



# Bear kills teen, hurts 4

*Tripwire alarm fails in attack at field camp by starving animal; inquiries underway in U.K. and Norway*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

A 17-year-old United Kingdom resident was killed and three others severely injured Friday by a starving polar bear that attacked their tents at a field camp in Tempelfjorden.



**HORATIO CHAPPLE**

Officials and camp members said a tripwire alarm around the tents on the east side of Hampusfjellet failed, resulting in the bloody early morning struggle before the bear was fatally shot. The surviving victims received surgery for head injuries before returning to the U.K., where they are continuing hospitalized treatment.

The attack, the first bear-caused fatality since 1995, is being investigated by Norwegian and U.K. officials. Among the questions raised are if the group was sufficiently armed and if such encounters may become more common as traditional feeding areas for bears disappear due to climate change.

Horatio Chapple, 17, was killed during the struggle. Michael Reid, 29, who shot the bear,

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ARLID LYSSAN / SYSSELMANNEN

Rescuers move a polar bear that attacked a field camp Friday to a helicopter for further analysis.

# 1,500 at funeral for Buø in hometown

*Parents find comfort in son's memory, support from community after tragedy at Utøya*



By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

Johannes Buø was in the right place at the wrong time.

Those words from his father, Einar, resonated through a full crowd of about 1,500 people at Mandal Church who came Friday to pay their last respects to one of the youngest

victims of the July 22 shooting at the Utøya youth camp and bombing of an Oslo government building that killed 77 people.

The teen, who grew up in Mandal and lived in Longyearbyen for the past three years, called his parents immediately

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## It's all free as thrift store reopens

*Bruktikken, closed for several months after pipe breaks, gives away the goods with new policy*

By **MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

There's now no reason for even the poorest person to be complaining about the cost of clothes in Svalbard.

Wearables for all ages and occasions, along with plenty of other goods from books to electronics, are free for the taking two days a week at the reopened Bruktikken thrift store, which reopened today after being closed for

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MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Bruktikken, looking as rough as ever on the outside, reopens today with a decorative new interior paint job and no-charge policy for goods.

## 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.

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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.



JAAP VAN RIJCKEVORSEL



Johan van Breda and Maarten van der Duyn Schouten set off Aug. 3 from Longyearbyen to conquer the Topptrimmen course of 12 mountain summits, above. Times for scaling all of the peaks are being accepted by Topptrimmen this year until Sept. 25.

# Just a casual 20-hour triathlon

*Pair conquers 12 peaks near Longyearbyen to set time goal for mountainous ultra-challenge*

By MARK SABBATINI  
Editor

Climb one and it's a nice day hike. Climb all 12 in succession and it's what might be called a mini ultra-triathlon.

A benchmark time for what is being called the Topptrimmen course, scaling 12 summits near Longyearbyen, was set during the past weekend by Johan van Breda and Maarten van der Duyn Schouten. They completed about 50 kilometers of hiking, 50 kilometers of bicycling and six kilometers of kayaking in 19 hours and 51 minutes.

"We hope to start something, a little competition," said van Breda, a student at The University Centre in Svalbard.

Others have climbed the peaks in succession, including two locals who recorded a time of about 25 hours the previous weekend. Van Breda said he and Schouten, after some calculations, set a 20-hour goal.

"Some bits we just walked at a high, steady pace," he said. "You're not running up the mountain. You can't do that for 20 hours."

The summits total 5,600 meters of climbing, but since some can be scaled without returning to sea level the estimated vertical rise of the course is between 4,100 and 4,400 meters.

Also, van Breda said the duo tried to establish a course others can approximate by setting off in town from the house of a friend, Jaap van Rijckevorsel. They returned there intermittently between peaks for food and rest.

Van Breda said he doesn't have any racing experience on mountain or triathlon courses, and hadn't even climbed all of the peaks before. But he said he and Schouten – who was visiting Svalbard while crewing on a Dutch sailing yacht – are in good shape and others who are fit should be able to handle the course.

The weather was decent for most of the marathon trek, although high winds and rain slowed their progress during the final 90 minutes, van Breda said. There were no encounters with polar bears or other unexpected problems.

A Facebook page for recording times on the course and other notes is at [www.facebook.com/topptrimmen](http://www.facebook.com/topptrimmen).

