



IPCC: Icky icy impact

Svalbard research in landmark climate report full of bad news, yet gives skeptics room for doubt

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

There's another major climate report out. Some Svalbard people helped write it. Things here are such a train wreck even the good news is bad.

Temperatures are soaring, CO2 in the at-

mosphere is at a record high and glaciers in west Svalbard are rapidly melting, raising fears of changing ocean salinity, currents and sea level rising more than recently predicted.

And while the dominant theme of media coverage was the 95 percent certainty those effects are man-made, it's a double-edged sword for climate scientists since five percent is reasonable doubt as far as skeptics are concerned. Not to mention the Arctic ice sheet actually increased during the past year, so maybe those

decades of "alarming" shrinkage are nothing to worry about after all.

Monday's release of the Fifth Assessment Report by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reveals no new information, since it's a compilation of previous research by scientists worldwide. Instead, it's high-profile comprehensive portrait for the vast majority of people who aren't climate scientists or follow such news obsessively.

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Bon voyage, Nordsysssel



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Ship departs Svalbard after 11 accident-free years of service; longtime crew's future uncertain

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

Kjetil Bogstrand has worked aboard the *Nordsysssel* for its entire 11-year lifespan in Svalbard, guiding it through the area's perilous waters for the last nine as the ship's skipper. But after one more short voyage to the mainland, he and the other crew members will be left high and dry.

"I don't know what's next," he said minutes before the ship departed Longyearbyen for the final time Sunday afternoon. "We have to get another job."

The *Nordsysssel*, which has been the service vessel for the Svalbard governor's office, is being replaced by a new ship with enhanced rescue and emergency capabilities scheduled to begin sailing next spring. While

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Well-wishers wave goodbye to the *Nordsysssel* as it departs Longyearbyen on Sunday after 11 years as the Svalbard governor's service vessel. It sailed 200,000 kilometers during that time.

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A slice of life for Classic Pizza

Eatery gets two-month extension on scheduled day of eviction, but city nixes move to thrift store site

By MARK SABBATINI
Editor

In slightly more than 24 hours Classic Pizza went from dead to alive to barely on life support.

The fast-food restaurant was supposed to be evicted Tuesday from Lompensenteret, but got a two-month reprieve Monday. But hopes of using the extra time to find a new location

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MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Patcharaporn Ratchano slices a pie at Classic Pizza on Monday, when the eatery got a reprieve from being evicted from Lompensenteret.

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.

Not entirely about the beer



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Longyearbyen residents, above, parade toward the center of town Thursday as they begin celebrating the fifth annual Oktoberfest. At bottom left, local musicians play music from the land of sauerbraten in a beer tent at the Radisson Blu Polar Hotel on Saturday night. On the same night Marius Trang, bottom right, barbecues a relative of a roasted pig greeting revelers at the tent's entrance. A record 108 varieties of beer were sold to commemorate the five-year anniversary.

Icesheet

Random bits of the week's weirdness:

It's the week of the apocalypse and we're not talking about a certain Unexceptional Nation that's been shut down by a handful of lunatics. Instead, **there's a new menace joining Svalbard's legendary polar bears and Doomsday Vault as a flesh-eating plant has been discovered by Anna Vader, a UNIS marine biologist, the first new find of a flowering species in the archipelago in nearly 40 years.** But resist the urge to blow it away with a rifle on sight: the species known as alpine butterwort, found in Ringhornaldalen on the eastern side of Wijdefjorden at 79°N, sucks the life from insects that get trapped on the pod-like leaves. The Ringhornaldalen area is apparently something of an "Arctic oasis" with unique climate and soil conditions, according to a UNIS press release, since several new vegetation species usually found in warmer climates have been discovered during the past decade. "This area has not been investigated very much by botanists, and it shows that we need to investigate this location further and to map the area properly," said Pernille Eidesen, a UNIS botanist who led to field expedition to the area in July ... While discovering new species of plants and dinosaurs is a pretty great recruiting pitch (yeah, there's also the cheap beer, but we're taking that as a given), one of the worst "good" reasons to enroll at UNIS



ANNA VADER / UNIS

Hey, those leaves are just about finger-sized: How much harm could it possibly do to stick one in there for a while, just to see what happens?

comes from what's usually one of our favorite weekly reads. The Arctic Institute's roundup of worthy reads about the polar region for some reason highlights a totally generic profile of the Doomsday Vault and notes **"to see the Seed Vault with your own eyes could be one of the many reasons to apply for the spring semester at The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS)."** Right, because a near-zero probably of momentarily seeing what's essentially boxes stacked in chilly warehouse is worth spending years at the end of the Earth. But we'll forgive them since they also offer links to some lengthy tomes, including a free e-book about Arctic security in a warming world that costs US\$42 in paper format. Download it at <http://tinyurl.com/o8be713>.



