



1,000 kr. for jam? What gives?



Per Kyrre Reymert, culture and heritage advisor for the Svalbard governor's office, shows a fox skin donated by the Svalbard Museum during an auction Sunday at the Radisson SAS Polar Hotel to benefit the international CARE campaign for impoverished women.

Svalbard again highest by far in per-capita donations to CARE, raising more than 1 million kr.

When people pay more than 1,000 kroner for a small jar of jam and 100,000 kroner for a couple of chairs damaged by a gunshot, somebody's raking in the benefits.

Times may be tight, but Svalbard residents proved they're still willing to be spendthrifts when it comes to helping impoverished women in developing countries. Locals contributed more than 1 million kroner to the international CARE campaign during a series of events the past few weeks, by far the highest per-capita of a Norwegian campaign that culminated in a nationwide telethon Sunday.

"I didn't think that would be possible this year," said Anne Lise Klungseth Sandvik, chairwoman of the local CARE campaign, referring to the amount raised.

She said planning started late and some mishaps, including a blockade at the Svea coal mine by Greenpeace that forced the cancellation of a major fundraising event, had officials concerned about this year's collection. She

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Svalbard gets budget boost despite crisis

Norway to tap oil fund for record amount due to recession, but reaffirms commitment to north

The bad news is Norway plans to spend a record amount of its oil surplus next year to help offset a budget deficit caused by the global recession.

The good news is Svalbard will receive an extra 10.3 million kroner to boost police, schools and other services.

More good news: Norwegian officials are optimistic about the immediate future, including a strong rebound in the kroner, after emerging relatively well from the economic crisis.

"The downturn seems to be less severe than in many other countries," a summary of the draft 2010 budget by the Ministry of Finance notes, adding "The economy has performed better than expected only a few months ago and the outlook has improved."

Finance Minister Kristin Halvorsen told

Parliament the government will use 148.5 billion kroner of oil savings next year, 11 percent more than 2009 and the biggest sum since the fund was created in 1990. Overall public spending will increase 2.1 percent in 2010, compared to 5.6 percent this year and 3.8 percent in 2008.

A separate statement declares "the High North remains the Government's most important strategic priority area." A record increase

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Hard times ideal for feeling the blues

Money's tight, but musicians fine playing for less as Dark Season Blues starts Thursday

A global recession is certainly reason to feel the blues, but turns out those asked to play a less lucrative gig at Longyearbyen's biggest music event are still plenty happy to do so.

Local, Norwegian and international musicians – new and familiar – will perform at venues throughout Longyearbyen during the seventh annual Dark Season Blues festival Thursday through Sunday.

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Billy Gibson, J.T. Lauritsen, Dave Moore and Dave Fields perform May 9 in Memphis, Tenn. Gibson, Fields and Lauritsen are among the musicians at the Dark Season Blues festival starting Thursday.

Who's to blame and how to express your wrath

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Corrections policy

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.

Dark Season Blues schedule

Thursday

- 10 p.m.: Joakim Tinderholt Express. Barentz Pub, 150 kroner.
- 10 p.m.: J.T. Lauritsen with Billy Gibson and Dave Fields. Kroa, 200 kroner.
- 10 p.m.: Tina Lie. Svalbar, 150 kroner.

Friday

- 11 a.m.: Billy Gibson and Dave Fields with J.T. Lauritsen. Kullungen day care center, free.
- 11:30 a.m.: Tina Lie. Longyearbyen School, free.
- Noon: Jam Session with Billy T. Barentz Pub, free.
- 9 p.m.: Blåmyra; Hemisfair. Barentz Pub, 150 kroner.
- 9 p.m.: Kirk Fletcher Band with Adam Douglas; Bobby Jones. Kroa, 200 kroner.
- 9 p.m.: Groovy Company; Jackie Payne and Steve Edmondson Band. Svalbar, 200 kroner.

