



A final fade after 59 years

Free screening of two movies featuring Svalbard this Sunday bring end to Huset's long run

In an era of mall multiplexes, 3D and just staying home streaming pirated new releases at www.freemoviesaddict.com, one undeniable thing about Huset is it delivers an old-fashion cinema experience.

The seats are decades old and the theater looks roughly the same as when it opened. But the movie screen will go dark for perhaps the final time after 59 years on Sunday so workers can begin moving equipment to Longyearbyen's new cultural center, where screenings are scheduled to debut in December.

The finale at Huset is a free double feature of Svalbard-themed films beginning at 6 p.m. Roger Zahl Ødegård, the city's cultural advisor, said admission is on a first-come basis and recommends arriving early because the 200 available seats will likely fill quickly.

Despite Huset's landmark status, there aren't any ceremonial observances planned during the evening, Ødegård said.

"I guess people are so sad that we are closing that it's not necessary to say something," he said.

The movies to be shown are:

- "Når Lyset Kommer" ("When the Light Comes"), about an urban Netherlands girl who seeks a job in Svalbard and ends up having to

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Sixteen participants begin a 5.8-km run Saturday morning at the Svalbard Sailing Club in the first stage of the 2010 Quadrathlon. Teams of up to three people are permitted for the four-sport race, but nearly all runners also completed the kayaking, bicycling and shooting stages.

Rising to the power of 4

Racers in unique Quadrathlon run, kayak, bike and shoot for the glory of ... well, not much

Nobody seems to train for it, a good chunk of the time involves resting and eating, and a lot of folks don't seem sure of the route.

But don't call them slackers.

Eighteen competitors tested their endurance in a multitude of ways Saturday during this year's Svalbard Quadrathlon. The four-stage race, which organizers and participants said they are unaware of elsewhere, includes a 5.8-km run, 5-km kayak, 13.1-km bicycle and target shoot.

The race is the creation of Jørn Dybdahl, 50, who started it in 1998 while working at The University Centre in Svalbard.

"I thought the students were lazy bastards, so I wanted to get them involved," he said with gruff good humor.

Why those four particular stages?

"It's my four favorite things," he said, adding he wanted a short run and long kayak because the latter is his best event. But despite shaping the race, he said he's always finished near the top without ever being the winner.

There's no prize for the victor and competitors, despite giving all of their muscle

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Managing to reap all of art's rewards

New Galleri Svalbard supervisor sees wealth of diversity in artists



Jan Martin Berg, new manager of Galleri Svalbard, helps a customer with a purchase.

In the eternal debate between artistic and commercial appeal, Jan Martin Berg is making a move toward the latter. But his new setting all but ensures no compromise of integrity.

Berg, 40, is the new manager at Galleri Svalbard, arriving this summer after many years working for the Art Museum of Northern Norway. He said while duties such as managing a budget and operating a cash register are new, one of the most

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When we screw up you'll know about it – on the front page. One of the big complaints about newspapers is they tend to bury corrections and clarifications deep inside where few people who read the original article see them. If we need to fix something, an alert box on the front page will state what story is in error and where the full correction is printed.

Submitting material

Letters, columns, photos and other material are welcome, but we can't offer pay for published items since nobody here is getting paid at the moment. Submissions in electronic form (text, Word documents, JPEGs, etc.) are highly preferred, although typing and/or scanning of items will be considered on a per-case basis. We reserve the right to edit submissions for length, clarity, accuracy, libel and other reasons, but we will also make every reasonable effort to contact the author about any changes prior to publication.

Lots of bounce at age 80



Longyearbyen youths get a workout in a multitude of sports Monday as part of an 80th birthday celebration for Svalbard Turn at Svalbardhallen. The sports association, founded to offer organized activities such as soccer, gymnastics and shooting, now has nearly 600 members in 23 groups. An adult celebration is scheduled Oct. 2 at Huset.

