



Never enough money

Environmental Fund offering 16M kroner in grants for 2014, but first-half requests total 31.2M

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

There's nearly twice as much environmental grant money available as last year, but the odds of getting any appears to be worse due to a huge increase in applicants and the amounts they're seeking.

A record 16 million kroner is being allocated from the Svalbard Environmental Protection Fund in 2014, but a record 74 applicants are seeking a total of 31.2 million kroner – for just the first of two distribution rounds. The second round will be considered during the fall.

"The fund sees a positive increase in the number of applications, and a wide variety of project ideas and initiatives that will help to protect the environment on Svalbard," fund administrators noted in a statement.

The fund allocated 8.6 million kroner in grants in 2013, one-third of the amount requested by applicants. This year's distribution will be roughly one-fourth of the amount requested at the current pace.

Asbjørn Hagen, the fund's senior advisor, said the record amount available this year is due
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Vårin Storø, top left, Ulrik Snibsøer and Therese Bjerkeng perform "Duet With My Friend" during the local stage of the UKM competition at Kulturhuset on Sunday. At bottom left, The Beatbox Crew performs a lights-and-techno dance routine. At bottom right, Stine Nesse smashes a guitar to bits at the end of the performance as part of her emcee duties. Photos by Mark Sabbatini / Icepeople.

SMASHING SUCCESS

Ten Longyearbyen youths advance to regional UKM competition

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

Stine Nesse is facing a problem with her award-winning emcee routine. It's not really possible to practice breaking a guitar on stage, so she didn't learn until the show that the

shrapnel can leave deep scratches on your leg. Make that two problems, since she lacks another unwanted guitar for her next show.

"I can use my mom's, but she's going to be really mad," she said.

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No, it's not Benny and Kenny G

Is it worth paying to hear actual jazz at Polarjazz? Give the unfamiliar newbies a free listen

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

Since jazz accounts for about one percent of all recording sales, it's safe to assume it's cooler expressing an appreciation for it than actually listening to a collage of improvised screeches and scat.

Which is why no-show basket cases like Amy Winehouse are booked as headliners for
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COURTESY OF KRISTIN ASBJØRNSEN

Kristin Asbjørnsen performs a 2011 concert in Denmark in this video that's part of a collection at her website (<http://kristinasbjornsen.com>).

Who's to blame and how to express your wrath

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Icepeople is published weekly (or thereabouts) on Tuesdays (or thereabouts), with printed copies available free on a limited basis in Longyearbyen. Additional printed copies are available locally and by mail upon request. Charges are on an "at cost" basis.

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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.



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Vilde Storø, left, explains his artistic photography entry in this year's UKM competition to emcees Vårin Storø, second from right, and Stine Nesse at Kulturhuset on Sunday. All three were among the ten Longyearbyen youths selected to advance to the regional competition in Tromsø.

Music, art, unicorns go to UKM regionals

TALENT, from page 1

Nesse, 13, was among the ten Longyearbyen youths selected to advance to the regional stage of the UKM talent competition in Tromsø in April after her hosting duties in the local stage Sunday at Kulturhuset. A total of 23 students participated in 16 music, dance and art exhibitions.

Nesse, co-hosting with Vårin Storø, relied on more than splinters and blood to win the judges over. She sported a different costume each time on stage, even if it was something as simple as a coat hanger around her neck.

"Unicorns inspire me – they're really colorful," she said when asked how she came up with her ideas.

The judges, shockingly, told all of the youths after the show their performances were very good, but then came the explanations about why some were more equal than others.

A DJ techno/lights/smoke mix by Narongchai Cherdchoo and Nattanagorn Nanthawisit, for instance, was a novel entry, but the judges noted the two DJs were largely obscured by the smoke and a stronger visual aspect such as dancers would have improved the performance.

Besides Nesse and Storø, participants selected to compete in Tromsø include:

- Lusie Frostvoll Kuraas, Amalie Henriksen, Ulrik Snibsøer, Pauline Skreslett, and Hege Pedersen for the song "Just Give Me a Reason."