Saturday

- Noon: Blues lunch and CD release party with J.T. Lauritsen and Billy Gibson with friends. Interview with Øyvind Rønning. Barentz Pub.
- 4 p.m.: Knut Hem and friends. Karls-Berger Pub. Free.
- 8:30 p.m.: Dual multi-concert shows at Huset. First stage features Hemisfair; Groovy Company; Jackie Payne and Steve Edmondson Band; and Joakim Tinderholt Express. Second stage, beginning at 9 p.m., features Kirk Fletcher Band with Adam Douglas; Tina Lie; J.T. Lauritsen with Billy Gibson and Dave Fields; and Bobby Jones. 500 kroner admission covers entry into both shows.

Sunday

- 5 p.m.: Gospel and blues with Bobby Jones and Jackie Payne, Svalbard Church. 100 kroner for adults, 50 kroner for youths.
- 9 p.m.: Jam session with Billy Gibson and Dave Fields. Barentz Pub. Free.

Blues fest features new and familiar

BLUES, from page 1

Organizers said they had to work harder to raise funds, coordinate schedules more carefully and appeal to players' goodwill, but are anything but blue about the results.

"When I am booking bands it's important to have a range of bands because there is such a wide range of blues," said Gry Sneltuedt, who organized most of the lineup. This year's ranges from newcomers like multi-genre vocalist Tina Lie to longtime bassist Bill Troiani, although even the latter promises to bring something new.

"Billy T. has been here many times, but with different bands," Sneltuedt said.

The festival also features the release of a live album by vocalist/accordionist Jan Tore (J.T.) Lauritsen and harmonica player Billy Gibson at noon Saturday at Barentz Pub, one of four concerts they are scheduled to perform. New York guitarist Dave Fields is scheduled to appear at the other three., plus a jam session with Gibson at the pub at 9 p.m. Sunday.

Police, schools get more money in 2010

BUDGET, from page 1

of 530 million kroner for a range of measures including infrastructure, environmental research, space-related activities and emergency services are proposed for 2010.

Svalbard's allocation is designated primarily for the governor's office, which is unique in its responsibility for law enforcement, emergency services, environmental compliance, international relations and other services in the archipelago.

"We have set up a good society, and a continued stable and predictable exercise of authority in Svalbard," said Justice Minister Knut Storberget in a prepared statement.

The increases for Svalbard include:

- 4 million kroner for an additional police

Nearly all of the performers are just as busy with multiple gigs, allowing listeners who miss or can't get into a concert ample opportunity to make amends. Passes for all events are 1,000 kroner and individual concerts cost 150 to 200 kroner, but those on a budget can hear free performances during jam sessions and school appearances Friday through Sunday. Two multi-band shows will be featured on separate stages Saturday night at Huset, with 500 kroner covering admission to both,

Sneltuedt said tickets for concerts at a trio of locations Thursday and Friday should be available at the door for those arriving early. Those with passes, sold at the Mix kiosk, should also arrive early to ensure seating if there's a show they prefer. She said admission shouldn't be a problem Saturday night, even though Huset will likely be full.

The festival's official Web site is at <http://blues.svalbard.com>.

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

position, continuing field inspector services, and covering operating and new salary regulations for the governor's office.

- 3.4 million kroner to repair and upgrade the governor's house. "At a time when Svalbard is constantly getting increased international attention, partly as a result of climate change, this will help ensure the governor's good entertainment venues," a statement by the Norwegian government notes.

- 2.7 million kroner to the Longyearbyen municipal council for school and nursery operations.

- 200,000 kroner for other Svalbard operations.

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



Chawapon Philuek, 6, left, Eline Melby Lorentsen, 7, center, and Marit Melby Lorentsen sell homemade greeting cards during a craft and performance fair Thursday at Longyearbyen School to raise money for the CARE campaign.

'People take me by surprise' with donations

CARE, from page 1

said they decided to focus more on the issues raised by the campaign, and trying to ensure participants enjoyed helping and participating in the various activities.

"We agreed to take it easy and not focus on always breaking the record," she said.

NRK reports Svalbard residents donated an average of 676.47 kroner, although Sandvik said about 500 kroner is a more accurate figure since the population is about 2,000. Finishing second was the tiny island community of Utsira in Rogaland at 240 per resident. The average donation of all Norwegians was 39.85 kroner as the campaign raised 191 million kroner.

Svalbard typically raises a much higher per-resident total because more events are scheduled. The telethon and a door-to-door collection of donations by children are the primary activities on the mainland. Events in Longyearbyen this year included auctions, a lottery, theater and music performances, a flea market, student-hosted meals, an open house at the fire station and other diversions.

