsylvania

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Elders’ Settlement Trust payments
The third quarter CIRI Elders’ Settlement Trust payment of $450 is scheduled for Sept. 11, with the final 2015 Elders’ payment scheduled for Dec. 11. Original shareholders who are 65 years of age or older and who own at least one share of CIRI stock as of the distribution dates are eligible to receive the Elders’ Trust payments. For the September distribution, eligible Elders who have their CIRI dividends directly deposited will have their trust payments electronically transmitted by 6 p.m. Alaska Daylight Time on Friday, Sept. 11, with checks mailed to the remaining eligible Elders that same day.

Third Quarter Dividend
On Wednesday, September 30, CIRI will mail or directly deposit third quarter 2015 dividends in the amount of $8.84 per share (or $884 if you own 100 share of stock) to all shareholders with a valid mailing address on file as of 3 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22. If you participate in direct deposit, your dividend will be electronically transmitted to your account by 6 p.m. Alaska Daylight Time on Sept. 30.

Direct Deposit
Shareholders who participate in direct deposit and have a current CIRI mailing address are eligible to participate in quarterly prize drawings. Direct deposit forms are available from Shareholder Relations and at ciri.com. To cancel direct deposit, please submit a signed, written request prior to 3 p.m. on the specified deadline.

Address Changes
Checks and vouchers will be mailed to the address CIRI has on record as of the specified deadline. If your address has changed, be sure to update your address with both CIRI and the United States Postal Service. These addresses must match or your CIRI mail may not reach you. When CIRI mail is returned as undeliverable, distributions are held and the shareholder does not qualify to participate in any prize drawings until the address is updated. This is true even if a shareholder has his or her dividends electronically deposited.

CIRI address change forms can be downloaded and printed at ciri.com, or you may send a signed, written address change request that includes a current telephone number. Address change forms can be mailed to CIRI at PO Box 93330, Anchorage, AK 99509, scanned and emailed to shareholderrecords@ciri.com or faxed to 907-263-5186. If faxed, please call Shareholder Relations as soon as possible to confirm receipt. Forms and information on changing your address or submitting a mail-forwarding request with the U.S. Postal Service are available at www.usps.com or at your local post office.

Please be aware that if you fail to notify CIRI of your new address before the deadline, and your check is sent to your old address, CIRI cannot reissue that check to you unless it is either returned to Shareholder Relations or a minimum of 90 days has elapsed.

Tax Reminder
As a reminder, CIRI does not withhold taxes from distributions; however, shareholders who anticipate owing tax on their distributions have the option of making quarterly estimated tax payments directly to the IRS. To find out more about applicable federal and state tax requirements or making quarterly estimated tax payments, please consult with a tax advisor or contact the IRS directly.

CIHA SCORES WIN FOR SENIOR HOUSING
Congratulations to Cook Inlet Housing Authority (CIHA), whose Coronado Park Senior Village in Eagle River was recently selected as an outstanding Senior Housing property by the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Coalition (AHTCC). Each year, the AHTCC selects the nation’s most outstanding low-income housing tax credit properties for its Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Awards. “The Edson Awards recognize the Housing Credit’s ability to lift up communities, and this year’s winners reminded us just how instrumental the program is,” said Todd Crow, President of the AHTCC.

Opened in 2014, Coronado Park Senior Village offers 56 affordable, energy-efficient rental apartments for seniors in the heart of downtown Eagle River. The property offers private efficiency, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments and a community living room and multipurpose activity room.

“Coronado Park is a very special place. These are more than just apartments—it’s a real community where seniors can live independently and where everyone matters,” said CIRI shareholder Carol Gore, CIHA president and CEO.

Allison Nyholm of Senator Lisa Murkowski’s office presents the 2015 Charles L. Edson Honorable Mention for Senior Housing to Gabe Layman of Cook Inlet Housing Authority for Coronado Park Senior Village in Eagle River.
The following CIRI shareholders do not have a current mailing address on record. When CIRI mail is returned as undeliverable, distributions are held and the shareholder does not qualify to participate in any prize drawings until the address is updated. Shareholders can fill out the change of address form at CIRI’s offices, download it from the CIRI website or send a signed and dated letter that includes the new address, telephone number, birth date and the last four digits of their social security number.

