



A loss and a recovery



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Candles, flowers and cards offering prayers for Longyearbyen teens Johannes Buø and Viljar Hanssen rest at the base of the Gruvebus statue July 29 in the center of Longyearbyen. Buø was killed and Hanssen remains hospitalized after the July 22 shooting at the Utøya youth camp.

Buø killed in Utøya shooting

One of the youngest victims of the tragedy described as 'a wonderful mix of child and adult'

By **MARK SABBATINI**
Editor

It was the news everybody expected, but nobody wanted to hear.

Johannes Buø, 14, was confirmed last Thursday as one of the 77 fatalities during the July 22 shooting at the Utøya youth camp and bombing of a government building in Oslo. The teen, who lived in Longyearbyen for the past three years, is one of the youngest victims of the tragedy.

"He was an independent boy with a good sense of humor – a wonderful mix of child and adult," his parents wrote in a letter published by NRK.

A funeral service for Buø is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. Friday in his mainland hometown of Mandal. Flags in Longyearbyen will be lowered that day to half-mast until 2 p.m.

Buø was initially classified by as "missing" following the shooting, and friends and family spent nearly a week hoping for a

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Hanssen off critical list

Local youth political leader gets gift of survival for 18th birthday

By **MARK SABBATINI**
Editor

Viljar Hanssen turns 18 on Thursday. For family and friends, just being able to celebrate his birthday is the biggest gift possible.

Hanssen was critically injured and in a coma after being shot in the head and shoul-

der at the Utøya youth camp on July 22. He spent several days fighting for his life, but doctors at the Ullevål hospital he's at have upgraded his condition.

"GOOD NEWS!" a post at the top of a Facebook tribute page for Hanssen exclaims.

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In a rush after 147 million years

Annual prehistoric fossil dig overcomes pack ice and fog, gets to work under midnight sun

By **MARK SABBATINI**
Editor

Getting to the dino dig wasn't easy and, while the prehistoric predators are long gone, the ever-present threat of polar bears was higher than usual.

After overcoming all that, Jørn Hurum's team wasn't about to let a trifling concept like "night" delay them any further.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JØRN HURUM

Lene Liebe and Magne Høyberget dust off a possible new fossil at Janusfjellet this week.

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.



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Customers shop at Gant Arctic location after it opened today in its new location at Lompensenteret.

Store takes a big bite of new space

Gant Arctic opens larger store at Lompensenteret today, plans to expand brands of merchandise

By MARK SABBATINI

Editor

Think of Gant Arctic as the clothing store selling the bear – or bare – essentials.

The retailer reopened today in its new larger space at Lompensenteret, where everything from coats to protect polar bear watchers to boxer shorts featuring the

creature on the keister are on the racks. The store originally opened adjacent to Svalbard in March of 2009, but Manager Merete Alstad said the new location will allow them to carry several new brands.

"Hopefully being here a lot more of the locals will stop by," she said.

Today's opening, after a late-night rush Monday to complete the move, was quiet without ceremony. Alstad said an official grand opening is scheduled Sept. 1.

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

Briefly

Gov. seeking specs for Russian research center

Russia's plans to establish a new scientific research center in Barentsburg are encountering questions from the Svalbard governor's office, where officials say they're still unclear about the details of the project.

The governor's office received a letter earlier this summer from Russian officials stating the center has been approved by leaders in that country, NRK reported Friday. They also hope

to establish six testing grounds in Barentsburg and Pyramiden for climate and environmental research, plus coordination of expedition programs carried out by scientific organizations in Svalbard.

"We have some questions about what this means concretely," Guri Tveito, the governor's environmental chef, told NRK. Among the unknowns, she said, are the size of the center and number of people conducting research there.

The application will be considered "the same as others" regulated by the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act, Tveito said.

Icesheet

Random bits of the week's weirdness:

"Can a Heat Wave Make You Insane?" asks a headline this week at Slate.com. Scientifically, it seems so as a study of two dozen college-age men during the past couple months of record global sweltering "found that a loss of 1 percent body mass via exercise-induced sweating...decreased their cognitive performance and increased levels of anxiety." So while the constant daylight may have us a bit sleepless and grumpy, the single-digit temps aren't likely to send us over the edge ... That may,

however, explain the lunatic comments we're seeing everywhere from worldwide TV to local social media pages about last month's tragedy (which get no space here). With apologies to rational conservatives, here's a reminder about only a few of the aspects of life in supposedly über-left Svalbard: 1) near-universal gun ownership (to the point teachers carry them when the kiddies are out at recess), 2) big supporters of coal mining in our pristine wilderness, 3) big fans of snowmobiling in same wilderness and 4) a mega-haven for entrepreneurs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JØRN HURUM

Members of Jørn Hurum's prehistoric fossil excavation team begins this year's dig at Janusfjellet.

