AIC constructs new Anchorage road
Martin Luther King Avenue to connect Elmore Rd. and Boniface Pkwy

Alaska Interstate Construction LLC (AIC) is constructing a new Anchorage road, Martin Luther King Ave. The road connects Boniface Parkway with Elmore Rd. and skirts the northern edge of Far North Bicentennial Park. AIC is the prime contractor on the project, having won the $24 million contract from the Municipality of Anchorage with a competitive bid.

The new road is part of the municipality’s Long-Range Transportation Plan. Its purpose is to relieve Anchorage traffic congestion, particularly on Tudor Rd., where current traffic far exceeds the road’s capacity.

The new road’s proximity to the popular Anchorage park will give it some unique features. Many people use the area for recreation.

Several trails, including the Campbell Creek Trail and Tour of Anchorage trail, are being rerouted based on input from user groups. The road will include pedestrian and bike paths along its entire length, a bridge used solely for trail and wildlife crossings, and even decorative fencing.

“This road’s going to be very park-like,” said Bill Luebbert, AIC’s Cook Inlet division manager. “Its design is such that it lends itself to bordering the park. We’ll be doing extensive landscaping, with lots of shrubbery.”

CIRI tourism subsidiary invests in Seward
Lodge conference room, second catamaran, employee bunkhouse among new local projects

Although CIRI Alaska Tourism Corp. (CATC) is preparing for an anticipated reduction in Alaska visitor traffic in 2009 due to the economic recession, it has not stopped investing in the Alaska communities it operates in. One such community is Seward, Alaska, the port town on the south side of the Kenai Peninsula.

The CATC-owned 180-room Seward Windsong Lodge is currently constructing a new conference room. The room is approximately 1300 square feet and has a capacity of about 50 people. This construction follows the addition of 36 rooms to the lodge last year, and another addition the prior year. Even with the expansions, the lodge consistently maintains high occupancy levels, increasing the number of visitors that stay in Seward, not just pass through.

CATC hired a local general contracting company, Harmon Construction Inc., to build the conference room.

“We’re proud to support local business,” said Luke Peroni, assistant general manager of the lodge. “Those are winter jobs, which are not easy to come by in Seward.”
The state of Alaska needs to take another look at Cook Inlet as a gas basin. A year and a half ago I shared my concerns with you about the need to find and develop additional natural gas reserves in Cook Inlet. The region’s legacy fields, which have provided reliable, low-cost fuel for space heating and electrical power generation for more than a generation, are running out. I feared that neglecting the need to prove up additional reserves would inevitably cause a spike in natural gas and electric rates in the Railbelt where two-thirds of Alaska’s population lives.

Today, this concern is becoming widespread and pronounced among business leaders and public policy makers. Significant new Cook Inlet basin gas discoveries have been elusive and the few exploratory wells that are slated to be drilled next winter are not likely to eliminate the problem.

One solution that has garnered a lot of attention is a proposal to build a 20-inch diameter “bullet line” to transport North Slope natural gas to Railbelt consumers. Gov. Sarah Palin recently asked the state legislature to consider funding Railbelt consumers. Gov. Sarah Palin recently asked the state legislature to consider funding Railbelt consumers.

The problem is that Railbelt consumers depend upon natural gas to meet most of their heating and power needs. They get virtually all of their gas from Cook Inlet, but the region’s proven gas reserves and production are dwindling. However, Department of Energy experts estimate that the region still has trillions of cubic feet undiscovered gas, enough to last more than 50 years at current consumption rates. If this is the case, why is there not more exploration for Cook Inlet gas?

Lack of exploration may be related to the unusual nature of the Railbelt gas market, which is isolated and disconnected from other world energy markets. Typical market forces of supply and demand do not work smoothly to set energy prices in the Railbelt. Consequently, the challenge is to find a price point that balances consumer needs for affordable energy against producer needs to earn fair returns from gas exploration and development investments.

