



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Marlene Mellum, 16, far left, tearfully accepts the 2012 youth cultural scholarship award from Christin Kristoffersen, Longyearbyen's municipal council chairwoman, during the Syttende Mai celebration at Kulturhuset. At right, Kristin Grøtting, a physical therapist and council member, hoists this year's Tyfus Statuette, awarded to a person making an exceptional effort to keep the community away from miserable experiences.

May we salute you

Marlene Mellum wins youth scholarship, Kristin Grøtting takes Tyfus on Syttende Mai

By **MARK SABBATINI**
Editor

If Marlene Mellum is indeed a future leader, this is probably one of the few endearing moments to freeze up in front of a crowd.

Mellum, 16, was overcome trying to find words beyond "thank you" and had to turn away from the audience after being named the

winner of Longyearbyen's annual youth cultural scholarship during this year's Syttende Mai gala at Kulturhuset.

"I just started crying," she said afterward. "I'm so happy and so surprised I'm going to cry all night."

Mellum said she started wondering if she was the winner when the citation being read

on stage mentioned political activism, in addition to excelling in sports and numerous performing arts (she is one of 550 youths selected from 25,000 hopefuls for the national UKM talent competition in June). But she didn't know for sure until her name was announced.

As for how she will use the 10,000-kroner
See HONOREES, page 4

Inside

- Birthdays for Env. Fund, Italian base**
Pages 2, 3
- Headlines from Svalbardposten**
 - New contract lets Svea workers pick shifts
 - CAA: Producer used false e-mail to hire copter
 - 14M NOK for new helicopter hanger in budget
- Weather forecast**
Page 3
- Events calendar**
Page 4

CO2 capture plant rejected

Days after major test project in Mongstad is hailed, Parliament votes down Longyearbyen facility

By **MARK SABBATINI**
Editor

Norway's political leaders are charged up about the future of carbon capture power stations. Just not in Longyearbyen yet.

A new coal plant for the city was rejected Tuesday by the Labor Party-led Parliament, just
See POWER, page 3



TECHNOLOGY CENTRE MONGSTAD

Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, left, tours a new carbon capture facility in Mongstad earlier this month.

Editor's note: Yup, we delayed this issue two days for the awards story

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.

Mindless fun now, mindfulness for later



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Longyearbyen children play with giant helium balloons after helping rapidly devour a large cake celebrating the Svalbard Environmental Protection Fund's fifth anniversary May 10 at Kulturhuet. The youths didn't have much interest in the interactive displays of projects made possible by the fund, but a large crowd of adults gathered in the theater for four hours of presentations. The fund – which receives revenue from a tax on airplane and cruise tickets, plus other sources – provides an average of about eight million kroner a year for projects.

Briefly

Cruising: Getting out of danger, but into 'death?'

Another cruise season is about to embark full speed ahead in Svalbard, but the smiles of those greeting passengers aren't being shared by a lot of industry executives these days.

They took a blow last month when Britain issued a warning telling travelers cruising here is too dangerous. That warning may be reassessed, but a more ominous warning of "death" is coming from industry officials about a new law requiring government-approved "pilots" on board scheduled to take effect in 2014.

Britain's warning primarily focused on what it called inadequate search and rescue capabilities in the remote and extreme

conditions. That prompted a flurry of responses from Norwegian government and cruise officials, and Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, in a May 10 statement, wrote "the U.K. authorities will consider the wording of the travel advice in light of the reactions that have risen."

But only a few days later the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators issued its own statement about needing to change a damaging government action. The requirement to have a pilot with continuous Arctic sailing experience on all vessels longer than 70 meters in Svalbard's fjords is something only about 20 percent of the industry is likely to meet.

The cost of providing such pilots would have to be passed on to travelers, who would balk at the resulting high prices, AECO stated.

