

# Wasa Daily

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## VALBORG EVE

### Cheers and spring spirit – Zacharias Topelius crowned in Vaasa

Valborg Eve celebrations in Vaasa peaked last night with a cherished tradition drawing large crowds to the city centre. At exactly 18:00 on April 30, 2026, a student cap was placed on the statue of Zacharias Topelius at the corner of Kirkkopuistikko and Hovioikeudenpuistikko.

Students from multiple universities and student unions took part in the ceremony, which began

with the symbolic capping followed by speeches. Shortly after, around 18:15, the student choir Pedavoces performed spring songs on the steps of Vaasa Teacher Training School's gymnasium.

The event marked the official start of Valborg festivities in the city. For many residents, this moment signals the arrival of spring – a blend of tradition, music, and student culture filling the streets with energy and celebration.

Source: Student unions in Vaasa / City of Vaasa.



Cheers and spring spirit – Zacharias Topelius crowned in Vaasa



### Image of the Week:



Rainbow

## LOCAL NEWS

### EXHIBITION

**The 250th anniversary exhibition of the Vaasa Court of Appeal opens at the Old Vaasa Museum**



An exhibition on the 250-year history of the Vaasa Court of Appeal will open at the Old Vaasa Museum during the summer. The exhibition tells about the early stages of the Vaasa Court of Appeal, its activities and its impact on the lives of the inhabitants of Vaasa and the whole of historical Ostrobothnia. The exhibition is open 7.5.–29.8.2026.

The basic words of the Vaasa Court of Appeal were pronounced in 1775. The Court of Appeal was established by decision of King Gustav III as part of the national reform of the administrative and judicial system. The Court of Appeal began operating in what is now Old Vaasa in 1776. The exhibition tells the story of the establishment of the Court of Appeal until the mid-1800s and the move of the Court of Appeal to the new District Court after the fire in Vaasa.

The exhibition examines the ceremonies and exercise of power in connection with the establishment of the Court of Appeal, the design and construction of the first Court of

Appeal building, and the lives of the officials of the Court of Appeal and their families in Vaasa. Scale models, visual material and stories about everyday life, the administration of justice and the administration of the Court of Appeal are also on display.

Source: Vaasa.fi

Photo: Ostrobothnian Museum

### BOTNIAHALL TODAY

**Bargain hunters on alert – mega flea market set to draw crowds**

The Botniahallen will turn into a bustling marketplace on Sunday, May 3, 2026, from 11:00 to 16:00, as the annual Mega Flea Market returns.

With more than 150 vendors and thousands of visitors expected, the event has grown into one of the region's biggest second-hand happenings. This year, the concept expands further with mini-expo sections featuring crafts, baked goods, and health-related services.

Organized by Folkhälsan i Korsholm, the event attracts both seasoned bargain hunters and casual visitors. For many, it's a chance to declutter, recycle, and discover hidden treasures at low prices.

Around 160 sales spots are available – but demand is high. The question remains: who will score the best deal?

Source: City of Vaasa

**ONKILAHTI TRAFFIC PARK Engines ready – Vaasa's traffic park opens with family celebration**

Summer is about to hit the accelerator in

# TODAY

## EDITORIAL

### Don't Build a House Near the Shore! –The Rising Seas and Violent Storms of Tomorrow Will Wash It Away

The dream of living by the water has seduced generations. The soothing sound of waves, the endless horizon, the prestige of a beachfront property—it's easy to see the appeal. But that dream is turning into a nightmare. By 2075, rising sea levels and increasingly violent storms will make coastal living not just risky, but potentially catastrophic. And yet, people keep building.

Scientists agree: the oceans are rising faster than we once thought. Even under moderate emissions scenarios, global sea levels could climb half a meter or more by 2075. In high-emissions scenarios, one meter or higher becomes likely. But those numbers don't tell the full story. Because when a storm hits, the water doesn't just rise—it explodes.

A single severe storm surge can add two meters or more to sea levels in a matter of hours. Hurricane Sandy (2012) pushed 4.2 meters of water into New York. Typhoon Haiyan (2013) brought 5-meter surges to the Philippines. And with warmer oceans fueling stronger winds and heavier rainfall, future storms will be even worse.

#### Why the Next Decades Will Be Different Higher Baseline = Higher Destruction

A 1-meter rise means a storm surge that once reached 3 meters now hits 4 meters.

Low-lying areas that rarely flooded before will be permanently inundated.

More Frequent, More Violent Storms

Warmer oceans = more energy for hurricanes and cyclones.

Slow-moving storms (like Harvey 2017) will dump even more rain, worsening floods.

Erosion Will Eat the Coast Alive

Rising seas accelerate beach erosion. A house "safe" today may be in the water in 30 years.

Insurance companies are already fleeing

coastal markets, leaving owners stranded.

We Keep Making the Same Mistakes Despite the warnings, coastal development is booming. In Florida alone, thousands of new homes have been built in high-risk flood zones since 2010. Governments still approve waterfront projects, banks still issue mortgages, and buyers still believe "it won't happen to me."

#### But the math doesn't lie. By 2075:

Millions of coastal homes will flood regularly.

Critical infrastructure (roads, power plants, sewage systems) will fail.

Retreat will be inevitable—but by then, it may be too late to sell.

What Should Be Done? Stop Building in Flood Zones

Moratoriums on new coastal construction are needed now.

Relocate critical infrastructure inland while there's still time.

#### Design for Retreat

No more permanent structures in high-risk areas.

Stilt houses, floating architecture—if building must happen, make it resilient.

Honest Risk Communication

Flood maps must reflect 2075 projections, not just past data.

Banks and insurers should price risk realistically—no more subsidies for reckless building.

#### The Bottom Line

The romance of coastal living is colliding with climate reality. If you're thinking of buying or building near the water, ask yourself: Will this still be here in 2075? Because the ocean doesn't care about your view. It's coming.

The smartest move? Build farther back. Your grandchildren will thank you.

# NEWS

Vaasa. On Friday, May 8, 2026, Metviken Traffic Park opens for the season – with a full-day family event.

On opening day, the park will stay open until 20:00, longer than its usual schedule of 12:00–18:00 on weekdays and 12:00–16:00 on weekends.

Children can drive pedal cars on a 640-metre track designed as a miniature version of the city, complete with traffic lights, roundabouts and landmarks. The goal is to teach road safety through play.

Only 20 cars are allowed on the track at once, so queues are expected.

For many families, the opening marks the unofficial start of summer – with a mix of fun, learning and a first taste of "driving". Source: City of Vaasa

## A DAY AT THE FIRE STATION Fire station opens its doors – sirens, action and family fun in Kaskinen

The sirens may be silent, but excitement is building. On Saturday, May 9, 2026, the fire station in Kaskinen invites the public to the nationwide "Day at the Fire Station" event.

Visitors will get a rare behind-the-scenes look at rescue services, with live demonstrations, fire engine displays and activities for all ages. The aim is not only to educate people about safety, but also to attract new volunteers.

Local organizers say this year's event will be bigger than usual, with extra effort put into programming and outreach. A strong turnout is expected.

The event blends entertainment with education – and might inspire the next generation of firefighters. Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County

## EMPLOYMENT VOUCHER Half the salary paid – Ostrobothnian companies can get €9,000 for hiring a young person

Companies in Ostrobothnia now have a real chance to get significant help with payroll costs when hiring young people. A new employment voucher means the state covers half the salary – up to €9,000 over six months.

The Employment Area of Ostrobothnia has now opened the application process. The support is aimed at companies that hire an unemployed young person aged 18 to 29 for at least six months. The employment contract can be either fixed-term or permanent.

#### How much you can get:

The employment voucher covers 50 percent of salary costs, but no more than €1,500 per month. In total, a company can receive up to €9,000 over six months. The support only applies to salary costs – not social security contributions or other indirect employee costs.

The young person being hired must be registered as living in one of the following municipalities: Kaskinen (Kaskö), Korsholm (Mustasaari), Korsnäs, Laihia (Laihela), Malax (Maalahti), Nykarleby (Uusikaarlepyy), Närpes (Närpiö), Vaasa (Vasa) or Vöyri (Vörå).

