

# The Swan

## Newsletter about Sudavik

### Nine good reasons to live in Sudavik.

1. A free nursery school
  2. A good elementary school
  3. A good place to raise a family
  4. 5 year olds, get the chance to study with the youngest kids in elementary school.
  5. Natural beauty.
  6. A lot of houses for business activities.
  7. Great building sites for new houses and people get money support for them.
  8. Possible participation of residents in cultural affairs, committees and all kinds of social affairs.
  9. Up to 3 million ISK is spent each year on new jobs that are made in the community.
- Anna M.



### New company rises in Sudavik, specializes in dog and cat food, called Murr ehf.

Murr is a factory that specializes in cat and dog food. Murr started in spring 2008. Although it has been operating for only a couple of years the idea for it dates back to 2003 or when dr. Thorleifur Ágústsson got the idea to use good quality raw material to make excellent food for pets. He got Dr. Bragi Lindal Olafsson a feed specialist, which has a long experience in nutrition, to join him in that project. Together have they been working on developing the project with the assistance of vets Elfa Agustsdottir and Agust Thorleifsson.

You can say that Murr has taken its time to develop and now is producing excellent food for both cats and dogs.

- Anna Mar-



### Sudavikurskoli takes 1st place.

Sudavikurskoli won its class in what is called “Run for your Life” (*lifshlaup*) that ended last weekend. Sudavikurskoli was the top class school with students ranging from 6-69 in number. The Primary school of Bolungarvik ended in fourth place for schools with students ranging from 70-149 and the Primary School in Isafjordur ended in fifth place for schools with 400 students or more. . Ar-neshreppur ended in the seventh place with a 10% participation and Isafjordur was in the ninth place with a 9.11% participation compared to overall population.

The aim of this “Run for your Life” competition is to encourage the public to exercise and consider its health in its spare time, housework, work, school and in their use of transportation. All achievements are recorded on the web as long as it includes recommendations with the national health institute *Lydbælsustod* about exercise.

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#### Helgi Bjarnason's Garage

Everyday car service, Helgi Bjarnason, mechanic.

Tel: 456 - 4977 Mobile: 893 - 8857

Children  
and

#### Bernskan ehf - Fishbait factory

The factory produces fishbait for smaller boats

Manager Sveinbjorn Jonsson, Tel: 897 - 2322

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## Letter from a citizen of Sudavik.

I want to thank you for a good paper. But I want to make a complaint about the bank. Why he isn't open during the lunch hour. I'm working from 8- 16 every day, and if I want to go to the bank I always have to leave work early to go to the bank. Isn't there anything you could do to open it earlier. It would make a lot of difference if the bank would close 15 min. past 12 and be opened again 15 min. past 13. That would help a lot of people to get to the bank without taking a break from work.

On the positive side - I think the kindergarten is very good. Because I've got 3 kids and I have two of them in kindergarten, without having to pay a dime. I think that is great, considering that the kindergarten in Bolungarvík is very expensive and they don't have breakfast and only fruit and vegetables. But we need to get something done about the bank and have it open for the rest of us here in this town.

With best regards ,citizen of Sudavik. -Kolbrún

### Car accident on Sudavíkurhlid.

Car went off road between Isafjörður and Sudavík just before eight this morning. Passerby who came at the accident rang the police in Isafjörður and told them that the driver was stuck in the car. But it turned out not completely true. The driver, who was alone in the car, got out of his own and seemed to be unharmed, according to the police.

-Kolbrún Þorkelsd.

### SPA, Hairdresser

Opening: Tuesday - Wednesday from 13:00 to 17:00.

Thursday - Friday from 10:00 to 18:00

Saturday - After agreements

Booking: 456 - 5070

## Melrakkasetur Islands

The fox center (*Melrakkasetur Islands*) is dedicated to the Icelandic fox which is of the type *Vulpes lagopus* and is one of the original land mammals in Iceland.

Fox center Iceland Plc. was founded on the 15th of September 2007 in Sudavík and the founder members are individuals, corporations and municipalities. These parties have in common that they are interested in the Icelandic Fox and everything concerning it, as well as nature-and history-related tourism.



The purpose of the center, is to gather in one place all knowledge, materials and objects related to the fox in the past and present. They are setting up exhibitions for tourists including educational materials in writing and images of the fox in nature, in Iceland and abroad, the breeding of foxes and foxhunting. Moreover to promote and participate in the studies of biology classes and development of sustainable nature-tourism.

The fox center in Iceland is located in a valley or town in Eyri Sudavík, between the old and new parts of the town. Improvements on the house ongoing. The facilities or house are in the hands of Sudavík but operation is in the hands of The Fox Center Iceland Plc.

Known fox hunters are Guðmundur Einarsson in Önundarfjörður, Finnþogi Petursson who lived in a small town in Skotufirði and Þorlákur Guðmundsson (Hrefnu Laki) who lived in Sudavík. Younger men are e.g. Jon Oddson or "Jon rebbi" (Jon the Fox) but he was Guðmundur Einarsson's son in law. - Kolbrún

## An examinations is supposed to be made of Sudavik schools operations.

An examination is supposed to be made of Sudavík school's operation during the spring, as so came from a letter that was sent from ministry of education which was talked about in major's meeting recently. Sudavík sent in papers about school's operations which were in one add there. Ten towns sent in papers about it but only three of them were selected.