This situation was recently characterized as a war—the Cook Inlet Gas Wars—between the Railbelt utilities and Cook Inlet gas producers by a commissioner on the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA), the government organization charged with protecting consumer interests by regulating gas and electricity prices. The RCA has resisted efforts to consider national and world energy prices when it sets Cook Inlet gas price limits. Gas producers argue that this policy harms consumers’ long-term interests by undervaluing Cook Inlet gas so that the region is not competitive in national and world exploration and development markets. Railbelt utilities counter that consumers are better off when gas price limits follow historic stranded gas structures that have been in place for years.

Recent bullet line discussions are now complicating this issue.

A major commitment to natural gas importation, from the North Slope or abroad, would destroy the long-term economics of Cook Inlet gas production. What irony it would be if natural gas importation ends up killing Cook Inlet gas production, and in the process does nothing to alleviate the Railbelt’s over-dependence on natural gas and its inherent price volatility.

The state of Alaska has a legitimate role using its considerable resources to ensure that Alaska’s energy needs are met. However, while the state considers spending billions on the bullet line, it should first develop programs that encourage and reward Cook Inlet gas exploration. All things considered, Cook Inlet gas is likely to be the cheapest and most efficient way to fulfill Alaska’s short- and mid-term energy needs.

Our Business
CIRI publishes Facebook page
Social media site for CIRI-related topics
CIRI recently published a page on the popular social media Web site Facebook. The purpose of the page is to increase communication with shareholders and descendants using an online medium that is becoming more and more popular in today’s world. CIRI hopes to provide information that shareholders and descendants will find useful and will increase their knowledge of their corporation.

The CIRI page will have a calendar with upcoming CIRI events, photos of CIRI events and projects, links to information on CIRI’s Web site, discussions on relevant topics and more.

You must have a Facebook profile to access the CIRI Facebook page. To create a profile, go to www.facebook.com. Once you create a profile, or using your existing profile, simply search CIRI. The search results will be under various tabs. Click on the “Pages” tab. The CIRI page is the first search result. Once you access the page, join other CIRI shareholders and descendants by becoming a fan. This will also let you receive updates from the CIRI page on your own profile.

Unlike personal profile pages and groups, which individual can create in Facebook, pages can only be created by an official representative of the organization. CIRI looks forward to shareholders and descendants connecting with their corporation through this new online forum.

CIRI Board extends president/CEO’s contract
The CIRI Board of Directors at its Feb. 20 meeting extended Margie Brown’s employment contract as CIRI president and chief executive officer for an additional two years. Her current contract would have expired at the end of 2009.

Brown became president and chief executive officer on Jan. 1, 2005. Her responsibilities include overseeing and directing the company’s business operations and activities while developing corporate policies, long-range strategies and annual operating and profit plans.
CIRI Shareholder News

CIRI to distribute resource revenue payments on April 3

Significantly lower payment anticipated for 2010

CIRI will distribute resource revenue payments to its at-large shareholders in the amount of $18.1996 per share, or $1,819.96 if you own 100 shares. While this amount is larger than in recent years, CIRI cautions shareholders that next year’s resource revenue payment could be significantly reduced by as much as 50 percent.

This reduction is due to the decrease in global commodity prices, particularly oil and zinc, which generate a large part of the 7(i) resource revenues shared among the Alaska Native corporations.

Section 7(i) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) requires each regional corporation to share 70 percent of its net resource revenues received from ANCSA lands with the other regional corporations. Under section 7(j) of ANCSA, the percentage of the 70 percent pool that a regional corporation receives is divided equally between itself and the village corporations and at-large shareholders in its region. The directors of each village corporation determine whether to distribute the 7(j) amounts it receives to its shareholders.

CIRI will mail the payments on Friday, April 3. The payments of shareholders who participate in direct deposit will be electronically transmitted to their designated account by the end of that same business day.