– The aim is to lower the threshold for companies to hire young people and make it easier for young people to enter working life. How to apply: The employment voucher is

applied for once a suitable young employee has been selected. Need help finding the right person? The employment area can assist with that too.

So don't hesitate – this is a chance to both strengthen your business and give a young person a way into working life. The application is open now.

Source: malax.fi

## VAASA

### Vaasa water tower enters major renovation



One of Vaasa's most recognizable landmarks is about to disappear from daily view. The city's historic water tower is undergoing a major renovation that will last well over a year. Work began in spring 2025 and continues until the end of 2026. For safety reasons, the area around the tower will be fenced off, with restricted access and traffic changes. While the structure itself remains in good condition, the façade, roof and roughly 140 windows require extensive restoration. The project is described as the most significant renovation in decades. Bricks will be replaced, structural elements checked and historical details carefully restored. Water supply will not be affected, but the city skyline will change during the works. When completed, the tower is expected to stand renewed—ready for another century.

## WELLBEING

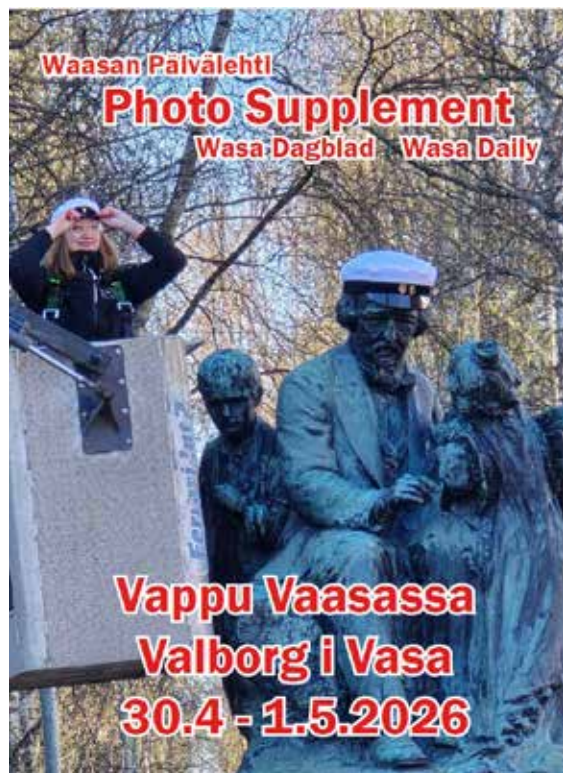
### THE WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY

#### Free childbirth in Vaasa? The proposal can become a reality

In April, the Board of the Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia considered a proposal to make childbirth at Vaasa Central Hospital free of charge during a trial period from 1.8.2026 to 31.12.2027. The idea is to ease the financial burden on families with children – at present, a day of care costs 71.50 euros and a birth usually lasts 2–3 days. Approximately 1,500 children are born in Ostrobothnia each year, of which about 1,000 are in Vaasa. If the Board supports the proposal, it will be forwarded to the county council for a decision. The department will also have renovated premises with its own toilets and showers in the autumn of 2026. Read more: sttinfo.fi/.../forslag-avgiftsfria-forlossningar-i-vasa-i-fortsattningen

### THE WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY MAJOR SHAKE-UP FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVI-

## Photo Supplement



# NEWS

## KORSHOLM

### 15 climate hacks that actually work – Korsholm shows the way



**OIL HEATING OUT. 26,100 ELECTRIC KMS. AND 288,600 BORROWED ARTICLES. Korsholm has released its 2025 climate report – and it's a masterclass in local, practical and effective green action**

The municipal board approved the report on April 20, 2026. But it's the measures themselves that speak volumes: Korsholm is serious about a sustainable transition.

Oil heating has been permanently phased out in several locations. The fire stations in Kvevlax and Toby, the healthcare facility at Helsingby school and the Veikars daycare cen-

tre are now heated with geothermal energy and air-source heat pumps. At the same time, solar panels were installed on the roof of the fish handling hall in Vikarskat.

The municipality's two electric cars have been busy. They drove a total of 26,100 kilometres in 2025 – that's a carbon dioxide reduction of 6,333 kilograms compared to

making the same trips in a petrol-powered car. Even more impressive: staff driving with their own private cars decreased by a stunning 90,000 kilometres compared to the previous year.

But Korsholm is also paying attention to the little extras. During a special sustainability week in September, the municipality awarded its first-ever

"Sustainability Action of the Year" prize – to private individual Marina Ranta and to the company Scandic Trans. And did you know you can borrow everything from sports equipment to seed packets? A total of 288,600 items were borrowed from the library. The seed library distributed 1,000 seed packets, and the sports equipment library had 270 loans.

Source: korsholmfi

through real-life work situations. Instead of traditional classroom teaching, learning happens directly in patient interactions.

The initiative responds to increasing multilingualism in healthcare settings, where miscommunication can affect both patient safety and staff wellbeing.

The goal is clear: smoother communication, safer care, and improved service quality.

Whether this hands-on approach can resolve long-standing language challenges remains to be seen. Source: STT Info / Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County

## MUSIC

### RITZ

#### New talent wanted – Vaasa opens stage for emerging artists

Vaasa – Ritz, May 22–23, 2026, 6:00–10:30 PM

The spotlight is calling. In Vaasa, aspiring musicians now have a chance to step onto a real stage as the Feasta Marathon returns this May. The two-day event takes place on May 22–23 at Ritz (Kirkkopuistikko 22), featuring six performers each evening. Every act gets a 30-minute set, with short interviews between performances.

Organizers are inviting bands and artists from various genres, with a special focus on those creating original music. Applications remain open until May 10.

With free entry for audiences and strong local interest, the event could become a breakthrough moment for emerging talent. Source: RITZ

## EXHIBITION

### ÖVERMARK

#### Abandoned house turns into art sensation – unique exhibition opens in Övermark



An empty house filled with silence is about to come alive. This summer, Övermark hosts the striking site-specific exhibition The Hidden Spots.

Opening on July 4 and running until August 2, 2026, the exhibition takes place at Dermossvägen 20 and is produced by Vaasa Museums. The artworks occupy a century-old house that has stood vacant for years.

### CES IN OSTROBOTHNIA: NEW HOTLINE NUMBERS FROM MAY 4

From Sunday, May 4, 2026, residents in Ostrobothnia, Finland, will have to dial new phone numbers to access mental health and addiction services. The region's three psychosocial centers are scrapping their old local numbers in favor of two streamlined hotlines.

The main number for new patients seeking help for depression, anxiety, chronic stress, sleep disorders, substance abuse, or gambling addiction is 06 218 9200. This line handles initial needs assessments. It is open weekdays from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Callers can leave a callback request, and a professional will return the call on the same day.

"This makes help much easier to reach," says social counselor Johanna Venäläinen.

If you already have an appointment but need to reschedule or cancel, the correct number is 06 218 9201 (weekdays 8:00 AM–3:00 PM), which also provides general advice. For urgent, non-life-threatening issues, dial 116117. For emergencies, always call 112. Source: Ostrobothnia Welfare Region

### THE WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY

#### A quiet care revolution – new model boosts wellbeing in Finland

A subtle but significant shift is taking place in elderly care in Ostrobothnia. At the Kastanja group home, routines no longer dictate life – people do.

According to a press release by Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County (published April 29, 2026, 13:02 EEST), the use of kinesthetics has transformed both care quality and staff wellbeing. The approach encourages residents to use their own

abilities instead of relying entirely on caregivers.

The impact is striking: fewer musculoskeletal issues among staff, more satisfied residents, and a calmer daily environment. Fixed schedules have been replaced with flexible routines tailored to individuals.

The unit has already earned certification, and interest is growing across the region. Could this be the future blueprint for elderly care?

Source: STT Info / Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County



### THE WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY

#### Breaking the language barrier – new training model targets care sector

Language gaps in healthcare can have serious consequences – now a new learning environment aims to tackle the issue head-on in Ostrobothnia.