HEADLINES STOLEN FROM
SVALBARDPOSTEN
VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

Barentsburg not getting bang for tax bucks, leader claims

Barentsburg residents don't seem to be getting much for the eight percent income tax they pay in Svalbard, according to Aleksander Veselov, director general of Trust Arktikugol, the Russian state-owned company that oversees the settlement. A demand to see how those monies are being spent is being made in a letter to Svalbard Gov. Odd Olsen Ingerø, with Veselov stating he suspects the taxes are going toward the "support the operation of the Norwegian settlements and construction." Kjerstin Askholt, director general of Norway's Polar Affairs Department, said he is declining to comment on the letter until the agency has replied directly to Veselov. A previous analysis by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security highlighted services Barentsburg residents receive from taxes such as police, emergency rescue and medical care, and its airport.

Longyearbyen School book gets new funds, deadline

A prolonged effort to publish a book about Longyearbyen School is getting a new boost as the city's Youth Activities Authority has agreed to providing an addition 450,000 kroner for author fees, printing and other costs. The project was originally authorized and funded in 2007, but a writer, Kjersti Strømme, wasn't selected until two years later. The project largely remained at a standstill, however, although in March of this year it was announced the book would be ready by Christmas. That date will be missed, however, with a new agreement stating Strømme will finish the book by the end of April 2014. A total of 1.5 million kroner has been allocated for the book to date.

Store Norske: Get your dead seals off our mine trestles

Somebody is hanging seal carcasses "and some other things" in the cable car trestles at Mine 6 and Store Norske isn't happy about it. While the trestles are suitable for the purpose, and the sight is a reminder of the latitude Longyearbyen residents live at, mining company officials said the structures are protected property and are asking the unknown owner(s) of the animals to remove them.

Local residents, above, many of them officials with the Svalbard governor's office, gather in the mess of the *Nordsyssel* for a final meal aboard the ship Sunday afternoon shortly before it departs Longyearbyen after 11 years as the governor's service vessel. At right, Kjetil Bogstrand, who has sailed with the *Nordsyssel* during its entire time in Svalbard, including nine years as the ship's skipper, accepts one of many departing hugs from a well wisher just minutes before the ship departs. He and other crew members said their future is uncertain in terms of working aboard a new vessel scheduled to begin service in Svalbard next spring. Photos by Mark Sabbatini / Icepeople.



Old crew hopes to return on new ship

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officials said the new capabilities will be welcome, there was plenty of sadness as well-wishers gathered on the *Nordsyssel* to say goodbye to the crew just before they departed.

Whether some or all of them will return with the new ship is uncertain. Svalbard Gov. Odd Olsen Ingerø, in an interview with *Svalbardposten*, said he considers the crew's experience valuable and the new ship's owner, Remøy Management, will have to provide justification if they hire different people.

The new ship is being leased to the governor for six years with an optional extension of four years. Bogstrand said he would like to work at least through the initial lease period if possible.

Having navigated the *Nordsyssel* through 200,000 kilometers of Svalbard's waters for everything from rescues to annual cultural site inspections to oil spill exercises (one of which

last Wednesday as among the ship's final official duties), perhaps it's not surprising Bogstrand doesn't recall any single one as particularly memorable, although he said north-west Spitsbergen has consistently been his favorite area to visit.

Remote areas of Svalbard were also a favorite of officials with the governor's office who regularly participated in voyages aboard the *Nordsyssel*. Guri Tveito, the governor's environmental protection chief, said the other highlights were taking in the view from the bridge while talking with the crew and conducting the site inspections.

"Then, of course, there's the saloon in back where we usually are," said Arild Lyssand, a police chief inspector who said he has taken five or six trips a year during his nine years with the governor's office.

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

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rain/snow. SW winds to 45 km/h. High 1C (-6C wind chill), low -2C (-2C wind chill).	Cloudy. W winds to 59 km/h. High 1C (-9C wind chill), low -1C (-7C wind chill).	Partly cloudy. N winds to 39 km/h. High 0C (-4C wind chill), low -3C (-8C wind chill).	Partly cloudy. E winds to 55 km/h. High 0C (-7C wind chill), low -6C (-11C wind chill).
Sunrise: 7:41a, sunset: 5:49p	Sunrise: 7:48a, sunset: 5:41p	Sunrise: 7:56a, sunset: 5:33p	Sunrise: 8:03a, sunset: 5:25p
Extended forecast: Sunday, rain/snow, 3C (-6C), -1C (-9C), light 9:06h; Monday, rain/snow, 5C (1C), 0C (-4C), light 8:50h; Tuesday, p. cloudy, 3C (-2C), -3C (-9C), light 8:34h; Wednesday, cloudy, 3C (-1C), 1C (-3C), light 8:17h			