Seetomona wins March Stock Will prize

Linda Seetomona won the March 2009 Stock Will participation prize. To be eligible for the monthly $200 prize drawings, shareholders must have a will disposing of their CIRI shares on file in CIRI Shareholder Relations. The CIRI Stock Will form and instructions are located on the CIRI Web site at www.ciri.com. To verify whether you have a will on file, contact CIRI’s probate staff at (907) 263-5191 or toll-free at 800-764-2474.

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CIRI Spotlight: Sheila Sweetsir

Anchorage Chamber honors first-grade teacher

Sheila Lynn Sweetsir is a mother, wife, proud CIRI shareholder, dedicated elementary school teacher with the Anchorage School District and an aspiring charter school here in Anchorage and advocating for Native students is my way of saying thank you to CIRI.”

Sheila Sweetsir

The Anchorage Chamber of Commerce honored first grade teacher, Sheila Sweetsir, as the 2009 Top 40 Under 40 recipient. Sheila Sweetsir was honored for her promotion of Native identity and pride, and her commitment to Native youth. Sheila, along with the other 39 Top 40 Under 40 recipients, are leading young Alaskans in the fields of business, conservation, the arts, and many other disciplines. Sheila Sweetsir is a proud CIRI shareholder and her commitment to Alaska’s native youth is a testament to CIRI’s mission and commitment to the community.

(top left) Coat of arms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA)

(top right) Coat of arms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA)
The CIRI Foundation (TCF) installed an interactive voice response system, commonly known as a “phone tree,” on Monday, March 9. The phone tree was installed in response to the increase in requests for scholarship and grant information and the need to provide accurate information to callers. The phone tree operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

By dialing (907) 793-3575 or toll free (800) 764-3382, callers are able to choose from several menu options, have the information repeated, and return to the main menu or speak to a team member. Menu options include: 1) office hours, location, fax and website; 2) a list of upcoming scholarship and grant deadlines, descriptions of scholarship and grant programs; 3) check on application status and how to update information on a current application, including a change in the number of credits or classes; 4) information regarding eligibility requirements; 5) information about award selections, notification of funding decisions and disbursement of funds; and 6) speak with a TCF team member.

For more information, visit The CIRI Foundation Web site, www.thecirifoundation.org.

KNBA seeks volunteers for membership drives

KNBA 90.3FM is recruiting volunteers for its upcoming membership drive from May 17-21. KNBA is one of the nation’s premier Native radio stations and is owned and operated by Koahnic Broadcast Corp., a CIRI nonprofit affiliate.

KNBA needs volunteers to staff the phone lines and tally pledges. Contact Suzanne Lovell at (907) 793-3500 or by e-mail at slovell@knba.org to sign up or for more information.

Sweetsir Spotlight continued

cooking, and watching movies. It’s all about family time when we are there,” she said.

Sweetsir said her advice to young people is to have a dream and pursue it.

“You may decide on a college, vocational education, armed services, or some type of training, but an education is important in today’s society. Finding one person that is supportive and encourages you is important as well, whether it’s a school counselor, grandparent, family friend or a relative it will be helpful when you need that extra push or someone to listen to you because at times it can be very frustrating and hard. Going to school and not having money or even family at times can be difficult as well, but you need to remember your dream and the goals you set for yourself.”

Sweetsir said her aunt Arlene Selden always encouraged her to go to school. “She continues to ask me how I am doing in school today even though I am an adult, married and have kids.”

She said she shares with her own children and her two sisters the importance of attending school and getting a quality education, just as she’s had supportive people in her life do the same.

Share your art with the CIRI family

CIRI Calendar to feature young artists

CIRI invites shareholders and descendants 30 years old or younger to contribute original artwork for its 2010 CIRI calendar. This is an excellent chance to share your original painting or drawing with Alaska Natives across the country and positively impact your CIRI family.

Artwork must be paintings or drawings. No photographs or crafts, please.