According to a press release published on April 28, 2026, the wellbeing services county is introducing a model that strengthens staff language skills

## VÖRÅ

### You decide how your tax money is spent – here are Vörå's wildest ideas

STARGAZING, A POLLINATOR MEADOW AND NEIGHBOURHOOD GRILLS. The residents of Vörå have been given a say in how their tax money is spent – and they have responded in force. A total of 70 proposals on how to use the participatory budget were submitted. Now ten of them have made it to the final vote.

– Wow, 70 proposals! the municipality thanks on its website.

#### Here are some of the ideas you can vote for:

- New speakers and more bins at the slalom slope.
- Extra lighting along the exercise stairs leading up to the ski jump at Vörå Ski Centre.
- Book swap cabinets at various locations in the municipality.
- A pollinator meadow – for the bees and the environment.
- A stargazing spot with a bench and a QR code that shows the constellations.
- More bins and dog waste containers around the municipality.
- Neighbourhood grills – places where people can meet and barbecue together.
- A fishing pier by the Öjskata bridge.
- Planting ornamental trees around the municipality.
- Building jumps and rails in the slalom slope for next winter.

How to cast your vote: Voting is open from April 20 to May 13, 2026. All residents of the municipality can vote – but you must provide your contact details for your vote to be counted. Vote easily online at [www.vora.fi/invanarbudget](http://www.vora.fi/invanarbudget) or pick up a voting form at the library or on the mobile library.

Source: vora.fi

# Wasa Daily

## Nearly everything You want to know, in ten pages

# vpress.fi

## PARLIAMENT

### STOP STUDYING – START BUILDING BIOGAS NOW!



**MP Christoffer Ingo (SPP) slammed the brakes on end-less reports. During the climate plan debate on 29 April, he demanded immediate action on biogas.**

– As long as we depend on fossil energy, our society and economy are vulnerable, Ingo thundered. He warned that recent energy

crises prove Finland must boost self-sufficiency.

Ingo dismissed calls for more biogas investigations. – We already know the solution: less red tape, faster permits, and investment aid, he said.

The MP from Ostrobothnia stressed that Finland cannot afford to wait. – The government must be ready with extra measures if the cost crisis drags on, Ingo concluded.

Source: SPP/RKP

## VAASA

**"I don't feel alone anymore" – Incredible Success for Local Programs**

Vaasa's commitment to its younger generation is paying off in a major way. New survey results reveal that the city's outreach youth work and workshop activities have received stellar ratings, scoring a near-perfect 4.7 out of 5 from the participants themselves.

The impact is deeply personal. One participant's feedback, "I don't feel alone anymore," highlights the emotional bridge these services build for those at risk of social exclusion. In Vaasa, the focus is on being seen and heard. An overwhelming 98% of outreach clients felt they were treated with genuine respect, while 97% of those in workshops reported a newfound optimism about their future.

These programs serve as a vital stepping stone, guiding young people toward education and employment while strengthening their mental well-being. The message from Vaasa is clear: professional, compassionate support can change lives, turning isolation into a path of opportunity. Location: City of Vaasa Source: City of Vaasa

Visitors are invited to explore the rooms and uncover layers of memory, history, and forgotten stories embedded in the space. Created by artists Bekim Hasaj and Valentina Gelain, the exhibition blends installations, sound art, and interactive elements.

Opening hours are Wednesday–Thursday from 12:00 to 17:00 and Friday–Sunday from 12:00 to 18:00. The program also includes an opening event and workshops.

What was once abandoned now becomes one of the summer's most intriguing cultural experiences.

Source: Vaasa Museums Foto: Valentina Gelain

## HEALTH

**ANTIDEPRESSANTS**  
**More than one in ten young women on antidepressants – sharp rise in a decade**



A striking trend is emerging in Finland: a growing number of young women are using antidepressant medication, with figures nearly doubling over the past decade.

New data shows that 11.5% of women aged 18–29 now use SSRI medications, compared to 7.1% in 2016.

The increase has been even steeper among teenage girls. At the same time, surveys indicate rising levels of anxiety and psychological distress among young people.

Experts link the trend to a mix of long-term social factors and the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the rapid growth has slowed recently, usage remains at historically high levels.

Young men show significantly lower usage rates, highlighting a clear gender gap. Source: Kela/FPA via STT Info

**KNEE SURGERY**  
**Finnish NEJM study: Common knee surgery may harm patients – "No benefit even in low-risk group"**

Thousands of middle-aged and older adults undergo arthroscopic partial meniscectomy each year. But a new Finnish study published April 30, 2026, in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) finds the procedure offers no benefit over sham surgery – and may even worsen outcomes.

The research was led by Roope Kalske, M.D. (Helsinki University Hospital) and Raine Sihvonon, M.D., Ph.D. (Pihlajalinna Kelloportti Hospital, Tampere, Finland). They compared real surgery with a placebo procedure.

Results: Even in low-risk patients, there was no evidence of benefit. Instead, those who received actual arthroscopic surgery had slightly worse outcomes.

"Taken together with other evidence, these findings arouse concern regarding the use of arthroscopic partial meniscectomy for degenerative meniscal tear in middle-aged and older adults," the authors write.

The study adds to growing calls for non-surgical treatments like physical therapy as first-line care. – Many operations could be avoided, an independent expert says. Source: NEJM

**CANCER**  
**Small diet changes could**

**cut cancer risk – researchers highlight plant-based shift**



A small change on your plate could have a big impact on your health. New research suggests that shifting towards a more plant-based diet may reduce the risk of colorectal cancer—one of the most common cancers in Finland.

According to scientist **Rilla Tammi** at University of Helsinki, even modest dietary adjustments can make a difference. Replacing some red and processed meat with whole grains, vegetables and fruits has been linked to a lower cancer risk.

The findings are based on long-term Finnish population data and highlight the importance of lifestyle factors. Physical activity, body weight and alcohol consumption also play a role.

Researchers stress that radical changes are not required. Gradual improvements in eating habits can already have measurable effects.

The takeaway is simple: everyday food choices may shape long-term health more than we think. Source: University of Helsinki

## FINLAND

**ALERT**  
**Alert: Fake government messages surge – scammers exploit Suomi.fi**

A sharp rise in digital scams is now hitting Finland, with fraudsters impersonating official services to trick victims. According to a new report, scam messages using the name of Suomi.fi have surged dramatically in recent weeks. The goal is to lure users into clicking links and entering banking credentials or personal data.

Messages often appear to come from trusted authorities, referencing tax decisions or official documents to create urgency. Scams are also circulating under the name of Kela, directing users to fake login pages.

Experts stress one key rule: never log in via links in messages—always access services directly through official websites. Source: STT Info / Finnish Telemarketing Association

**STATISTICS FINLAND**  
**Historic drop – native language speakers fall below five million**

A symbolic threshold has been crossed in Finland. For the first time in decades, the number of people speaking a national language as their mother tongue has dropped below five million.

According to preliminary data from Statistics Finland (published April 23, 2026), there were 4,999,717 speakers of Finnish, Swedish or Sámi at the end of March—

# NEWS

## CYCLING WEEK

### Vaasa Kicks Off an Action-Packed Cycling Week!

It's time to dust off your bike and hit the road! The national Cycling Week starts in Vaasa with a family-friendly outdoor day on Friday, May 8, from 3 PM to 8 PM at the Onkilahti Activity Park. The event launches a week full of cycling fun for all ages.



#### Pancakes and Pump Track Action

The first 400 visitors will enjoy free griddle pancakes and campfire coffee. After that, the traffic park season opens, and the professionals from Trail It will give pump track instructions and a high-speed stunt show. You can also get your own bike checked and serviced for free with expert guidance.

#### A Scenic Family Ride

The Cycling Week culminates on Saturday, May 16, with a leisurely group ride to the Närvänmutka lean-to shelter at Pylvilampi. The 17-kilo-

meter ride starts in front of the swimming hall at 9 AM. Sausages and a café from Vaasan Latu await you at the destination.

#### Cycling for Health and the Environment

The events celebrate Vaasa's European Green Leaf 2026 year and the UNICEF Child Friendly Municipality recognition. Cycling promotes well-being for all ages while reducing traffic emissions – a true win for both people and the planet.