Annual dig for dino fossils begins

EXCAVATE, from page 1

"It's been a long day, but instead of going to bed, people start to discuss where to start digging for fossils," Hurum wrote this week in his first online journal of this year's excavation at Janusfjellet. "The blessing of the midnight sun is that you can easily work the whole night, and we slept last night, so why bother with sleep this night?"

Hurum, a paleontologist and associate professor at the University of Oslo, has been leading high-profile expeditions to Svalbard since 2004. Several finds have attracted worldwide attention, including a record-size pliosaurus known as "Predator X" and new species of the dolphin-like ichthyosaurus.

His high-media profile has also generated significant controversy, mostly notably for his claims to have discovered the "missing link" in human evolution as part of a team unveiling a "lemur monkey" fossil known as *Ida*.

The ichthyosaurus find, a 147-million-year-old specimen discovered in 2009, was a primary focus of the *National Geographic* documentary "Death of a Sea Monster" that aired internationally earlier this year. The filmmakers, who were overly dramatic and took a few liberties with the facts, would have found this year's trip plenty engaging before any digging started.

"We were able to boat to the site, however

there was more ice on the fjord (Isfjorden) than normal, so we had to be rather careful," Hurum wrote in his journal.

"The digging equipment, camp gear, and food were transported by helicopter, but fog threatened to make landing too dangerous to attempt. Luckily, the fog disappeared at lunch time and the delivery was made successfully."

Getting to land was just the first obstacle, however, as officials warned the unusually thick pack ice was allowing polar bears to reach land along the coast more easily.

"We put the sleeping tents close together, and around them set up a wire connected to an alarm to wake us up in the night if, for instance, a polar bear is coming too close to the tents," Hurum wrote. "The tents with the food and where we eat is set up a good distance from the sleeping tents (where NO food should be stored), and secured separately."

Hurum's journal, plus other information about his background and research, is at <http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/author/jornhurum>. Last year's dig was broadcast live on several Web cameras, but none are operating this year to date.

Spitsbergen Travel is offering six-hour tours to the site, which require an open-boat voyage and hour-long hike, until Aug. 14.

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

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM **SVALBARDPOSTEN** VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

Coal shipments, other vessel traffic resumes as ice clears

Ships are beginning to return to Svea to haul coal and other vessels are resuming voyages to Svalbard settlements after being blocked by for several days by an unusual drift of pack ice. Two of four delayed cargo ships arrived at Svea on Monday, and all of the vessels should be loaded in eight or nine days, said Dag Ivar Brekke, deputy manager director of Store Norske. He said the delay did not cost the mining company anything, although the shipping companies were forced to pay for time spent idling. The ice, which drifted from east Svalbard before being blown south by winds, is thinning along the west coast and it does not appear more is on the way, said Signe Alvarstein, a meteorologist in Tromsø. Cargo and passenger vessels in Longyearbyen and Barentsburg were affected by the ice, which also allowed polar bears to reach land in both communities.

Tour guide gets 5,000-kroner fine for illegal tents, fires

A Belgian tour guide has been fined 5,000 kroner for illegally pitching tents and lighting fires at Grumant, according to the Svalbard governor's office. The 40-year-old man leading the five-member tour group camped near the few buildings comprising the former Russian settlement, where the state-owned Trust Arktikugol ceased operations in 1961. The buildings are classified as a cultural heritage site and, according to the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act, burning a fire within a protective zone of 100 meters is prohibited. The tour group camped at the site from June 30 to July 1.

One local man, one tourist lose licenses at DUI check

A tourist and a Longyearbyen resident, both in their 30s, had their drivers' licenses confiscated overnight Sunday after failing sobriety checks, according to the Svalbard governor's office. Both men failed breath tests and admitted to drinking alcohol. The checks were part of a police check of all drivers, with ten vehicles stopped during the late night and early morning hours.