Please send a copy of your artwork to:
CIRI Corporate Communications
P.O. Box 93330
Anchorage, AK 99509-3330

E-mail: info@ciri.com
For more information, call (907) 263-5113 or e-mail info@ciri.com.
In Touch with shareholders

Baby Adrienne
CIRI shareholder Lane Okpealuk and Jamie Ahkinga of Little Diomede, Alaska, are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Adrienne Jerri Ernestine Okpealuk. Baby Adrienne was born on Jan. 1, 2009, at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. She weighed 5 pounds, 5.4 ounces and was 19 inches in length. She joins her siblings Alyssa Caitlin Renee Allison Ahkinga, age 8; Natalie Alexandra Alice Opik Ahkinga, age 4; and Marcus Kobe Okpealuk, age 2. The proud paternal grandparents are CIRI shareholder Marie and Michael Lavlor of Nome, Alaska, and the late Vincent Okpealuk. Baby Adrienne’s maternal grandparents are Orville Sr. and Dora Ahkinga of Little Diomede.

Anchorage wedding
CIRI shareholder Donita ([Dz’a K’isen] Louise Slawson of Tyonek, Alaska, and NANA shareholder John (Agayupaq) Paul Hensley of Kotzebue, Alaska, were married Oct. 15, 2008, at home in Anchorage with their family and friends in attendance. John proposed to Donita at Church on the Rock in Wasilla, Alaska, during a Fresh Start meeting on Aug. 11, 2008. The event was officiated by Robert Adams, a close friend of the groom. The maid of honor was the bride’s sister, Becki Patrovitch. The bridesmaids were the groom’s sister, Martha Dy; the bride’s youngest daughter, Feona D’y Peter; and the groom’s daughter, Sheila Hensley. The groomsmen were the groom’s brother-in-law Rudolph D’y. The groom’s aunt, Stella Hensley, made the bride and groom traditional atticluks for the wedding. The groom’s granddaughter, Ariel Collin, was the flower girl. The groom’s grandson, Joel Collin, was the ring bearer.

Donita and John Hensley
Donita grew up in Seattle and Tyonek, graduated from Anchorage’s Anchorage High School, joined the Air National Guard in May 2008. Lindsey had six weeks at basic training in Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, where she graduated with honors on Oct. 3, 2008. She spent another six weeks in Biloxi, Miss., enrolled in a human resources training program to learn the technical skills needed by the Air Force. Lindsey was also recognized as a distinguished graduate in tech school. She arrived back in Anchorage in November 2008 and is continuing her college education at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Her parents state, “We are very proud of our daughter’s decision and commitment to serving our country.”

CIRI needs your help locating shareholder addresses
CIRI strives to ensure correspondence, reports, newsletters and dividends reach shareholders in a timely manner. It is important for shareholders to notify CIRI Shareholder Relations and the U.S. Postal Service of all address changes. The following CIRI shareholders do not have a current mailing address on record with the shareholder relations department, and should fill out the change of address form in this newsletter, at CIRI’s offices, or download it at www.ciri.com/shareaddress.cfm. You can also write a letter, signed by the shareholder, which includes the new address, telephone number, birth date and social security number.

