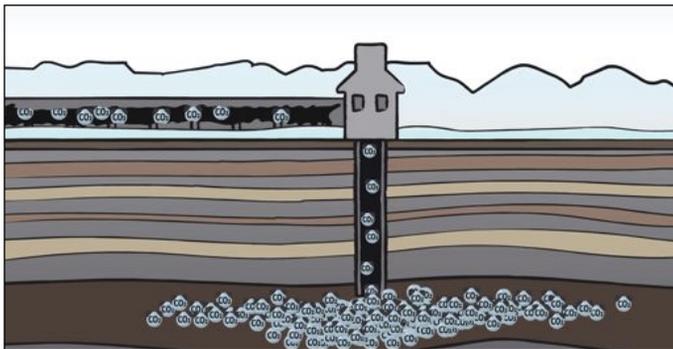




Dioxy, above, a carbon molecule formerly living at Mine 7, animatedly explains her journey to the CO2 Lab at The University Center in Svalbard, at right, in the eight-part series "The Arctic Adventures of Dioxy," a youth-level presentation now available at YouTube and other websites.



KAIRÒS STUDIO

We're in CO2 jail! Yea!

Carbons sing and dance on YouTube about captivity at UNIS site

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

Once upon a time they lived in urbane high-rise apartments. But then big scary things came and shook them from their trembling beds.

Their housing were flung, occupants and all, toward brimstone and fire. But then some

Lifers on Earth: Conference about local energy, environment begins Monday.

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kindly academics came up with a plan to send them all permanently to a densely crowded

See CAPTURE page 3

Hey kids, global warming is great

Leaks revealing skeptics' agenda includes frequent Svalbard visitor



WALL STREET JOURNAL DIGITAL NETWORK

Joe Bast, president of the Heartland Institute, defends his organization in a TV interview after its anti-climate change agenda was leaked.

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

Take it from a guy who's been here a lot: Man-made climate change is bunk and if nature's cycle is straying toward a major warming trend Norwegians loved it before.

Those findings are from Fred Goldberg, a member of the Heartland Institute who first visited Svalbard in 1966 and has returned annually in recent years. The institute has become embroiled in the climate change debate following the recent revelation of documents

See DENIAL, page 4

Libya: Ban us? No way!

Group plans North Pole trip, with stop in Longyearbyen, saying it will ignore rejection from governor

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

A group claiming to represent Libya's new government says it plans to fly to the North Pole and plant its flag there this spring, ignoring a ruling by Svalbard's governor the trip is illegal.

The two-plane journey, scheduled for late March and early April, is being hailed by organizers as a goodwill trip featuring Libyan and NATO delegations. But they aren't likely to get a warm welcome from Norwegian officials who say the trip violates a law banning flightseeing by aircraft in Svalbard.

"If they land they will face penalties," said Lt. Gov. Lars Erik Alfheim. "I cannot say right now what those penalties might be."

Alfheim said he is not aware of such a flight making an unauthorized landing previously.

Trip organizers said they are planning to land in Longyearbyen to refuel before continuing to the Russian-operated Barneo support camp at 89 degrees north. In addition to representatives from NATO member states that aided the new Libyans leaders in their 2011 military campaign, they said they also expect a significant media delegation that will further the goodwill mission's success.

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- Fire department gets second-most calls in '11
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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.

Not everyone feeling those winter blues



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Erik Harstad, left, plays a guitar solo for the band led by Billy T, at right mike, during the Vinterblues festival Saturday at Barentz Pub. The inaugural three-day event, meant to preview the 10th Dark Season Blues festival this fall, drew modest crowds with 100 or fewer people at Barentz Pub concerts Friday and Saturday. A Thursday night performance at Kroa by Bjørn Berge, a longtime acclaimed Norwegian bluesman, was more successful although still not filled to capacity with about 150 people. Organizers said the unusual timing for a blues event, along with good weather conditions that caused many locals to spend the weekend on snowmobile trips, were factors likely affecting attendance. Also shown performing Saturday with Billy T are guitarist Ian Johannessen, far right, and drummer Alexander Pettersen.

Utøya camp cancelled due to tragedy

Memorial service planned on island; smaller camps at other locations to be offered for youths

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

This year's youth political camp at Utøya is being cancelled due to last year's shooting by Anders Behring Breivik that killed 69 people, including one from Longyearbyen.

A ceremony marking the first anniversary of the tragedy is scheduled July 22. Also, camps at alternate sites, including one for local youths in Troms, are being planned.

Organizers said a camp at Utøya this summer

would be impractical and inappropriate, but future camps will continue on the island that has hosted them for 60 years.

"We think it's too soon as well," said Longyearbyen Municipal Council Leader Christin Kristoffersen, whose son, Viljar Hanssen, 18, was hospitalized for three months with life-threatening injuries from the shooting. "How can you run around having fun when your sons are killed?"

Breivik admits killing a total of 77 people at Utøya and by setting off a car bomb outside government buildings in Oslo earlier that day. His insanity trial is scheduled to start April 16.