Icesheet

Random bits of the week's weirdness:

Still clinging to that archaic landline phone? We're not spurning you since we still need to remind ourselves occasionally to press "send" when making mobile calls, but Telenor is reportedly getting ready to relegate you to the rank of reject. The telecom monopoly, hailed last year for bringing 4G broadband to Svalbard (which ordinary folks still can't get and probably won't for some time), is planning to cut the cord on traditional landline service. Svalbard is apparently one of two locations first on the company's whoa-call list, according to the city manager of Modalen (the other place) who told the city's council he heard about the plan from Telenor Director Bjørn Amundsen. The city manager apparently told Amundsen "we have some number of other

hens to pick with him" and, while we're not exactly sure what that means, we're guessing not everyone's going to be cool about doing away with the old ways ... Speaking of city managers, Longyearbyen's current guru Ivar Undheim is one of seven applicants for the same position in Klepp, a job he had from 1987 until moving to Svalbard in 2009. "The goal is to end my career on Svalbard," Undheim told a newspaper when he left. A decision is expected in June, according to *Jærbladet*, prompting the lone reader comment as of our deadline to declare: "We have no use for Undheim 'advice' in Klepp! He would not have two fields in the RV44 roundabout at Jærhagen!" Again, we're not entirely sure what that means, but (s)he doesn't seem overly eager to embrace the prodigal son.

Mamma mia! Look at those birthday lights...



VITTORIO TULLI / STAZIONE ARTICA DIRIGIBILE ITALIA

The Northern Lights dance above Ny-Ålesund's Stazione Artica Dirigibile Italia as scientists conduct an atmospheric research project in January. The Italian station, which celebrated its 15th birthday Tuesday, is "more active than ever" after rebounding from economic struggles that slowed activity beginning in 2003, according to Italy's National Research Council, in a statement marking the occasion. The station, open year-round, can house up to seven people and uses 170 of its 330 square meters for research. Primary research fields include chemistry, physics, marine biology and oceanography. The recently constructed 30-meter-high, all-aluminum Tower Amundsen Nobile to gather climate data has also attracted international interest.

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

Svea workers get OK to pick shift lengths; ends long feud

A shift rotation agreement for workers at Svea has been reached after years of dissatisfaction, according to Store Norske. Employees will be able to choose between consecutive seven- or 14-day shifts, with the same number of days off, ending an effort by the company to phase out 14-day shifts. Store Norske said the longer shifts meant more employees were commuting to the mainland for their off days, and the shorter shifts for all employees hired as of Jan. 1, 2009, were intended "to safeguard the development of Longyearbyen as a family community," said Administrative Director Per Andersson.

CAA: TV producer falsified e-mail to fly gear to Edgeøya

Television producer Jason Roberts falsified an e-mail from Airlift to trick Norway's Civil Aviation Authority into allowing the use of a Russian helicopter on Edgeøya, an action that will result in serious consequences, officials said. Roberts approached Airlift in April to see if the Longyearbyen helicopter operator could transport sleds, snowmobiles and other equipment from Halvmåneøya to Edgeøya. The company said it couldn't carry the equipment inside the helicopter – which Roberts allegedly already knew – but could achieve the task with several external loads. Roberts, according to CAA officials, deleted the external load reference (and omitted two other messages entirely) when using the e-mail and other documents to request permission to use the larger Russian helicopter. "There are so many e-mails back and forth that I do not remember exactly what," Roberts said. "Nor is it my duty to give information to the CAA."

14M NOK for new helicopter hanger in proposed budget

Providing 14 million kroner toward a new helicopter hanger in Longyearbyen is being proposed in Norway's national budget for next year. The hanger, projected to cost a total of 25 million kroner, is able to accommodate three large helicopters and is being promoted as part of an effort to strengthen emergency service in the area.

Labor Party rejects CO2 capture plant

POWER, from page 1

days after Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg toured and praised the debut of a carbon capture test facility at Mongstad near Bergen.

"We are opening the world's largest and most advanced laboratory for testing carbon capture technologies ... a unique test centre to meet one of the greatest challenges of our time," he told a crowd gathered for the ceremony. "We need to reduce emissions, and we need to increase the production of energy, at the same time. Carbon capture technology is key."

But Stoltenberg's party led the way in Parliament's voting 52-45 (with 72 abstentions) against a new Longyearbyen coal plant with CO2 capture and storage. It was an expected defeat for the proposal by the Conservative, Progress and Christian Democratic parties.

