



# No midnight liquor curfew

*Recommendation to limit sales of hard alcohol nixed by council; sales at airport kept by one vote*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

You'll have to wait an extra hour until noon to start boozing, but can go on a bender until 2 a.m. instead of a midnight cutoff rejected today by Longyearbyen's municipal council.

A committee recommendation for the earlier cutoff time on sales of hard alcohol raised serious concerns among businesses who lobbied furiously before today's meeting, with council members stating afterward the rejection was not surprising.

But far more contentious was eliminating alcohol sales at Svalbard Airport, advocated largely by local youths, which was rejected with the minimum seven votes necessary. The

See **LIQUOR**, page 2



**MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE**  
Longyearbyen council members confer before voting on alcohol sale permits today.

## No, he's not accepting our invitation to dinner



**JON SANDMO**

Two male polar bears confront each other during an encounter with a walrus on the sea ice near Svea during the weekend. Jon Sandmo, a tour operator, said he was at his cabin near the mining site when the bears appeared about 100 meters away, "It was an experience to just look at it," he told NRK. "I had to concentrate to take pictures. I have never seen the confrontation between polar bears and walrus in the past." The bears did confront the walrus at close range, but Sandmo said they don't have chance of preying upon a walrus while it's in the water. "They weigh almost a ton," he said.

# Buø, killed at Utøya, gets day in court

*Autopsy, memories of teen from Longyearbyen and other victims presented this week at trial*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

Johannes Buø, 14, can't directly confront the man who killed him. But the teen and 76 others are getting their case presented in words moving observers – and the judge – to tears.

Buø, the second-youngest victim of last year's July 22 massacre by Anders Behring Breivik, was remembered in



**JOHANNES BUØ**

See **TRIAL**, page 3

## Inside

**New 'Orion's Belt' coming; watch original free online in the meantime**  
Page 2

**Headlines from Svalbardposten**  
- Parliament debates CO2 power plant Tuesday  
- Firefighters to get all keys after alarm lockout  
- Russia, defying Norway, OKs flights to Edgeøya  
Page 3

**Weather forecast**  
Page 3

**Events calendar**  
Page 4

# A glimpse of hope in Kashmir

*Svalbard duo recounts mission to help Pakistan find soldiers buried in massive avalanche*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

A mixture of tears, thin air and objects – bodies and structures – crushed beyond any hope of recognition beneath untold tons of ice, rocks and clay across a kilometer-wide path in the high Himalayas.

What can a few scientists with the sparsest of digging tools do in a mere three days that

See **ASSIST**, page 4



**THOMAS GÖLLES / NORWEGIAN RED CROSS**  
Researchers lower equipment during a radar probe at the Siachen Glacier avalanche site.

## Who's to blame and how to express your wrath

### Editor

Mark Sabbatini

### Staff writer/photographer

Karla Paz

### Copy editor

Kristan Hutchison

### Psychiatrist

Irene Gallion

### Mailing address

*Icepeople*  
Vei 210 -2- 13  
Longyearbyen, Svalbard  
9170  
Norway

### Telephone

Norway: +47 41 51 46 38  
U.S. +1 (970) 673-4472

### E-mail

marksabbatini@yahoo.com

### Web site

www.icepeople.net

*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.

## Copyright stuff

Original contents of this publication can be reproduced for non-commercial purposes free of charge if *Icepeople* is credited as the source. The original writers, photographers and other contributors retain their rights to all published works.

## 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.

## A new 'Orion's Belt' – and the original now free



NRK

The classic Svalbard-based film "Orion's Belt," pictured here, is planning to return in a new version 30 years after the original in 1985, possibly with actor Helge Jordal, now 65, also returning to play the main role, according to NRK. "It seems strange to make the novel into a film again, the Cold War's over," Jordal said. "But I remember we had to make some choices that probably left out a lot of good material from the book." The plot focuses on three Norwegian seamen who discover a Russian bearing station, and are wanted by Russian and U.S. forces as a result. No release date for the new film has been announced. The original, named best feature film at the inaugural Amanda Awards, can be viewed free online at [www.nrk.no/nett-tv/klipp/586792](http://www.nrk.no/nett-tv/klipp/586792).

