



An audience of young and old, above, watches "Når Lyset Kommer" ("When the Light Comes"), one of two Svalbard-themed movies shown free Sunday at Huset, the final night of films after a 59-year run. At right, people arrive at the building used for many purposes in the past including an assembly hall, hospital, school and post office. Sound equipment from the theater will be moved starting this week to Longyearbyen's new cultural center, where movies are scheduled to debut in December.



Last act at Huset

Mixed feelings among residents as 59-year run of movies ends

The same lemon toffees. Check. The same Lohengrin chocolate bar. Check. Catching up with peers before the show. Um, check, but the texting part is new.

Tone Nødtvedt has been watching movies in Longyearbyen like this for five decades, shortly after the screen first lit up at Huset.

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'New era' for Arctic oil riches

Treaty between Russia, Norway sets exploration path for Svalbard, other areas of Arctic

A treaty between Norway and Russia signed this week will profoundly impact not only oil and commercial exploration in northern waters including Svalbard, but other countries engaged in lengthy Arctic disputes, according to international participants and observers.

The agreement roughly divides evenly a 175,000-square-kilometer area of sea between Svalbard and Russia's Novaya Zemlya, which has been disputed for four decades and is seen as valuable oil and gas territory as the polar ice cap recedes. Norwegian Prime Minister and Russian President Dmitri A. Medvedev signing the treaty in a ceremony Wednesday (Sept. 15) in Murmansk.

"The treaty will strengthen our neighborly relations with Russia and will enhance predictability and stability in the area," Stoltenberg said. "It sends an important signal to the rest of the world – the Arctic is a peaceful region where any issues that arise are resolved in accordance with international law. It reflects the parties' active role and responsibility as coastal states for securing stability and strengthening cooperation in the Arctic Ocean."

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Art, science melded by climate change

Annual Svalbard cruise brings differing minds together in a common quest

It boggles the mind to think what a rap mixing the Anthropocene Era, Debussy's "La Mer," oceanography and polar bears might sound like.

But such a track might be spinning soon courtesy of DJ Spooky, one of 15 artists and scientists participating in the ninth annual Cape Farewell Art and Science cruise in Svalbard. The expedition aboard the *Noorderlicht* from Sept. 9 to Oct. 1 mingles the two often-contrasting occupations in what one participant describes as "a kind of roiling, boiling think tank on climate change."

Turning temperatures into turntable scratches is a natural fit for DJ Spooky (real name is Paul D. Miller) who's also an author and professor of music-mediated art. After viewing a "peaceful situation" at Gullybryn Glacier,

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A cartoon by Leonid Tishkov, an artist on the Cape Farewell cruise.

Who's to blame and how to express your wrath

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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.

Passing the test with flying colors



Ground crews tend to an experimental Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner at Svalbard Airport, which is envisioned as an emergency Arctic landing site once the plane is put into service. About 100 people watched the Sept. 8 landing of Boeing's first new model in 13 years, which officials said went smoothly, but the plane itself is filled with computer and other technical equipment.

Briefly

High PCB levels found in Barentsburg, Pyramid

PCBs in Barentsburg and Pyramid are respectively about 100 and 150 times the levels found in Longyearbyen, according to the Geological Survey of Norway after three years of analyzing soil samples.

"There is a lot of long-range transport of pollution to the Arctic, and PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) follows the currents in the ocean, air and ice," the institute wrote in a summary. "But it turns out that there are also local sources of PCBs we previously did not know the extent of."

The agency is working with government officials on Svalbard to identify and eliminate local sources of PCB contaminants, which spread easily from soil to the sea due to runoff, snow melt and erosion.

About 60 percent of all buildings in Barentsburg and Pyramid have PCB-contaminated exterior paint, according to the report. Contaminants were found in about 15 percent of Longyearbyen's buildings, either in the exterior paint or concrete.

Man fined 5,000 kroner for drugs, won't be exiled

A 30-year-old man has been fined 5,000 kroner for buying and using drugs, according to the Svalbard governor's office.

The man, who has prior drug convictions, admitted to purchasing two grams of marijuana and one gram of amphetamine in January, which he brought to Svalbard, according to a press release. He also acknowledged using the substances Aug. 25.

Officials responding to a disturbance confirmed the man's drug use with a urine sample.