"People take me by surprise," Sandvik said. "People think this is fun. Everyone at the kindergarten, the school, friends say 'Do you know if there is something I can do?'"

Chawapon Philuek, 6, and Eline Melby

Lorentsen, 7, helped by selling homemade greeting cards featuring the rare sight of dried leaves (brought by a mainland visitor) for five kroner each during a craft and performance fair Thursday at Longyearbyen School. At the other end of the "innocence" scale were six women who collected 1,200 kroner in pledges for participating in a nude polar swim.

"The amounts aren't big, but in total it's a lot," Sandvik said.

The final event was an auction Sunday night at the Radisson SAS Polar Hotel where scores of donated items from trinkets to island excursions were bid on by several hundred attendees.

"There were people bidding over themselves," Sandvik said.

There was plenty of levity to liven up bids, including two jars of jam made by Elin Amundsen of Trondheim. She donated some last year that, despite some skepticism about their worthiness of inclusion, brought in a hearty bid.

"Again, someone said 'This isn't anything. We have to remove it from the list,'" Sandvik said. That "someone" was the auctioneer, Deputy Gov. Lars Faus, who managed to coax a laughing crowd of bidders out of a total of more than 2,000 kroner for both jars.

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

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN

VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

Greenpeace fined for beer smuggling in Tromsø

Greenpeace has been fined 20,000 kroner after customs agents in Tromsø found 1,250 cans of beer aboard the *Arctic Sunrise* a few days after the group staged a daylong blockade at the Svea coal mine. "We had a routine inspection when the ship arrived in Tromsø and found there was 627 liters of beer too much on board in relation to what was declared," said Atle Joakimsen, regional customs director for northern Norway. The matter was reported to police who issued the fine, which was paid on the spot. The *Arctic Sunrise* was about to depart for Amsterdam Oct. 8 when the customs inspection occurred. "It was embarrassing and very annoying after a four-month-long expedition to Greenland and Svalbard," said Truls Gulowsen, chairman of Greenpeace Norway.

Longyearbyen among 20 cities to try lower voting age

The 2011 local election will allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote, as Longyearbyen was among 20 municipalities selected for the experimental program by the Norwegian government. A total of 143 municipalities applied for the program, with participants selected to reflect a range of size, geography, political makeup of the local governing council and other factors. Officials at the national and local level said they hope the program will encourage more youths to become involved in the political process.

Leader of coal-shipping company killed in accident

Atle Jebesen, 73, longtime head of the company responsible for shipping coal from Svalbard to mainland Europe, was killed Oct. 13 in a traffic accident in Voss. He was the administrative director of Kristian Jebesens and beginning in 1967. He was also president of the Norwegian Shipowners Association from 1982 to 1983.

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday

Snow up to 13 cm. WSW winds at 17 km/h. High -1C (-5C wind chill), low -7C (-17C wind chill).

Thursday

Snow to 3 cm. WSW winds at 20 km/h. High -4C (-14C wind chill), low -12C (-13C wind chill).

Friday

Cloudy with snow ending. N winds at 11 km/h. High -4C (-4C wind chill), low -5C (-11C wind chill).

Saturday

Partly sunny, warmer. N winds at 9 km/h. High 2C (-2C wind chill), low -11C (-12C wind chill).

Extended forecast: Sunday, sunny, -8C (-11C), -11C (-12C); Monday, cloudy, -9C (-10C), -11C (-15C); Tuesday, cloudy with a snow flurry, -8C (-18C), -12C (-23C); Wednesday, cloudy with snow increasing, -7C (-18C), -8C (-23C).

Data provided by AccuWeather.com



A visitor inspects works from the Northern Norwegian Art Exhibition during its opening reception today at Galleri Svalbard. At right is Irena Jović's painting "Von Post," depicting the glacier of the same name, the only piece featuring Svalbard. The exhibit will be at the gallery until Oct. 31.

Northern art finally comes...north

Annual exhibition of Norwegian work returns to Longyearbyen after more than a decade away

Irena Jović's paintbrush may contain more power than man, but when the time came to appreciate the achievement she was the only person not to enter the room.