(8/24/2015)

William Frank Abalter
Marlene Marie Adams
Carla M. Arden
Emest Dale Baker Jr.
Greg Baisden
David Brandon Barnes
Dorothy Manka Barnum
Timothy Vern Bell
Glen Edward Beltz
Kenneth Lawrence Boyle
Christina May Bridstick
Stephen Patrick Bright
James Patrick Brown
Diana Marie Call
Christopher Evan Chapman
Oliver Wendell Chapman
James Dennis Clark
Tamra Lee Cox
Audrey Clarkson Craig
Cheri Jean Crawford
Don Dale-Lef Crone
Rudol Earl Curtis
Patrick Don Decamp
Jeanne Marie Detils
Jeorg Bjorn Dues
Anne Marie Etikott
Emest Lesh Etoolt
Cheryl Lynn Evan
Emory Gene Evon
Inez Christine Floyd
Susen Helen Gonzalez
Stephen Roy Goosner
Vera Ann Gregory
Jade Anane Hurnroff
Donna Rachelle Henbroff
Shelia Rauni Hensley
Laura Ann Hermansen

Suzanne Carlena Hutchens
Christopher Manan-Store
Jacobson
Pauline Jeffrey
Timothy Andrew Julukens
Alyzza J. Kashevaroff
Dewey Louis King
Michael David King
Chris Ann Lange
Michael Joseph Larrabee
Alex Rodney Lewis
Jamei Lynne Malburg
Debra Kay Marth
Jack Joseph Willigan
Darleen Susan Minkeloff
Shawn Michael Moore
Charles Lewis Mushumuck
Jeremina Megan O’Francia
Natal Ryan Tyle Edmonds
Jason Paul O’Neill
Bryan Lee Outwater
Ila Gail Pannschiuk
Richard Lee Pederson
Melanie Leene Perinouad
Jerd Francis Rebatul
Dennis Jhimm Shawings
Jacqueline Sue Silteok
Don Foster Sinmonds
Mary Kathleen Simpson
Melon Lou Sutthamard
Veronica Am Takeshi
Charles Thomas
Martin Sean Tucker
Mathew Alan Tucker
Robert Paul Vlasoff Jr.
Anthony Wayne Waterbury

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Fax (907) 263-5186
Shareholder Participation Committees
www.ciri.com/spc

Submit your stories & ideas to info@ciri.com

EDITOR: JAMEY BRADBURY | LAYOUT AND DESIGN: YUIT COMMUNICATIONS | © CIRI, 2015

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(8/24/2015)

During my time here in the CIRI Corporate Communications department, I’ve learned a great deal about communicating with shareholders and others interested in the company. From the day I arrived, it was clear I had some strengths, but they needed to be refined in a way that added clarity and relevance to whatever I was writing.

My first draft of “Intern-al Affairs” came out somewhat stiff and lifeless. I used a third-person narrative and my words sounded like a mass email advertisement. After reading what I had written, I wasn’t satisfied with what I had drafted. I went to Jason Moore, director of Corporate Communications here at CIRI, for advice. Much like the Karate Kid turning to Mr. Miyagi in his time of need, I sat down with Jason and developed a new style from the ground up. Take away the sales tone, and instead write a personal narrative. It’s much more liberating and comes across as more genuine.

I began to see the bridge between marketing and communications: meaningful content. By creating engaging content, we can connect shareholders with information and communal experiences through a variety of different mediums. This is the specialty of the Corporate Communications team—sharing stories and personal narratives that display the human aspect of CIRI. Whether it be drones, cameras, video recorders, social media or podcasts, these are all just tools to capture the human story of being a CIRI shareholder or descendant.

When I was going to school in the college of business, I was taught many “valuable” things I was assured I would use for the rest of my life. But one actually useful thing that they hammered into our mushy brains was to have a clear message for a select target market. Try to appeal to everyone, on the other hand, and you will entice no one.

My “come one, come all” tone didn’t make sense and was lost on even me. I had forgotten the golden rule of marketing—know your audience. Once I accepted that, it became much easier to put words down on paper. This was an epiphany of sorts working here over the summer, and a truly great learning experience.

Josh Henrikson

CIRI Corporate Communications intern Josh Henrikson works with Jamey Bradbury, editor of the Raven’s Circle newsletter, on the August issue. Photo by Jean Moore.