



## Quick sentences in Bear Island shipwreck case

*Captain already released, first mate still in jail for negligence after oil spill in bird sanctuary*

The captain of a Russian ship that ran aground in a Svalbard bird sanctuary was sentenced last week to 18 days in prison and his first mate 40 days for drinking alcohol and other negligence on duty.

The *Petrozavodsk* remains on the south coast of Bear Island after the May 11 collision that spilled a large amount of diesel fuel into the protected area. Both officers admitted guilt and were sentenced in a Tromsø court.

"It has been 18 days since the stranding and the case against both has come to a verdict that we are satisfied with," Lars Fause, Svalbard's deputy governor, told the the Norwegian News Agency.

The captain, 45, who admitted to drinking alcohol, was released Friday after serving 15 days of his sentence and has returned to his home of Murmansk, according to the Svalbard governor's office. The first mate, 51, also of Murmansk, remains in custody after being judged responsible for the incident because he fell asleep on duty. He also was convicted of breaching Svalbard environmental law for guiding the vessel into the preserve.

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A Longyearbyen player shoots at the Barentsburg goal during a soccer match at Svalbardhallen on May 30. The game was the first during a day-long, multi-sport competition that is part of a cultural exchange between the two communities dating back to the 1930s.

## Exchange of rivals

*Longyearbyen, Barentsburg's long tradition of cultural sharing ignores feuds at national level*

Yeah, their leaders are fighting over nearby things like oil and rights to the North Pole, but the proletariat toughing out a coexistence on this Arctic island are focusing on more immediate bragging rights to things like soccer and schnapps.

A musical showcase Saturday night in

**Taking it to the Russians:** A folk singer's first gig in Barentsburg

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Longyearbyen featuring visitors from the Russian village of Barentsburg will wrap up three weeks of cultural and sports exchanges between the two communities. Both towns have long experienced their own struggles as well as

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## Festival on the rocks

*First Spitsbergen Rock brings seven bands to indoor and outdoor stages June 11-14*

Åsmund Prytz's band seized an invitation to play the inaugural Spitsbergen Rock festival without the usual debate, but one of their stage trademarks may prove tough in the Arctic.

"We try to be as sweaty and hot as possible," the guitarist said. "We're not sure which elements of that we are going to include."

Prytz's band, Nullskattesnylterne, is one of seven performing on indoor and outdoor stages during the world's northernmost rock festival June 11-14. Line Vangen Roksoy, the festival's spokesperson, said organizers began working on it about a year ago at the urging of festival



Superfamily, an Oslo band seen here performing in Stavanger, is the headliner for the Spitsbergen Rock festival beginning June 11.

leader Kristian Arnesen.

"He had been thinking about this for a long time because we already have a jazz festival

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### We're not rude – just ignorant

Due to a system snafu, it turns out none of the e-mail addressed to icepeople@yahoo.com reached us. Our new (working) address is editor@icepeople.net. Many apologies to anyone whose earlier messages were consumed by the cyber moat monsters.

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*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.

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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.

## Festival headliner to debut new music

ROCK, from page 1

and a blues festival, but for a lot of the young people it's all rock and roll," she said.

Featured events include an open-stage jam with some of the festival's musicians at 9 p.m. June 11 at Svalbar, concerts at Svalbar and Barentz Pub starting at 9 p.m. June 12, a five-band outdoor concert at Endalen beginning at 6 p.m. June 13, and a jam and "foretaste of next year's festival" at 8 p.m. June 13 at Barentz Pub.

Most of the bands come from the mainland with major awards and album sales to their credit, and vary in tone from hardcore to bluegrass/punk.

"At first it was more like the harder rock, Norwegian thrash, but we figured to outreach we needed something that would grab a bigger number of people's interests because we're not that many people here," Roksoy said.

Getting top billing is the Oslo-based Superfamily, winner of a "best live band" award at the 2007 Alarmprisen festival and a Norwegian Grammy for their 2007 album *Warszawa*. Lead singer Steven Wilson said the novelty of Svalbard made the band quick to accept their first invitation to perform here, but those attending their Saturday night closing show will get something novel as well.

"Another thing that's quite good about playing in a place as remote as Svalbard is it gives us a unique opportunity to test out some new song material," he said. "We are releasing a new record in August and Svalbard will be the first gig we try out some new songs."

