



A second of eternity

Memories, lingering problems come flooding back for survivors of Utøya tragedy two years later

By **MARK SABBATINI**
Editor

There's no announced memorial gathering locally. Almost none of the area's youths and their families are returning to a private reunion at the site of the tragedy. The events of that historic day no longer dominate the nation's attention, as even the wounded survivors say they don't want to be fixating on them.

But on the second anniversary of the attacks at the Utøya youth camp and a government building in Oslo that killed 77 people, many are still trying to cope with the struggles and drastic changes. And some say not enough is being done to help.

Five Longyearbyen youths were at Utøya during the mass shooting by Anders Behring Breivik that killed 69 people. Johannes Buø, 14, was among the youngest victims while Viljar Hanssen, now 19, was hospitalized for months

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LINDHARDT AND RINGHOF

A couple gathers at a memorial site across from Utøya, where 69 people were killed two years in a mass shooting during a youth camp there. This photo is from the new book "The Year Without Summer," featuring stories about victims including Johannes Buø, 14, of Longyearbyen.

'Totally unacceptable' mine safety

Two Barentsburg deaths in three months reveals severe 'lack of safety culture,' Labor audit finds

By **MARK SABBATINI**
Editor

A series of accidents, including two deaths, in Barentsburg's coal mine during the past year is due to numerous safety flaws that management is reluctant to address, according

to an audit by Norway's Labor Inspectorate.

The agency is ordering the mine to remain closed until problems that violate both Norwegian and Russian labor laws are remedied. Operations were halted June 20 when a 27-year-old Ukrainian man was caught in an avalanche in a ventilation shaft about 400 meters below the surface.

It was the second fatality in three months at the mine, and the Inspectorate's audit concludes the deaths and other accidents were

caused by "personal flaws and violations of Russian legislation."

"The Labor Inspectorate has further clear evidence that this lack of safety culture also makes itself felt among people in the top echelons of Barentsburg," the audit notes. "This we consider as very serious and totally unacceptable."

The mine, for example, is exposed to significant horizontal and vertical rock stresses,

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Grenade find closes ridge

Five mortar-type shells, possibly from WWII, discovered by hikers; military planning weekend survey

By **MARK SABBATINI**
Editor

A ridge between Adventtoppen and Hiorthfjellet is closed until further notice after five grenades were found last Wednesday by participants of a guide hike.

The grenades are likely from World War II, according to a statement from Svalbard

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SYSSELMANNEN

A ridge between Adventtoppen and Hiorthfjellet, circled in red, is closed indefinitely after five grenades were found by a hiking group.

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.

Crash here, get the boot



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

A Bulgarian woman in her 40s with little money and no luck finding a job was sent home from Svalbard early Saturday after people saw her resting in the boot room of Guesthouse 102 early Thursday evening and contacted the governor's office. The woman, who arrived early in the week and was staying at the lodge on a day-to-day basis, spoke poor English and officials had difficulty communicating with her until they contacted the Bulgarian Embassy in Oslo for an interpreter to assist by phone. There have been several recent cases of people being sent home due to an inability to support themselves, including incidents where people tried to sleep in the post office building and the common area of a dorm at The University Centre in Svalbard.

Icesheet

Random bits of the week's weirdness:

Much as we lament every journalist writing the same article when they visit Svalbard ("Polar bears! Mandatory guns! Climate change!"), we're uncertain if a rare deviation by a cyber scribe is an improvement. **A roundup of useful travel apps lists Plants vs. Zombies as the top pick during a cruise in Svalbard**, according to Steve Sande of The Unofficial Apple Weblog. The natural reaction, of course, is to be confounded by the notion that's the best use of his professional observation skills, but upon reflection it may represent profound insight. Plenty of folks insist zombies have taken up residence in the vault (not sure if they're co-existing with or assimilated the mad scientists) and it's not like anyone's counted each of those millions of seeds lately to make sure they're still in their original deposit boxes. So instead of selfishly savoring the sights of the pristine Arctic, perhaps he's engaging in militia training for when the revolution comes. Or maybe not, since his choice of an actual travel app is the free WunderMap from the Weather Underground, calling it perfect if you "want to know if you're going to be freezing your tush off in Longyearbyen." Dude, you shouldn't need a smartphone to notice it's July and we're locked in a two-month heat wave that's showing no end in sight ... Those preferring to not to spend their holiday on a ship full of pixel pushers may take comfort in knowing **Norwegian Air is reporting a 25 percent increase in second-quarter revenue compared to last year, despite delays in getting those defective Boeing 787 Dreamliners that somehow stress-tested well at Svalbard Airport**. That means



POPCAP GAMES

It's a primer about the Doomsday Vault. Really. Forget the official propaganda about frozen seeds in a sterile warehouse. This is what's happening when the humans are absent – which is pretty much all of the time.

they're probably less likely to abruptly cut-and-run after a few months of flying here as they've done twice previously, especially since they've done well since resuming service in March. The mild cautionary note is the increase is due to high demand for flights from Norway to places like Bangkok and New York, but they're losing out on the shorter stuff to Scandinavian Airlines, whose passenger growth at Oslo's airport was four times that of Norwegian's ... Finally, in this week's Cold War II update, news of U.S. President Obama's just released-strategic plan ("America needs an enemy in the Arctic," summarizes one military analyst) was followed shortly afterward with the announcement **the CIA is funding a 21-month study to see if geoengineering can alter Earth's environment and climate**. Because nobody would suspect spies of anything but good intentions.