## Pubs: Alcohol curfew devastating

### LIQUOR, from page 1

airport began serving alcohol this winter behind walls 1.2 meters high, but advocates of the ban said youths are still exposed to a setting with alcohol in a location they don't have the option to avoid.

While the impact on businesses made imposing a citywide midnight curfew difficult, "we really wanted to keep the airport from selling alcohol," said Viljar Hanssen, 18, elected as the council's youngest-ever member last fall, in an interview after the meeting.

He said the midnight cutoff deadline was sought because "we do have people drinking more in Longyearbyen than the mainland" and health officials have expressed concern. The change would have allowed beer and wine sales to continue until 2 a.m., while sales of stronger alcohol would end two hours earlier.

Such a policy would be devastating, said

Steve Torgersen, owner of Karls-Berger Pub. He said half of his sales are between midnight and 2 a.m. and half of his overall business is hard liquor.

"Nobody had discussed what could be the consequences," he said. "We had to tell them."

The rejection of the earlier curfew wasn't a surprise once the council meeting started, but the 10 days leading up to it after the committee recommendation were anything but certain, Torgersen said. He said restaurants and pubs met as a group, and sought out council members "trying to find out what is the problem and if there is a problem."

He said the higher rate of alcohol consumption in Longyearbyen compared to the mainland is due to a more active and single population, plus a large influx of tourists.

**There's more! Visit [www.icepeople.net](http://www.icepeople.net) for the complete story.**

## Icesheet

### Random bits of the week's weirdness:

Much as we try to be impartial when reporting the news (gossip is another thing, of course), there's no question we have strong opinions about plenty of it. We'd be perfectly happy never printing a photo of That Guy On Trial, for instance, but fairness means the bastard gets his due. We'd also be happy covering up that **the annual lottery to pick up trash on northern Spitsbergen is now open**, since fewer entries increases our chance of getting one of the 24 slots. But it's not buried here for that reason; rather there's too much other legit news this week to squeeze it in anywhere else. Longyearbyen residents interested in the two

three-day shifts in late July and early August can enter online until June 1 at [www.sysselmannen.no](http://www.sysselmannen.no) ... Taking remarks by public officials out of context is popular sport these days, so we're offering for interpretation this one by Bydrift Director Marianne Aasen that has us scratching our heads a bit: "Very many would have it that it is so special here (in Longyearbyen)," she said in an interview with the infrastructure industry magazine *FDV*. "But I would rather say that it is normal. Oslo and Longyearbyen are quite similar." Still, since Bydrift's job involves spending lots of time studying concrete, asphalt, coal bins and garbage, we can kind of see things from her perspective.



SCANPIX

Anders Behring Breivik, who has confessed to killing 77 people during a July 22, 2011, bombing in Oslo and shooting spree at Utøya, gives one of his frequent power salutes during his trial in Oslo.

## Buø gets day in court; survivor meets royals

TRIAL, from page 1

testimony Wednesday (May 9) as the teen's autopsy report and details of his life were presented. Buø, originally from Mandal, lived with his family in Longyearbyen for the last three years of his life.

Buø, described as a "bubbly teen" in an article by *Fædrelandsvennen*, was a committee member of the youth political organization Svalbard AUF and a member of the international peace organization Children's International Summer Villages.

"His experience from abroad aroused interest in other cultures and societies," said Nadia Holm, an attorney, reading his obituary in court. "The fact that John, who had traveled the world alone, did not come home alive from the small Utøya seems completely pointless for John's mother, father and younger brother."

Buø's body was found in the woods to the east of a school building on the island being used as a youth camp, according to the autopsy. He was shot three times, and died of bullet wounds to the head and chest.

Autopsies and accounts of 11 other youths killed at Utøya were presented during the day, the 15th of Breivik's trial. He has confessed to the shootings at Utøya and a bombing in Oslo, branding his victims as political enemies as the court considers whether he is mentally sane.

