



Seeing the CO2 lining

Embarrassing abandonment of mainland carbon capture project may help UNIS site, leader says

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

It's been a week of bad, even embarrassing, headlines for Norway's ambitious efforts to combat climate change. Which somehow ends up working rather well for the prominent projects and studies in Svalbard.

A decision by the Labor-led government

to drop plans for a carbon capture project on the mainland it once compared to the moon landing in terms of ambition was greeted with scolding headlines and scathing quotes. Some saw it as a huge failure to get other European nations to embrace the technology.

"This is one of the ugliest political crash landings we have ever seen," said Frederic Hauge of the Norwegian environmental group Bellona, in an interview with Reuters.

But the decision will actually benefit the carbon capture lab at The University Centre in Svalbard appears to still have support.
See CARBON, page 3



NORWEGIAN BARENTS SECRETARIAT

The carbon capture facility at The University Centre in Svalbard appears to still have support.

Getting the buzz going

Biggest Oktoberfest ever kicks off another season of festivals and events to lighten the dark

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

Just a warning: If you fully experience the first big festival of the season you might not remember the others happening soon.

The world's northernmost Oktoberfest is going big for its fifth year, with more bands

See FESTIVALS, page 4



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Emma Öfverstedt, left, Josefin Romild, center, and Trude Kristiansen hang balloons in the beer tent at the Radisson Blu Polar Hotel in preparation for the annual Oktoberfest, which begins Thursday. The festival will celebrate its fifth year with an expanded lineup of performers and beer.

Inside

'Bizarre reports:' Our tots are killers
Page 2

Headlines from Svalbardposten
- 50K fine for controversial polar bear film upheld
- Privatizing city's cleaning staff draws protest
- Man gets two-years in prison for stabbing
Page 3

Weather forecast
Page 3

Events calendar
Page 4

Svalbard glacier worthy of a king

Huge section of ice in northeast Svalbard named for King Harald V to honor environmental efforts

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

Plenty of ordinary yokels are eager to take Svalbard's name. The sign of a truly royal persona is one able to leave theirs here.

A huge swathe of ice on Nordaustlandet, representing most of Europe's second-largest icecap, has been named after Norway's King Harald V in recognition of the work he has

See ROYALTY, page 4



NORWEGIAN POLAR INSTITUTE

The newly named Harald V Land in northeast Svalbard, bordered in red, covers most of Austfonna, the second largest icecap in Europe.

Who's to blame and how to express your wrath

Editor

Mark Sabbatini

Principal of principles

Kristan Hutchison

Psychiatrist

Irene Gallion

Accomplice

Jeff Newsom

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.

Those olde Russian folk tales, the remix



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Russian dancers from Barentsburg show the modern side of life with a disco performance during their annual cultural exchange performance Saturday at Kulturhuset. This year's collection of dances, instrumentals and semi-karaoke strayed a bit from the traditional folklore and classics of past years, although an emphasis on themes such as tragicomic romantics and overworked laborers remained. In particular was an empathy with their Norwegian neighbors about the glory and hardships of mining coal. "That is a very important thing," said Vitaly Shutko, Barentsburg's tourism manager, the evening's emcee. "If you have coal you have light and warmth and so on."

Icesheet

Random bits of the week's weirdness:

We're keeping a running list of why hard-core right-wingers ought to love Svalbard, despite things like our concern for the pristine environment and climate change. This week's addition comes from an article in *The Foreigner* headlined "North of Arctic Circle pre-school uses up reindeer hunting quota." The totally impartial introductory sentence exclaims "a **day care in Longyearbyen with permission to kill up to two reindeer a year has now filled this after culling their second this week, bizarre reports say.**" Those bizarre reports from *Svalbardposten* and *Nordlys* are about an annual field trip that's one of those No Big Deal If You Live Here things, but bewilder the outside world. "Everyone thinks this is a good initiative, many of the children are used to being part of hunting," said Trine Berntsen, the day care center's leader, in her *Nordlys* interview. "We spend a lot of time explaining to the children about harvesting and where food comes from." The kids didn't witness the actual shooting, she added, but did watch the animal being prepared afterwards. Locals might recall during our big rabies scare a couple years ago that kids were a priority for vaccinations, in part due to the presumption a high percentage of them had been hunting with their parents ... Meanwhile, science fairs are a Common Thing for every pupil who's learned to mix baking soda and vinegar, so of course in Svalbard the competitions are anything but common for certain students. A somewhat more complex project involving edibles has sent **UNIS PhD student Pernilla Carlsson to the Forsker Grand Prix finale in Oslo this weekend after her presentation "Your Health Food is Toxic!"** took second place at the regional competition in Tromsø last weekend in Tromsø. The four-minute presentation, followed by a six-minute one focusing on the use



UNIS

It's funnier without the mask: Pernilla Carlsson, diving here to collect samples for a food contamination project, is using humor to win over judges at a Big Science Fair For Grownups.

of chiral pesticides to track and distinguish new and old sources of contaminants in the Arctic, was praised for its humor and relevance. Carlsson, who said she worked with a drama instructor before the presentation, will compete in the finals at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Edderkoppen Teater. Those not planning to be there can watch her discuss her project at tinyurl.com/o3zntg7 ... Another day, another major shout-out for Svalbard as a tourist destination as **Norway is listed as one of the "Top Ten Adventure Nations" in the Lonely Planet's new book "1,000 Ultimate Adventures."** Not surprisingly, Arctic activities such as seeing the Northern Lights, running midnight sun marathons and skiing across Spitsbergen dominate the list of reasons for the honor ... And for those wanting to go to extremes without the extreme cost, **a five-night kayaking, glacier walking and hiking trip in Svalbard is being offered to the winner of travel writing competition by *The Guardian*.** Sadly, it's open to UK residents only, but the details are at www.theguardian.com/travel/2013/sep/13/1.

Happy to take the trash out, deer



Longyearbyen residents, above, fill canvas bags with wire, metal hoops and other debris as reindeer graze nearby Saturday on Fuglefjella. About 20 people from Longyearbyen and Barentsburg participated in the day-long cleanup at scattered mining camps first occupied intermittently by the Russians from 1919 to 1962. At right, Trond Espen Haug, senior environmental advisor for the Svalbard governor's office, briefs volunteers about the types of debris that should be collected because wildlife are getting entangled up in them. Photos by Mark Sabbatini / Icepeople.



CO2 lab setback a boost for UNIS?

CARBON, from page 1

Svalbard in some ways, said Ragnhild Rønneberg, managing director of the facility. The party's announcement also stated their national budget for 2014 will ask Parliament to enact "the objective of realizing at least one full-scale carbon capture and storage project in Norway by 2020," with the UNIS facility a highlighted example.

Furthermore, leaders with the Conservative Party, which beginning next month will lead a center-right ruling coalition after prevailing in this month's election, have expressed support for Svalbard's carbon capture efforts, Rønneberg said.

"They have been very eager to highlight the possibilities in Longyearbyen," she said. "This will include a new power plant with a carbon capture facility."

The discontinued project is at Mongstad, launched as a highly publicized pilot program in 2007 by Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg.

But the facility has encountered numerous delays and cost overruns, and last week the Norwegian Office of the Auditor General criticized the government's inability to control the cost of carbon capture and storage projects. The government spent 7.4 billion kroner on such projects between 2007 and 2012.

It has also been a rough week for Arctic climate scientists due to the scheduled release this Friday of a new comprehensive report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Mention of a significant increase in the Arctic ice sheet during the past year has received widespread media coverage, with some mocking previous predictions of an ice-free Arctic by 2013 as exaggerated alarmism.

But, as with the carbon capture lab, Rønneberg, sees a benefit for UNIS in that there will be a renewed emphasis on developing knowledge about the climate change situation.