Previous Superfamily works have been promoted by the band's label as everything from "one of the most radio un-friendly songs ever recorded" to "belongs on the closing credits of an '80s John Hughes movie, where the popular guy dumps the beauty queen for the screwed-up girl who he then takes to the prom." Asked to describe the new album, Wilson said it's "perhaps a little bit more darker than the previous albums we have done – very orchestral, very big, sort of going for the 'more is more' approach."

Wilson said his band will also be making a few stage deviations for Spitsbergen Rock, although nothing they haven't had to do playing other northern places where the sun doesn't go down.

"The light show goes poorly," he said. "You have sort of a Spinal Tap moment where you have lights going off and nobody's seeing it."

The site of Saturday's outdoor marathon,

## Officials demand removal of wreckage

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The ship was carrying 30 cubic meters of fuel in four containers, at least two of which may have ruptured. Diesel spilled over an area up to three kilometers wide, but appears to have evaporated without significant damage to a seabird nesting population that reaches 500,000 annually. But the ship still contains about 700 liters of oil, which officials said could pose a serious risk to one of Europe's largest and most pristine reserves.

Norwegian Coastal Administration officials

## Spitsbergen Rock concert schedule

### June 11

- 9 p.m.: Open-stage jam with festival musicians at Svalbar.

### June 12

- 9 p.m.: Ingenting, hard rock band from Sandnes, at Svalbar.

- 10:30 p.m.: Nullskattesnylterne, punk 'n roll band from Namsos, at Barentz Pub.

- 11 p.m.: Figur Flint, bluegrass/punk band from Kristiansan, at Svalbar.

- Midnight: Luxus Leverpostei, comedy/rock band from Kvinesdal, at Barentz Pub.

### June 13

- 5:45 p.m.: Free bus from Svalbar to Endalen.

- 6 p.m.: Gates open at Endalen. Outdoor bar and grill serving seafood, sausages and burgers opens.

- 7 p.m.: Endalen concerts begin. Lineup:

- Figur Flint

- Schmeerenburgh (Longyearbyen rock band)

- Luxus Leverpostei

- Cyaneed (girls' punk band from Alta)

- Superfamily (Oslo rock band)

Concerts scheduled to end about 1 a.m.

- 7 p.m.: Youth concert by Cyaneed, Ungdomshuset.

### June 14

- 8 p.m.: Jam session and preview of next year's festival, Barentz Pub.

Admission is free to Thursday and Sunday concerts. All-day passes are 400 NOK for Friday, 500 NOK for Saturday and 700 NOK both days. Space is limited at Friday's shows. Passes may be purchased in advance at Svalbar and online at <http://www.spitsbergenrock.no>.

about 10 kilometers outside Longyearbyen at Mine 5, was selected "so you get the hard, rocky nature with the hard rock and roll," Roksoy said. That also was the hardest part of arranging the festival, since timing and permits had to ensure it wouldn't disturb collection of geological samples taking place at the site.

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

are demanding the ship's owner remove the wreckage, according to *Svalbardposten*. A ferry hired by a British salvage company left the mainland late last week to assess a scene that government officials say presents considerable geological and climate challenges.

"They must find a safe way to go on board the vessel and determine whether it is empty of oil, or if you can go in and clear it," Stig Nordås, a coastal administration official, told *Svalbardposten*. "But we can not risk life to get it done."



Longyearbyen residents perform a traditional Norwegian music act as part of a cultural exchange day in Barentsburg on May 23. Photo by Tove Seljevold.

## Hard times don't affect easy relations

**EXCHANGE, from page 1**

broader events dividing Norway and Russia, but that hasn't affected the friendly interaction between people sharing a largely common purpose of life on Spitsbergen.

"It is, in fact, a traditional event that started in the 1930s," said Anastasia Gorter, Russian advisor for the Svalbard governor's office.

There are usually four events during the year, including two cultural nights during the current exchange, Gorter said. Lots of energy is invested into hosting and competing, but there's little actual competition – sometimes the result of life's realities.

"We've won the last four times" because of damage caused by a prolonged underground mine fire in Barentsburg in 2006, said Håvard Overli, a member of the Longyearbyen soccer team. "The best players are the miners. They left for Russia and the Ukraine."

Olga Tsimbaljuk, Barentsburg's culture chief, acknowledged "a long time ago there were many more people here and we had much more possibilities for better players." But, speaking through Gorter as an interpreter, she said "now we can say it's more loose."

Barentsburg's population declined from 2,407 in 1990 to 470 in 2008, but with only 30 making the trip for this year's athletic events it's not like they're scraping together teams.