Source: vaasa.fi  
Photo: City of Vaasa/Veera Røyttä

### STATISTICS FINLAND Finland grows – but only because of migration

New figures from Statistics Finland reveal a striking reality: Finland's population is increasing, but not naturally.

At the start of 2026, the country's population stood at around 5.65 million. In January, it grew by 708 people – entirely due to net migration from abroad. Births remained significantly lower than deaths.

The data highlights a deeper shift. Finland's population is ageing, and birth rates remain low. Without immigration, the population would be declining.

This raises critical questions about the future: who will sustain the workforce and fund the welfare system?

The message from the numbers is clear – migration is becoming the key driver of Finland's demographic future. Source: Statistics Finland

## UNIVERSITIES

### ÅBO AKADEMI EU funding boost puts Turku on the map – aiming to become Europe's imaging hub

Turku is positioning itself at the forefront of European science. The Euro-BioImaging infrastructure, with Åbo Akademi as a key partner, has secured major EU funding to expand its capabilities.

The investment will support cutting-edge imaging technologies, artificial intelligence and new research services. These tools allow scientists to explore biological systems—from cells to entire organisms—with unprecedented precision.

Finland is already a global leader in bioimaging, and the new funding strengthens that position further. Thousands of researchers and companies rely on the infrastructure for advances in medicine, pharmaceuticals and environmental science.

The ambition is clear: to turn Turku into a European powerhouse in biological and biomedical imaging—where future scientific breakthroughs take shape.

Source: Åbo Akademi

### UNIVERSITY OF VAASA New professor targets big questions – can cities reshape society?



A new academic voice is stepping into the spotlight at University of Vaasa. Helka Kalliomäki has been appointed Professor of Innovation Policy, with a sharp focus on how cities and regions drive societal change.

According to a university press release published in April 2026, her work will examine how local actors can tackle major challenges such as climate change and economic transformation. A key theme is the interaction between national and regional levels – and what happens when cooperation fails.

Kalliomäki warns that weak dialogue can deepen inequalities and even affect democratic stability. Yet she also sees opportunity: well-designed innovation policy could become a powerful engine for change.

Attention now turns to Vaasa, where new ideas about regional development may soon take shape. Source: University of Vaasa

## BOOKS

### RIIKKA PURRA Finland's Thatcher? Now comes the book about Purra



Now the book about Riikka Purra has been released, "Riikka Purra – Finland's Iron Lady". The book promises in-depth analyses of the hard-line power players of the True Finns. Expectations are high – and so are the critics. The question is whether the book will be a declaration of love or a nail-biter. Is she Finland's Thatcher? Source: STTinfo

## POLITICS

### SOFIA VIRTA "Citizens will pay the price" – Greens launch sharp attack on government



Political tensions are rising in Finland as the Greens step up criticism of Prime Minister Petteri Orpo.

Party leader Sofia Virta argues that the government's economic policy has failed – and that ordinary citizens are left to bear the consequences. She points to growing inequality and increasing pressure on household finances.

Virta stresses that economic policy must balance fiscal sustainability with social fairness. According to her, current measures risk disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups, including families with children.

The remarks reflect a broader escalation in opposition rhetoric ahead of upcoming elections. The government, however, maintains that its policies are necessary to stabilize public finances.

The political divide is deepening – with voters caught in the middle. Source: The Greens

### LEFT ALLIANCE "Orpo must resign" – Left Alliance also escalates pressure

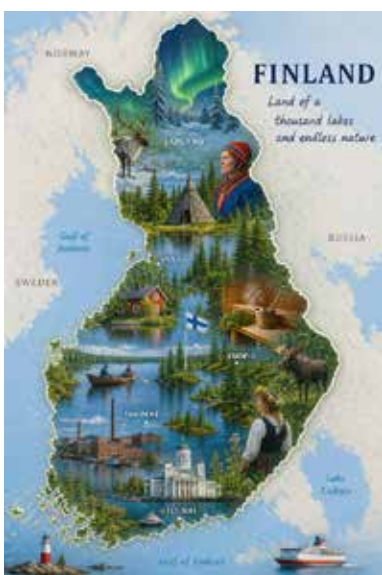
about 88% of the population.

The decline is driven by an ageing population and low birth rates, but also by administrative changes. A new data-sharing agreement with Estonia has increased recorded emigration, as individuals can now only be registered in one country at a time.

Finland's total population also dipped slightly during the early months of the year.

The development raises a broader question: is this a statistical anomaly—or the start of a long-term demographic shift?

Source: Statistics Finland



# NEWS

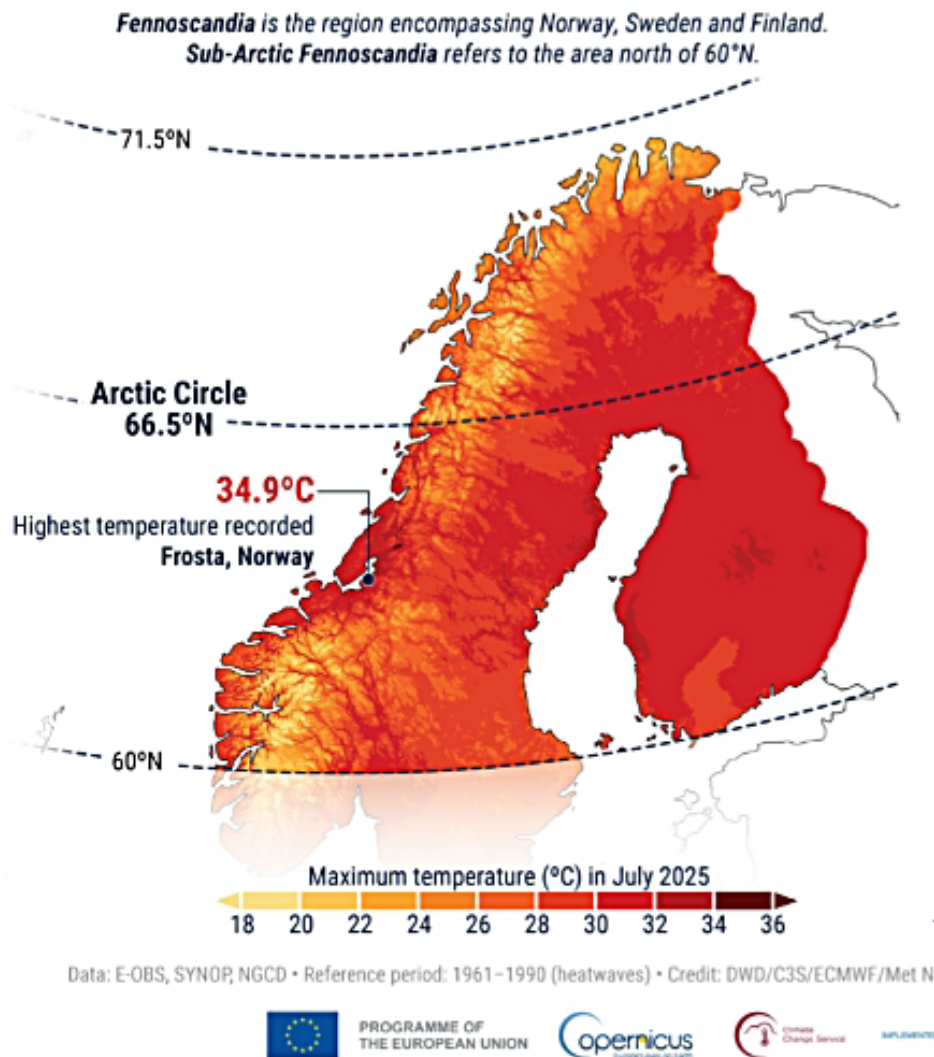
## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Report: July 2025 Marked as the Most Severe Period in Fennoscandian History

According to comprehensive data released in April 2026, July 2025 has been identified as the most severe and significant weather period ever recorded in Fennoscandia. The findings confirm that the conditions experienced during this specific month surpassed all previous historical observations for the region.