"I'm not so fond of openings," she said. "I get shy."

Jović, a Bodø resident, was among 29 artists with a total of 34 works selected for the 63rd annual Northern Norwegian Art Exhibition. The show, on display in Longyearbyen for the first time in more than a decade, opened today at Galleri Svalbard and will remain until Oct. 31.

Her painting "Von Post," from the glacier of the same name, is the only piece in the exhibition featuring Svalbard. She said she did the work during a visit in 2005, her only other time here, discovering the glacier while on an excursion looking for polar bears.

"Compared to others this is just so powerful," she said.

The glacier is named after Swedish geologist Lennart von Post, who introduced pollen analysis in 1916. According to an exhibit narrative "this method has long been important for analyzing temperature fluctuations by looking at the amount of pollen in different layers of rocks, but also in glaciers." Jović said her painting attempts to bring that context to modern environmental issues.

"In reality you can't walk that close because it's too dangerous," she said during the Svalbard opening. "People think they can conquer everything. You can't conquer nature. It's too powerful."

The exhibition narrative also notes her references to similar works from the 1800s and "Jović's painting is a contemporary examination of a painting tradition with strong roots in the Norwegian and European art history." She

said she did other sketches while here, with her works displayed in Bodø, but applying for this year's northern art exhibition wasn't her idea.

"A friend said 'You have to send in this painting,'" she said.

Although the winners were announced late last year, she said "it's just by accident I'm here in Svalbard" as the only victor attending the opening.

Similar stories can be found among the 28 other artists with connections to north's broad range of culture, although discovering them may require looking beyond the gallery's walls.

Eva Bakkeslett received the juror's prize for "Alchemy," a video exhibit officials said is "based on the notion of bread as a basic prerequisite for human life on Earth as we know it."

"We find it is especially gratifying to give the jury award to a young and very active artist living and working in Northern Norway," a statement by the jurors notes. "She is a committed artist who, after finishing her education in England, has settled in Steigen."

Other works pay tribute to or criticize the impact of northern architecture, capture personal and momentous occurrences, and find ways to blend ancient tradition with avant-garde. An example of the latter is Ina Marie Winther Åshaug's "Me and Mona Lisa," which displays hand-drawn animations about an encounter with a pony on the video screen of an iPod mounted in a box that frames the action with hand-drawn dead trees.

The exhibition is sponsored by the regions of Nordland, Troms and Finnmark, with this year's winners selected from 158 applicants submitting a total of 368 works. It went on display Jan. 17 in Bodø, and Longyearbyen is the second-to-last stop before the show concludes Dec. 6 in Vefsn.

Winning entries can be seen at the exhibition's Web site at www.bodokunst.no.

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

What's up

Oct. 22-25

Dark Season Blues. Full schedule of events at <http://blues.svalbard.com>. Festival passes available at the Mix kiosk, 1,000 kroner for all days, 900 kroner for Oct. 23-25.

Oct. 25

8 p.m.: Movie: "Inglorious Bastards," U.S. action/drama, ages 15 and up. Huset.

Oct. 26

7:30: Author Monica Kristensen discusses and signs her crime novels set in Svalbard. Food and drink will be served. Admission 100 kroner. Longyearbyen library.

Oct. 31

Sports exchange in Barentsburg.

Noon-4 p.m.: Open day at the science research center. UNIS.

Nov. 1-8

Operation DUPPEDITT: A nationwide campaign to gather environmentally harmful small electronics and dispose of them properly. More information is available at www.operasjonduppedit.no.

Nov. 1

11 a.m.: NRK broadcast of All Saints' Day service from Svalbard Church.

6 p.m.: Movie: "Gubben & Katten - Glemligheter," Swedish children's film with Norwegian subtitles, all ages. Huset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Vegas," Norwegian drama, ages 11 and up. Huset.

Nov. 2

10:15 a.m.: Meeting of the environmental and food board. Næringsbygget 1, Tundra room.

Nov. 3

10 a.m.: Meeting of the management committee. 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:

- *Hope vs. doubt for climate summit*
- *Receding ice melts Arctic miners' hearts*
- *Summer Arctic ice cap gone in 20 years?*
- *Moscow sows in hope of banning snow*