- Sara Heitmann for the song "Har Du Fyr."

- Vilde Storø for his photo art.

- Vilde Markussen for her solo piano performance of "Syndicate."

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

Icesheet

Random bits of the week's weirdness:

We're realizing we've aged pathetically beyond our cool years because we're merely guessing that yellow thing in the picture on page one is a Pokemon, which we thought was over a decade ago. Anyhow, the point is to focus on the creature, not us, so direct your (mere) two eyes to the mug at the right to see His Creatureness unmasked. Ulrik Snibsøer, 14, is among the lucky local youths who got their travel tickets punched for the UKM regionals in Tromsø in April, but **that's a mere puddle jump compared to the tour of Greenland, Iceland and Finland he'll be making this summer as one of 75 participants in the Nordic Light 2014 cultural exchange program.** More than 500 youths applied "and the music group that he will be a part of was the most difficult to get into," said Vilborg Einarsdottir, one of the organizers, told The Local Paper of Record Collectors. Snibsøer, who describes his musical prowess as "I just like to mess around on the piano and express myself," will get to try Inuit drumming in



FACEBOOK PROFILE PICTURE

Talk to the hand: It plays a mean piano and is even meaner if you don't feed it properly.

Greenland, electronica in Iceland and joking in northern Finland.



USTREAM.TV

Jazz bassist Steinar Raknes, right, performs a 2010 concert in Ålesund in this hour-long video with a grainy picture, but quality sound. The video and others by Raknes are at <http://tinyurl.com/ofky493>.

Are the cats worth the cash? Listen up

FREELOAD, from page 1

world-famous festivals in Rotterdam and Norwegian rock stars like Sivert Høyem are booked to lure crowds to Polarjazz.

But this year's Polarjazz, which begins Wednesday, is taking a chance by sticking almost entirely to its namesake genre. So for locals contemplating if the incoming cats are worth the price of admission, here's a collection of some of their best videos and recordings available free online:

- Mezzoforte, an Icelandic fusion band, performs at hour-long concert in Leverkusen, Germany in 2011 at <http://tinyurl.com/og8o5cj>.

- Silje Nergaard, a Norwegian jazz vocalist, performs a 100-minute concert recorded in 2007 by Radio Encendida at <http://tinyurl.com/odtmjgh>.

- Terje Rypdal and Ronni Le Tekrø, a pair of Norwegian guitar icons, can be seen performing "Dig It" during a November 2013 concert in Trondheim at <http://tinyurl.com/ok8bfj>. The YouTube page also has links to several other songs, some of which are decidedly less rock-oriented.

- The New Orleans Collective, a Norwegian Dixieland band, is led by trumpet player Magnus M. Drågen, who has an extensive collection of streaming music at <http://tinyurl.com/pfxmwqk>.

- Lissie, a U.S. folk/rock artist, can be seen in a 43-video live and studio collection at <http://tinyurl.com/pgjehxh>.

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

Polarjazz 2014 schedule

Wed., Feb. 5

- 8 p.m.: Vorspiel by local artists. Kulturhuset.

Thurs., Feb. 6

- 8 p.m.: Concert for youths by Lissie. Kulturhuset.

- 8:30 p.m.: Mezzoforte; Lissie. Kulturhuset.

Fri., Feb. 7

- 4 p.m.: Jazz buffet. Radisson.

- 8:30 p.m.: Stillhouse feat. Steinar Raknes, Unni Wilhelmsen and Paolo Vinaccia; Terje Rypdal and Ronni Le Tekrø. Radisson.

- Night jazz by The New Orleans Collective until 3 a.m. Barentz Pub.

Sat., Feb. 8

- 1 p.m.: Jazz lunch feat. The New Orleans Collective. Kroa.

- 4 p.m.: Dinner music in slippers by Steinar Raknes, Unni Wilhelmsen and Silje Nergaard. Spitsbergen Hotel.