Data provided by storm.no

Not trivial knowledge if it comes with a trophy



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Tom Ramberg, center, accepts a trophy from Longyearbyen Mayor Christin Kristoffersen after winning the captain's position of the city's trivia team in this year's QuizDan competition hosted by NRK's Dan Børge Akerø, far left. Ramberg, who said he competes every week at the regular Monday night trivia contests, said the QuizDan questions were considerably harder and he had doubts about prevailing. Also selected to compete in the city-against-city bracket tournament were, in background from second left, Ane Fossnes, Eivind Trondsen and Ivar Andersen.

IPCC report details Svalbard changes

CLIMATE, from page 1

Among the contributions from Svalbard is a study by Polish researchers at the Hornsund station of Hansbreen, claimed to be the "world's most watched glacier," that originated in 1957. Piotr Glowacki, a professor at the Geophysical Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences who has been working in Svalbard for 30 years, said during that time the fjord system in the area has increased by about three square kilometers annually as the glacier loses 50 million cubic kilometers of mass.

"Half of the reduction is in the form of melting, the rest because of calving," he said in an interview with *Nordlys*. The deterioration is uneven since "the measurements do not show up in some places."

Classic Pizza gets two-month reprieve

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suffered a devastating blow Tuesday night when Longyearbyen's Municipal Council rejected a proposal allowing the eatery to move into a nearby space now occupied by the Bruktikken thrift store.

Classic Pizza owner Sam Ziaei, who went from resigned on Sunday night to elated on Monday night to despondent after the council meeting, said he has no other alternative location, but "we will hope" something turns up.

The restaurant, which opened in 2001, was scheduled to be evicted Oct. 1 to allow for an expansion of the Fruene cafe. Owner Tove Eide said she agreed to allow Classic Pizza to remain longer since the expansion will take longer than originally planned, but she still hopes the expanded space will be ready by the

The forecast in the updated IPCC report is average temperatures will rise 2.6 to 4.8 degrees Celsius by the year 2100 if emissions of greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide remain unchanged, with the largest increasing coming in the Arctic regions.

The report also presents four different scenarios for the rising average temperature, based on what actions are taken to halt the emission of greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide. The most optimistic of the four scenarios shows that the average temperature will increase by 0.3 to 1.7 degrees Celsius, if the emission of greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide is reduced immediately.

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

beginning of next year.

Even if Classic Pizza doesn't find a new location, Ziaei said the extra two months is a blessing because it will allow him to use many of the supplies that arrived in one of two annual freight shipments about a week ago. Because he placed and paid for the order in the spring, before he knew about the eviction, it was not possible to cancel it.

His request to move into the Bruktikken space would have required extensive work to be suitable for a restaurant. Bydrift officials, in a report presented to the council, stated the space isn't ideal for the thrift store since more room for things like furniture would be desirable, but there isn't an alternative space now.

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

What's up

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.

Oct. 4

7 p.m.: Concert by Svalbard Kirkes Trio and Hans-Gunnar Skreslett. Svalbard Church.

Oct. 5

11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.: Sports exchange between Longyearbyen and Barentsburg. Svalbardhallen.

3 p.m.: Author Bea Uusma discusses her book "Expeditionen – Min Kärlekshistoria" about doomed Swedish balloon expedition to the North Pole. Svalbard Museum.

Oct. 6

11 a.m.: Mass by Bishop Per Oskar Kjølås. Svalbard Church.

6 p.m.: Movie: "Maur i Rompa," Netherlandic family film dubbed in Norwegian, all ages. Kulturhuset.

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

Oct. 7

8 p.m.: Trivia quiz. Barentz Pub.

Oct. 8

7 p.m.: Concert "Just Biber" by the Boyes Musikkompani. Svalbard Church.

Oct. 9

6 p.m.: Movie: "Turbo," U.S. family/animated, all ages. Kulturhuset.

Oct. 10

2 p.m.: Board of Culture and Leisure Authority meeting. Næringsbygget 3, Newtontoppen room.

Oct. 12

Noon: Open day at UNIS Science Center. Exhibitions, lectures and competitions as university celebrates 20th anniversary this year.

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:

- *Norway's new gov't drops Arctic oil plans*
- *Surviving 3,500 years in Antarctica*
- *10,000 walruses storm beaches of Alaska*
- *Russia fences out Norway's Arctic bears*