



# Waiting after a tragedy

One Longyearbyen teen missing, another critically injured in Utøya shooting



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Friends and family of Johannes Buø light candles during a service to pray for his safe return Sunday at Svalbard Church. Buø is among the people missing following Friday's shooting at the Utøya youth camp and officials say there is little hope of finding him alive.

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

A Longyearbyen teenager is missing and feared killed while another remains hospitalized with critical injuries following Friday's shooting at a youth camp in Utøya and bombing of a government building in Oslo that killed at least 76 people.

Johannes Buø, 14, and Viljar Hanssen,

**Updates** about the status of Johannes Buø and Viljar Hanssen are at icepeople.net

17, were among five Svalbard youths at the island camp during the shooting. The others – Astrid Sylte, Aslak Klungseth and Hanssen's brother, Torje – were not injured.

See **UTØYA**, page 4

## A world of tributes

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

Viljar Hanssen, 17, is among the first locals you'd expect to find at a camp for Norway's most politically active youths.

Johannes Buø, 14, has plenty of chops of his own as a judo enthusiast.

As those close to the two youths await word on their life-threatening situations following Friday's Utøya shooting, thousands of friends and strangers worldwide are sending their best wishes via Facebook messages, songs and other tributes on the internet.

The portraits resulting from the tributes are two teens focusing their considerable energies on a multitude of community activities.

Hanssen, in critical condition at a  
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**JOHANNES BUØ**



**VILJAR HANSEN**

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## Ice helps bears, halts boats

*Clogged bays allow polar bears to reach towns while trapping cargo and passenger vessels*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

Pack ice drifting from east Spitsbergen is clogging inlets to settlements on the west side, bringing polar bears to Longyearbyen and Barentsburg while halting coal shipments from Svea and other vessels.

Northern winds pushed the ice unusually far to the south, resulting in problems starting

See **BLOCKAGE**, page 3



PER ANDREASSEN / SYSSSELMANNEN

A polar bear feasts on a seal early this week on the shore of Moskushamn near Longyearbyen.

## 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.

## Just taking the day tour



YELLOW RIVER STATION / CAA

A polar bear roams the center of Ny-Ålesund at about 4 a.m. last Monday after passing by the airport and stopping for a while at the research community's dog kennels. Residents lost sight of him temporarily, but at midday he was observed across Kongsfjord at Blomstrand.

## Briefly

### LNS reports record profit in 2010 despite scandal

LNS may not remember 2010 as a great year after two top executives resigned in a corruption scandal, but the company is reporting a record profit of about 280 million kroner before taxes.

The result is a huge leap from the 167 million kroner profit reported in 2009, as the company's earnings increased to 1.57 billion kroner in 2010 compared to 1.48 billion in 2009. A \$16 million kroner drop in operating costs also contributed to the higher profit margin.

Among the subsidiaries belonging to LNS that performed well were Rana Gruber, due to an increase in production, and Skaland Graphite, where operations were launched, according to an article published today by *Vesterålen Online*. LNS Spitsbergen also reported an increased workload performing sup-

port services for Store Noske, but a scandal involving contracts with the mining company has resulted in a severance of the agreements as of Sept. 1.

LNS is challenging Store Norske's termination of the contracts, but officials note Spitsbergen operations account for only six to eight percent of the company's total revenue.

### Lucky winners and high bidders collect garbage

The 21 winners of the 12th annual trash lottery are spending this week cleaning up debris on the northern shores of Spitsbergen, along with two people who paid 10,000 kroner each for a spot.

Split into two groups, they will clear dozens of cubic meters of debris from fishing vessels and other sources along about 50 kilometers of shore.

## Icesheet

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

It's more than a little difficult pondering the quirky and funny during a tragic week, but we've often been reminded after the death of someone close that they would not want us to remain in misery. So we're proceeding with trepidation and with an overwhelming hope of not being disrespectful ... Besides, it gives us a rare chance to venture into the world of competitive sports as Frode Dahlberg Hanssen has been named the new manager of the Vipers Kristiansand handball team. Hanssen, 37, regional manager for ISS in Longyearbyen, has plenty of experience as a player, coach, manager, and referee, and "as a player he was named to the elite squad while in Bodø from 1998 to 2000," according to fvn.no. He said it is a great opportunity "to develop one of the best clubs" and, given the events of the past week, we're

not bothering to verify if they're actually any good ... What do polar bears, space travel and chocolate cake have in common? Strange as the question may seem, almost anyone who's logged onto the internet this week probably knows the answer since Google is asking it on their otherwise bare main page. Typing "polar bear" and clicking a heart icon brings up a huge splash page with sections for research, pictures, videos, news, merchandise and basically every other way they exist in cyberspace. Not sure why they get top-three status but, given the rather crummy tourism season we're having, any positive exposure is welcome ... For those wondering what happened to last week's issue, our not-so-esteemed editor was getting a surgical tweak to the *gluteus maximus* region. Considering he's generally regarded as a pain in the ass, that seems rather appropriate.



