



Mud hits at ship time

Road closures due to landslides, flooding of mooring boat muck up arrival of cruise ship season

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

It's not like there's a good time for road-closing landslides and a sinking boat, but there certainly could be a better one than both happening just as Longyearbyen needs them most.

High temperatures Wednesday (June 5, reflecting a delayed press time) triggered a series of slush avalanches that forced the closure of the roads to Svalbard Airport and Mine 7, plus others, according to Marianne Aasen, head of Bydrift, the city's infrastructure agency. Traffic on the airport road is being detoured onto a dirt road through the harbor area until further notice, while the mine road remained closed to heavy vehicles at press time.

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LONGYEARBYEN LOKALSTYRE

A mudslide blocks the road to Svalbard Airport, forcing traffic to detour on the harbor road this week.

Inspired by scars of Utøya



ANDREA GJESTVANG / MOMENT

Viljar Hanssen, 19, shows scars from being shot in the head in a book about the Utøya attack.

Young survivors of July 22, 2011, massacre show harsh impact of injuries in award-winning book

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

It's a stark instance of images too powerful for words, although some of the latter – such as "after Utøya, I'm no longer afraid of death" – deliver a mighty wallop as well.

Young survivors of the July 22, 2011, shooting at the youth camp that killed 69 people are letting their blemishes tell a story sometimes overshadowed by political and legal de-

bates that persist after the tragedy. An award-winning book offering a startling portrait of their physical and psychological wounds is a statement of lingering pain for some, a declaration of healing for others.

"I wanted to be a part of project because I had something I wanted to say," said Viljar Hanssen, 19, a Longyearbyen resident at the time who was nearly killed after being shot five times. "The scars don't bother me because that is a part of it."

Those scars above the eye he lost are fully exposed in the book "En Dag i Historien" (One Day in History) by Andrea Gjestvang, which

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A howling 18 hours on the edge

Seven dogs harnessed to sled in crevasse uninjured after long ordeal without food or water

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

Seven sled dogs trapped on the edge of a crevasse for 18 hours without food or water were rescued by helicopter Saturday and, being used to a harsh working environment, resumed their five-day expedition soon after "as if nothing happened."

The accident occurred when a whiteout
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MARTIN MUNCK / GREEN DOG SVALBARD

Seven sled dogs trapped on the edge of a crevasse at Kjeppasset await rescuers Saturday.

Who's to blame and how to express your wrath

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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.

The biggest winner? Look behind the winner



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Manu Kauppila of Finland leads about 40 racers up the first portion of the annual Spitsbergen Marathon on Saturday. He maintained his lead and was the overall winner with a time of two hours, 47 minutes and five seconds, about 15 minutes ahead of the second-place finisher. The women's winner was Hilde Solland Plassen, 45, of Karmøy, pictured immediately behind Kauppila at right, whose time of 3:11:17 beat the previous women's record by 30 minutes. A total of 195 people from a record 21 countries participated in full- and half-marathons, and 10K and 3K courses.

Icesheet

Random bits of the week's weirdness:

In honor of the first cruise of the year arriving this week, we're leading things off with something sure to disenchant a large percentage of visitors as **it's turning out to be a "bumper" year for whale hunters in Svalbard and elsewhere in the region**, according to *Lofotposten*. A catch of 180 whales was reported as of Monday, up from 118 a year ago at the same time. Hunters snagged 84 whales during the past week, up from 54 a year ago, with 30 of them from Svalbard. Prices are also strong, with hunters getting 35 kroner per kilogram as of Monday, "It seems that there is good demand in the market for meat and whale meat is at its best at this time of year," said Per Rolandsen, a member of what translates in English as Norwegian Raw Fish Organization. That means fresh meat is making one of its occasional appearances at Svalbardbutikken (frozen is generally available year-round), although the retail price is 169 kroner per kilo. Still, that's roughly average compared to the other animal carcasses ... Lest visitors think Svalbard's uncultured, we did just host the coolest orchestra around (their wordplay, not



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAAL LUND

Slush fiend: Paal Lund makes the last skiing weekend of spring an awesome-looking one.

ours) as the **Norwegian Arctic Philharmonic Orchestra christened a snow-and-ice stage at Breinosa (and a few other spots) during the last weekend of May for a performance to be featured in photo and video promos.** "We are perhaps the coldest orchestra you know just today, but we're going to get the coolest results," an entry at their Facebook page declares ... Still, **our "wins the internet" prize this week (Svalbard version) goes to Paal Lund for his airborne acrobatics during Toppturfestivalen 2013 last weekend at Trygghamna.** A few hundred photos of the event are at <http://tinyurl.com/m65renv> ... At the internet's other extreme is a **"Twitter fights reach new heights" news item about Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg and his main election opponent, Progress Party leader Siv Jensen,** in a snipefest this week. It's the usual liberal/conservative babble, with our neighborhood getting a nod as Jensen accuses the PM of closing budget gaps "through increased oil tax that stops development in the north." It's at <http://tinyurl.com/lnxfox>.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOSO

Pretty, but the acoustics suck: The orchestra's formal wear also puts style above substance.