"It's been a long time since we've had this

type of case in Svalbard," said Police Chief Per Andreassen.

People have been exiled from Svalbard for drug convictions, including three during the late 1990s. Officials said that is not happening yet in this case, but they are monitoring further developments.

Residents put under the lights for ad campaign

Now that it's getting dark, a company is hoping Longyearbyen residents will get excited about the light.

A giveaway of Wake-up Lights, worth about 1,000 kroner, is scheduled Oct. 20 at Huset as part of a multimedia campaign the company started working on earlier this year. Film crew members returned during the past week to interview residents about life during the polar night for a series of short adtainment films about Svalbard that will be posted online fall. Participants in the light campaign are also being asked to blog about their experience with the product.

The light is designed simulate a sunrise by gradually illuminating until a designated alarm time. Those interested in obtaining a light can do so by contacting wakeuplongyearbyen@gmail.com.

New guide for sorting trash sent to residents

A new guide to sorting waste is being mailed to all Longyearbyen residences.

The new guide details changes in the paper and cardboard categories, information about cabin toilet waste containers, what should be delivered directly to the waste facility plant, and what residents should do when their red hazardous materials box is full.



Jan Egge explains how he painted his "Store Norske" collection during an opening reception for the exhibition Thursday at Galleri Svalbard. The collection will remain on display until Sept. 30.

Wordless ghost mining tales

Beauty in decay for painter who captures unique mining facilities from Longyearbyen in abstract

The decaying mining structures tell stories that need no words, in part because there's nothing else in Norway like them.

That's one of the motivations behind Jan Egge's "Store Norske" collection of paintings, which debuted Thursday at Galleri Svalbard. The 24 paintings show facilities that were the lifeblood of Longyearbyen a century ago, but are now deteriorating with no effort to preserve them.

"The mine has fascinated me for a long

time because of its history and you have this building, the way of it," Egge said. "The architecture creates itself because of the needs of the operator."

Egge, a Lillehammer resident, has spent the past two years working on the collection, capturing the ruins in various figurative and abstract portrayals. Some get multiple interpretations, such as a four-set collection depicting Huset in different conditions – all painted from a single photo Egge took.

The paintings, which are for sale, will remain on display until Sept. 30.

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

Artists, scientists warm to Arctic voyage

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even with fresh polar bear tracks, he wrote today in the expedition's online journal how he's musing the compositional possibilities of "pattern recognition and its relationship to how environmental issues are so ambiguously and deeply complex."

"The basic theme of so much music that has focused on environmental issues is usually based on a metaphor ... they were all responses to metaphors – a composer's distillation of the impressions left by their muse when they

thought of the topic at hand," he wrote. "Triangulating from that kind of expressionistic work, I look at oceanic currents, atmospheric pressure masses, ice pack density and other phenomena for inspiration."

The Cape Farewell expedition's journal – featuring writings, pictures, movies, cartoons, social media feedback and other content – is at www.capefarewell.com/2010expedition/category/media.

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

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN

VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

Boycott if alcohol served at cultural center, youths say

The cafe at Longyearbyen's new cultural center should not serve alcohol because of the high number of youths that will use the facility, argue local students Inger-Johanne Mørk and Viljar Hanssen. They said youths will use the center for things such as band and youth circus practice, in addition to recreational activities, and are at an impressionable age where exposure to alcohol is ill-advised. They said many youths have agreed to boycott the center, avoiding movies and other events, if alcohol is permitted. Hanssen said serving alcohol at special events would be acceptable. Longyearbyen's Administration Committee, during its Sept. 7 meeting, said various parties should examine the issue but took no action.

Store Norske seeks to open new mine at Lunckefjellet

A new coal mine at Lunckefjellet that would begin operating in the winter of 2013 was endorsed Thursday by Store Norske's board of directors. Efforts to map the coal deposit, just north of the existing Svea Nord mine, started five months ago. Core drilling showing a coal thickness of one-half to more than four meters, which the company estimates would yield 8.2 million tons. Extraction would occur during a four- to five-year period, using existing shipping and other infrastructure at Svea. An application for the mine has been submitted to the governor of Svalbard.