Huset closes with local movies

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spend the winter in the lodge of an eccentric Norwegian hunter. The film received the large jury award in Rouen and the audience award at Tromsø International Film Festival in 1999.

- "Orions Belte" ("Orion's Belt"), about three Norwegians on a cargo ship who discover a Russian listening station in a Svalbard mountain cave during the Cold War and their subsequent attempt to escape at sea. The film

won the Amanda Award for best Norwegian Film in 1985. Composers Geir Bøhren and Bent Åserud won the Amanda for best film music, and the Film Critics' Prize the same year.

Huset's sound equipment will be moved to the cultural center, but the projector will remain, possibly as a historic display.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

Briefly

Free concert by Swedish rock/jazz bassist Sunday

Magnus Rosèn, a longtime bassist for the Swedish heavy-metal band HammerFall, will perform a free concert at 6 p.m. Sunday at Svalbard Church.

Rosèn has also recorded two jazz albums as a solo artist and joined the band Revolution Renaissance last fall. In addition, he has toured South America, donating proceeds from solo performances to charity.

Passengers sue cruise company for injuries

An Arctic cruise company is being sued by 16 passengers injured when ice chunks from a Svalbard glacier smashed onto the deck of a luxury liner during a 2007 voyage.

Passengers on the *Alexy Maryshev* suffered head injuries, fractured ribs, and broken arms and legs as the vessel listed violently following the calving of the Hornbreen glacier. Many of the 48 travelers, all from the United Kingdom, said at the time they feared the ship was going

to capsize as the vessel tipped at a 45-degree angle as it was hit by a 70-foot wave caused by ice chunks that also fell into the water.

Damage claims against the tour operator, Discover the World Ltd., of Banstead, Surrey, are expected to total millions of British pounds, according to the *Telegraph* of London. The company is denying liability for incident, which occurred when the vessel stopped near the glacier for passengers to take photos.

Poster about Arctic lake changes wins award

A poster by a student at The University Centre in Svalbard detailing the physical and chemical changes in a high Arctic lake due to climate change won this year's poster prize at the International Society of Limnology Congress' gathering in Cape Town last month.

Trine Holm, an external Ph.D. student from the University of Innsbruck in Austria, created the poster summarizing her analysis at Kongressvatnet, close to Kapp Linné, of changes during the past 50 years. Further work may detail results from the past 10,000 years.



Eivind Susort, left, Jørn Dybdahl, middle, and Christian Svarstad fire rifles at Longyearbyen's shooting range Saturday as part of the Quadrathon. Svarstad won the four-stage competition.

Grueling race doesn't sweat small stuff

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groups a grueling workout, generally don't have the aura of endurance racing fanatics.

Matthew Waterston, 21, a UNIS student from Edinburgh, arrived at the starting line at the Svalbard Sailing Club in a green and blue kilt, and wearing "fun and frolics" face paint. He said he and a couple of friends entered after seeing a poster for the race five days earlier at the university.

"We haven't quite got all the gear and maybe a lack of kayak experience," he said.

The race can be completed with a team of up to three members, but Waterston said there was no thought about dividing stages.

"I don't like doing something half-hearted. If I'm going to do something I want to do it myself."

All of the other racers except one three-person team also chose to compete in all four stages. Getting to the finish line was about more than endurance, however, as some newcomers to Svalbard were unclear about the route of the course during a pre-race briefing.

The easiest way to ensure finding the turnoff to the rifle range near the airport, they were told, was backtracking if they saw stables – but don't look for their occupants.

"Never use a horse as a landmark because they are moving," Dybdahl said.

The race is small and casual enough that monitors aren't posted along the route to ensure letter-of-the-law compliance. For that matter, logistics can be somewhat informal as well.

"We have one-and-a-half minutes to the start ... actually, we don't have a start line yet," said Emma Johansson-Karlsson, an organizer who brought a hasty end to the briefing so she could scratch a quick line in the dirt.