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rain late. N winds to 15 km/h. High 5C (2C wind chill), low 2C (-1C wind chill).	Mostly sunny. W winds to 11 km/h. High 5C (2C wind chill), low 3C (0C wind chill).	Partly cloudy. NE to 7 km/h. High 3C (3C wind chill), low 2C (0C wind chill).	Mostly sunny. NE to 7 km/h. High 4C (2C wind chill), low 1C (-1C wind chill).
Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light	Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light	Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light	Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light
Extended forecast: Sunday, p. cloudy, 3C (3C), 2C (2C), light 24:00h; Monday, cloudy, 2C (0C), 1C (-1C), light 24:00h; Tuesday, cloudy, 2C (0C), 0C (-2C), light 24:00h; Wednesday, cloudy, 2C (-1C), 0C (-2C), light 24:00h.			

Data provided by yr.no



Viljar Hanssen, left, discusses his activities with Svalbard's Youth Labour Party in this image from an interview with NRK posted at Hanssen's Facebook page. At right, Johannes Buø will be buried Friday after becoming one of the youngest victims of the July 22 shooting at the Utøya youth camp.

Buø: A world of interests

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miracle despite police officials stating there was virtually no hope of finding him alive. The names of those confirmed killed were released during the week as they were identified during the week after the tragedy, with Buø's name among the final group at midday Thursday.

Flags were lowered to half mast and a memorial service took place hours later during the early evening at Svalbard Church. Friends and family, in letters and social media tributes, said his widely varying interests included hunting, judo, snowmobiling, acting, and environmental and other youth political advocacy activities.

"The summer camp at Utøya fit perfectly with John's commitment and heart," the letter from his parents states.

"He was, despite his young age, very well traveled, including four weeks at camp with the (international youth peace education group) CISV in Brazil as an 11-year-old."

Buø performed in the student production of "Grease" at Kulturhuset during the past winter and was a member of the youth political group Svalbard AUF for the past half-year. An obituary from Norway's Labour Party notes "with his background, John represented in a way the whole of Norway, from the far south to the far north."

"(He) will be remembered for his good attitude and his sense of humor," the obituary states. "John liked it if the people around him were happy. If he could get people to smile through pranks and funny comments, he was satisfied."

A tribute webpage for Buø, which has

Hanssen alert, faces long recovery

RECOVERY, from page 1

"The crisis team at Ullevål now defines Viljar as having non-life-threatening acute injuries, after ten tough days and eight operations."

Nearly 18,000 people have joined the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=194884683899459), and gifts and visitors are flooding in to the hospital, although Hanssen's visitors are limited to a small number of family and friends.

Statements from family members indicate Hanssen faces a lengthy rehabilitation, but he

nearly 6,000 members as of this week, is at www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=194469870611443. Thousands of messages there and at other internet forums contain everything from long-lost relatives' prayers to news that Brazil's president mentioned Buø at length in a recent speech.

"Rest in peace young friend," Helge Johansen, wrote in a July 30 post at ABC News Norway's site. "Your sacrifice is not in vain. It will help to promote tolerance and acceptance between people and different cultures. You will never be forgotten as long as Norway does."

Four other Longyearbyen youths were at the island camp when the shooting occurred. Viljar Hanssen, who turns 18 on Thursday, was critically injured but now expected to recover after a lengthy rehabilitation. The other three youths were not injured.

Longyearbyen youths close to Buø and Hanssen met every evening with city, hospital and other officials for several days after the tragedy. Nearly all of the youths are now on the mainland for the funeral or to be at the hospital where Hanssen is recovering, but officials are continuing to meet regularly here to discuss matters such as how the incident will be handled when the school year begins.

The tragedy has also sparked considerable discussion about changes to Norway's police and security procedures. But Svalbard Lt. Gov. Lars-Erik Alfheim said he can't discuss if any changes specific to the archipelago, which has less strict security regulations than the mainland, are being considered.

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

is mentally alert and communicating well.

Hanssen is among Longyearbyen's most politically active youths, speaking and campaigning on numerous issues from local recreation for teens to climate change. His mother, Christin Kristoffersen is the leading Labour Party candidate in this fall's municipal election, with Hanssen fourth on the party list. Among the three other Longyearbyen youths surviving the tragedy is Hanssen's brother, Torje, 14.

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

What's up

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.

Sept. 29-Oct. 2

Svalbard CinemArctic 2011. Russian/Norwegian film festival in Longyearbyen and Barentsburg. For more information contact christin.kristoffersen@unis.no.

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:

- *Second huge Barents oil find possible*
- *Warming costs in 2011: 1T+ kr. – report*
- *Mining brings jobs boom to Yukon*
- *Space tourism coming to Swedish Arctic?*