Significant hike in tobacco prices sought by physician

Tobacco is far too cheap in Svalbard, according to a physician who is encouraging Longyearbyen's Administration Committee to impose a significant tax increase. Kari Schrøder Hansen said higher prices would curb adult smokers and prevent younger people from starting. Money from the tax would go into a community welfare fund. The committee, led by conservative members, approved examining whether such an increase could be enacted in Svalbard during its meeting Sept. 7.

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday

Fair with snow later in the day. NE winds at 3 km/h. High -2C (-2C wind chill), low -5C (-5C wind chill).

Thursday

Snow clearing to partly cloudy. ESE winds at 3 km/h. High 0C (0C wind chill), low -3C (-3C wind chill).

Friday

Cloudy with snow possible. E winds at 4 km/h. High -1C (-1C wind chill), low -2C (-2C wind chill).

Saturday

Cloudy. ENE winds at 4 km/h. High -1C (-1C wind chill), low -3C (-3C wind chill).

Extended forecast: Sunday, cloudy with light breezes, -2C (-2C), -3C (-3C); Monday, cloudy with light breezes, -2C (-2C), -4C (-4C); Tuesday, cloudy with light breezes, -3C (-3C), -5C (-5C); Wednesday, cloudy with light breezes, -3C (-3C), -5C (-5C).

Data provided by yr.no



Håvard Øverli, above, threads the projector at Huset for the final night of movies after 59 years at the multipurpose community center. The projector will remain at Huset since Longyearbyen's new cultural center will show movies using a digital system with 3D capability. At left, Tone Nødtvedt sends text messages while waiting for a movie to begin. She said little has changed, including the concessions, during her five decades of watching movies in the theater.

Final Huset movie night much like first

CURTAIN, from page 1

She can even lay claim to being at Huset, if not in the theater, at that first show in 1951.

"I was only eight years old, but I was in the house here," she said.

Nødtvedt settled into a seat near the back of the theater for her final movie Sunday as a double-feature of classic Svalbard films brought an end to screenings at the historic building. Sound equipment from the theater is being moved this week to Longyearbyen's new cultural center, where movies are scheduled to resume in December.

"I think it's very bad, and bad because this house has a soul and a history," she said.

Nødtvedt sat alone for her final screening, while those her age when the theater opened sprawled in and on top of seats and ledges at the rear. The movies were different as well,

with the dramas "Når Lyset Kommer" and "Orions Belte" respectively showing Svalbard's ruggedly eccentric and wartime sides.

"We used to go to westerns," she said, but her favorite was of another genre. "If I'm not dreaming, I think we saw 'Peter Pan' here."

The night was a finale of routine as well for Håvard Øverli, 30, who for the past five years has been one of three projectionists at Huset. Preparing films involves a precise, but what he said is easy-to-learn, checklist that won't be necessary with the digital system being installed at the new cultural center.

"It's not a sad moment because it's only five percent of my work," he said. "Of course it's going to be good to have the new house, 3D movies and maybe more movies a week."

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

Norway, Russia work together to tap oil

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The agreement must still be ratified by the Norwegian Parliament and Russian Duma.

Russia estimates 39 billion barrels of oil may be in the area. Analysts quoted by *The Moscow Times* said most oil and gas deposits lie on Russia's side of the border, but its oil companies are not capable of working in the difficult waters without Norwegian expertise.

One provision of the treaty is new oil or gas fields discovered straddling the new border will be developed jointly. It also regulates fish-

ing in the area, a sore point of dispute as Russia has banned imports of Norwegian salmon in what was seen as retaliation for repeated detentions of Russian fishermen along the border.

The treaty doesn't resolve a controversy about Russian claims to territory that includes the North Pole.

Newspapers in other countries with Arctic disputes said the treaty is likely to put pressure on leaders there.

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

What's up

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.

Sept. 23-25

Oktoberfest, featuring concerts, beer tent and cruise to Barentsburg. Radisson Blue Polar Hotel Spitsbergen.

Oct. 2

7:30 p.m.: 80th anniversary celebration of Svalbard Turn. Dinner, entertainment and dancing. Huset. 400 kroner. Deadline to register Sept. 29 by paying account 47785551741.

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.

Oct. 14

2 p.m.: Board for Culture and Leisure Authority 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:

- *Arctic sea ice shrinks to third-lowest ever*
- *Svalbard dinos survived period of freezing*
- *Polar bears migrate to home, not the man*
- *Women more likely to believe warming*