- 4 p.m.: Jazz buffet. Radisson.

- 8 p.m.: Silje Nergaard; Transjoik; Urban Tunélls Klezmerband

- Night jazz until 3 a.m. by The New Orleans Collective. Barentz Pub.

Sun., Feb. 9

- 6 p.m.: Kristin Asbjørnsen. Svalbard Church.

Festival passes (1,400 kr.) provide access to all events at Kulturhuset, Kroa and the Radisson. Full musician and ticket details are available at www.polarjazz.no.

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

Store Norske begins 10M kr. project on new uses for coal

Store Norske is embarking on a nearly four-year, ten-million-kroner project researching alternative markets beyond power for coal due to the long-term decline in prices that have hurt the mining company's finances. "We must see if we can find special niches within these areas that give us higher value product," said Aleksander Askeland, the company's products and performance director. "For example, if we can cultivate the quality of the enough that we get a higher price for the metallurgical industry." Chemicals from high-quality coal, for instance, are used to add carbon to iron to make steel. The project, one-third of which is funded by a grant awarded last week by The Research Council of Norway, is also intended to explore new commercial possibilities.

Doctors, nurses get survival suits after years of struggle

Doctors and nurses at Longyearbyen Hospital, after years of struggle, are getting custom-fitted immersion survival suits for use during helicopter rescues. The issue has generated considerable controversy between the hospital's medical staff and management, as well as politicians and agencies, about whether the personalized suits are necessary instead of the general-use suits in use now. Kari Schröder Hansen, representing the doctors and nurses, said the necessity of quickly responding to an emergency means they do not have time to properly adjust general-use suits. The Norwegian Labor Inspectorate mandated the suits in February of 2012 after conducting a risk assessment. But disagreements about the definition of meeting personal safety requirements continued until a meeting with all involved entities last December. The Labor agency ordered custom suits be available when the Svalbard governor's office gets its new rescue helicopter April 1.

Vigdis Hole, longtime city planning leader, dies at 55

Vigdis Hole, 55, a Longyearbyen Municipal Council member for about ten years who played a large role in the city's planning and development, died Sunday at a hospital in died at Tønsberg. Local flags were flown at half staff.

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Snow. SE winds to 29 km/h. High -3C (-7C wind chill), low -4C (-8C wind chill).	Cloudy. SE winds to 32 km/h. High -4C (-9C wind chill), low -5C (-10C wind chill).	Partly cloudy. E winds to 32 km/h. High -4C (-9C wind chill), low -6C (-12C wind chill).	Cloudy. E winds to 32 km/h. High -4C (-8C wind chill), low -4C (-9C wind chill).
24-hour darkness	24-hour darkness	24-hour darkness	24-hour darkness
Extended forecast: Sunday, cloudy, -1C (-6C), -5C (-11C), light 0:00h; Monday, cloudy, 0C (-4C), -1C (-6C), light 0:00h; Tuesday, cloudy, -1C (-6C), -3C (-8C), light 0:00h; Wednesday, cloudy, -1C (-6C), -3C (-8C), light 0:00h			
Data provided by storm.no			

Trying to keep a shaky situation in focus



TROMS AUF

The newly elected Svalbard AUF board, left, gets off to a flying start during the announcement of their appointments last week. Elected were Birk Pettersen as president, Margit Skreslett as vice president, Sondre Stormoen as secretary/treasurer, and Sondre Hvedding Krogstad and Marlene Mellum as general board members. At right, about 120 survivors and relatives of the July 22, 2011, attack at the AUF youth camp on Utøya gather in Longyearbyen for a memorial tribute Sunday. The participants – representing the Svalbard, Troms and Finnmark AUF chapters – meet regularly because "when we meet in this way it is only a question of peer support," said Ingeborg Larssen, head of the support group, in an interview with NRK. "It is not an academic gathering. It's being able to meet others who have experienced the same thing and who know what we are talking about."