The other Longyearbyen youth shot by Breivik, Viljar Hanssen, 18, is scheduled to testify at the end of this month, said his mother, Christin Kristoffersen. Hanssen sustained life-



AUF TROMS

Aslak Klungseth Brattset, seen here at a AUF political gathering, was among 10 survivors of the Utøya tragedy invited to meet Norway's king and queen Friday at the Royal Court.

threatening injuries after being shot in the head and upper body, spending three months in the hospital and losing an eye.

Hanssen has said he isn't paying attention to the trial, wanting it to be over and Breivik forgotten as he suffers his fate. His mother said she and other family members are similarly inclined, but are being supportive of friends going through the ordeal of Buø's presentation.

"We can't not pay attention to it this week," she said.

Another local youth at the camp, Aslak Klungseth Brattset, 16, got a more pleasant encounter Friday when he and nine other survivors were invited to Norway's Royal Court to meet the king and queen.

**There's more! Visit [www.icepeople.net](http://www.icepeople.net) for the complete story.**

## HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN

VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

### Parliament to discuss CO2 capture power plant Tuesday

A new coal plant with CO2 capture facilities for Longyearbyen will be discussed next Tuesday by Norway's Parliament, where support is being expressed by the minority Conservative, Progress and Christian People's parties. The parties, seeking completion of the facility by 2015, state Longyearbyen does not have a long-term comprehensive energy plan. The coalition also notes 73 million kroner has been allocated for emissions-reductions efforts at the 30-year plant without considering if replacing it is necessary, and a new Longyearbyen plant can serve as a demonstration model for future facilities.

### Firefighters, locked out of theater, to get all city keys

Firefighters trying to respond to a fire alarm Sunday night at Kulturhuset were confronted with a locked front door despite the fact a movie was showing at the time. The audience was evacuated and the film cancelled for what turned out to be a false alarm, but the incident will result in the fire department getting keys for all public buildings, said Roger Ødegård, Longyearbyen's cultural advisor. Fire Chief Jann-Egil Gjerde said the locked doors would not have presented a serious problem had a fire or other emergency occurred since they would have broken the door using a crowbar.

### Russia, defying Norway, OKs helicopter flights to Edgeøya

A Russian helicopter operator is authorizing flights to Edgeøya on behalf of Longyearbyen television producer Jason Roberts, in defiance of the permit authorized by Norwegian officials. There has been a long-running dispute about Russian helicopter flights, with Norwegian officials stating the flights are only permissible between Longyearbyen and Barentsburg for necessary operations and business purposes. The flights carrying snowmobiles, sleds and equipment to Edgeøya are sought because Airlift, the only licensed commercial helicopter operator in Svalbard, doesn't have enough aircraft for the operation.

## Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Party cloudy. S winds to 11 km/h. High -3C (-6C wind chill), low -6C (-10C wind chill).	Snow late. S to 25 km/h. High -2C (-8C wind chill), low -4C (-10C wind chill).	Snow. Variable winds to 15 km/h. High -4C (-9C wind chill), low -5C (-10C wind chill).	Snow. NE winds to 18 km/h. High -4C (-10C wind chill), low -6C (-11C wind chill).
24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight
<b>Extended forecast:</b> Sunday, snow, -4C (-9C), -6C (-11C), light 24:00h; Monday, snow ending, -5C (-10C), -6C (-11C), light 24:00h; Tuesday, p. cloudy, -5C (-10C), -7C (-12C), light 24:00h; Wednesday, p. cloudy, -4C (-7C), -6C (-10C), light 24:00h			
Data provided by yr.no			



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Karoline Bælum, a member of the Svalbard Science Forum, explains how a custom radar system was used to assist rescuers at Siachen Glacier avalanche during a presentation Monday.

## A few days of work, a few years of help

### ASSIST, from page 1

provides any meaningful assistance?

Offer the rescuers a map, so to speak.

Two Svalbard researchers – Thomas Gölles, a PhD student at The University Centre in Svalbard, and Karoline Bælum, a UNIS graduate now with the Svalbard Science Forum – were part of a six-member Norwegian Red Cross team assisting Pakistan's military with the recovery of bodies after the April 7 avalanche at Siachen Glacier.

