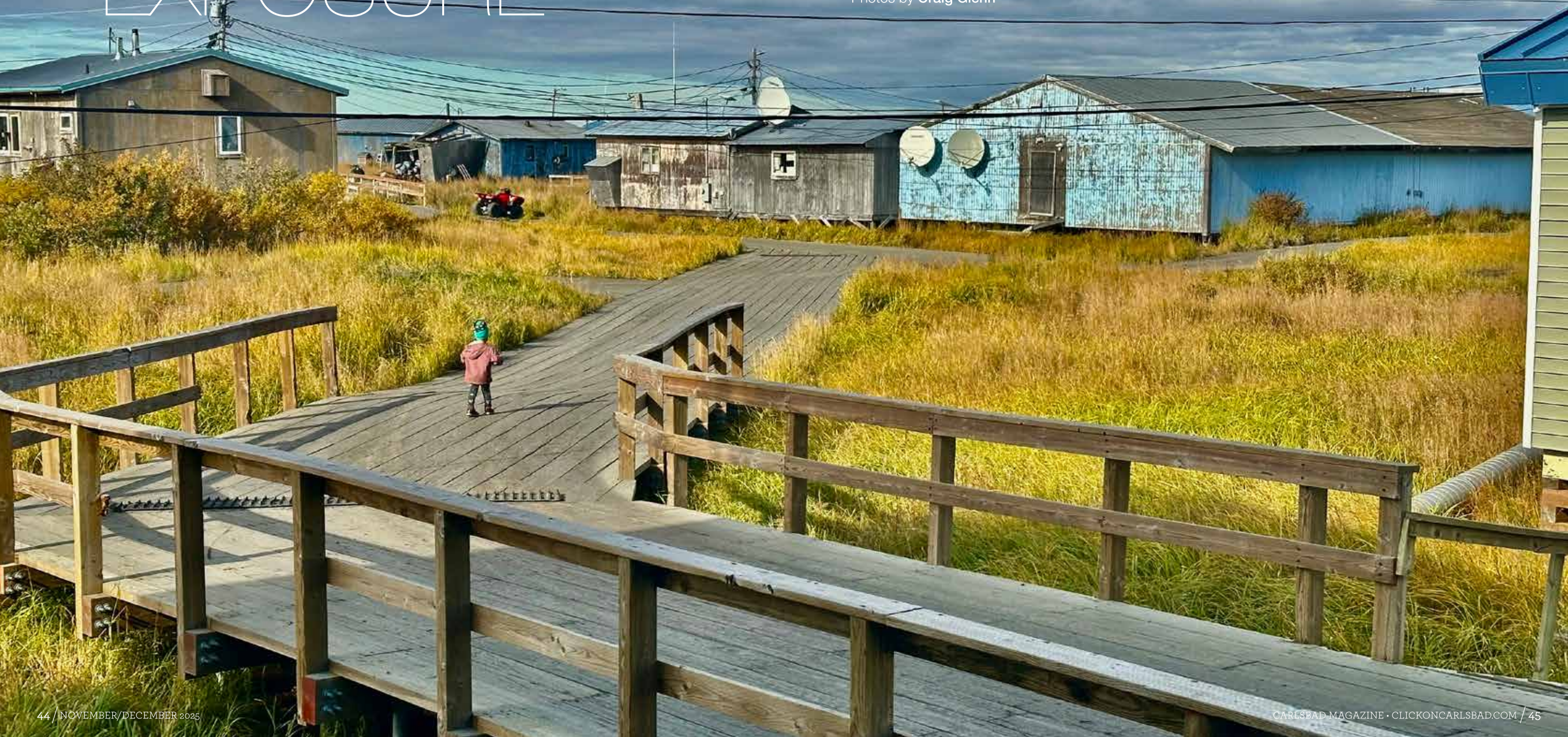


NORTHERN EXPOSURE

In a remote Alaskan village, young CHSTV+ journalists share skills, forge friendships and build bridges.

Photos by **Craig Glenn**





Armed with cameras and curiosity, a group of Carlsbad High School students set out for a place far from the beaches of home: Kotlik, a remote Indigenous Yup'ik village on Alaska's Yukon River. There, they worked alongside local teens to build a school broadcasting program as part of CHSTV+, a global outreach initiative founded by longtime Carlsbad educator Doug Green.

Students "pay it forward" by sharing their passion for storytelling with teens from other cultures. For the past three years, CHSTV+ students have run a summer broadcasting camp in Cardiff, Wales, and this year marked the program's second annual visit to the Yup'ik village. While the Alaskan climate was harsh, the community was inspiring. Immersed in a culture defined by tradition, resilience and life closely tied to the land, the students discovered that storytelling is more than just capturing images. It's about connection, perspective and finding common ground in unexpected places.



The CHSTV+ team on the ground in the Alaskan village of Kotlik

"Working with the Kotlik students helped me see how much meaning there is in everyday life. They were creative and proud to share what makes their village special. It showed me that stories can connect people no matter where they're from." —Ashton Mercado (right)



"The Yup'ik subsistence lifestyle is the key to Kotlik living. It unlocks a pathway into their native history while also giving them the very freedom they cherish. Their pride as a community comes from self-reliance and the connection to nature built through subsistence living." —Race Grueskin (left)

"Going to Kotlik showed me how much one person can really impact others. Seeing the kids open up and believe in themselves made me realize I was helping change their lives in a small, but real way. It's something that will always stay with me." —Phoenix Zak (left)

"I had a chance to get to know Alfred. He is an elder and has lived in Kotlik for almost his entire life. School-age kids in this Eskimo village are taught to respect the elders from their parents and peers. They show respect by running errands, helping them with transportation from place to place and showing gratitude for the hard work it takes to make Kotlik the way it is, even in this harsh Alaskan climate." —Vance Miller (right)

"Immediately I saw that the kids lead such unique lives, embracing their culture and ways of life special to Kotlik. They really did have a passion, especially the younger ones, anxious to learn new techniques and skills in broadcasting. They all worked hard to learn how to tell stories as there are so many stories to tell in their village." —Keera Lucas (second from right)