LONGYEARBYEN LOKALSTYRE

A helicopter prepares to lift the *Longyear II* mooring vessel out of Longyearbyen Harbor on Monday after the boat was partially submerged due to an apparent breach of its cooling water supply.

Street, boat woes mar cruisers

CLOGGED, from page 1

The city is also scrambling to find a replacement for the *Longyear II* mooring vessel after it was swamped Monday due to an engine compartment breach.

Both incidents occurred as the city is preparing to welcome its first cruise ship visitors of the year Friday, when the 578-passenger *Astor* is scheduled to dock. The first mega-ship, the 1,200-passenger *Artania*, is scheduled to arrive June 11.

A winter with temperatures reaching lows not seen for the past few years has given way to an unusually warm spring, with May's average of one degree Celsius more than two degrees above normal. The heat soared to 10.7 degrees Wednesday at Svalbard Airport, resulting in meltwater washing out several road spots in addition to the landslides.

The blockage and damage, along with the threat of more slides, resulted in officials with the city and Svalbard governor's office closing the roads to Mine 3, Mine 5, Mine 7 and the airport "until we have done several studies." Some restrictions were lifted late in the day, but work on the main roads out of the center of

town is continuing until further notice.

"All roads, except (to Mine 5), where the water has carved much of the road, are now open," Aasen wrote in an e-mail interview. "We have narrowed the road between Svalbard Scooterutleie and the dog kennels because the waters here have also dug a split into the road."

Also sinking the city's hopes of a smooth start to cruise ship season is the loss of the *Longyear II*, which began taking on water during a test run in the harbor Monday due to what appears to be a breach of the cooling water supply.

"This meant that the boat was taking in large amounts of water and the engine compartment and parts of the boat was flooded with salt water," the harbormaster's office wrote in a statement. "The boat is now being sent to Tromsø for repair."

The boat helps cruise ships with their mooring lines at the dock, Aasen wrote, adding "we have found a few options" for a replacement vessel that Bydrift board members will consider during a meeting Friday.

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

Debut of food-tour bus hits snag

The scheduled debut this week of a tour bus offering hot meals has been delayed until the end of June due to "many unfortunate circumstances," including insufficient power for its mobile kitchen facility.

Arctic Tapas, which plans to offer traditional Arctic meals using regionally sourced food, hoped to start test rides this

week with a scaled-down menu of mostly cold foods, according to *Svalbardposten*. But Bent Heggen Larsen, a driver and guide, said they either need to rig a 500-meter power cable to the current kitchen site at Hotellneset at a cost of 200,000 kroner or – preferably – get city approval for a different site in a less industrial area more attractive for tourists.

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN

VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

Store Norske to lay off at least 70 of its 380 employees

Store Norske plans to lay off at least 70 employees, or 20 percent of its Svalbard workforce, with a specific target list ready by July 1, said Administrative Director Per Andersson. Top company officials presented the plan early last week to employees in Longyearbyen and Svea, where there has been great unrest due to repeated mention of layoffs during the past year due to numerous hardships that resulted in a 234-million-kroner loss for the company in 2012. The company has been struggling since former administrative director Robert Hermansen resigned due to a corruption scandal that cost the company heavily, with major equipment failures and low coal prices plaguing the company more recently. Coal prices are expected to remain lower than projected, meaning more layoffs are possible, Andersson said.

Longyearbyen gets first taxi for wheelchair passengers

Longyearbyen's first taxi tailored for wheelchair users was put into service last week by Svalbard Maxi Taxi, replacing an awkward mobile ramp system the company used previously. The company used to transport one or two passengers in wheelchairs a year, but "we have experienced a sharp increase lately," said Rune Moen, head of the company. The minibus cost 750,000 kroner, which "is a tough investment for a company in a tough industry. There is no gold mine, but we hope it answers itself."

Svalbardposten gets two new reporters, 15 editor inquiries

The first of *Svalbardposten's* entirely new editorial staff has arrived as Christian Nicolai Bjørke, 30, fills the reporting position held by Line Nagell Ylvisåker, who departed last month due to maternity leave. Bjørke most recently worked at *Vårt Land* in Oslo. *Svalbardposten's* second reporting job will be filled in August by Christopher Engås, 43, a journalist at *Helgeland Arbeiderblad*, replacing Anders Fjellestad. Fifteen people are applying to replace *Svalbardposten* Editor Birger Amundsen, who will depart at the end of the year after nearly nine years at the newspaper.