The sailing club, which sponsors the race, provided free kayaks and food for those in need. Transitions between all but the shooting portion were at the club's facility, where there was a mandatory 15-minute rest period after the running and kayaking stages, allowing competitors to switch between land-based clothing and drysuits.

The first racer to make the subsequent uphill bicycle peddle to the shooting range was Eivind Susort, but he ultimately finished third after being penalized for missing a shot. He said the cycling affected his grip.

"Pushing the handlebars, it's hard on the muscles," he said.

The race was won by Christian Svarstad with a time of 1 hour, 34 minutes and 16 seconds. Dybdahl yet again finished second, coming in a mere five seconds later.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN

VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

Sightings of cats, banned since 1922, raise concerns

Recent sightings of cats in Longyearbyen are being investigated by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority, which says violating a ban in effect since 1922 is a serious offense. The agency says rabies and the tapeworm parasite Echinococcus Multilocularis can spread from animals to humans with fatal results. Dogs are permitted because they are easier to control and vaccinated at the city's expense. Cats, tame and wild, have been in Barentsburg since before the ban. The FSA is seeking to eliminate their presence, but is working with officials there rather than demanding compliance.

Polar bear raids three cabins near Foxdalen seeking food

A polar bear broke into at least three cabins in the area between Mine 7 and Foxdalen, causing extensive damage as it searched for food, officials with the Svalbard governor's office said Friday. In one of the cabins the bear destroyed the kitchen, turning on an electric stovetop plate in the process. "It's absolutely surreal to me," said Ragnheid Skogseth, the cabin's owner. "We talked about it yesterday, that there has not previously been a bear in the cabins towards Foxdalen, so you have to be more aware storing food in the cabin." Officials are warning people not to seek out the bear for safety reasons and the animal's well-being.

Researcher fined 5,000 kr. for shooting bear at Hornsund

A Polish researcher has been fined 5,000 kroner for fatally shooting a 10-year-old polar bear disturbing a cabin July 8 at Hornsund. "The man had no intention of hitting the bear when he fired the shot, but explained that he wanted to scare the bear," said Deputy Gov. Lars Fause. He said the size of the fine is linked with the researcher's income and if a Longyearbyen resident made the same mistake the penalty would have been much more severe. The man did not immediately report the shooting, in violation of the governor's policy, with officials receiving word of a sick or injured bear in the area 11 days later.

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday

Partly cloudy with a chance of snow. W winds at 2 km/h. High -1C (-1C wind chill), low -4C (-4C wind chill).

Thursday

Fair to partly cloudy. SE winds at 1 km/h. High 2C (2C wind chill), low -5C (-5C wind chill).

Friday

Cloudy. SW winds at 2 km/h. High 0C (0C wind chill), low -1C (-1C wind chill).

Saturday

Cloudy. E winds at 3 km/h. High 0C (0C wind chill), low -1C (-1C wind chill).

Extended forecast: Sunday, cloudy with light breezes, 0C (0C), -2C (-2C); Monday, cloudy with light breezes, 0C (0C), -1C (-1C); Tuesday, cloudy with light breezes, 0C (0C), -1C (-1C); Wednesday, cloudy with light breezes, -1C (-1C), -2C (-2C).

Data provided by yr.no



Knut Lindvig, right, and Vasyl Vasylenko, read a list of winners of the Tyfus Statuette at the opening reception for an exhibition of Lindvig's paintings today at the Spitsbergen Hotel. The casting mold for the annual community service trophy of a hand holding a lump of coal was designed by Lindvig.

Long-ago artist, miners return

Return of famed artist after 19 years coincides with annual Store Norske retirees' reunion

Two icons whose contributions help keep Longyearbyen healthy – one in spirit, the other in the wallet – return to town this week.

