



The world's northernmost alternative newspaper

Vol. 7, Issue 24

June 30, 2015

www.icepeople.net



A 10,000-square-meter floating dock featuring office space, a marine research lab, and the ability to accommodate larger cruise ships and other vessels in Longyearbyen is depicted in an architectural illustration. City leaders say the new dock will help increase current non-mining industries and attract new ones. The current dock is considered too small for the increasingly large cruise ships arriving in Svalbard.

IMAGE COURTESY OF SNØHETTA

# Go USA... ...but go away China?

*Norway: Great if U.S. investors build new dock in Svalbard, bad if foreigner buys Austre Adventfjord*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

They're both huge potential investments in Svalbard by foreign entities. One is being hailed as a key element of Longyearbyen's

post-mining future. The other is seen as undesirable and a possible threat.

There are enormous differences in the two situations, but the opposing reactions within a week by a top Norwegian official reveal the

considerable economic, legal and political dilemmas Svalbard may face as it tries to expand and diversify its industries. Scenarios ranging from Longyearbyen losing up to half

**See FUTURE, page 3**

## 'Only' 17mm sea rise if ice melts

*15-year study establishes volume of Svalbard's glaciers, impact on global sea level if they all melt*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

Svalbard's glaciers aren't going to completely vanish anytime soon and even if they did the impact seems pretty small compared to the

apocalyptic predictions of what may be already happening due to melting in Antarctica.

The archipelago's estimated 6,700 cubic kilometers of ice would cause global sea levels to rise about 17 millimeters if they melted due to global warming, according to a study published in the *Journal of Glaciology* ([tinyurl.com/ocz66jc](http://tinyurl.com/ocz66jc)). While that's a drop in the bucket compared to the potential three meters of sea rise

**See MELT, page 4**



POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF MADRID

A researcher measure Svalbard's snow and ice depth using a series of GPS readings.

**Well-endowed walrus**  
  
This is our sexiest tabloid photo ever  
**Page 2**

**Collecting alms by app**  
  
One less excuse to skip church offering  
**Page 3**

**Svalbard facing a Ban**  
  
UN leader returning for climate visit  
**Page 4**

**Searching for aliens**  
  
Probe to find life on Mars gets icy test  
[icepeople.net](http://icepeople.net)

## Who's to blame and how to express your wrath

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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.

## Copyright stuff

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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.

## Definitely not the summer's hottest movie...



COURTESY OF RT

... But it's still got babes in bikinis, big guns, death-defying stunts and an ironic twist as soldiers, scientists, royalty and humble citizens (with lots of money) converge at the Barneo ice camp at 89 degrees latitude north this spring in "Arctic United," a documentary by the Russian TV network RT that is free to view or download ([tinyurl.com/pthocou](http://tinyurl.com/pthocou)). The 26-minute film (mostly in Russian with English subtitles and narration) captures the camp's setup, daily routines and activities ranging from polar dips to skydiving at the North Pole. And, no, "United" makes no mention of Dmitry's excellent adventure where he tells his troops the Russians deserve the area all to themselves.

## Icesheet

*Random bits of the week's weirdness:*

It's probably not obvious to the untrained human eye, but that massive wrinkled lump to the right is one of **the sexiest sea creatures on the planet – what would happen if you combined Lara Croft, Pamela Anderson and eight others of their protuberance** (or their male appendage equivalents). The sex stud was spotted among a herd of walrus in northern Svalbard by Swiss photographer Franco Banfi, who told the *Irish Mirror* ([tinyurl.com/pheurwd](http://tinyurl.com/pheurwd)) "I kept staring at his eyes – they look almost human like apart from the fact they are quite red in color." The lumps on the walrus, which Banfi estimated was more than three meters in length, are known as nodes, generally appear on certain blessed males during puberty and "are believed to be a secondary sex characteristic," according to the newspaper. We can't say we've had a mental image of walrus sex before, but since we're now afflicted with the disturbing vision of what a hormone-crazy beast like that might be capable we of course feel the need to pass it on ... One picture we refuse to publish no matter how sexy a certain subset of alleged humans might find it is **how Kim Kardashian would look if she were visiting Longyearbyen, according to a new app that supposedly matches her with the**



FRANCO BANFI

**In this case, size definitely matters:** We're guessing it's pretty tough to tell a perpetually aroused one-ton beast you've got a headache.