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

Icesheet

Random bits of the week's weirdness:

For those thinking about giving up red meat for Lent, just know fish is the sore Svalbard subject this week in the news. Norway renewed its whaling quota this year with a limit of 1,286 despite the dwindling whaling fleet's struggles to fill previous quotas, prompting objections from the usual folks such as Greenpeace. Norway and Iceland are the only remaining countries opening allowing hunting of whales for consumption, and locals tend to swarm to the store when it's available fresh instead of frozen. Meanwhile, the Russians are in yet another snit about our fishing laws, which

of course has nothing to do with them again banning imports of our sea creatures such as shrimp. But since eating shellfish is an abomination along with travesties such as terry wool suits and gay sex we assume they won't be missed this time of year ... If you're wondering what follies are possible if the Libyans invade Svalbard next month, a similar situation at the South Pole observed by our brain-frozen editor might offer clues. Basically, renegade Russian politicians landed at the U.S. base for a bogus "official" visit, paid a boatload of fines and left a permanent relic when their experimental plane refused to restart for departure.



KAIRÒS STUDIO

Kei Ogata, a postdoctoral student at The University Centre in Svalbard, conducts field work for the UNIS CO2 Lab, as shown in the eight-part online film series "The Arctic Adventures of Dioxy."

'Dioxy' tells tale of CO2 captivity

CAPTURE, from page 1

underground prison. And the displaced dwellers lived happily ever after.

So happily, in fact, they felt like singing and dancing while telling their story to the world in "The Arctic Adventures of Dioxy," an eight-part collection of short online movies. The mix of animated and live footage explains the principles of carbon capture and storage used by the CO2 Lab at The University Centre in Svalbard at a level suitable for elementary students.

"Our first thought was: We need a story to represent 60,000 tons of CO2 molecules in an underground environment," said Daniele Di Domenico and Simone Cau of Kairòs Studio in a prepared statement. "A starting point that our young audience would relate to like a party or a TV show. So we invented the underground

theatre with its lead character Dioxy, the protagonist of the story, the last molecule to arrive in the reservoir."

The story starts with Dioxy being shook from her cozy home at Mine 7 and proceeding on a journey to Longyearbyen's coal power plant.

From there she gets a first-hand look at the formation and separation of CO2 gas as she takes a journey from the mine to Longyearbyen's coal-fueled power plant. After the plant she makes the newfound transition to the final stages of injection into UNIS' CO2 storage facility beneath Adventdalen.

The series and more information about the lab are available at <http://co2-ccs.unis.no/Dioxy.html>.

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

Plotting city's future energy, environment

Local-oriented conference discussing goals, measures begins Monday at Kulturhuset

A two-day conference examining goals and possible policies for Svalbard's energy and environment is scheduled to begin Monday at Kulturhuset.

The gathering, from 8:30 a.m. until about 3:30 p.m. both days, will feature presentations from government entities at the local and

national levels, mining and other industry representatives, and environmental and other researchers.

"Business and residents of Svalbard are the primary target groups," an announcement by the city states. "Participants from the mainland are welcome."

Registration and other information is available at www.lokalstyre.no/Modules/article.aspx?ObjectType=Article&Article.ID=4875&Category.ID=592

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN

VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

Store Norske plans to reopen coal-treatment plant in March

Store Norske is hoping to restart its Svea coal-treatment plant March 1, more than four months after it was shut down due to a design inadequate for winter conditions. The facility, built due to concerns the mine was extracting coal with a higher stone content than the market would accept, got favorable responses when it began operating last summer. But the arrival of Arctic cold resulted in wet coal in the above-freezing operating area causing ice buildups on equipment such as transport belts exposed to the outdoors during processing. Cato Lund, Store Norske's chief technology officer, while not calling the equipment defective, acknowledged "it's probably not the right structure for the conditions here."

Second-busiest year ever for city's fire department in 2011

Longyearbyen's fire department had its second-busiest year in 2011, responding to 147 calls, just short of the 149 in 2010. There were nine fires or potential fires, none resulting in large-scale damage, which Fire Chief Jan Olav Sæter credited largely to a widely-implemented direct notification alarm system. Four of five calls were due to false or unnecessary alarms, generally from cooking smoke or water steam, with poor ventilation in cooking areas often blamed. There have been an average of 138 calls during the past seven years.

Air ambulance problem gets short fix by renting plane

A short-term fix has been arranged for Longyearbyen's air ambulance deficiency by renting a plane for two months that will be stationed in Tromsø, according to Northern Norway Regional Health. The rental for March and April, expected to cost five million to six million kroner, will be addressed by taking mainland air ambulance out of service, said Jan Norum, chief operating officer of the agency. The deficiency results from new restrictions, including prohibiting flights when temperatures are below minus 54 Celsius, which in winter forces the current plane to fly at heights that increase fuel consumption beyond permissible weight limits.

