



# 'July 22 every day'

*A year later, attacks' victims and families face a life where the loss is 'just as intense tomorrow'*

**By MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

It's a day to be forgotten, yet always remembered.

Memorial gatherings Sunday in Longyearbyen and elsewhere throughout Norway on the one-year anniversary of the attacks in Oslo and the Utøya youth camp emphasized the victims will always be remembered. But Viljar Hanssen, 18, a Longyearbyen resident who suffered life-threatening gunshot wounds at Utøya, said that's a curse as well as a blessing.

"We victims live with what happened on July 22 every day," he told NRK at a Utøya memorial service, in remarks featured in the news wire article about the anniversary published most frequently worldwide. "Families of the victims live with July 22 every day."

"The absence of those taken from us will be just as intense tomorrow," Hanssen said. "Whether the calendar says it's April 20 or July

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MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Teens at Longyearbyen's youth center watch a memorial concert Sunday for the victims and survivors of the July 22, 2011, attacks in Oslo and at the Utøya youth camp that killed one local peer and critically injured another. Most local leaders, family members and friends of the victims, and youths involved with the political organization meeting at the camp, were at events on the mainland.

## Youths wait long for help in north

*No timely therapy in 40 percent of cases; 10 percent elsewhere*

**By MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

When platitudes like "get over it" and "it gets better" aren't enough to heal the pain, it can take a long time for youths in Svalbard to get help.

Mental health services for children and teens is not available in a properly timely manner 40 percent of the time in northern Norway, according to a survey conducted this year by Norway's Board of Health. Time-limit violations occurred in 10 percent of cases elsewhere in the country.

"We treat more children percentagewise than the rest of the country," said Trude Grøn-

lund, acting head of Health North, in an interview with NRK. "At the same time, we also have fewer specialists such as school psychologists and (pedagogical-psychological) service that makes the wait longer."

The situation can be even more difficult for youths struggling in Longyearbyen. Counseling has been occasionally available from a

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## Bearly showing their age

*Study: Polar bears originated far earlier than thought, bred with brown bears during warm times*

**By MARK SABBATINI**  
Editor

Five million years old?! We thought you looked barely a day over 600,000.

Polar bears originated as a species far earlier than thought, according to a new international study also providing clues about how their evolution has been affected by climate

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ØYSTEIN WIIG / UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

A researcher placing tracking tags on polar bears in Spitsbergen fires a flare gun to scare away a third approaching bear.

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

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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.



NOWHEREISLAND.ORG

Visitors examine the prospects of becoming a citizen of Nowhereisland, a big pile of rocks and dirt hauled by ship from Svalbard, at the island's mobile "embassy" in Weymouth this week. The art project is touring the United Kingdom this summer before before returned to Svalbard this fall.

## No medals for Nowhereisland

*Rock pile from Svalbard gaining citizens, if not victories, as it tours U.K. during the Olympics*

By MARK SABBATINI

Editor

The rest of the Olympics are already a circus, so who are we to judge the local arrival?

Nowhereisland is now making its tour of the United Kingdom as the Games begin in London this week. While the art project has been much ridiculed, especially for its high cost, the giant pile of barren rocks and dirt

from Svalbard might actually look like a sanctuary after inhabiting the Olympic Village where the only brand of food is McDonald's.

Instead, those visiting the Games are offered a chance to become citizens of Nowhereisland, although artist Alex Hartley is the only one permitted to inhabit the project he originated. The rock pile is on a barge – which will bring the debris back to Svalbard – so potential citizens are signing up at a van serving as a mobile "embassy" and at the project's homepage at [www.nowhereisland.org](http://www.nowhereisland.org).