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

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

50K fine for disturbing polar bear upheld for filmmaker

A fine of 50,000 kroner against filmmaker Jason Roberts for disrupting polar bears has been upheld by Norway's Ministry of the Environment. The incident, occurring during the filming of the BBC documentary "The Polar Bear and Me," gained worldwide notice in January when clips showed presenter Gordon Buchanan in a plexiglass box that was being attacked by a polar bear. The ministry upheld the fine imposed in March by Svalbard's governor, declaring the box created "situations where one comes into close contact with the polar bear in a way that interferes with them, or may endanger people and the bear."

Proposal to privatize all city cleaning staff draws protest

A proposal to fully privatize the city's cleaning staff by transferring its three employees to ISS is meeting objections from a worker concerned about how compensation and working conditions will be affected. "I feel like garbage that they just throw out," said Wanwong Buer Lek, who has worked for the city since 2004. "I do not know specifically what it means to change employers. Will I get a place to live with ISS? How are the wages? What will my duties be?" Most cleaning of city facilities is already performed by ISS. A new four-year, 17-million contract for all services will save about two million kroner, according to the Longyearbyen Community Council, which will consider the matter at its Oct. 1 meeting.

Man gets two years in prison for stabbing in Barentsburg

A 33-year-old Ukrainian man has been sentenced to two years in prison for stabbing another Ukrainian man in his 30s at an apartment complex in Barentsburg. The April 21 attack, following several arguments during the preceding hours, resulted in life-threatening injuries to the victim, although he has fully recovered. The assailant sought help for the victim immediately afterward and admitted guilt to the police, which the Nord-Troms District Court as mitigating factors in the sentence. He must also pay about 117,000 kroner to cover restitution to the victim and medical expenses.

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly cloudy. Variable winds to 7 km/h. High 2C (-1C wind chill), low -1C (-3C wind chill).	Partly cloudy. SE winds to 18 km/h. High 1C (-2C wind chill), low -2C (-5C wind chill).	Cloudy. SE winds to 25 km/h. High 3C (0C wind chill), low 0C (-4C wind chill).	Cloudy. SE winds to 29 km/h. High 2C (-2C wind chill), low 0C (-4C wind chill).
Sunrise: 6:50a, sunset: 6:44p	Sunrise: 6:57a, sunset: 6:36p	Sunrise: 7:05a, sunset: 6:28p	Sunrise: 7:12a, sunset: 6:21p
Extended forecast: Sunday, cloudy, 5C (1C), 2C (-3C), light 10:54h; Monday, rain, 5C (0C), 4C (0C), light 10:39h; Tuesday, rain/snow, 4C (-1C), 1C (-6C), light 10:24h; Wednesday, p. cloudy, 2C (-2C), 0C (-5C), light 10:08h			

Data provided by storm.no



NORWEGIAN POLAR INSTITUTE

A tour ship approaches the edge of the Austfonna icecap on Nordaustlandet. The glacier, a dominant section of which is now named after King Harald V, has been calving on its eastern side in recent years, exposing a new set of islands and inlets in the wildlife-heavy area frequented by researchers.

Third Svalbard area gets king's name

ROYALTY, from page 1

done protecting the region, according to the Norwegian Polar Institution. The institute's naming committee voted to bestow the honor at its Sept. 15 meeting, following a trip the king made to the archipelago in August.

"A large area of Nordaustlandet lacked a so-called area name," said Jan-Gunnar Winther, the institute's director, in an interview with NRK.

"There is a lot of wildlife there, including polar bears and seals, and it is used extensively for climate research."

"Harald V Land" is a 6,500-square-kilometer area covering most of the Austfonna icecap. Although the king visited parts of northern

and eastern Svalbard during what was his first private visit to the area in August, he did not visit his new namesake.

Harald V is the third Norwegian monarch to have part of the archipelago named after him. His father Olav V, and his grandfather Haakon VII have parts of Spitsbergen, the archipelago's main island, named after them.

The naming comes at the same time a watchmaker is debuting its "Svalbard" model at a Longyearbyen event, joining a huge line of merchandise such as tents, diving gloves, survival seeds, pants and electrical outlet covers looking to cash in on the area's name.