While the severity of the period was notable, the scientific community emphasizes the positive impact of high-quality data collection. The insights gained from July 2025 provide a crucial foundation for strengthening regional resilience and preparedness. By utilizing this knowledge, society is now better equipped to understand and adapt to future climatic trends, ensuring a more secure and informed approach to environmental changes.

Reference: c3s



Political tensions in Finland are intensifying. Minja Koskela, leader of the Left Alliance, is now calling for Prime Minister Petteri Orpo to step down.

In a recent statement, Koskela argues that the government's economic policy has failed to deliver on its promises. She points to growing inequality and increasing financial strain on households, claiming that the burden falls disproportionately on lower-income groups.

The remarks are part of a broader opposition push challenging the government's economic direction, with multiple parties questioning its effectiveness.

The government, however, maintains that its policies are necessary to stabilize public finances.

The political clash is sharpening – with pressure mounting as elections approach.

Source: Left Alliance

## EU

### Historic EU vote – consent law gains major backing



A major decision from Brussels is reshaping the debate on sexual violence across Europe. The European Parliament has backed a push for consent-based rape legislation across the EU.

MEP Anna-Maja Henriksson (SFP/RKP) described the vote on April 28, 2026, as historic. The Parliament approved the initiative with a broad majority, signalling strong political support for laws based on the absence of consent.

Attention now turns to the European Commission, which is expected to prepare a formal legislative proposal. The aim is to harmonize laws across member states and strengthen victims' rights.

Henriksson emphasized that the issue is not only legal but also about changing societal attitudes toward sexual crimes. However, agreement among member states will be crucial before any law can take effect.

The message from Brussels is clear: the EU is moving toward a shared standard on consent.

Source: SFP

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### NORWAY

#### Norway targets social media giants – 16 age limit under discussion

Scrolling freely on social media could soon come with a strict age check. Norway's government is preparing a proposal to introduce a 16-year age limit—and make tech companies verify users' ages.

The bill is expected to be presented to parliament later in 2026,

## ASTRONOMY

### Amazing Sky Sight: Comet C/2025 R3 (PanSTARRS) Shows Off Its Double Tail in Finland's Twilight

The icy traveler from the edge of our solar system, Comet C/2025 R3 (PanSTARRS), is currently on display in the Finnish morning sky, captivating early risers with a rare celestial performance.

#### Origin and Discovery

Originating from the distant Oort cloud, a vast, icy shell surrounding our solar system, the comet's journey to the Sun has taken around 170,000 years. It was first detected on 8 September 2025 by the Pan-STARRS 2 telescope at the Haleakalā Observatory in Hawai'i. The comet has just made its closest approach to the Sun (perihelion) on 19 April, coming within roughly 75 million kilometers.

A Special Feature: Two

#### Tails

What makes this comet particularly special is its clear double tail structure, which you can even spot with a decent pair of binoculars. While the primary, broader dust tail curves behind the comet, a second, narrow ion tail has 'switched on', shining with a ghostly blue glow. This second tail always points directly away from the Sun, driven by solar wind, making it a true highlight for astrophotographers.

#### Size and Composition

At its heart, the comet's nucleus is estimated to be just a few kilometers across. However, as it heats up, it has grown a green-tinged, glowing cloud of gas that stretches millions of kilometers across.



#### Visibility in Finland

Good news for stargazers in Finland! According to the Ursa Astronomical Association, the comet is already visible with binoculars and is brightening enough to possibly be seen with the naked eye from a very dark location.

A Final Farewell: Once it passes its perihelion,

calculations show the comet will be ejected from the solar system, never to return. Even if it survives its journey around the Sun, it will quickly move away and become too faint to see from Earth

Image: Dimitrios Katevainis  
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# NEWS

## FOOD INSECURITY

### Agroecology urged as Mideast crisis deepens food insecurity

By: Dann Okoth

**[NAIROBI, SciDev.Net] Accelerating the shift to agroecology is vital to building resilience in low-income countries amid growing food insecurity fueled by geopolitical tensions such as the Middle East crisis, experts say.**

The US-Iran war has disrupted global food systems, with the closure of the Strait of Hormuz causing oil prices to surge and restricting shipments of fertiliser, which many farmers rely on.

Agroecology advocates say the sustainable farming approach, which relies on organic methods such as crop rotations, compost manure and nitrogen-fixing plants, should be part of the solution.

During a press briefing on Friday (17 April) organised by the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and the global food systems think-tank IPES-Food, food security experts emphasised the need for lower-income countries, especially in Africa and Asia, to wean themselves off chemical fertilisers and cushion themselves from supply chain disruptions.

“We have already today 673 million people who are hungry in Africa [and ...] it is anticipated that as a result of the higher prices in the next few months perhaps 45 million additional people will become hungry in the continent,” IPES-Food co-chair Olivier De Schutter told the briefing.

Agroecology can reduce dependency on chemical fertilisers using plants that transfer atmospheric nitrogen to the soil to maintain and improve their natural fertility.

“Plants such as chickpeas, beans, lentils, pulses as well as some feed stock plants such as alfalfa or clover have this capacity,” De Schutter said.

He also recommends shifting to local production to meet local consumption needs—reducing the need for processing and packaging of food and encouraging diets based on fresh, local produce.

“In a nutshell, produce more of what we consume locally and consume more of what is locally produced,” he said.

The impact of the war in the Middle East continues to reverberate through the global food supply chain, amid a fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran. The World Bank, International Monetary Fund and UN



Experts argue that shifting toward agroecology is vital for low-income countries facing food shortages fueled by the Middle East crisis. Copyright: Pix here (CC BY-SA 4.0)

World Food Programme all warned last week that the war will cause rising food prices and hunger.

According to the UN trade and development agency UNCTAD, the Strait of Hormuz is vital to global trade, with around a third of shipped fertiliser exports passing through it.

Barnaby Pace, senior researcher at CIEL, said Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia were particularly vulnerable due to their reliance on food and fuel imports.

“Some countries that specifically make fertiliser from liquefied natural gas like India and Pakistan are going to have the impact of fertiliser shortages compounded,” Pace told the briefing.

He noted that countries like Kenya, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Sudan import a lot of fertiliser from the Gulf. “This is going to impact nitrogen-intensive crops particularly hard, like rice, maize and wheat,” he explained.

Shocks like this are becoming increasingly frequent, Pace noted. “This is the third major supply shock in the fertiliser trade in the last six years,” he added, citing COVID-19 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which “both led to massive hunger issues”.

Africa depends heavily on imports to satisfy its consumption of chemical fertilisers, with 20 to 50 per cent of its fertilisers from the Gulf region, according to De Schutter.

“In Malawi it’s 52 per cent, in Uganda 27 per cent, in Tanzania 31 per cent. These are countries that rely heavily on the import of fertilisers from the Persian Gulf,” he stressed.

He believes there is an urgent need to improve the production of local bio-fertilisers, made from organic waste such as black soldier fly larvae, as seen in the Philippines.

The African Union’s Africa Fertiliser and Soil Health Action Plan 2024-2034 aims to improve the production of fertilisers on the continent, but De Schutter criticises its limited focus on biofertilisers as an alternative.

In south Asia, chemical fertilisers remain heavily subsidised by governments.

Swathi Seshadri, an energy specialist focused on petrochemicals in South Asia, at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), says Indian government subsidy for chemical fertilisers is expected to hit US\$21 billion this year up from US\$19.88 billion last year.\*

“This is a massive impact on the state’s availability of funds for organic fertilisers,” she told the briefing.

Fadhel Kaboub, associate professor of economics at Denison University, in the US, says chemical fertilisers could, in theory, be removed from the system.\*

“Can it technically be done? Absolutely. We can transition

to a clean and sustainable agricultural system that can feed the world,” he said at the briefing.

But the issue, he says, is whether it can be done in a global trade system dominated by four corporations that control 70 per cent of the global grain market, plus fertilisers and logistics.

“Those corporations are not interested in losing their control over the global food system and they’re deeply embedded into the petrochemical industry,” he added.