- Stefanía Kristín

### Sparisjodur Vestfirðinga (Bank)

Opening: Monday - Friday from 12:30 to 16:00

Manager is Steinn Kjartansson.

Tel: 450 - 4800

<http://www.spvf.is>

## Interview with Kjartan G. Karlsson, a former whalehunter.

A few days back, I ran into a very interesting man in Sudavik, known as Hrefnu-Geiri. He used to be a great whale hunter back in the day. He told me about when Norwegian people used to whale hunt and bring the whales here to Langeyri, and the Dwarfstone around 1900.



Because of the whale hunt here, Sudavik became the richest sea village in Iceland. Most people in Sudavik had jobs that connected to the sea. Some people were also farmers and had sheep on their farms. A few had cows only for personal use.

The Whale-station in Sudavik came here around 1882, when Norwegian whale hunter Svend Foyn came to Iceland looking for a place to build a whale station. After travelling through West fjords he decided to build it in Langeyri, in Alftafjordur where Sudavik is. The whale-station was operational for almost 2 decades, or from 1882 to 1904.

Kjartan also told me, that Sudavik was twice as big then, than it's today, or around 616 residents while the whale-station was operational in Alftafjordur and Seydisfjordur.

I asked him why he became a whale hunter, and he told me that the boat was there, and the equipment, and he was interested in whale hunting. He did not start hunting until 1970, though he went out with his grandfather every chance he got. His grandfather was the first Iclander to hunt a minke whale, in 1914.

His first whale hunting boat, was called Mummi and the next one called Hafrun. You can't hunt a whale by yourself, so Kjartan had his son Kalli, and his friend Baldvin Bjornsson with him. They hunted all their minke whales in Isafjardardjup and Anarfjordur.



The meat from the whales was sold at the shore, or by the pier. But now, every whale has to be landed in Reykjavik, to examine the meat. Kjartan and his associates sailed with the whale meat to Isafjordur, Bolungarvik and sometimes to other small places in Isafjardardjup, before the roads came.



All whale hunting in Iceland was shut down because of Greenpeace, an organization that protects the whales from harm. Kjartan says that these are a bunch of fools and got a lot of people fired. You could not hunt whale or seal because of these people. Also the price of fox-skin went down, all because of famous actress, called Birgitte Bardot stopped wearing them. Fox-skin was so expensive, that two skins was a whole year's pay for an average worker in the year 1930.

Today, almost all whale hunting is forbidden, but a small number of whales is allowed to be hunted, for research. Most of the meat is sold to Japan, but some meat is sold here in Iceland. There are a lot of people in the world that are angry at the Icelanders.

- Anna Elísa



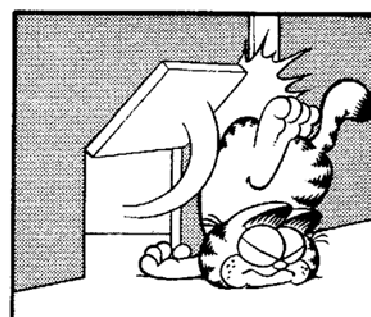
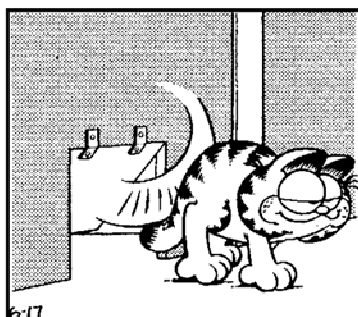
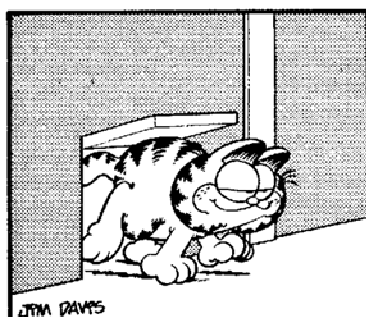
## Germans sea angling.

Many people could guess that some foreign tourists come to the West fjords to cultivate fishing on small boats. Which is called to sea-angle. This activity would leave over millions in income during that period. There are two companies that attract people to come, Hvildarklettur and Sumarbyggd. "About 1200 people came last year (2009) but we expect more this year. Even though we had to put our price up" Said Elias Gudmundsson manager.



I interviewed one guide of sea angle, Matthias Brill and he said that when he came first here to Iceland April 2006 to help Icelanders to start this program. He introduced it to the Icelanders and taught them how do it. Now he takes the tourist guide about the boats and goes with them on a tour out to sea, and shows them how to catch the big ones. The sea angling is now in Talknafjordur and Sudavik and this year Bolungarvik is joining the group. Which is only during the summer time from April to September, they can have it all year but Matthias told me that is much safer to be only during summer time than wintertime. "We want people to have a safe holiday." There is much more risk in winter if the weather is bad. The tourist steer their boats themselves. There are 21 big boats for that activity. And tourist can decide themselves when they go out to sea and how long they are going to be. They are in contact with the coast guard and phone contact with the managers. 70% of all of them that come for sea angling are from Germany, 15% from Switzerland and 15% from Netherlands. On the whole there are about 1100 – 1200 people which come for 2 weeks turns. And they all have a good time. To get to know how to catch the big fish and get to know how peaceful it is here in Sudavik.

- Kolbrún Þorkelsdóttir.



adolescents are advised to move in at least 60 minutes a day and adults at least. 30 minutes per day.

- Stefanía Kristín