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

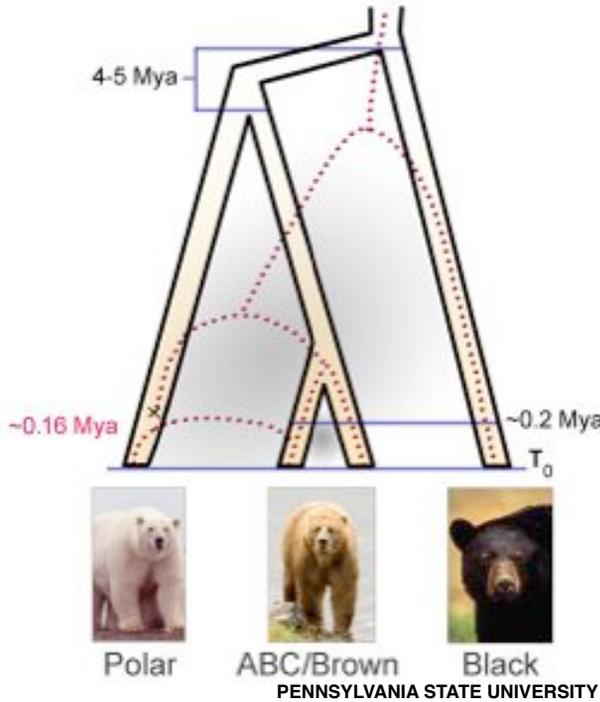
## Icesheet

*Random bits of the week's weirdness:*

We occasionally rant (in this disreputable space only) about "junk science" criers who blow off incredibly complex climate research they don't like and/or don't understand. But a recent TV2 item about the **upgrades to Ny-Ålesund's observatory** reminds us how incredibly knowledgeable those "huckster" researchers are. Observers can already measure the distance from the station to Hawaii to the centimeter, but that's too imprecise to suit them. So the upgrade will enhance that precision to the millimeter. The reason? So they can measure where the ocean hits land, thus observing the rise of sea level due to climate change to a far more exact degree. Of course, TV2 notes, this also means you need a clock to tell time and the observatory's is "reasonably accurate," straying by a second every 10-20 million years. Of course, mention this to the skeptics and they'll have a field day rebutting with that polar bear study on our front page, since it turns out those genius scientists who

thought the species originated 600,000 years ago were only off by about four million years. (What percentage is that? Oh, we forgot: "Math is hard.") ... We also rant a lot about Greenpeace's more ludicrous PR stunts and sabotaging, since they seem more likely to make the undecided roll their eyes than join the climate change cause. But their current effort picked up some serious cred this week as **Paul McCartney's joined their Save The Arctic campaign**, whose members are currently helping researchers map sea ice in Svalbard. McCartney, true to his time, refers to 1968 in his announcement, touting it as a time of revolution and change. The singer noted a hallmark of that year was the mission to the moon where William Anders took a photo of the Earth rising over the moon, which "changed the way humans viewed the world and ushered in an environmental era." Much of the sea ice in that photo has disappeared today and oil companies are looking to exploit those areas as a result, he said.

A graph depicting the nuclear genomes of bears (black outline) suggests polar bears evolved from brown bears four million to five million years ago, instead of 600,000 years as suggested in recent research. A newly released international study also shows occasional exchanges of genes between the two species (shaded gray areas) followed. Results from maternally inherited mitochondrial DNA (dotted line) indicates extinction (marked with an "X") and replacement of polar bear mitochondrial DNA around 160,000 years ago due to interbreeding between the two species. Researchers involved with the new study say that, while polar bears survived previous drastic warming periods, their current lack of genetic diversity and heavy loss of sea ice does not ensure they will in the future.



## Bears less able to survive warming

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change and interbreeding with brown bears.

The study, involving researchers from 13 institutions including The University Centre in Svalbard, concludes polar bears originated much earlier than the 600,000 years suggested in another recent study. The earlier study, however, was based on smaller segments of the polar bear genome.

The size of polar bears has varied with climatic changes during the past four million to five million years, increasing during cold periods and decreasing during warm periods, the study finds. Their existence for such a long period also shows they have survived periods of significant shifts in climate, but researchers involved in the study say that's not a certainty with the current warming period.

"The results of the survey show that there definitely were polar bears during warmer climate periods," said Øystein Wiig, a professor at the Natural History Museum at the University of Oslo, in a prepared statement. "However, this does not automatically mean that the polar bear is going to withstand the warm periods in the future. The polar bear is, and will be, depending on the presence of sea ice somewhere in the Arctic."

Also, polar bears have lost so much of their genetic variation and population during lower-population prehistoric times they may be

more vulnerable to future reductions in population, said Lutz Bachmann, a professor of molecular systematics at the museum.