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

Oktoberfest kicks off months of nightlife

FESTIVALS, from page 1

and beers than ever when it begins Thursday. Taking in all the bands might not be too tough, other than getting into what's likely to be a packed beer tent, but sampling all of the brews before the festival ends in the wee hours of Sunday morning might require renting an extra liver and some spare kidneys.

"This year we have 108 different kinds of beers," said Trude Kristiansen, restaurant chief at the Radisson Polar Blu Hotel, the site of the festival. "Sixty-five percent are new this year."

A colorful start is planned at 5 p.m. Thursday with a parade through Longyearbyen that starts at the hotel, followed by the official opening at 6 p.m. by television personality Torkjell Berulfse.

The tent opens at 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 1 p.m. Saturday, with food, music and suds flowing until midnight. Bands performing include Spitzbergen Schnapskapelle, Far-riskameratene, Store Norske Mandskor, Café Olai and Blindfold. Café Olai will also perform at Barents Pub from midnight until 2 a.m. the first day and 3 a.m. the remaining days.

Other events include day cruises to Barentsburg Thursday and Friday, a free tasting

and beer lecture at 1 p.m. Saturday, a beer quiz at 3 p.m. Saturday, and the crowning of Crowning of the "Mustache of the Year" and "Miss Oktoberfest" at 10 p.m. Saturday.

Tickets and multi-day passes are available at the Radisson. Kristiansen advises arriving early for events, since about 400 people showed up during the busiest day last year.

The festival is a month earlier than its namesake in order not to compete with the larger and more established Dark Season Blues, which is then followed by a series of events from KunstPause in early November to PolarJazz in early February. Tickets for many of those events are already on sale and, in some case, can sell out well in advance.

Multi-day passes for Dark Season Blues, scheduled Oct. 24-27, are now available, as are tickets for the festival's formal dinner at Spitsbergen Hotel which typically sells out quickly. The festival is also seeking volunteers for stage work, ticket handling, courtesy hosting of artists and other duties. Full details, as well as the lineup for the 11th annual festival are at www.darkseasonblues.com.

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

What's up

Sept. 25

6 p.m.: Movie: "Hokus Pokus Albert Åberg," Norwegian animated children's film, all ages. Kulturhuset.

Sept. 26-28

Oktoberfest, featuring beer tent, concerts and other activities. From 4 p.m.-midnight Sept. 26-27 and 1 p.m.-midnight Sept. 28, with an opening parade at 5 p.m. Sept. 26. Radisson.

Sept. 27

Noon: Board of Youth Activities meeting, Næringsbygget 3, Newtontoppen room.

Sept. 28

10 a.m.-5 p.m.: Open activities day for all ages. Svalbardhallen.

Noon-3 p.m.: Open day w/ tours, games and other activities at Longyearbyen Fire Station. Fundraiser for NRK telethon.

Sept. 29

11 a.m.: Family Mass w/ baptism and Polargospel concert. Svalbard Church.

5 p.m.: *Nordsysse*, the service vessel for the governor's office for the past decade, departs for the final time from Svalbard. Longyearbyen Harbor.

6 p.m.: Movie: "Turbo" (3D), U.S. animated family film, all ages. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Blue Jasmine," U.S. comedy, ages 7 and up. Kulturhuset.

Sept. 30

6 p.m.: Qualification contest for local team to participate in NRK trivia broadcast. Barents Pub.

Oct. 1

7 p.m.: Municipal Council meeting. Næringsbygget 3, Newtontoppen room.

Oct. 2

6 p.m.: Movie: "Pionér," Norwegian thriller, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

Oct. 3

10 a.m.: Bydrift board meeting. Næringsbygget 3, Newtontoppen room.

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:

- *Russia: Arctic oil our manifest destiny*
- *30 yrs. in jail for Greenpeace protesters?*
- *Alaska whale harvest up after bad spring*
- *Norway using waste as eco-friendly fuel*