The pair, who helped search using a custom subsurface radar developed at UNIS, discussed their efforts and the numerous difficult situations they encountered – both environmental and human – during a photo and video presentation Monday at the university.

"It's sad to see that a lot of people there were friends of the people (buried)," Gölles said. "One pilot, he just had to turn away and started crying. An army pilot crying is not something you see happening often."

Just working with 500 kilograms of equipment in the valley 3,800 meters above sea level was strenuous, he said. The Red Cross team, arriving April 17 at the site, dug small holes with the aid of a steam tool and lowered a camera before attempting to use the radar to search for objects that might be bodies up to 100 meters below the surface.

"After three days we couldn't do much more because our equipment was limited by the material," he said, noting keeping the steam

tool working was also difficult. But "the data will be used for planning the future of the work for the engineers. It's very useful for them."

The UNIS radar's depth far exceeds conventional avalanche radar, but was often only able to probe a few meters due to the high presence of clay in the debris, Bælum said. Also, reflective objects such as barrels and heavy machinery were common at the rescue site "so it made it very very hard to do the job."

"We couldn't see bodies, we couldn't see structures," she added. "Everything was too crushed too see."

But they were able to provide some indicators to rescuers, such as digging near the valley walls instead of the camp site.

"If you're going to find anything there, it's there," she said.

The radar signals sense changes in electrical properties, such as a reflection off buried metal, Bælum said. It also senses high-water objects, "which is good because the body is 70 percent water," but after eight or nine days the result of freezing means "you have ice and ice, and that's very difficult to see."

Numerous international avalanche experts were at the site and "it's outside the scale of what any (of them) had seen," she said.

"It's going to take them years to dig this out, even with the equipment they have there," she said.

**There's more! Visit [www.icepeople.net](http://www.icepeople.net) for the complete story.**



I am a hard-working Dutch woman looking for a job in Svalbard, Tromsø or the northern part of Norway. I speak English, Dutch, German, Spanish, Hungarian and Slovenian. I am a certified piano teacher, but I am open for other jobs to as long as I am paid. For further info e-mail [rebekakonc@hotmail.com](mailto:rebekakonc@hotmail.com).

## What's up

### May 10

Deadline for tour minibus applications in advance of summer season.

2 p.m.: Board of Culture and Leisure meeting. Næringsbygget 3, Newtontoppen room.

3-7 p.m.: Fifth anniversary celebration of Svalbard Environmental Protection Fund, featuring highlights from funded projects. Kulturhuset.

### May 13

6 p.m.: Movie: "Pirates" (3D), British/U.S. animated/family film dubbed in Norwegian, ages 7 and up. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Varg Veum – Kalde Hjerter," Danish/Norwegian crime/thriller, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

### May 16

8 p.m.: Spitsbergen Up and Down Chinese downhill event. First person down by any non-motorized means wins. Starts at top of Trollsteinen.

### May 17

Norwegian Constitution Day. Traditional events include:

- 7 a.m.: Firing of the salute.
- 8 a.m.: Wreath laying and flag raising at Huset, followed by procession to Skjæringa by the Longyearbyen Big Band.
- 10 a.m.: Liturgy at Svalbard Church.
- 11 a.m.: Train procession from church through town ending at Skjæringa.
- 11:45 a.m.: Ceremony at Skjæringa.
- 12:15: Family events at Svalbardhallen;
- 4 p.m.: Art exhibit, "Icons from the Balkans," presented by Lazar Predrag Markovic. Galleri Svalbard.
- 7 p.m.: Gala performances at Huset, and presentation of Typhus statuette and Youth Culture Scholarship
- 7 p.m.: Ungdomsklubb open for youths.

### May 19

11 a.m.: Cultural exchange to Barentsburg.

## 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:

- *Norway's whaling season starts slow*
- *Dino farts may have caused warming*
- *U.S.: Don't fight climate if taxes needed*
- *U.S. ad: Climate scientists are terrorists*