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# Iditarod XXXIV

Race Headquarters  
Millennium Alaskan Hotel  
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## PRESS RELEASE

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### GEPHARDT FIRST TO REACH RUBY

RECEIVES "MILLENNIUM ALASKAN HOTEL FIRST TO THE YUKON AWARD"

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RUBY, ALASKA, March 10, 2006 - Paul Gephardt was the first musher to reach Ruby, laying claim to the coveted Millennium Alaskan Hotel's First to the Yukon Award. Gephardt's team pulled into the checkpoint at 12:05 a.m., making the run from Cripple in 10 hours and 17 minutes.

Millennium Alaskan Hotel Executive Chef Stephen England, along with Food and Beverage Director Brooke McGrath were on hand to serve a gourmet seven course meal which was prepared on a camp stove. In addition, Gephardt received \$3,500 in crisp \$1 bills, also courtesy of the Millennium Alaskan Hotel.

This year's menu began with a Gorgonzola, Goat Cheese and Candied Pecan Terrine, followed by Portobello Bruschetta with Saffron Aioli and then an Alaskan Cioppino. Additional courses included Rosemary Lamb with Cranberry Balsamic Sauce and then Brochettes of Melon, Prosciutto, and Fresh Mozzarella. The final course for the feast was Brandied Peach Crepes. A carefully selected fine wine and other beverages were served with each course.

Ruby, population 188, is the first checkpoint on the Yukon River, the longest river in Alaska, stretching 1,875 miles from its headwaters in the Yukon Territory to the Bering Sea. Ruby is also home to the 1975 Iditarod Champion Emmitt Peters, fondly known as the "Yukon Fox." Peters joined Gephardt for the meal.

This is the 20th year that the Millennium Alaskan Hotel has sponsored the award.

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