“So, these are the battles that we have to fight in order to clean up the system [...] and transition away once and for all from fossil fuels in the energy system, from fossil fuels in the food system, for the sake of health, prosperity, sustainability, clean air, clean water, clean soil.”

*This piece was produced by SciDev.Net’s Global desk.*

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reflecting growing concern over the impact of social media on children.

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre says the goal is clear: protect childhood from being dominated by algorithms and screens. Research highlights risks linked to heavy use, including sleep problems, reduced concentration and mental health challenges.

The debate is not limited to Norway. Across Europe and beyond, countries are increasingly considering similar restrictions, typically around ages 15-16.

The message is unmistakable: regulation of young people’s digital lives is moving rapidly up the political agenda.

SOURCE: NRK

## AI

### DEEPSEEK

#### DeepSeek Unveils V4: A New Flagship with 1M Context and Agentic Power

DeepSeek today unveiled the preview version of its long-awaited V4 series, billed as the most potent open-source platform yet. The release comes almost a year after the Chinese startup upended global AI with its low-cost R1 breakthrough.

# NEWS



DeepSeek today unveiled the preview version of its long-awaited V4 series, billed as the most potent open-source platform yet. The release comes almost a year after the Chinese startup upended global AI with its low-cost R1 breakthrough.

Sensational new features include a million-word context window and a hybrid attention architecture that dramatically reduces memory and compute costs. The V4 series is split into two versions: the high-performance Pro, which leads open-source models in agentic coding, mathematics, and world knowledge, and the economical Flash, which offers similar reasoning at lower latency.

DeepSeek claims the V4-Pro beats all rival open models in coding and reasoning, ranking just behind closed-source giants in general knowledge. Both models are open source and available immediately via API. Early feedback from internal use suggests the V4-Pro already exceeds the user experience of many commercial alternatives.

## KUWAIT

### KUWAIT

#### The wedding that broke up in three minutes – a single word decided everything

A newlywed couple barely had time to leave the wedding venue before the marriage was over. The bride filed for divorce just three minutes after the ceremony, after the groom jokingly called her a derogatory nickname in front of the guests. The incident, which quickly spread on social media, has sparked debate about respect in relationships. According to witnesses, the mood was initially filled with laughter – but changed abruptly when the bride took offense and left the venue. Lawyers believe that such a quick divorce is unusual but possible by law. The incident has now become a viral symbol of how small words can have big consequences. Reference: vfokuse

## RUSSIA

### RUSSIA

#### Industrial production in free fall – concerns about the economy are growing

New statistics show that industrial production has fallen sharply during the first quarter of the year. The decline is described as one of the most dramatic in several years and affects the manufacturing sector in particular.

The figures for a typical region are dramatic. The textile industry collapsed, down 60.9%. Paper and printing were knocked out: down 56% and 23%, respectively. Metallurgy fell by 16%. Experts point to reduced demand, logistical problems and international sanctions as contributing factors. Companies are reporting reduced orders and are now being forced to consider cutbacks. The government has promised support measures, but critics believe that the measures are insufficient. At the same time, economists warn that the development could have knock-on effects on the labour market and household finances for the rest of the year. Reference: Ura.ru

### RUSSIA

#### Food shortage warning – households urged to prepare

Authorities warn of a potential shortage of certain foods in the coming months. The reason is said to be disruptions in supply chains and increased production costs. In particular, basic commodities such as cereals and dairy products could be affected. Several stores are already reporting empty shelves and rising prices.

# EVENTS

## TODAY

### BOTNIAHALL TODAY Bargain hunters on alert – mega flea market set to draw crowds

The Botniahallen will turn into a bustling marketplace on Sunday, May 3, 2026, from 11:00 to 16:00, as the annual Mega Flea Market returns.

With more than 150 vendors and thousands of visitors expected, the event has grown into one of the region's biggest second-hand happenings. This year, the concept expands further with mini-expo sections featuring crafts, baked goods, and health-related services.

Organized by Folkhälsan i Korsholm, the event attracts both seasoned bargain hunters and casual visitors. For many, it's a chance to declutter, recycle, and discover hidden treasures at low prices.

Around 160 sales spots are available – but demand is high. The question remains: who will score the best deal?  
Source: City of Vaasa

## MAY

### RITZ Strandberg unleashes his inner “people’s man” – adult humor at a high level

Christoffer Strandberg takes over the Ritz with his new People's Man show – a satirical and cheeky show where he highlights both energy and honesty.  
Time: May 8th at 7:00 PM  
Place: Ritz, Vaasa  
Strandberg promises an evening full of confession, absurdity and unexpected truths. K18 – and that's performances.  
Reference: Ritz.fi

### CYCLING WEEK Cycling fever hits Vaasa – a week of movement and creati- vity



Vaasa, Friday May 8, 2026. National Cycling Week arrives with the theme “Cycling and Art,” launching with a family outdoor event at Onkilahti activity park. From May 8–17, the city hosts a variety of cycling-themed activities promoting everyday mobility and enjoyment. Highlights include the opening of a new shelter and nature trail in Kolkki, free breakfast for cyclists, and a group ride to Pilvilampi. The week blends fitness, community spirit, and creativity, inviting residents to rediscover the joy of cycling.  
Reference: vaasa.fi

### RITZ Mother’s Day in style – Ritz offers a warm and beautiful concert

Ritz celebrates all mothers with an at-

mospheric Mother's Day concert full of music, warmth and a festive atmosphere. Perfect for families who want to make the day special.

Time: May 10th at 6 pm  
On stage: Sarah Nedergård, Jannike, Åsa Jinder and Patrik Isaksson.  
Musicians Ben Bergman, Janne Hyöty and Rickard Mitts will perform.  
Venue: Ritz, Vaasa  
An elegant afternoon where both classical and modern tones honor the protagonists of the day.  
Reference: Ritz.fi

### RITZ Peter Jöback takes over the Ritz – an evening of musical splen- dor and magic

Swedish star Peter Jöback visits Vaasa for an exclusive concert: Evening Peter With Jöback. An intimate evening with his best songs, personal stories and musical brilliance.  
Time: May 12th at 7pm  
Venue: Ritz, Vaasa  
Tickets are likely to sell out quickly – Jöback attracts audiences of all ages.  
Source: Ritz.fi

### RITZ Gustav III brought to life – ope- ra dramas with a royal drama at the Ritz

The Ritz offers historical entertainment with the opera performance Gustav III – A Celebration to Remember. A dramatic and humorous interpretation of the king's last celebrations.  
Time: May 13th at 5pm  
Venue: Ritz, Vaasa  
An evening where history, music and theatre come together in a colourful package.  
Source: Ritz.fi

### CHOIR FESTIVAL 32nd Vaasa Choir Festival: Club 45 is rocking out at the Ritz – tickets already sold out?



14.-17.5.2026  
Vasa will soon be filled with soulful singing as the 32nd Choir Festival begins. But there is only one concert that will make people sweat – the fantastic Club 45 at the Ritz on Saturday 16 May.  
The festival brings together choirs from all over Finland. Tickets are already on sale, and according to rumors, places are starting to sell out. Vocal music lovers – act now!  
The rest of the program offers everything from classical choir to experimental vocal art. But Club 45? It is the talk of the town this year.  
Source: Bothnia Classic

### EVENING MUSIC 50 years of free evening music in Vaasa – stars take over Vaa- sa Church



June – 14 August 2026  
– Every Wednesday at 7.30 pm, completely free. The evening music at the Trinity Church has been a summer classic for 50 years. And This year it is being celebrated in earnest.  
The organ has its place, of course – it is, after all, one of the finest churches in Finland. But the singing, violin, piano, clarinet and cello also shine. The artists? Well-known Finnish musicians and international guest performers.  
High-quality, free and open to all. So simple, so good.  
Bring a friend and enjoy the bright June evenings until mid-August.  
Source: Bothnia Classic

### ILMAJOKI-OPERA 50th anniversary celebration in Ilmajoki: “The Great Injustice” turns into an opera as the year of hatred takes the stage