"We have our own competition to determine who comes here," Tsimbaljuk said.

The soccer match was followed by badminton, volleyball and basketball (a chess

competition was cancelled because Longyearbyen team members were at a competition on the mainland). Playing in the hall meant some rough impacts, but it was still a homecourt advantage for some Longyearbyen players compared to an uneven Barentsburg court one Norwegian said "is dusty, it's black, it's no good there."

Sixteen Russians are coming for Saturday's cultural show starting at 6:30 p.m. at Huset (tickets 100 NOK adults, 50 NOK students/seniors/children). Traditional Russian performances are planned, but Tsimbaljuk said that repertoire has expanded over time.

"Before it was mostly folk dance and music, but now we have some other activities like tango and cancan," she said.

Norwegian residents will literally play a part as the Longyearbyen Big Band is scheduled to perform with some of the visiting musicians. The locals will also host a dinner, complete with Norwegian beer and schnapps.

Also, Longyearbyen will make a final musical contribution in Barentsburg on Friday when the Polargospel children's choir performs with a mainland trombone quintet. A subsequent concert by the two groups is scheduled at 5 p.m. Sunday at Svalbard Church.

Barentsburg hosted its cultural night May 23, with 51 Longyearbyen residents making the trip by boat and helicopter. As many as 80 Norwegians expressed interest in performing.

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

## HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN

VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

### Landmark coal facility from 1960s to be demolished

A coal-processing plant that may be the only of its kind in the world will be demolished because it no longer has practical use, according to the Svalbard governor's office. Oppredningsverket ORV was built in the early 1960s, but the sorting and cleaning functions now take place at Mine 7. A lab at the building must be relocated before the facility is demolished. "We do not perceive that this has value as a cultural monument and will not start such a process," said Acting Environmental Chief Per Kyrre Reymert. "We want it to be removed as a pollution problem, not protected as cultural heritage."

### Spitsbergen Travel hopes tough year improves by end

Spitsbergen Travel's first-quarter revenues dropped from 39.7 million NOK last year to 28.3 million NOK this year, according to the company. It has a net loss this year of 800,000 NOK, compared to a 3.4 million NOK profit last year at this time. CEO Trygve Steen said no layoffs are planned at present, and believes the situation will stabilize and the company will show a profit by the end of the year. Other companies are also experiencing a tough season due to the global economic recession.

### Review of hunting rules sought by governor's office

Changes in traditional trapping activities and a lack of how to define the business of hunting are prompting the Svalbard governor's office to review the laws for such activities. The regulations were adopted many years ago and need to be updated to reflect current circumstances and environmental considerations, an official with the office said. Also, trapper and fisherman Hans Lund's application for a commercial reindeer hunting quota was denied by the governor's office because he does not meet trapping station requirements because he plans to spend winters on the mainland.

## Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

### Wednesday

Sunny, a stray afternoon flurry. N winds at 27 km/h. High -4C (-13C wind chill), low -14C (-13C wind chill).

### Thursday

Sunny and warmer. NNE winds at 22 km/h. High 2C (-3C wind chill), low -1C (-5C wind chill).

### Friday

Overcast, a few flurries. N winds 12 km/h. High 1C (0C wind chill), low -2C (-5C wind chill).

### Saturday

Cloudy, occasional snow, W winds at 4 km/h. High 0C (-3C wind chill), low -2C (-2C wind chill).

**Extended forecast:** Sunday, cloudy and flurries, 0C (0C), -2C (-2C); Monday, low clouds, a light morning flurry 0C (0C), -2C (-2C); Tuesday, cloudy, 0C (0C), -2C (-2C); Wednesday, cloudy, 1C (1C), -2C (-2C).

Data provided by [AccuWeather.com](http://AccuWeather.com)



Visitors from Longyearbyen eat a traditional Russian meal before a May 23 concert performance in Barentsburg. Sixteen Russians from the village will return the favor with a show at 7 p.m. Saturday at Huset. Photo by Tove Seljevold.

## A first-time gig in Barentsburg

*(The following is a journal by Tove Seljevold, a Longyearbyen folk singer pictured below, about participating in Barentsburg's cultural day May 23.)*

I arrived the Longyearbyen airport in the middle of the day to fly in the helicopter to Barentsburg. My first flight ever flight by helicopter. WOW!! That was fun – and it felt safe enough as well.