Abalter, William Frank
Anasogak, Wayne Bert
Askay, Egen Hugh
Bahr, Kenneth Clayton
Beach, Alton Lee III
Beebe, Anna V
Boyle, Kenneth Lawrence
Bright, Steven Patrick
Brown, James Patrick
Bushey, Daniel James
Chapman, Oliver Wendell
Cook, Tifford Don
Criss, Rose Marie
Crosley, Mary
Darien, Florence Elizabeth
Davis, Angela Patricia
Downs, Christy Lynn
Egelak, Walter John
Eschoit, Ernest Lee
Evan, Cheryl Lynn
Free, Matilda Marion
Gallant, Christina Lee
Garrett, Marisa Anita
Hansen, Ruth Faith
Herman, Juliann
Jackson, Wanda Lynn
Jacobs, Brenda Marie
Jaidinger, June
Johannes, Kenneth James
Joy, James A
Katchatag, Bruce Arnold
Liek, Stella Mae
Lopez, Darren Lee
Love, Roger Dean
Marsden, John Victor Sr
Moore, Shawn Michael
Noyakuk, Travis Conrad
O’Brien, Gwenn Rae
Oksoataruk, Benjamin James
Oliva, Denice Ann
Peterson, Jamie Lance
Peterson, Michael Gary
Ritter, Danielle Lee
Rosser, Sandra Jean
Salisohn, Daniel David Jr
Sampson, Jeanna Kim
Sargent, Richard Lloyd
Serren, Vincent Edward Jr
Segura, David Lee Jr
Smith, Barbara Jean
Smith, Nicole C
Soxie, Daniele Ruth
Stave, Joy Christine
Stepanoff, Reginald
Takeuchi, Veronica Ann
Waisanen, Seth D
Watson, Rhannon Kay
Wilson, Sean D

Go online to www.ciri.com/content/shareholders/change.aspx for address change information and forms.
Condolesences

JoAnn Comin, 50
JoAnn Comin died Jan. 18 at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Ms. Comin was born March 6, 1938, in Kiana, Alaska. She is survived by her father, Leo Geffe Jr.; siblings, Fritz, Tom, Leona, Wilson and Conrad Geffe; and many other relatives.

Perry Ohic Dimmick, 67
Perry Ohic Dimmick died Jan. 23 at Alaska Regional Hospital in Anchorage. Mr. Dimmick was born in Deering, Alaska. He is survived by his wife, Alice Dimmick; daughter, Shirley Luddington; son, Darrell Dimmick; granddaughters, Marcella Trefon and Sahra Wolf; grandson, Ax Dimmick; great-granddaughters, Alicia and Elizabeth Potter and Knidi Wolf; and great-grandson, Addison Potter.

Minnie Gilbert, 84
Minnie Gilbert died Jan. 17 in Two Rivers, Alaska. Ms. Gilbert was born Oct. 22, 1924, in Anchorage. She was a daughter of the late Peter and Cora (Nicolai) Kallander and granddaughter of the late Chief Nicolai of Nicolai Village. Ms. Gilbert attended schools in Anchorage. She married Roy C. Gilbert on June 13, 1942, in Anchorage while he was serving in the U.S. Army. Roy preceded her in death on Nov. 28, 1995. Ms. Gilbert is survived by her eight children; Virginia, and her partner, Linda, of Phoenix, Ariz.; Sandra and Leonard Ouradnik, of Mishicott; Gloria and Stephen Zitlow, of Manitowoc; David and Kim Gilbert, of Homer, Alaska; Donald and Teresa Gilbert, of Two Rivers; Bette and Dr. Glenn Popp, of Manitowoc; Linda and Theodore Taddy, of Two Rivers; Theresa and Brian Presl, of Mishicott; 28 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by four sisters; Annie of Portland, Ore., and Fedoria, Virginia and Clara, all of Anchorage; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Edward Bartell Harp, 87
Edward Bartell Harp died Jan. 29, at Orchard Nursing Home in Tacoma, Wash. Mr. Harp was born June 7, 1921, in Anchorage.

He is survived by his son, James Harp; and nieces, Lori Fischer and Kim Nystrom.

Timothy Marvin Parker, 68
Timothy Marvin Parker died Dec. 28, 2008, at home in Friday Harbor, Wash. Mr. Parker was born in Knik, Alaska. He is survived by his wife, Pamela K. Parker; daughter, Kim S. Parker; sons, Steven D. Parker and T. Scott Parker; and sisters, Ethlyn Williams and Mariann Jordan.

Condolesences

Leslie Alfreda Bedard, 39
Charles Goodhope, 72
Madrona Jane Lindgren, 60