**perfect outfit for any location on Earth.** The digital media website Mashable tested the Kim.Guru app picks for various locations ([tinyurl.com/o9nvjg7](http://tinyurl.com/o9nvjg7)) and in Svalbard it "seems like Kim could get away with athletic tights and a high necked sweater ... Sneakers are also a good choice for not slipping over on all that permafrost." We're not sure the software is glitch-free, however, since the recommendation for the Arctic town of Nunavut, Iqaluit, is "a backless bodycon dress may work on a mid-summer day, but definitely not everyday. Also, it might be hard to outrun a polar bear in an outfit that streamlined."

## Be part of Longyearbyen's growing future!

Polar Permaculture has a vision to develop a resilient and healthy community while reducing our impact on the environment. Our team of experts are creating solutions for organic food growing, transformation of waste streams and engaging our community. Work is commencing on our greenhouse project now. Could you be part of the solution? We would love to hear from you.



## Polar Permaculture

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WIKICOMMONS

The Austre Adventfjord estate, including Operafjellet, is one of two privately-owned land parcels in Svalbard, but Norway says it intends to intervene if an attempt is made to sell it to foreigners.

## Is foreign investment a risk?

**FUTURE, from page 1**

of its roughly 2,100 residents if mining suddenly ends to the creation of up to 700 full-time jobs in new industries have been floated recently by officials and analysts.

Among the promising developments was an announcement last week that U.S. investors may spent several hundred million kroner for a new floating dock in Longyearbyen that would open the city up to new shipping and research activities. Mayor Christin Kristoffersen told NRK she met with the investors in Oslo and the dock could be a prototype for other northern areas such as Alaska, Canada and Greenland.

"It is interesting that the plan is generating international interest," she said.

The dock was among numerous potential future developments local political and business leaders discussed with Norwegian Minister of Trade, Industry and Fisheries Monica Mæland during a visit to Svalbard last week. She said Norway can't ignore private, foreign investors in the archipelago, according to NRK.

"I am saying that private investment is interesting," she said. "The Americans have big plans, big ambitions with a big project. Now we need to take a closer look at that, and we are aware that will take a legal process involving the Norwegian Coast Guard, Ministry of Transport and Communications, and the National Transport Plan."

The Ministry of Justice and Public Security would assess if such an investment would

pose any problems relating to Norway's sovereignty of Svalbard, but existing laws and regulations appear to ensure the government would retain firm control, Mæland said.

But she's far less enthusiastic about a different type of foreign investment, stating this week that Norway has the right – and would likely exercise it – to block the sale of one of two private land tracts in Svalbard to a foreign entity.

The 217-square-kilometer Austre Adventfjord tract across the fjord from Longyearbyen, representing 0.35 percent of Svalbard's total land area, was put up for sale early last year by a family in Bergen. Concerns were immediately voiced that a potentially hostile nation such as China or Russia could purchase it and expand its Arctic foothold, and news reports in subsequent months suggested a Chinese tycoon was close to a purchase agreement.

But Mæland, in an interview with *Svalbardposten*, said a clause attached to a mortgage agreement in the 1930s requires the Norwegian government's approval if the property is sold to a foreign entity. She has stated repeatedly since last year the property should remain under Norwegian ownership and the government is attempting to purchase it.

"It's naturally a little to be expected that when the government wants to purchase that we will not easily approve a sale to another," she said.

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

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

#### **LNSS taking over transport of coal from Mine 7 in Sept.**

LNS Spitsbergen will take over the transport of coal from Mine 7 to Longyearbyen's power plant and the coal pier at Hotellneset as of Sept. 1 under contract signed Tuesday with Store Norske. The mining company, which is now transporting the coal, will transfer all affected employees to operations inside the mine except for one worker who is retiring, said Administrative Director Wenche Ravlo. "When loading we use people from the mine," said Ronny-André Olsen, the mine's manager. "Then we have to stop production for two days and that represents 1,000 tons." The financial terms of the contract were not disclosed. The agreement was researched shortly after LNSS' parent company, Leonhard Nilsen & Sons, reported record earnings of 2.2 billion kroner in 2014, although its net profit of 7.4 million kroner was a decline from 62.4 million in 2013.

#### **Svalbard Church may be first to accept offerings via mobile**

Svalbard Church may be the first in Norway to accept offerings via mobile phone after implementing a new app in use by 70 percent of businesses in Longyearbyen. "We want to be future-oriented and give people the opportunity," said Deacon Torunn Sørensen, explaining why the church is using the app by Valyou, a company owned by DNB, SpareBank1 and Telenor. Few customers are using the app – which makes payments by holding a mobile device over the payment terminal – at the church and local businesses so far. But Viktoria Erngard, Valyou's general manager, said similar systems in countries such as England, France and Spain are fast gaining acceptance.