Longyearbyen's existing power plant will require 130 million kroner in improvements to meet emissions regulations, proponents of the

new facility argue. The CO2 capture plant proposed for completion in 2015 was originally budgeted at 73 million kroner, but is now 130 million kroner according to revised estimates.

National and local political leaders generally agree coal mining is a vital part of Svalbard's economic future and be the source for the archipelago's electricity. But there is considerable controversy about carbon capture technology, including cost efficiency, and Labor officials believe it isn't time yet for such a plant in Longyearbyen.

"The government considers it true that the time is not ripe for making choices about future energy sources in Longyearbyen now," said Ola Borten Moe, Norway's oil and energy minister, according to *Svalbardposten*. "It is estimated that the (existing) plant will be able to operate satisfactorily for many years to come."

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

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Party cloudy. E winds to 22 km/h. High -4C (-11C wind chill), low -8C (-15C wind chill).	Snow late. E winds at 22 km/h. High -2C (-8C wind chill), low -5C (-12C wind chill).	Cloudy. E winds at 15 km/h. High -3C (-8C wind chill), low -5C (-11C wind chill).	Snow. NE winds to 22 km/h. High -3C (-8C wind chill), low -4C (-9C wind chill).
24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight
Extended forecast: Sunday, cloudy, -3C (-6C), -4C (-8C), light 24:00h; Monday, cloudy, -2C (-6C), -3C (-7C), light 24:00h; Tuesday, cloudy, -2C (-5C), -4C (-7C), light 24:00h; Wednesday, cloudy, -2C (-5C), -3C (-5C), light 24:00h			
Data provided by yr.no			



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Aleksandr Antipov, top, General Consul for the Russian Federation, places a bouquet at the Skjæringa memorial during this year's Syttende Mai in Longyearbyen. At bottom left, youths, who are the focus of Norway's Constitutional Day, play with flags during tributes. At bottom right, local Turngruppa gymnasts perform a dance routine during the holiday's gala celebration at Kulturhuset.

High energy earns shocking awards

HONOREES, from page 1

award, it was too much to think about.

"I don't know what's next," she said.

The night's other honoree, Kristin Grøtting, showed up with a speech after learning two weeks ago she won this year's Tyfus Statuette, recognizing achievements that keep the community away from misery. But that didn't make the moment any less shocking.

"Everything kind of stops," she said. "I had a patient so I couldn't think about it. I said,

"Wow, I've got some news. I've got to sit down."

Grøtting, a physical therapist and municipal council member, was honored for her extensive work organizing cultural activities (including serving as master of ceremonies for many of this year's holiday events).

Where's she going to put the trophy?

"I'm going to put it beside my bed so in the morning I know it's there," she said.

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



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Svalbard's Norwegian and Russian political leaders guide several hundred local residents through the streets of Longyearbyen during the annual Syttende Mai procession.

What's up

May 19

11 a.m.: Cultural exchange to Barentsburg.

May 20

6 p.m.: Movie: "The Dictator," U.S. comedy, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "The Avengers" (3D), U.S. action/sci-fi, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

May 22 – June 2

Sign-ups for Camp Svalbard in Coles Bay. Maximum of 44 participants ages 13-18. Contact: campsvalbard@lokalstyre.no.

May 23

6 p.m.: Movie: "The Cabin in the Woods," U.S. horror/fantasy, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

May 24

11:15 a.m.: Board of Growing Enterprises Authority meeting. Næringsbygget 3, Newntoppen room.

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

May 25

9 a.m.: Board of Growing Enterprises Authority meeting. Næringsbygget 3, Newntoppen room.

May 27-28

Svalbardhallen closed.

May 28

6 p.m.: Movie: "Iron Sky," Australian/Finnish/German sci-fi/comedy, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

June 2

10 a.m.: Spitsbergen Marathon. Registration and other details at svalbardturn.no.

6 p.m.: Cultural exchange from Barentsburg. Kulturhuset.

June 3

6 p.m.: Movie: "Laban - Lille Annas Favoritter," Swedish children's film dubbed in Norwegian, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

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:

- *Seed vault means better school lunches?*
- *More Antarctic tourists alter life, science*
- *Biodiversity down 30 percent since '70s*
- *Arctic microbe may help find alien life*