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

## Icesheet

*Random bits of the week's weirdness:*

A prediction: Get ready to see our sea monsters and seed vault zombies go into hibernation for a while as Svalbard's perception of a freaky apocalyptic place to the outside world becomes based on our rampaging polar bears. We still get media inquires about last summer's beach-dragging of a kayaker (look for the *Reader's Digest* "special story" soon, for instance), and toss in some encounters during the past winter with last week's tragedy and you have that dreaded thing known as a trend ... We offered some indirect kudos, mostly in the form of a well-deserved smack at helicopter parents in the U.S. and elsewhere, a few weeks back to the recently repaired skateboard ramp in the center of town. We noted a platform is now elevating and leveling it, yet kids under 5 are still playing on it without fear, foam suits

or even adult supervision. Well, seems the powers-that-be aren't totally carefree. There's now an A3-size sign on it that, in small plain letters, basically says you're having fun at your own risk. Of course, we can just hear the 'copter parents whining that their precious snowflakes are too young to read (or unable to comprehend due to those "indoctrinating" U.S. public schools) ... While we're on lunatic watch, much as we hate to print a word about the following idiots, we can't help wondering who most deserves an extended visit to Room 101: The people comparing the Utøya victims to Nazi youth or the ones offering congratulations to the polar bear that attacked the British students. Also, getting attacked, of course, are scientists for daring to suggest the bear's presence was due to climate change, even if such problems have been predicted for years.



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Nikalas Bradenmark, center, tries on what he calls a "formal" sweater during Bruktikken's reopening today as Sabine Rumpf, right, puts clothes out on display at the secondhand store.

## Thrift store now the freebie store

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several months due to a ruptured water pipe. The tiny hut on the edge of Longyearbyen's town square historically charged a negotiable pittance for the secondhand wares overflowing its shelves, but now it's all *gratis*.

"It only opened up an hour ago, but it's been very crowded," said Sabine Rumpf, a store employee folding huge bags of newly arrived clothing.

"There was a snowboard and a laptop," she said. "They went right out the door."

Among the early shoppers was Nikalas Bradenmark, a student at The University Centre in Svalbard, who found a hot-pink, blue and green sweater in the piles he said would be ideal "formal" wear – once he

learned it was free.

"I will definitely wear it," he said.

Bruktikken's inventory – drop-offs from donors and too-good-to-trash items spotted by workers at the city's waste facility – continues to be dominated by clothes. Books in Norwegian and English mostly fill one bookcase, while VCR tapes, mostly outdated software and music occupy most of another. There's also a scattering of household wares, decorations and recreational gear.

The all-free policy is because there's too many things for the tiny store to keep up with and "we don't want to throw it away," Rumpf said. Bydrift, the city's municipal waste agency, pays the store's expenses.

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

## Hotel slump continues into summer

By MARK SABBATINI  
Editor

Overnight stays in Longyearbyen hotels and other lodging dropped 10.7 percent in June compared with a year ago, with foreign and vacation travelers mostly responsible as each category dropped about 17 percent.

The drop occurred despite an increase in the number of hotel beds the city has available, according to a report released last week by

Statistics Norway. About 53 percent of rooms and 38 percent of beds were occupied during the month.

Tourism has been in a slump for more than two years due largely to the global recession, but some tourism operators were hopeful for a recover when hotel stays showed an increase during the early months of this year.

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

## HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

### Store Norske OKs settlement with company for termination

Store Norske and Kristian Jebsens Rederi have agreed to a settlement after the mining company terminated a contract for a Jebsens subsidiary to barge coal from Svea. The terminations occurred last year after audits revealed above-market contracts that resulted in criminal corruption charges. Jebsens challenged the decision, accusing Store Norske of extortion. Terms of the settlements, negotiated during the past two weeks, were not specified.

### Seadrill Norway, called a tax haven in Svalbard, dissolves

Svalbard's largest taxpayer, Seadrill Norway, has dissolved in the wake of efforts by Norway's Ministry of Finance to change rules allowing businesses to use the archipelago as a tax haven. The company reported 700 million kroner in revenue and paid 115 million in taxes in 2009 despite having only one or two employees since moving to the area in 2008. The Svalbard employees did accounting and invoice work related to Seadrill's offshore oil rig activity on the mainland. Designating their headquarters in Svalbard allowed them to pay a corporate tax of 16 percent instead of 28 percent. The ministry's proposed change would require companies not meeting specific employment and other requirements to pay the mainland rate. Seadrill Norway's parent company, Seadrill Ltd., owns 50 rigs worldwide.

### Svalbardposten in Russian debuts in fall in Barentsburg

A Russian translation of *Svalbardposten* will be distributed in Barentsburg beginning this month. "It strengthens the relationship between the Norwegian and Russian society," said Editor Birger Amundsen. The edition will be published in partnership with the Russian state-owned mining company Trust Arktikugol, which oversees the settlement and approached the newspaper two years ago about a translated version. Natalia Sjmatova, a journalist and interpreter with Trust Arktikugol, will translate selected articles of interest to Russian residents from editions published this summer to appear in the first new edition Aug. 21, the trust's 80th birthday.

## Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cloudy. NW winds to 7 km/h. High 4C (2C wind chill), low 2C (2C wind chill).	Snow. W winds to 22 km/h. High 1C (-2C wind chill), low -1C (-7C wind chill).	Snow and rain. S winds at 11 km/h. High 1C (-3C wind chill), low 0C (-4C wind chill).	Rain. SW winds to 15 km/h. High 2C (-2C wind chill), low 1C (-2C wind chill).
Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light	Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light	Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light	Sunrise/sunset: 24-hour light
<b>Extended forecast:</b> Sunday, rain, 2C (-1C), 1C (-2C), light 24:00h; Monday, occasional rain, 2C (0C), 1C (-2C), light 24:00h; Tuesday, cloudy, 2C (-1C), 0C (-2C), light 24:00h; Wednesday, occasional rain, 3C (0C), 0C (-2C), light 24:00h.			
Data provided by yr.no			



THOMAS LYSGAARD



SYSSELAMMEN

Rescuers, left, carry one of the victims of a polar bear attack Friday from a helicopter to an ambulance near Longyearbyen Hospital. At right, the bear is examined by officials with the Svalbard governor's office, who said the animal had an empty stomach and was severely underweight.

## Officials: Attacking bear starving

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Andrew Ruck, 29, another camp leader, and student participants Scott Bennell-Smith, 17, and Patrick Flinders, 16, were injured.

All were part of a 13-member group from the British Schools Exploring Society, which has brought summer expeditions to Svalbard for student research for 40 years. The group was one of seven from the society that were, according to the organization, "undertaking a long-term project to study glaciers and document changes since previous expeditions as part of ongoing scientific research into climate change."

The group was scheduled to remain until Aug. 28 and had set up camp at the glacier site Thursday about 40 kilometers from Longyearbyen.

The attack at about 7:30 a.m. Friday was by a bear which, at 250 kilograms, was described by officials as severely underweight with an empty stomach. Scientists have said the vanishing Arctic ice sheet is depriving bears of traditional feeding areas and forcing them into places humans may be, and that was likely to case in this incident.

"Normally, they stay away from people, but when they are hungry they will be desperate," said Jon Aars, a researcher at the Norwegian Polar Institute, in an interview with NRK.

Chapple, a student at Britain's Eton College, was fatally mauled when the bear attacked his tent. Flinders, who was also in the tent, sustained serious injuries to the head and elsewhere, but punched the bear on the

nose and used his rifle "like a baseball bat" to fight off the bear, his father, Terry, told *The Telegraph* of London.

Reed tried to shoot the bear as it attacked the tent, but the rifle failed to fire and he was also severely wounded as the animal attacked in response, according to the Svalbard governor's office. Ruck tried to shoot a flare at the bear, which also failed.

The bear resumed its attack on the tent and then chased a third youth that was fleeing, at which point Reed was able to pick a round of ammunition off the ground, reload the rifle and successfully shoot the bear.

The governor's office is investigating the incident and the society has stated it will "leave no stone unturned" in its own probe. The organization said it intends to continue the expeditions to Svalbard.

Five people have been killed by polar bears in Svalbard since 1973, when they became a protected species. There have been numerous non-fatal encounters, however, including an attack on two kayakers last summer, one of whom was dragged across a beach by a bear before the animal was shot by the other kayaker.

Experts interviewed by NRK said they do not expect the incident to affect Svalbard's tourism.

"This also gives Svalbard some attention as a place that is filled with excitement and is a bit unusual, says Arild Creek," a professor of tourism at the University of Tromsø.

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

## Parents find some comfort after tragedy

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after the bombing to make sure they were OK, his father said. A short time later the teen became a victim himself, although he was officially classified as "missing" for five days while friends and family prayed for a miracle.

"We know that he died instantly and that he was shot in flight," Einar Buø said. "We found comfort in that."

The elder Buø said comfort has also come from the professional and widespread support they have received.

"We could not have had better follow-up after the disaster occurred," he said.

Numerous dignitaries and national officials attended the service, including State Secretary Astrid Aas Hansen.

A second Longyearbyen youth, Viljar Hanssen, 18, is recovering from serious head and neck wounds sustained in the shooting. Three other Longyearbyen teens at the camp were not injured.

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

## What's up

### Aug. 14

8 p.m.: Movie: "Bridesmaid," U.S. comedy, all ages. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 15-21

Swimming pool and sports hall at Svalbardhallen closed for maintenance. Gym access and spinning classes are continuing during normal hours.

### 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. 23

6 p.m.: Movie: "Knerten i Knipe," Norwegian children's, no age limit determined. Kulturhuset.

## What's online

[Icepeople.net](http://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:

- 'Warm' scuba diving trip to Svalbard
- Japan quake broke off huge ice shelf
- Canada 'too small' for Arctic shipping?
- New 'orange goo' becomes Arctic mystery