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly cloudy. S winds to 11 km/h. High -11C (-12C wind chill), low -13C (-17C wind chill). Sunrise 9:57a; sunset 2:27p	Cloudy. Variable winds to 11 km/h. High -8C (-13C wind chill), low -9C (-9C wind chill). Sunrise 9:44a; sunset 2:40p	Partly cloudy. N winds to 18 km/h. High -9C (-12C wind chill), low -11C (-18C wind chill). Sunrise 9:33a; sunset 2:51p	Cloudy. NW winds to 11 km/h. High -13C (-19C wind chill), low -15C (-21C wind chill). Sunrise 9:22a; sunset 3:02p
Extended forecast: Sunday, p. cloudy, -14C (-20C), -15C (-20C), light 6:01h; Monday, p. cloudy, -16C (-21C), -18C (-24C), light 6:22h; Tuesday, cloudy, -19C (-26C), -19C (-26C), light 6:41h; Wednesday, p. cloudy, -16C (-23C), -18C (-25C), light 7:00h			
Data provided by yr.no			



PREPARE2GO

International flags fly at the Russian-operated Bareno ice camp near the North Pole, where a Libyan delegation is planning to fly to next month despite Svalbard's governor declaring the trip is illegal.

Libyans coming, banned or not

RENEGADE, from page 1

"We will carry out flights as planned, with no more interaction with the governor," said Sam Rutherford, head of Prepare2go, a Belgian logistics company arranging the flights, in an interview with *Svalbardposten*.

Rutherford, in an e-mail, told the newspaper he has legal advice from a "Danish aviation attorney with extensive experience from Norway" that the governor is exceeding the law's scope by banning the flight.

The rejection by Svalbard's governor has been appealed to Norway's Directorate for Nature Management, which states they will not make a ruling before the beginning of March. That prompted the decision by Prepare2go to

make the trip regardless of the ruling.

Considering a person can't get near the tamarack at Svalbard Airport with a thermos of homemade soup, is there anything Norwegian authorities would do to keep away a somewhat more potentially destructive item such as a plane from a turbulent nation like Libya?

"You're describing a rather hypothetical situation," Alfheim said. While he said he's not prepared to discuss specifics "I don't think any airport in the world will shoot down a plane."

He said he also can't answer if the planes will receive the fuel they are seeking and what contingency plans exist if they are denied.

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

Climate skeptic sets sights on Svalbard

DENIAL, from page 1

showing the group's plan to spread skepticism about warming in schools and other institutions. But the revelations are under fire from critics after Peter H. Gleick, co-founder of the California-based environmental group Pacific Institute, admitted he obtained documents by posing as someone else after receiving an initial "strategy memo." Heartland claims the memo is fake, but acknowledges the other documents are authentic.

While the documents generally focus on Heartland's political and educational strategies, primarily in the United States, they also cite and offer details of research advocating the organization's point of view.

Goldberg, an associate professor at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, is described by Heartland as "an authority on polar history and exploration." His first trip to Svalbard was the Stockholm University Svalbard Expedition, and he has lectured worldwide and authored numerous publications about the area since.

One of his most-often cited Svalbard articles is "Climate Change in the Recent Past," published in April 2007 by the Frontier Center

for Public Policy. In a summary, he states "rapid climate change is not an unusual phenomenon in our planet's history. Warmer periods have generally been better for people than cooler ones."

"I do not in this presentation discuss if the recent warming of the Earth's climate is natural or not," he notes. "It is, however, strange that society in common is very alarmed about recent global warming. What is the alternative? Global cooling with failing harvests, or no change at all. When in history has the climate been unchanging? It never has and will never be. People's memory seems to be not more than a normal lifetime."

The Medieval Warm Period during the ninth and tenth centuries resulted in large groups of Norwegians settling in Iceland and Greenland, Goldberg argues. As a result:

- "The MWP allowed European farmers to cultivate crops much further north and at higher elevations than today."

- "Bountiful harvests freed up surplus manpower, which was subsequently tapped to build cathedrals and bridges."

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

What's up

Feb. 22

6 p.m.: Movie: "Play," Swedish drama, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

8:30 p.m.: Movie: "Shame," British/U.S. drama, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

Feb. 23

7:30 p.m.: "Peer Gynt – Med Troll i Hjertet," monologue theater performance by Jeanne Bøe. Kulturhuset. Video preview available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syeboHUXiX0>.

Feb. 26

6 p.m.: Movie: "Big Miracle," U.S. drama/romance, all ages. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Safe House," U.S. action/thriller, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

Feb. 29

6 p.m.: Movie: "This Means War," U.S. action/comedy, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Varg Veum - De Døde Har Det Godt," Norwegian/Danish crime/thriller, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

March 3–10

Solfestuka, celebrating the return of the sun's presence to Longyearbyen. Full schedule and details in Feb. 28 issue of *Icepeople* and at www.solfest.no.

March 11

6 p.m.: Movie: "Man on a Ledge," U.S. thriller, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Into the White," Norwegian drama/war, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

March 31

Meter reading Q1 due.

April 10

7 p.m.: Concert: Neva-Volga, a capella ensemble from St. Petersburg, featuring works from Russian monastic tradition and Russian classical composers. 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:

- *Russia to deploy Arctic brigade in 2015*
- *Canadian gov't 'muzzling its scientists'*
- *Dead Arctic plant back 32,000 yrs. later*
- *Experts: Coal doesn't keep lettuce fresh*