FODAY



ving time begins today. have not already be sure to set your ahead one hour.

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iska Nanooks out of the Cenlegiate Hockey tion playoffs irday evening ffering a 3-1 Vo. 1-ranked

HITES



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and on target. things you'll nd being said

IDEX

A3 D1 F1 **E8 E8 E7** A8, B6 word E2 **B2** A4-5

BULLSEEVE

Nanooks win 8th national rifle title in front of hundreds of fans

By MARGARET FRIEDENAUER Staff Writer

ore than 1,000 people turned out Saturday to the NCAA Rifle Championships at University of Alaska Fairbanks, the largest crowd ever for the national event.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks won the championship again, their eighth title in

Perhaps those most surprised by the crowd were the athletes themselves.

"You're not really paying attention to what's going on behind you, so I wasn't really aware until I turned around," said senior Kristina Fehlings of the University of Nebraska. "It's really neat. I was taking pictures just of the crowd."

Fehlings said the largest crowd she remembers at a previous rifle event was last year's NCAA championships in Colorado that brought in 200

"And before that, there weren't any crowds," she said.

One spectator in particular raised eyebrows. Several visiting athletes were surprised when Gov. Sarah Palin was introduced during the awards ceremony. She earned a hearty laugh and applause when she touted her interest in hunting and rifle sports.

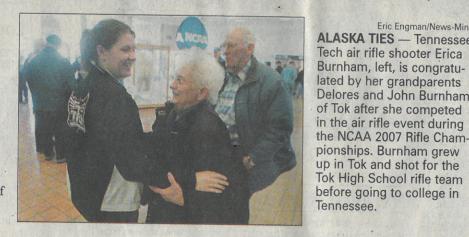
"I see a gentleman with a (National Rifle Association) hat over there," she said addressing the crowd. "A man after my own heart.

In an individual, mentally challenging sport, where the least amount of movement and action from an athlete earns the highest marks, rifle sports were never known for being spectator friendly. But new technology has allowed the intensity of the sport to cast a net over the crowd and draw them into the suspense of competition.

Instead of paper targets, on which the crowd had difficulty seeing the accuracy of the shooter, the championship event used equipment that could register each shot from each competitor and project



CHAMPS — The national champion University of Alaska Fairbanks rifle team hoists their trophy into the air during the NCAA 2007 Rifle Championships on Saturday afternoon at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Patty Center. From left are coach Dan Jordan, Matthias Dierolf, Matt Rawlings, Chris Lejon and Patrik Sartz. For more on the championships, see Sports, Page C1.



the results on large screens for spectators. The accuracy and score for each shot was displayed seconds after it was fired and it was easy to follow

the progression of the competi- for UAF, Patrick Lee, said the tion. Paper was also used to register each shot as a sort of hard copy of the competition.

Associate athletic director

university upgraded equip-

Eric Engman/News-Miner

ALASKA TIES — Tennessee

Tech air rifle shooter Erica

Burnham, left, is congratu-

lated by her grandparents

in the air rifle event during

Delores and John Burnham

See RIFLE, Page A7

Palin axes Fo spring funding

By STEFAN MILKOWSKI Staff Writer

JUNEAU - Shooting to sav million in operating expenses acr state, Gov. Sarah Palin cut \$30,00 her budget proposal for maintenar operation of the public spring in F

The drinking water supply ha provided as a service to the combut isn't a "core function" of the Department of Transportation, rea budget amendment removing the ing. Palin released her amended p state spending on March 1.

Howard Thies, director of maint and operations for the DOT's no region, said Friday he just got b town and was still trying to figu what happened with the funding. the DOT has generally just paid for tenance of the spring out of its

"I don't know where it's at," he Last winter, the DOT spent \$65,000 repairing the spring, he ad

Sen. Joe Thomas, a Democrat Fairbanks and member of the

See FOX, P

Leaders running int the wind

Brutally cold headwi slow mushers on Yuk

By KEVIN KLOTT and CRAIG MEDRE Anchorage Daily News

EAGLE ISLAND — A bitter, searing wind barreled down the Yukon River Saturday, pounding both the dogs and men leading

Dog Race. Dogs battling their way up the trail from Grayling leaned into the 25 mph blow. As windchill temperatures pushed toward 30 degrees below zero, mushers tried to stay

the Iditarod Trail Sled

low and find what shelter they behind their sled bags.

"You have to keep a ... attitude

See IDITAROD, Pa

City tax problems have complicated history

Part 2 of 2

By CHRIS ESHLEMAN Staff Writer

Early last summer, 75-year-old Nelson Miles hit the street with a mind to squash the city's property tax and force lawmakers - who rely heavily on property taxes for city revenues — to create a sales tax.

Almost a year later, city lawmakers find themselves without a sales tax and with only a shell of last year's property tax. The Fairbanks City Council decided in January to ask voters for almost two years to study a long-term tax solution. Ballots are being mailed to registered city voters this week.



we don't have to discuss that," longtime Fairbanks City Councilman Jerry Cleworth said last

The six-member council faces a budget shortfall that rivals some smaller communities' entire annual budgets in

After learning of the shortfall last October, council members first tried to implement new taxes. When problems arose, they turned next to potential savings, eyeing for elimination a program that supports nonprofits and promotes Fairbanks as a tourist destination.

More recently, council members have said cuts to fire and police protection

Art of ice