TROND OLSEN / SYSSELMANNEN

A ventilation shaft about 400 meters deep inside Barentsburg's coal mine is photographed by an inspector with the Svalbard governor's office a day after the June 20 death of a worker caught in an avalanche there. The mine remains closed for what may be an extended time due to safety concerns.

Deaths don't affect Russia's plans

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and "it is unclear to us the extent to which the company is really in control of these rock stresses in a sufficient and fully satisfactory degree."

"In summary, we have evidence that Trust Arkikugol so far has not been able to operate this mine in an adequate preventive systematic way with respect to health, safety, and security for workers, which the labor law requires."

The mine, operated by the Russian state-owned company, was shut down in 2008 for more than two years after a fire resulted in the deaths of three people. Its reopening was hailed by Russian officials as a key element in reversing a lengthy and sharp downward slide

in Barentsburg's economy.

Plans to continue aggressive efforts are still being voiced by Russian officials despite the scathing audit. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich visited top Svalbard and Barentsburg officials July 9 as part of a government commission meeting about Russia's presence in Svalbard.

In a prepared statement, he said there is an emphasis on "specific measures to ensure the rights and interests of Russia and its citizens and organizations." Mining, tourism, scientific research and commercial fishing are among the major planned activities.

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

Discovered explosives likely from WWII

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Gov. Odd Olsen Ingerø. The explosives resemble mortar-type shells, which are larger than conventional hand grenades.

The ban applies to a 100-meter radius from GPS point 78°15.82'N and 15°45.488'E, but "the extent of the discovery is somewhat uncertain, and caution should therefore be taken to traveling in adjacent areas," the

governor's statement notes.

"The Armed Forces are expected over the weekend," said Jon Starheimsæther, a police lieutenant for the governor's office, in an interview with *Svalbardposten*. "The site is still blocked and we will come back with more information when it changes."

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

HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN

VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

Company loses appeals court round in illegal fishing case

A German shipping company's challenge of a 15,000-kroner fine for illegal fishing in Svalbard has been rejected by the Hålogaland Court of Appeal. The dispute involving Deutsche Fischfang Union, expected to reach Norway's Supreme Court due to its implications for interpreting the Svalbard Treaty, focuses on the detention of a trawler in a protected zone near Hopen last September. The treaty declares all citizens of signatory nations have equal hunting and fishing rights, and the company claims Norway is exceeding its authority in establishing the protection zones. The complaint has been echoed by other countries – most notably Russia – which have vessels that have been detained. Norwegian officials argue the treaty also states the government maintains sovereignty over Svalbard, making the zones legitimate.

More salmon being caught in Svalbard – but from where?

Svalbard is hardly a salmon paradise, but anglers have caught a significant number in recent years and researchers are now attempting to discover where the fish are coming from. The Norwegian Institute for Nature Research plans to place a keyway at Sjøområdet in Adventfjorden for two months beginning in early August. Genetic samples will be compared to those from salmon caught in 180 rivers in northern Norway and the Russian border region, said Martin Svenning, the project's manager. Despite the increased presence, he said he doesn't believe salmon will establish a permanent habitat in Svalbard because riverbeds are dry in the fall.

'Light' tourism information center debuts at airport

A "tourist information light" desk to assist arriving travelers has been established at Svalbard Airport. "We saw that there was a need for better information for tourists who arrive by air," said Doreen Lampe, manager of Arctic Autorent, which operates the center with Svalbard Tourism and Avinor. "We sit at the airport and get a lot of questions. For example, they wonder where the shuttle bus runs from the hotel where they are located."

Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly cloudy. W winds to 29 km/h. High 9C (7C wind chill), low 6C (3C wind chill).	Cloudy. Variable winds to 15 km/h. High 10C (8C wind chill), low 7C (5C wind chill).	Cloudy. Variable winds to 15 km/h. High 7C (5C wind chill), low 6C (4C wind chill).	Cloudy. E winds to 25 km/h. High 7C (4C wind chill), low 6C (3C wind chill).
24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight
Extended forecast: Sunday, cloudy, 7C (6C), 6C (4C), light 24:00h; Monday, cloudy, 7C (4C), 6C (3C), light 24:00h; Tuesday, cloudy, 6C (4C), 5C (2C), light 24:00h; Wednesday, cloudy, 6C (3C), 5C (2C), light 24:00h			
Data provided by storm.no			



CURT RICE



PRIVATE

Viljar Hanssen, 19, left, accepts congratulations at his graduation ceremony at Kongsbakken high school June 20. At right, Johannes Buø, 14, was one of the youngest victims at Utøya two years ago.