More money, but even more requests

ENVIRONMENTAL, from page 1

to unspent funds carried over from previous years and an increase in income from public environmental fees.

The deadline for the first round of applications was Saturday, with the winners scheduled to be announced April 25. The deadline for the second round of grants is Sept. 15.

"What percentage of the pot that is awarded in the spring is largely determined by the level of quality of applications received," the fund's statement notes.

This year's funding priorities, according to the application instructions, are:

- Projects that ensure knowledge of climate change, and the impacts of climate change on the natural environment, cultural heritage and community planning.
- Projects that promote environmentally friendly outdoor activities and improving public health.
- Projects that promote cultural heritage.

Among those applying for the most funds is the Northern Research Institute Tromsø, which is seeking 2.56 million kroner for three projects. It is proposing the use 1.22 million kroner to study the "environmental impact of snowmobile traffic in a changing climate," 869,200 kroner for "assessment of resistance development in the Arctic bacteria as a result

of living means emissions" and 480,000 kroner for "testing of unmanned aircraft (drones) as a tool to detect run track and terrain wear."

Another major applicant is Kings Bay AS, which is seeking 2.28 million kroner for studies of the limits of acceptable change" for vegetation and air quality, and for preventative infrastructure work.

Tourism entities are also among the largest applicants. The Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators is requesting 920,000 kroner for developing and testing a fauna registration in Svalbard, plus 310,000 in conjunction with Svalbard Tourism for an Arctic arts book. Another cruise-related request is for 620,000 kroner to fund a "learning by seeing" project by The Norwegian Coastal Administration and the Arctic Council.

Among the largest other single projects is a 1.27 million kroner request by Svalbard Turn for outdoor recreational activities and 945,000 kroner by Multiconsult AS for locally produced concrete.

Mark Sabbatini, editor of *Icepeople*, is requesting 50,000 kroner to provide English translations for the Svalbard governor's website.

The full list of applicants and project titles is available at <http://tinyurl.com/nby5xbp>.

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

Starting next week...

Be part of the best thing in Svalbard (actually, many best things)

as *Icepeople* prepares to celebrate its five-year anniversary by honoring everything that makes this the world's top place.

What's up

Feb. 5-9

Polarjazz festival. Full schedule on page 3 and at www.polarjazz.no.

Feb. 8

2 p.m.: Movie: "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2," U.S. animated/family, all ages. Kulturhuset.

Feb. 9

11 a.m.: Mass. Svalbard Church.

5 p.m.: Movie: "Karsten og Petra på Viterferie," Norwegian children's film, all ages. Kulturhuset.

7 p.m.: Movie: "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom," U.S./South African biography/drama, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

Feb. 10

8 p.m.: Trivia quiz. Barentz Pub.

Feb. 11

7 p.m.: Candlelight Mass and Confirmations. Svalbard Church.

Feb. 12

6 p.m.: Movie: "Anchorman 2," U.S. comedy, ages 7 and up. Kulturhuset.

Feb. 13

6 p.m.: "Out and Running" youth snowmobile safety/navigation course. Meet at governor's office at Skjæringa. Continues on Feb. 20 and March 30.

Feb. 15

2 p.m.: Movie: Karsten og Petra på Vinterferie," Norwegian children's film, all ages. Kulturhuset.

Feb. 16

11 a.m.: Mass. Svalbard Church.

5 p.m.: Movie: "The LEGO Movie" (3D), U.S. animated film dubbed in Norwegian, all ages. Kulturhuset.

7 p.m.: Movie: "The Monuments Men," U.S. drama/comedy, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

Feb. 17

8 p.m.: Trivia quiz. Barentz Pub.

Feb. 18

7 p.m.: Organ meditation and social gathering. Svalbard Church.

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:

- *Meet the profiteers of global warming*
- *Canada stuck w/ U.S. hunters' polar bears*
- *Woolly mammoths wiped out by grass?*
- *'Titanic' glacier now submerging Earth*