A 115,000-year-old polar bear jawbone discovered in Svalbard, belonging to an extinct sister species, suggests the area may have been one of several refuges for bears during low-ice periods.

DNA from the jawbone also helped reveal the interbreeding links with brown bears.

"We generated a first-rate set of data, including deep sequence coverage for the entire genomes of a polar bear, three brown bears and a black bear, plus lower coverage of 23 additional polar bears," said Stephan Schuster, a professor in biochemistry and molecular biology at Pennsylvania State University.

Polar bears, while evolving as a separate species millions of years ago, continued to interbreed with brown bears long afterward, said Charlotte Lindqvist, the project's manager and an assistant professor of biology at the University of Buffalo.

"It can be explained by climate change," she said. "When the Arctic sea ice retreated, came the two species in close contact with each other if their ranges overlapped."

The study is available at [www.pnas.org/content/early/2012/07/20/1210506109.full.pdf](http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2012/07/20/1210506109.full.pdf).

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

## HEADLINES STOLEN FROM SVALBARDPOSTEN

VERDENS NORDLIGSTE AVIS

### Telenor upgrade 'doubles the capacity' of mobile coverage

Two new antennas in Longyearbyen will improve mobile phone coverage, according to Telenor Norway. "There are few places with as many base stations and amplifiers per inhabitant in Norway," said Bjørn Amundsen, Telenor's director of coverage. "You'd think there would be more cellular breathing space than elsewhere, but there is not." Reliable signals fluctuate often, he said. The two new 3G stations at Huset and Svalbard Snøscooterutleie are scheduled to be operational in about two weeks. Improvements in coverage should be most notable in residential areas from Vei 238 and up, and in Sverdrupbyen. "In practice, we will double the capacity of Longyearbyen with this," Amundsen said.

### Expedition runs aground, takes on water from damage

The *Expedition* cruise ship and its 157 occupants have returned to Longyearbyen after running aground Monday in Isispynten and sustaining damage resulting in a water leak. The ship initially planned to travel to Ny-Ålesund after reporting the vessel was undamaged, but a subsequent inspection revealed the leak and the captain decided it should be inspected by divers in Longyearbyen. Inspectors are expected to arrive in town and examine the ship by Friday. There were no injuries to the 100 passengers and 57 crew members.

### Unusually warm July – but it's not 'colloquially' summer

July has been far warmer than normal – but summer has not yet "colloquially" started because the snow "champagne glass" on Operafjellet is still intact. A *Svalbardposten* competition awards shotglasses to the first two people guessing correct date the "stem" on the glass breaks, which was July 23 last year. Temperatures this month has been 0.7 degrees Celsius above normal, at 6.6 degrees, although last year's average for July was 6.9 degrees. There has also been considerable rain in recent days, with more forecast this weekend. Johannes Rundhaug, a weather specialist at Svalbard Airport, estimates the glass will break July 27 if current forecasts are accurate.

## Weather forecast for Longyearbyen

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rain early. E to 22 km/h. High 7C (7C wind chill), low 5C (1C wind chill).	Rain late. W winds to 25 km/h. High 6C (6C wind chill), low 4C (-1C wind chill).	Rain. Variable winds to 7 km/h. High 2C (2C wind chill), low 1C (-1C wind chill).	Cloudy. Variable winds at 3 km/h. High 2C (2C wind chill), low 1C (1C wind chill).
24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight	24-hour daylight
<b>Extended forecast:</b> Sunday, p. cloudy, 2C (2C), 1C (1C), light 24:00h; Monday, p. cloudy, 2C (1C), 1C (0C), light 24:00h; Tuesday, cloudy, 2C (0C), 1C (-1C), light 24:00h; Wednesday, cloudy, 2C (0C), 1C (-1C), light 24:00h			
Data provided by yr.no			



MARK SABBATINI / ICEPEOPLE

Jonas Voldsund is baptized by Margrethe Ølberg, left, Sunday during a memorial liturgy at Svalbard Church for the victims of the July 22, 2011, attacks in Oslo and a youth camp on the island of Utøya.

## Seeking new life after Utøya

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23 makes little difference to me."