Knut Lindvig, designer of the casting template for the Tyfus Statuette, will display about 30 of his paintings in an exhibit at the Spitsbergen Hotel today through Friday. The statuette is presented annually to the local resident do-

ing the most to keep the city "out of typhus."

Lingvig, who worked as a mechanic in addition to his art, is making his first return to Svalbard since departing in 1991.

The exhibition, on display until Friday, is at the same time as the annual reunion for former Store Norske employees, who are staying at the hotel. About 40 former workers are expected, with activities including planning for a new mining museum and a visit to Svea.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.

Gallery, new director share broad vision

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appealing aspects of the gallery is the range of artists working in the small on-site studios.

"It spans from domestic industry to what you would call fine art," he said. "That mixture is important."

"Imagine ten fine artists in there competing with each other. There just wouldn't be a market for that and I can imagine what the social climate would be like."

Berg worked for the Art Museum of Northern Norway from 1996 to 2008, with his duties including photographing collections for exhibits and catalogues. He subsequently accepted a job compiling a photo database for SpareBank 1, which required visiting every city in Norway with one or more branches.

"The good side was I could go to even the most remote places, even one little northern region I never would have otherwise," he said.

Berg said he applied for the Galleri Svalbard job after his girlfriend saw an ad for the position.

"I thought I should be sufficiently qualified so I should at least get ... another trip

there," he said. But instead "they interviewed me in Oslo."

While the description of the job appealed to Berg's girlfriend, the reality of accepting it was more unsettling.

"My girlfriend freaked out on a small scale," he said. "She couldn't imagine being on her own with two kids (ages 1½ and 4)."

The biggest adjustment from museum work is ensuring the gallery's collection appeals to visitors, Berg said. That means a good number of Svalbard-oriented works such as polar bears and Arctic landscapes, since many customers want something not seen elsewhere. It also means more adherence to traditional mediums.

"Many people still hesitate buying a video work," he said. "You can't put it on your wall at home."

The exhibition schedule for the gallery, formerly managed by Elise Hannaas, is set through next March,

after which Berg said those selected on his watch will be seen. He said that may seem a long time, but larger galleries typically plan at least two years in advance.

There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.



A painting from the exhibit "Store Norske," which debuts Thursday at Galleri Svalbard.

What's up

Sept. 12

6 p.m.: Free movies to commemorate the end of 59 years of cinema at Huset. "Når Lyset Kommer" will show at 6 p.m. and "Orions Belte" at 7:20 p.m. See story on page 1 for more details.

6 p.m.: Concert by Magnus Rosèn, Swedish jazz and rock bassist. Svalbard Church.

Sept. 13

10:15 a.m.: Environment and Industry Committee meeting. Næringsbygget 1, Tundra room.

Sept. 15

8 p.m.: Meeting to discuss opening of cultural center. Næringsbygget 2, Smutthullet room.

Sept. 16

2 p.m.: Board for Culture and Leisure Business Authority meeting. Næringsbygget 1, Tundra room.

6 p.m.: Board of City Operation Authority meeting. Næringsbygget 1, Tundra room.

Sept. 17

9 a.m.: Control of Growing Enterprises Authority meeting. Næringsbygget 2, Smutthullet room.

Sept. 21

7 p.m.: Local Board meeting. Lompensenteret, Mediateket.

Oct. 2-3

Gathering of invited participants to prepare for opening of new cultural center. Svalbardhallen. Begins at 10 a.m. Oct. 2.

Oct. 8-10

School autumn holiday.

Tango class. More information available at elise.stromseng@unis.no.

Oct. 12

10 a.m.: Administration Committee meeting. Næringsbygget 1, Tundra room.

What's online

Icepeople.net provides daily updates of news about Svalbard and the world's polar regions, plus extras for articles from the print edition. Among the latest news:

- *Fires, floods, food riots linked to climate*
- *Endangered whales flee Russia's oil sites*
- *Scientists try fastest crossing of Antarctica*
- *New 787 jet arrives for tests in Svalbard*