ILMAJOKI (5–14 June 2026)  
When the Ilmajoki Music Festival turns 50, it does so with a bang. For the first time, the festival will present “The Great Injustice” – a brand new, in-house produced opera about the horrors of hatred and the fate of our ancestors in Kyröjoki along. Behind the work is a dream team: librettist Anneli Kanto, director Tuomas Parkkinen and conductor Eero Lehtimäki. The festival has offered opera celebrations in the traditional landscapes of Southern Ostrobothnia since its founding in 1975. Now the bar is being raised considerably. Tickets are expected to sell out like hot stones in the sunshine. If you don't get there now, you'll have to wait for the next half century.  
Source: <https://www.musiikkijuhlat.fi/denstoraofreden.html>

### LISÄÄ LÖYLYÄ Ten years of rock and sauna spirit

Lisää Löylyä Rock Festival is celebrating its tenth anniversary with a bang. This time the party will move to Vaskiluoto – right where

Wasalandia used to be. On stage: Sonata Arctica, Rhapsody of Fire and much more. Two days of hard rock, sweat and joy. Two-day early bird tickets are on sale for 119 euros. Sauna? Maybe not, but a steamy atmosphere is guaranteed!  
• When: 12–13 June 2026  
• Where: Vasklot, Vaasa (formerly Wasalandia)

### STUNDARS Step Back in Time – Stundars Kicks Off the 2026 Summer Season!



History comes alive as Stundars Museum and Cultural Centre in Solf, Korsholm, officially opens its 2026 summer season. On Monday, June 22, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, visitors are invited to explore a vibrant museum village filled with traditional crafts and historical charm. The opening day promises a packed program featuring skilled artisans, friendly farm animals, and an authentic look at rural life from the past. Whether you are looking for a peaceful stroll in a beautiful setting or an educational family outing, Stundars offers a unique glimpse into the soul of Ostrobothnia. Enjoy local treats at the café and soak in the atmosphere of this beloved cultural treasure. Don't miss this festive start to the summer!

Referens: Stundars.fi

## JULY

### DRÖMMEN Dreams come true at Yliopisto- puisto

A magical day awaits when the Drömmen festival takes over Vaasa Yliopistopuisto. It's all about community, good music and a wonderful summer atmosphere. The exact list of performers is still a secret, but the organizers promise “everything you love, and a little more”. Pack a picnic blanket, bring your friends and get ready for an afternoon and evening that feels like one long burst of happiness.  
• When: Saturday, July 4, 2026, 4 p.m.  
• Where: Vaasa University Park, Universitetsstranden 7

### KORSHOLM MUSIC FESTIVAL Korsholm Music Festival turns 40+ – stars take over the clear nights of the west coast 22–31 July 2026

Warm summer evenings. Clear nights. And top-notch music. Since 1983, Korsholm Music Festival has been a chamber music festival unlike any other. The founder, cellist Seppo Kimanen, would be proud. Since 2023, cellist Jan-Erik Gustafs-son has led the festival, which attracts the cream of Finnish and international art musicians. Experience the unique surroundings of the west coast as dusk falls. Bring a picnic

## JUNE

# UKRAINE PRESIDENT

## Without Ukrainian Border Guards, It Is Impossible to Imagine the True Strength of Our State – President on Border Guard Day



**On Border Guard Day, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with servicemembers of the State Border Guard Service, congratulated them on their professional holiday, presented state awards, and bestowed upon SBGS units the ribbons of the honorary distinction “For Courage and Valor.”**

The Head of State emphasized that border guards are holding the line of statehood along the border with Russia, defending Ukraine’s sovereignty, and, together with all components of the Security and Defense Forces, repelling

enemy assaults on the frontline.

“Without the strength of our border guards, it is impossible to imagine the true strength of our state. I am grateful to you that Ukrainian border guards, all our border guard units, and the intelligence of our Border Guard Service are truly effective. We are proud of the formed combat brigades ‘Pomsta,’ ‘Forpost,’ ‘Steel Border,’ ‘Hart,’ and the mobile border detachment ‘DOZOR,’” Volodymyr Zelenskyy noted.

The President presented the Order of the Golden Star to the fa-

mily of fallen Hero of Ukraine Lieutenant Colonel Leonid Shirpal.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy also awarded border guards with the Orders of Bohdan Khmelnytsky, II and III class, the Orders “For Courage,” II and III class, and the Orders of Princess Olga, III class.

The Head of State presented the ribbons of the honorary distinction “For Courage and Valor” to the 25th Border Guard Detachment, the 26th Separate Aviation Squadron, and the Bohdan Khmelnytskyi National Academy of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.

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### ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



**Ilja Repin**  
24.7.1844, Tšugujev  
29.9.1930, Kuokkala nyk. Repino, Venäjä  
**Party for the Aristocracy, 1894**  
Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum, Yrjö and Nanny Kaunisto Collection  
Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Hannu Pakarinen

## George Orwell 1984 Part 27

A knot of others, standing round with glasses in their hands, were watching the scene.

‘I arst you civil enough, didn’t I?’ said the old man, straightening his shoulders pugnaciously. ‘You telling me you ain’t got a pint mug in the ‘ole bleeding boozer?’

‘And what in hell’s name IS a pint?’ said the barman, leaning forward with the tips of his fingers on the counter.

‘‘Ark at ‘im! Calls ‘isself a barman and don’t know what a pint is! Why, a pint’s the ‘alf of a quart, and there’s four quarts to the gallon. ‘Ave to teach you the A, B, C next.’

‘Never heard of ‘em,’ said the barman shortly. ‘Litre and half litre--that’s all we serve. There’s the glasses on the shelf in front of you.’

‘I likes a pint,’ persisted the old man. ‘You could ‘a drawed me off a pint easy enough. We didn’t ‘ave these bleeding litres when I was a young man.’

‘When you were a young man we were all living in the treetops,’ said the barman, with a glance at the other customers.

There was a shout of laughter, and the uneasiness caused by Winston’s entry seemed to disappear. The old man’s white-stubbed face had flushed pink. He turned away, muttering to himself, and bumped into Winston. Winston caught him gently by the arm.

‘May I offer you a drink?’ he said.

‘You’re a gent,’ said the other, straightening his shoulders again. He appeared not to have noticed Winston’s blue overalls. ‘Pint!’ he added aggressively to the barman. ‘Pint of wallop.’

The barman swished two half-litres of dark-brown beer into thick glasses which he had rinsed in a bucket under the counter. Beer was the only drink

you could get in prole pubs. The proles were supposed not to drink gin, though in practice they could get hold of it easily enough. The game of darts was in full swing again, and the knot of men at the bar had begun

talking about lottery tickets. Winston’s presence was forgotten for a moment. There was a deal table under the window where he and the old man could talk without fear of being overheard. It was horribly dangerous, but at any rate there was no telescreen in the room, a point he had made sure of as soon as he came in.

‘‘E could ‘a drawed me off a pint,’ grumbled the old man as he settled down behind a glass. ‘A ‘alf litre ain’t enough. It don’t satisfy. And a ‘ole litre’s too much. It starts my bladder running. Let alone the price.’

‘You must have seen great changes since you were a young man,’ said Winston tentatively.

The old man’s pale blue eyes moved from the darts board to the bar, and from the bar to the door of the Gents, as though it were in the bar-room that he expected the changes to have occurred.

‘The beer was better,’ he said finally. ‘And cheaper! When I was a young man, mild beer--wallop we used to call it--was fourpence a pint. That was before the war, of course.’

‘Which war was that?’ said Winston.



‘It’s all wars,’ said the old man vaguely. He took up his glass, and his shoulders straightened again. ‘Ere’s wishing you the very best of ‘ealth!’

In his lean throat the sharp-pointed Adam’s apple made a surprisingly rapid up-and-down movement, and the beer vanished. Winston went to the bar and came back with two more half-litres. The old man appeared to have forgotten his prejudice against drinking a full litre.