Two years later, some pains linger

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with life-threatening injuries after being shot five times.

Hanssen's mother, Christin Kristoffersen, who is Longyearbyen's mayor, plans to gather with other local officials briefly Monday at Svalbard Church, where a memorial sculpture for Buø was placed last fall. Buø's parents, Einar and Laila, will be among those attending a private memorial at Utøya with Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg.

Efforts to document the impacts of that fateful day are continuing, including the new book "The Year Without Summer" by Erika Fatland that features a chapter about Buø and his family. The author visited his parents in

Longyearbyen in December of 2011 to capture their feelings and memories

"I can lie down and doze on the couch, and when I wake up, I think that it is not true," his mother said. "Every cell in the body resists the idea that Johannes is dead."

Forty percent of the youths at Utøya and 30 percent of their parents are still struggling to cope with the tragedy, according to surveys by the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies. But Ingeborg Larsen, head of the support group for Troms, Finnmark and Svalbard, told NRK there has been "very inadequate follow-up" for many victims.

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

'Could not get wings fast enough'

The following is an excerpt of Erika Fatland's book "The Year Without Summer" from a chapter about Johannes Buø, who lived in Longyearbyen for three years before becoming one of the youngest victims of the Utøya tragedy.

"So all the best!" So said the 14-year and he strolled cool towards the gate with the iPod in the ears and sunglasses on his head. He raised his hand in farewell, already with his back against the father. It was not the first time he was traveling alone – he had already been on youth camp in Brazil and in Germany without parents. Some months previously he had joined the AUF without saying anything at home, and now he had his first Utøya camp.

Einar stood and waited for the plane disappearance into the thin layer of clouds. This is how you do as a parent, even though the children were never so big and independent. In the evening, Laila sent a text message to Johannes, to assure himself that all was well. Fourteen hours later came the answer: "Yes, things are advancing and well, will most likely not pick up the phone due to power shortage, activity, party or lack of sleep. Sincerely, Johannes. P.S. must provide notice of damage when you come."

"And it was perfectly fine," says Laila.



"That was how we wanted it. We would give our children wings. "

Johannes was the kind of child who could not get wings fast enough. As he grew older, he began to pester their parents to be allowed to be home alone. He thought he was big enough for it. In order to comply with his desire his mother rolled Elias around the neighborhood, so the four-year-old was allowed to be home alone a very short while. Johannes was overjoyed. The first time he was allowed to walk home from school alone, he joyfully through the door and immediately began to talk about how he saw the newfound freedom: "So I went there on the wall alone, mother, and then I thought: Now is it just me who decides on me. "

Two days after the text message they heard from Johannes again. It was Friday, July 22, at eight minutes past five in the afternoon."

"All is well with us, we have it good here at Utøya," he dutifully on the phone. They were all invited to call home to reassure parents after what had happened in Oslo. "Coming home on Sunday as planned," he added, before he said hello and hung up.

Seven minutes later, at 17:15, a fake police officer went ashore on the island. Twenty-seven minutes after, at 17:42, Johannes was shot and killed.

What's up

July 21

11 a.m.: Mass. Svalbard Church.

8 p.m.: Movie: "World War Z," U.S. action/drama, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

July 23

7 p.m.: Evening Mass and social gathering. Svalbard Church.

July 28

6 p.m.: Evening Mass. Svalbard Church.

8 p.m.: Movie: "The Wolverine," U.S. action/sci-fi, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

July 30

7 p.m.: Evening Mass and social gathering. Svalbard Church.

Aug. 4

11 a.m.: Mass. Svalbard Church.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Pornopung," Norwegian drama/comedy, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

Aug. 6

7 p.m.: Evening Mass and social gathering. Svalbard Church.

Aug. 11

11 a.m.: Mass, with return of regular Priest Leif Magne Helgesen. Svalbard Church.

8 p.m.: Movie: "R.I.P.D.," U.S. action/comedy, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

Aug. 13

7 p.m.: Evening Mass and social gathering. Svalbard Church.

Aug. 18

6 p.m.: Movie: "Ernest and Celestine," French animated film dubbed in Norwegian, all ages. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Percey Jackson: Sea of Monsters" (3D), U.S. action/adventure, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

Aug. 19

2 p.m.: Environmental and Industrial Committee 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:

- *How to fast for Ramadan in Tromsø*
- *Why farmers don't buy climate change*
- *Reincarnated Jesus' secret Siberian sect*
- *The art of getting drunk in Antarctica*