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Ships face tough sailing as pack ice blocks the inlet to Longyearbyen today. Numerous voyages to Longyearbyen, Barentsburg and Svea have been stalled or cancelled due to the blockage.

## Pack ice may stay until next week

**BLOCKAGE, from page 1**

Sunday. Several cruise ships have skipped stops in Longyearbyen, with some cargo vessels unable to arrive as well, according to *Svalbardposten*. A Scottish yacht sent out an emergency signal Sunday and a Polish sailboat was assisted out of a jam today by a Dutch tourist ship. Three coal transport ships are also waiting for an opening to Svea, although Store Norske officials said the financial impact is minimal so far.

The blockage is likely to last "until the wind changes to an eastern direction and then it will go away," said Per Andreassen, chief of

police for the Svalbard governor's office. The Norwegian weather service is not forecasting any significant east winds until at least Sunday.

The ice did apparently make it easy for polar bears to reach land. One has been lingering on the shore of Moskushamn across the bay from Longyearbyen, but is doing little but eating the remains of a seal, Andreassen said. Another bear spotted early this week in Barentsburg has apparently wandered away from the town. Approaching bears is a violation of the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act.

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

## 'Dirty dozen' chemicals rise from Arctic

*Global warming causing toxins to be freed from snow and ice in Svalbard, other polar areas*

The so-called "dirty dozen" of chemicals, including the notoriously toxic DDT, are being freed from sea ice and snow in Svalbard and other parts of the Arctic, according to a study published Sunday.

The chemicals, formally known as persistent organic pollutants (POPs), were widely used as insecticides and pesticides before being outlawed in 2001.

They are extremely tough molecules that take decades to break down in nature. They also bio-accumulate, meaning that as they pass up the food chain, concentrations rise, posing a fertility threat to higher species.

The study, published in the scientific journal *Nature Climate Change*, looked at atmospheric concentrations of three of the chemicals monitored between 1993 and 2009 at a station in Norway's Svalbard Islands and at another in the Canadian Arctic.

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

### HEADLINES STOLEN FROM **SVALBARDPOSTEN** VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

#### Leak at power plant spills up to 300 liters of oil into inlet

A leak in a gasket at Longyearbyen's power plant resulted in about 200 to 300 liters of oil spilling into Adventfjorden via the cooling water, according to officials. The cause of the leak was bolts weren't properly tightened on the gasket after it was cleaned and the seals replaced last fall, a statement by Bydrift notes. The leak occurred June 25, spreading a thin film of oil over a relatively large area before booms could be deployed to contain the spill. The area is home to several species of seabirds during the spring, but officials with the Svalbard governor's office said it does not appear any were harmed by the spill. The investigation is continuing to determine if criminal charges will be pursued and what preventative measures are being taken. An audit last fall criticized the plant for a lack of internal controls, including a lack of proper oil drains. A Bydrift official said the drains would not have affected the gasket leak, since the fuel seeped directly into the floor.

#### Engine breakdown forces evacuation of tourist vessel

A breakdown caused by engine trouble forced the *Langøysund* to cancel a day trip to Barentsburg last Wednesday and transfer the 15 passengers to two small vessels so they could return to Longyearbyen. The breakdown occurred at about 11:30 a.m. and repairs were completed at about 2:45 p.m. with the assistance of a mechanic brought to the ship from Longyearbyen. Henningsen Transport & Guiding, which organizes the tours, said a normal schedule would resume Thursday assuming an inspection found the ship in order.

#### Sand resigning as UNIS head

Gunnar Sand is resigning as the administrative director at The University Centre in Svalbard five months before his fixed term is scheduled to end. "There was an opening in (the Trondheim research group) Sintef which sounded very exciting, but it demanded that I be back there Jan. 1," said Sand, at UNIS since 2006. The university is now drafting requirements for a new director and hopes to advertise the position by August or September.

## Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

| Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|---|
| Partly cloudy. NW winds to 11 km/h. High 3C (0C wind chill), low 1C (1C wind chill).   | Mostly cloudy. SW winds to 11 km/h. High 4C (1C wind chill), low 1C (-1C wind chill). | Cloudy. Variable winds to 7 km/h. High 3C (3C wind chill), low 2C (2C wind chill). | Occasional rain. Variable winds to 7 km/h. High 4C (1C wind chill), low 2C (0C wind chill). |
| Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light  | Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light   | Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light  | Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light   |
| <b>Extended forecast:</b> Sunday, cloudy, 3C (3C), 2C (0C), light 24:00h; Monday, cloudy, 2C (0C), 1C (-1C), light 24:00h; Tuesday, cloudy, 2C (0C), 1C (-1C), light 24:00h; Wednesday, cloudy, 2C (0C), 1C (-1C), light 24:00h. |   |  |   |

Data provided by yr.no



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Flags fly at half-mast Sunday outside Svalbard Church, above, and throughout Norway as people mourn the deaths of at least 76 people killed Friday in the bombing of a building in Oslo and shooting at a Utøya youth camp. At right, a condolence book for Longyearbyen victims Johannes Buø and Viljar Hanssen awaits signatures at the Svalbard governor's office. In addition, a Facebook page offering support for Buø is at [www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=194469870611443](http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=194469870611443).



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

## Locals wait, hope together

**UTØYA, from page 1**

Buø, one of the youngest victims of the attack, remains officially classified as missing as of today, although police officials concede there is virtually no hope of finding him alive. Hanssen remains in critical condition at a Ullevaal hospital.

Norwegian police officials are hoping to release a complete list of those killed in the attacks by 6 p.m. Thursday

Anders Behring Breivik, 32, a self-described right-wing Christian, is in jail after being captured and confessing, saying he hoped to inspire an anti-Islamic revolution.

Residents gathered for a candlelight ser-

vice Sunday night at Svalbard Church, and youths are gathering daily at Longyearbyen's youth center for support and the latest developments from police, doctors and other officials.

"Then we talk about all kinds of reactions, grief or things like that," said Mari Tefre, a youth consultant for the city who estimates 10 to 20 of the victims' peers are showing up each day. "People react differently. There is no specific right way to react."

She said they also discuss making sure posts at sites like Facebook are accurate, since numerous messages elsewhere have not been.

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

## A world of well wishes for teens

**TRIBUTES, from page 1**

Ullevaal hospital, has been featured in news articles for the past few years as a leader of youth campaigns on issues such as climate change awareness and banning alcohol at Longyearbyen's Kulturhuset to make it more appropriate for those too young to drink.

"Viljar Hanssen would be the first to say that this must not undermine our national unity," his mother, Christin Kristoffersen, wrote in a Facebook message. She is the Labour Party chairman candidate in this fall's municipal election and her son is leader of the

youth party.

Among the numerous tributes to Hanssen is a song composed by Sigrí Sandberg Meløy and Liv Mari Schei at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjQZEWG-DW8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjQZEWG-DW8).

A Facebook page for Buø has more than 8,000 members to date, with most messages expressing hope the teen will miraculously be found. Participants include long-lost relatives, strangers from abroad and a neighbor noting "your bike is waiting outside your house."

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

## What's up

### July 31

11 a.m.: Baptism Mass. Svalbard Church.  
8 p.m.: Movie: "Priest" (3D), U.S. action/horror/sci-fi, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 7

8 p.m.: Movie: "Hanna," U.S./British/German action/drama, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 14

8 p.m.: Movie: "Bridesmaid," U.S. comedy, all ages. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 21

8 p.m.: Movie "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2," U.S./British adventure/family. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 24

8 p.m.: Movie: "Super 8," U.S. horror/sci-fi, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 28

6 p.m.: Movie: "Cars 2" (3D), U.S. animated dubbed in Norwegian, no age limit determined. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Hodejegerne," Norwegian action/thriller, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 31

8 p.m.: Movie: "Captain America: The First Avenger," U.S. action/adventure, age limit not determined. Kulturhuset.

### Sept. 4

8 p.m.: Movie: "Oslo, 31," Norwegian drama, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

### Sept. 7

6 p.m.: Movie: "Få Meg På For Faen," Norwegian drama, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

### Sept. 18

6 p.m.: Movie: "The Smurfs" (3D), U.S. animated/family, no age limit determined. Kulturhuset.

### Sept. 22-24

Beer festival. Radisson SAS Polar Hotel Spitsbergen.

## 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:

- *Polar bear makes record nine-mile swim*
- *Row to N. Pole inspired by Shackleton*
- *Ring peddled polar bear, walrus parts*
- *Study: Arctic residents have bigger brains*