An old Russian bus was waiting for us at the airport at Barentsburg to take us to the center of the "town." What a bus. A solid thing with a special cabin for the driver and he was playing "Sting" on the CD player. Hmm....

When we arrived the culture house it was time for some lunch at the same "cafe" where the mine workers were eating. It was an amazing building: The walls in the hall and inside the "cafe" were decorated with old Russian historic paintings. That was wonderful.

We had a three-course meal. First we had some kind of fish with some raw vegetables, the second dish was a kind of meatball with risotto and the third dish was a kind of vegetable soup with some meat pieces. It was all very good, I think, because I know the Russians don't have that many different kinds of foods to prepare meals like we have here in Longyearbyen. And they gave us the best they had. The staff were so friendly and polite, and we were treated very well.

We had the sound check at 5:30 p.m. and the concert started at 6:30 p.m. It was half-filled with people, but it seemed like they enjoyed it very much. We got a lot of applauding for every artist and group that was on the stage.

I first sang "The Boxer" by Simon and Garfunkel. Later on I was singing "Those Were The Days." I took the last verses and chorus in the Russian language and that was

very, very popular. Hee, hee...I loved it too.

After the concert I was talking to two Russian people in the hall, just to ask them how important this kind of culture show is to them. One guy named Osib did not live there permanently, but was there only for one month at the time to prepare for the mining. This was his third year there and he also planned to come at the same time as this concert every year. For him it was very good to see the Norwegian culture show and he also told me that he thought it was very important to the people that lived there permanently because they do not have much entertainment happening there.

The thing about the Russian people is that very few of them can speak English because the old system in Russia doesn't allow them to learn foreign languages. Those few who can speak English have to pay for it themselves.

But I was lucky to have Anastasia (Gorter, the Russian advisor for the Svalbard governor's office) with us because she works as a translator, so she was translating while I was talking to a Russian lady named Svetlana who lives in Barentsburg permanently.

Svetlana told me also that this performance was very important for them to have and to share the culture show. They are coming to have their own show here at Longyearbyen next weekend. It makes bonds, it is connecting and means a whole lot to them. They were all very pleased and grateful for the show. I really hope that I will meet Svetlana next weekend. She was a beautiful person.

So to tell it shortly, Barentsburg made me personally very thoughtful and very grateful that I have such a good life where I live. I have everything what I need, but they don't. Still, under the circumstances, they live a better life there in Barentsburg than some places in Russia.

And I know that I have to go back there several times. Maybe I will give them a free concert just to please them...and maybe I have to start studying Russian language so I am able to talk to them all.

## What's up

### June 4

6 p.m.: Concert and exhibition. Kristin Løvold with The Art Museum Of Northern Norway presents "Skattekisten II," featuring 11 works of decorative art and design. The works are by leading Norwegian artists and international designers dating from 1844 to present. A cultural school concert will also be performed. Galleri Svalbard.

### June 5-7

Junior And Senior Fotball School featuring trainers from the mainland, Svalbardhallen. Sessions are from 5:30-8 p.m. June 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. June 6 and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. June 7. Entry fee 300 NOK and 100 NOK for additional siblings, payable at account 4750 11 43177 (include names of players). Fee includes lunch and some soccer items. Sign up at st-goelu@online.no.

### June 6

10 a.m.: Spitsbergen Marathon. Full, half and 10K races starting at Svalbardhallen. Registration and payment due by June 1.

Noon: Storytelling and balloons. Longyearbyen author Sigri Sandberg Meløy reads from his new book "Ballongmamma" ("Balloon Mamma") and hands out balloons. Longyearbyen library.

6:30 p.m.: Culture from Barentsburg, traditional events featuring participants from Russian settlement. Huset. Tickets 100 NOK adults, 50 NOK students/seniors/children.

### June 7

6 p.m.: Movie: "Disco-ormene," German animated children's film. Huset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Slumdog Millionaire," comedy/drama winner of eight Oscar awards including best film, ages 11 and up. Huset.

### June 8-12

Community disposal collection. Extra bins will be placed around Longyearbyen and the waste facility will be open until 6 p.m. each night.

### June 8-12

Longyear Day, featuring a walking tour and lecture. Tore Ørjasæter presents a briefing at 6 p.m. at Svalbard Church, where coffee and waffles will be served at 7:15 p.m.. A city walk is scheduled at 8 p.m. and at 9 p.m. Peter J. Brugmans discusses "100 years of coal operations" at UNIS. There is free admission from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Galleri Svalbard and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Svalbard Museum.