Anders Behring Breivik, claiming he was trying to save Norway and Western Europe from a Muslim takeover, killed eight people by bombing a government building in Oslo and 69 during a subsequent shooting spree on the island where the youth camp took place. Hanssen, among other surviving victims, has said he simply wants Breivik forgotten after his trial when he is jailed or institutionalized.

Hanssen has been among the higher-profile survivors following his three-month hospitalization, loss of an eye and other physical impairments, and election as the youngest-ever member of Longyearbyen's municipal council. He was also one of a few survivors featured in the first video segment of a tribute concert Sunday in Oslo attended by 50,000 people.

One of the youngest people killed at Utøya was Johannes Buø, 14, who spent the last three years of his life in Longyearbyen with his family. A memorial service honoring him was held Sunday in his hometown of Mandel, where Mayor Tore Askildsen said "I want to honor the memory of John and the memory of the values he stood for."

"It was our young people who were affected," Askildsen said, according to *Fædrelandsvennen*, just before lighting a candle for Buø. "It was our future was threatened."

Buø was also honored during a memorial

service at Tromsø Cathedral with one of seven red roses at the pulpit in remembrance of the youths from northern Norway who were killed in the attacks.

An infant girl was also baptized during the service.

"At first I thought: Wow, it fits?" said Stein Reinertsen, the cathedral's dean, during the service, according to *Nordlys*. "But the more I thought, the more I looked forward to the baptism. The opposite of grief is not happiness, but indifference. (This baptism) reminds us that we should enjoy life and that darkness has not overcome us."

An infant baptism also occurred during a memorial service at Svalbard Church, although Tonje Voldsund said the date of the ceremony for her son was picked before realizing its significance.

Five local youths were at Utøya when the attacks occurred, but all of those who survived – plus most of their family and friends, and local leaders – were at memorials on the mainland. An evening gathering for the few teens still in Longyearbyen was hosted at the youth center.

The five youths at the gathering were nearly silent while watching a broadcast of the Oslo concert, with barely a visible reaction at moments such as Hanssen's appearance.

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

## Youth counseling lacking in the north

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visiting therapist, although regular or intensive assistance requires traveling to Tromsø after enduring the wait to be approved for treatment.

But immediate youth help is offered by local school, church and city officials, who have proactively engaged with students following crises such as last year's July 22 attacks and a teenage suicide several years ago.

The survey was conducted by the health

board during the first four months of the year. The Norwegian ombudsman's office stated they will closely monitor northern mental health services in an attempt to reduce violations.

"There must be more professionals and there has to be an acceptable health service in place," Deputy Ombudsman for Children Knut Haanes told NRK.

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

## What's up

### July 1 - Aug. 5

Movie theater at Kulturhuset closed for renovations.

### Aug. 12

8 p.m.: Movie: "The Amazing Spider-Man" (3D), U.S. action/drama, no age limit determined. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 19

8 p.m.: Movie: "The Dark Knight Rises," U.S./British action, ages 15 and up. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 26

6 p.m.: Movie: "Madagascar 3," U.S. animated/family film dubbed in Norwegian, no age limit determined. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Kon-Tiki," Norwegian dram, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 28

6-8 p.m.: Activity fair. Demonstrations and signups for Longyearbyen's recreational clubs. Svalbardhallen. More information at [svalbardturn.no](http://svalbardturn.no).

### Aug. 29

6 p.m.: Movie: "Ice Age: Continental Drift" (3D), U.S. animated/comedy, all ages. Kulturhuset.

### Aug. 31

6 p.m.: Movie: "Til Ungdommen," Norwegian documentary about youth activism in the summer of 2011, premier screening, no age limit determined. Kulturhuset.

### Sept. 2

6 p.m.: Movie: "Til Ungdommen," Norwegian documentary about youth activism in the summer of 2011, no age limit determined. Kulturhuset.

8 p.m.: Movie: "Albert Nobbs," U.S. drama/romance, no age limit specified. Kulturhuset.

### Sept. 9

6 p.m.: Movie: "Brave" (3D), U.S. fantasy, 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:

- *Historic: Nearly all of Greenland melting*
- *Arctic ice loss '70 percent man-made'*
- *Warming puts Alaska Highway in peril*
- *Fasting a challenge for Muslims in Arctic*