‘You are very much older than I am,’ said Winston. ‘You must have been a grown man before I was born. You can remember what it was like in the old days, before the Revolution. People of my age don’t really know anything about those times. We can only read about them in books, and what it says in the books may not be true. I should like your opinion on that. The history books say that life before the Revolution was completely different from what it is now. There was the most terrible oppression, injustice, poverty worse than anything we can imagine. Here in London, the great mass of the people never had enough to eat from birth to death. Half of them hadn’t even boots on their feet. They worked twelve hours a day, they left school at nine, they slept ten in a room. And at the same time there were a very few people, only a few thousands--the capitalists, they were called--who were rich and powerful. They owned everything that there was to own. They lived in great gorgeous houses with thirty servants, they rode about in motor-cars and four-horse carriages, they drank champagne, they wore top hats----’

The old man brightened suddenly.

‘Top ‘ats!’ he said. ‘Funny you should mention ‘em. The same thing come into my ‘ead only yesterday, I dono why. I was jest thinking, I ain’t seen a top ‘at in years. Gorn right out, they ‘ave. The last time I wore one was at my sister-in-law’s funeral. And that was--well, I couldn’t give you the date, but it must ‘a been fifty years ago. Of course it was only ‘ired for the occasion, you understand.’

‘It isn’t very important about the top hats,’ said Winston patiently. ‘The point is, these capitalists--they and a few lawyers and priests and so forth who lived on them--were the lords of the earth. Everything existed for their benefit. You--the ordinary people, the workers--were their slaves. They could do what they liked with you. They could ship you off to Canada like cattle. They could sleep with your daughters if they chose. They could order you to be flogged with something called a cat-o-‘nine tails. You had to take your cap off when you passed them.’

# HUMOUR ONE HUND-RED YEARS AGO

## SOUTH WIND.

"The doctor advised me to stay in a region where there are south winds," said the traveler. "Does it blow from the south here?"

"Yes, you have come to the right place. It always blows from the south here," assured the innkeeper. "Always? But it seems to me that the wind is blowing from the north today, at least," remarked the traveler. "Yes, it may be blowing from that direction, but it is a south wind after all. It is only on its way back now."

## A QUESTION OF MATTER.

Mr. Jones had sat down to breakfast and was looking at the newspaper. To his astonishment, he noticed in the paper an announcement that he had died. Excitedly, he rushed to the telephone and called his friend Smith. "Hello, Smith," he said, "have you seen the news of my death in the paper?"

"Yes," replied Smith, "where are you calling from?"

## WHERE THE CHILDREN COME FROM

There was a group of three flamboyantly dressed very little girls, with barks and ribbons and precious toys and neighbor dolls, and near them was playing on the sand a poor little girl of about the same age, scantily clad and with a home-made primitive doll in her arms. The three fine children discussed the interesting question of where they came from, which proved a highly interesting topic for toddler speculation.

— I come from a rose, mother said, uttered one of the little living dolls.

— And me again, interjected No. 2, I must have come from a head of cabbage.

"I, yes I was picked up by a stork," said number three. Whereupon she, who had come out of a rose, scornfully and proudly turned to the poor little scantily clad girl child, and said nobly:

— And you, there, where did you come from?

— Alas, answered little Cinderella, we are so poor, so terribly poor back home, that mother and father have to make their children themselves.

## MISSING CLOTHES

A couple of girls were arrested in New York on charges of appearing at a dance. The costumes in which the accused had danced were required to be produced as evidence in the trial. But for want of evidence the case had to be dismissed.

## PAINTED

Bill: Who was that new girl I saw with you last night?  
Jack: She wasn't new, she was my old one repainted.

## WEATHER REPORT

Sentimental young man: Oh, you are the sunshine of my life, sweet as a south wind, refreshing as a gentle rain after a long drought! Without you my life would be like a cloud of gloomy clouds  
Girl (interrupting): Wait a minute. Are you talking about a proposal, or a weather forecast?

## FEAR OF WATER

"Auntie, please," said little John, "wouldn't you like to wash my face?"  
"You can wash your face yourself," said the aunt.  
"Yes," admitted John, but explained, "My hands are clean and don't need to be wet now."

## MR WEST

A well-known joker once came in company into a restaurant, where he saw a familiar gentleman named Wester sitting drinking toddy.  
"Listen, Wester," he exclaimed, "can you tell me what is the resemblance between the sun and a toddy?"  
"No", he replied.  
"Well, both go down in the west," was the answer.

## Astronomic picture of the week:



Earth & Artemis II (55204104528).jpg  
NASA/Artemis II/Kevin M. Gill

Kevin M. Gill

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## BLOG WRITERS

Join Wasa Daily as a Blog Writer! Are you passionate about sharing your thoughts, stories, or expertise with the community? Wasa Daily is looking for enthusiastic blog writers to contribute engaging content for our readers.

Whether you love writing about local events, culture, lifestyle, business, or personal experiences, we welcome your voice!

Writing for Wasa Daily is a great opportunity to reach a wider audience, connect with fellow locals, and showcase your creativity. No prior experience is needed—just bring your ideas and enthusiasm! We value diverse perspectives and fresh voices that reflect the vibrant spirit of our community.

Interested? Send us your blog pitch or a short sample, and let's get your words published! Join us in making Wasa Daily a platform for meaningful conversations and inspiring stories.

Contact us at wasadagblad@gmail.com for more details. We can't wait to hear from you!

## WASA DAILY

A modern newspaper with a layout with features of the press of the 1870s. Back then, newspapers had only 4-8 pages. Lots of text, but no images at all, so there's a lot to read on a few pages. Our paper is one of the very few newspapers in English serving English-speaking inhabitants in the Osthrobotnia region

The magazine contains quotations from old daily newspapers taken from the National Archives (digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi). GPT3, Gemini, Aria and Monica do some of the routine editing work, such as translation, corrector reading, and short notice writing. All texts have been checked by journalists and the editorial staff is responsible for all the content of the texts.

Wasa Daily is a daily newspaper type publication, so far it is published on Sunday mornings. But our goal is for it to come out every morning in the future. The magazine is available online for free.

Editor-in-chief Hans Björknäs. Readers' writings are welcome! The magazine is locally owned and will remain so. For ever!

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## FROM OUR READERS

We very much welcome submissions from our readers. Comments, stories, memories, debate, news from home. Probably this will be the most important part of this spring paper. But space is limited, so please write as short as possible! So please send posts to: wasadagblad@gmail-com

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## WASA DAILY

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## HOROSCOPE FOR MAY 2026

### May Horoscope – The Stars Are Mumbling (And Maybe Making Some Sense)

**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)**  
May begins with a burst of energy! Unfortunately, you misplaced it. Try checking under the couch or in the fridge. Love is knocking – open the door, but peek through the peephole first.

**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)**  
Happy birthday season! Celebrate with cake, presents, and maybe one extra glass of bubbly. Finances look stable – until you pass a flea market.

**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)**  
You've got answers to everything, but no one's asked the questions yet. Careful with the puns – not everyone enjoys being called a "pre-coffee morning zombie."

**Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)**  
You're feeling emotional. That's okay – especially when you see a cute dog in the rain. Your career is moving forward... slowly, like a snail on a sightseeing tour.

**Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)**  
May is your catwalk! But remember: not every sidewalk is a stage. Love is blossoming – so is the balcony weed. Choose which one to water.

**Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)**  
You're planning everything to perfection. May says: "Good luck with that!" The stars suggest letting go a little – or at least trying spontaneous Taco Tuesday.

**Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)**  
You're weighing your options. May might trap you in a decision loop – especially at the ice cream counter. Love is nearby, possibly hiding behind a bookshelf.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)**  
You attract secrets and drama. Perfect – May has

plenty of both, with bonus cliffhangers. Tip: always have extra coffee at home.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)**  
Wanderlust is real! Even if your biggest trip is to the grocery store. May wants you to try something new – maybe salsa dancing. Or at least hot sauce.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)**  
You're working hard. May whispers: "Take it easy." A picnic in the park might give you more insight than three PowerPoint decks.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)**  
You're ahead of your time. May is still in pajamas. Meet halfway – maybe shorts with a blazer? Innovation is coming... once you find your charging cable.

**Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)**  
Your head's in the clouds. May offers sunshine, rain, and sudden existential questions while waiting in line at the post office. Trust your gut – but also check the weather forecast.