#### **Polish man dies of unknown causes during sailing trip**

A Polish man in his 40s died of unknown causes Friday aboard a sailboat at Bohemaneset northwest of Longyearbyen, according to The Governor of Svalbard. Police Chief Lt. Sidsel Svarstad said foul play is not suspected in the death. About 10 people were aboard the vessel and will be interviewed by investigators, and the man's body will be sent to Tromsø for an autopsy.

## Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly cloudy. NE winds to 39 km/h. High 6C (2C wind chill), low 5C (0C wind chill).	Rain. E winds to 39 km/h. High 7C (4C wind chill), low 5C (0C wind chill).	Partly cloudy. S winds to 22 km/h. High 7C (4C wind chill), low 6C (2C wind chill).	Partly cloudy. S winds to 18 km/h. High 6C (3C wind chill), low 6C (2C wind chill).
24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight
<b>Extended forecast:</b> Sunday, p. cloudy 7C (4C), 5C (1C), light 24:00h; Monday, p. cloudy, 8C (5C), 4C (1C), light 24:00h; Tuesday, p. cloudy, 9C (7C), 6C (2C), light 24:00h; Wednesday, p. cloudy, 11C (7C), 8C (5C), light 24:00h			

Data provided by storm.no

## A Ban that's welcome in Svalbard



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon greets dignitaries, scientists and the media outside the Svalbard Global Seed Vault during a three-day visit to the archipelago during the summer of 2009. He is scheduled to return to Svalbard July 7-8 as part of a three-day visit to Norway focusing on foreign policy and climate change issues. His trip to Svalbard will include a cruise aboard the *Lance* research vessel, a visit to Ny-Ålesund and a tour of the Svalbard Satellite Station to observe the effects of climate change as part of his preparations for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in December.

## Small rise may have big impact

### MELT, from page 1

some researchers say could happen if Antarctica's ice melts, it's more than oceans have risen during the past five years of rapid glacier melting globally.

"Svalbard glaciers, like those of other Arctic regions are among those who have been subjected to greater warming over the last century, so their decline has been quite pronounced, and the forecasts for future decades are pointing in the same vein," said Francisco Navarro, a Polytechnic University of Madrid

researcher who co-authored the study.

A team of international researchers has spent the past 15 years compiling a more accurate estimate of Svalbard's total volume of Svalbard's ice and the rate it is disappearing. Previous estimates ranged from 5,229 and 9,690 cubic kilometers, but the new estimate is considered accurate to within 835 cubic kilometers. The sea level impact is somewhat lower than the average of previous studies.

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

### SHORTLISTED FOR THE BAILEYS WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION

'AMBITIOUS,  
PROPULSIVE,  
ADDICTIVE,  
ASTONISHING'  
*New York Times*



'CHANGES THE  
WAY WE SEE  
OUR WORLD'  
*Sunday Times*



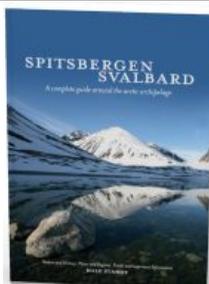
"This book does not only cover **comprehensive** information concerning all fields of possible interest, but is at the same time a photo book containing many color images to illustrate many wildlife and flower species and to document landscapes and places from all over the archipelago."

- Reader review

## THE complete guidebook by the complete guide



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## What's up

### July 2

12:15 p.m.: Lecture: "Polar Ecology Courses under the auspices of the Czech Arctic Research Infrastructure" by PhD candidate Jakub Ondruch. UNIS.

### July 5

7 p.m.: Movie: "Magic Mike XXL," U.S. comedy, all ages. Kulturhuset.

### July 12

7 p.m.: Movie: "Mandariner," Estonian/Georgian drama/crime, ages 11 and up. Kulturhuset.

### July 19

7 p.m.: Movie: "Ted 2," U.S. comedy, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

### July 26

7 p.m.: Movie: "Ant-Man," U.S. action/sci-fi, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 2

7 p.m.: Movie: "Mission: Impossible – Rouge Nation," U.S. action/thriller, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 9

7 p.m.: Movie: "Pixels" (3D), U.S. comedy/sci-fi, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 16

7 p.m.: Movie: "Trainwreck," U.S. comedy, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 22

5 p.m.: Movie: "Minions" (3D), U.S. animated/comedy dubbed in Norwegian. No age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

## 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:

- *Finns fear Russian nationals in army*
- *Coal gets big U.S. Supreme Court win*
- *Arctic Games: Finger Pull, Kick The Seal*
- *Cannibalism on 1845 Arctic expedition?*

**HELP!** (we need it too much to use a more clever headline)

What you spend on coffee in a week can provide a jolt from *Icepeople* for a year.

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