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rain. S winds to 45 km/h. High 9C (4C wind chill), low 2C (2C wind chill).	Cloudy. SW winds to 45 km/h. High 9C (4C wind chill), low 4C (1C wind chill).	Partly cloudy. Variable winds to 29 km/h. High 5C (1C wind chill), low 1C (-4C wind chill).	Partly cloudy. Variable winds to 25 km/h. High 2C (-3C wind chill), low 0C (-3C wind chill).
24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight
Extended forecast: Sunday, p. cloudy, 3C (-2C), 2C (-3C), light 24:00h; Monday, p. cloudy, 3C (0C), 2C (-1C), light 24:00h; Tuesday, p. cloudy, 4C (-1C), 2C (-3C), light 24:00h; Wednesday, cloudy, 3C (-1C), 2C (-2C), light 24:00h			
Data provided by storm.no			



FOTOGRAFI.NO



ANDREA GJESTVANG / MOMENT

Torje Hanssen, 15, left, a Longyearbyen resident who was one of the youngest survivors of the Utøya massacre, is featured on the cover of the current issue of Fotografi magazine. At right, Ylva Schwenke, 15, appears on the cover of "En Dag i Historien," a book profiling Hanssen and other victims.

Picturing the scars of Utøya

IMAGES, from page 1

has been named the winner of the L'Iris d'Or at the 2013 Sony World Photography Awards, beating out 62,000 contenders. Gjestvang, 32, was in an Oslo building shaken by a bomb set off by Anders Behring Breivik less than two hours before his massacre at Utøya.

She began cautiously contacting survivors and their families a few months later, wanting to capture the more personal narratives she felt were being lost in the headlines about Breivik.

"They go to school, they hang out with friends and they fall in love," she wrote in the book's introduction. "They go to bed every night and look at themselves in the mirror in the morning. But something has changed. The young survivors will live on with their scars – both visible and mental – many of which may never fully heal."

Hanssen, now in Tromsø preparing for his final high school exam and entry into the University of Tromsø, said he knows most of the people in the book and "I think it's really brave they're willing to be featured in that way."

His brother, Torje, 15, is also getting



ANDREA GJESTVANG / MOMENT

Andrea Gjestvang, left, examines her photos of survivors of the Utøya tragedy. A gallery of them is at her website, <http://andragjestvang.com>.

prominent notice as his photo from the book is featured on the current cover of Fotografi magazine. The project is a chance for him to be heard along with peers bearing visible scars.

"I think it's great he can tell his story," Viljar Hanssen said.

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

Dogs eager for trail after rescue

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forced the Green Dog Svalbard expedition to seek a campsite Thursday afternoon at Kjevaset on the north side of Isfjorden.

"The guide slowed when he saw a crevasse and jumped off (the sled) along with the two tourists," said Trygve Steen, administrative director of Spitsbergen Travel and a spokesman for the dogsledding company, in an interview with *Dagbladet*. "But dogs are fond of running. They managed to stop at the edge of the cliff, but the sled fell onto a glacier shelf. The dogs were strapped in the harness."

The group camped nearby, and rescuers with Airlift and the Svalbard governor's office made several attempts to reach the dogs. But weather thwarted rescue efforts, although they were able Friday afternoon to lower provisions and a new rifle to the expedition party since

"what they brought with them disappeared in the crevasse with the sled," Steen said.

The weather cleared Saturday morning and rescuers were able to reach the dogs, who were uninjured.

"The dogs are in good shape and were not stressed when rescue crews arrived," Steen said. "The group is taking a rest day so the dogs get some food and water. They chose to stay in the area and continue the sleigh ride in the morning."

The dogs showed no signs of hesitation when put back in their harnesses and the remaining two days of the expedition continued without incident, said Tom Lawton, one of the guides, in an interview with *Svalbardposten*.

"It was as if nothing happened," he said. **There's more! Visit www.icepeople.net for the complete story.**

What's up

June 5

6 p.m.: Movie: "Fast and Furious 6," U.S. action. ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

June 8

CANCELLED: Culture exchange from Barentsburg. Tickets purchased online will be refunded automatically. Those purchasing at Kulturhuset can submit tickets and bank details to the Næringsbygget information desk.

June 9

11 a.m.: Mass w/ performance by Elverum women's choir. Svalbard Church.

6 p.m.: Movie: "Epic" (3D), U.S. animated/family, ages 7 and up. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Fast and Furious 6," U.S. action. ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

June 10

Longyear Day. Free admission to Svalbard Museum and Galleri Svalbard, story/music presentation of "The Story of Mozart" at 5 p.m. at Kulturhuset, walking tour from Taubanesentralen to Svalbard Church at 6 p.m.

June 11

7 p.m.: Meeting to discuss "Svalbard flora" w/ Asst. Prof. Elisabeth Cooper. Svalbard Church.

June 12

6 p.m.: Movie: "Broken," British comedy/drama, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

June 16

11 a.m.: Mass. Svalbard Church.

6 p.m.: Movie: "After Earth," U.S. action/sci-fi, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Only God Forgives," Danish/French action/drama, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

June 18

7 p.m.: Longyearbyen municipal council meeting. Næringsbygget 3, Newtontoppen room.

7 p.m.: Evening Mass 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:

- *Boycotts at two Arctic Norway summits*
- *Record Arctic shipping summer ahead*
- *Warming may shrink fish 25 percent*
- *Polar bear-eating shark: Loch Ness lives?*