

WASA DAILY



Happy Mother's Day!



**King Charles III
Speech to the U.S.
Congress**



**Seal hunting in
Replot 1895
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LOCAL NEWS

TAJGA-TICK

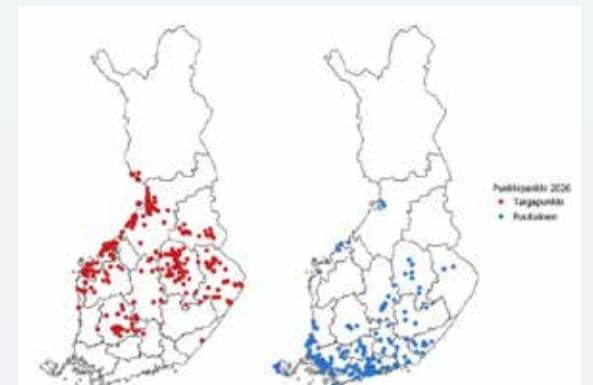
Dangerous "Super Tick" Spreading Near Vaasa – Scientists Sound the Alarm

A more aggressive species of tick is now spreading rapidly in western Finland — and researchers say the Vaasa region has become one of the new hotspots.



Siberian tick (Ixodes persulcatus) seen under a microscope. Photo: João Fonseca Lucas University of Turku

Scientists at the University of Turku report that the so-called taiga tick has appeared in unusually high numbers during this spring's nationwide tick collection campaign. The species is considered more dangerous than the common tick because it can carry serious diseases such as tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) and Lyme disease.



Finnish people have sent ticks to researchers from all over the country. The red dots represent the taiga ticks sent to the researchers, and their high numbers may indicate changes in the species' distribution. University of Turku

Until recently, taiga ticks were mainly associated with eastern Finland and areas closer to Russia. But now researchers say the species appears to be moving westward at increasing speed.

The findings come from Finland's "Tick Bank" project, where citizens send ticks to researchers

TODAY

EDITORIAL

Mother's day

When the world wavers, we look for what holds. In a news flow marked by war, unrest, and rapid change, there is a quiet center often taken for granted: the mother. On Mother's Day, we pause to reflect on her role—not as an idealized symbol, but as a tangible force in everyday life, where security is built from small things.

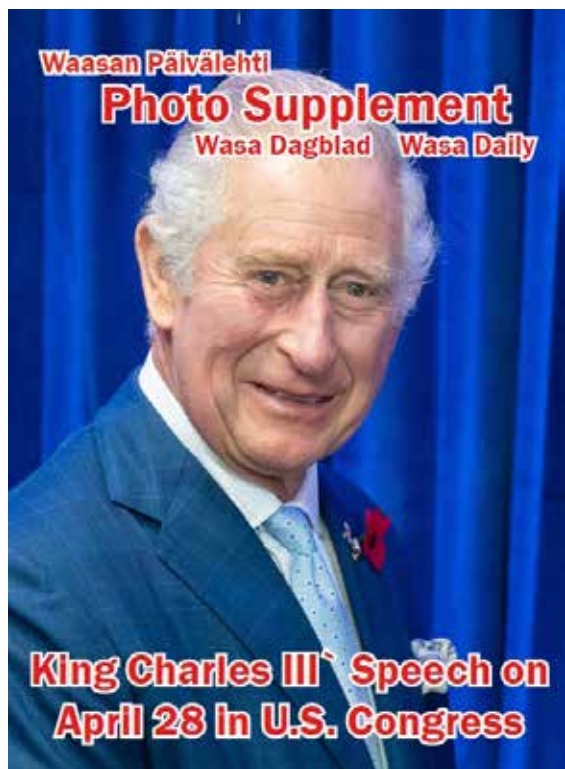
The mother is often a child's first interpreter of the world. She receives questions, fears, and wonder, and makes them understandable. At a time when even adults hesitate before the future, this ability becomes especially valuable. She creates continuity when the surrounding world feels fragmented: recurring meals, steady routines, a presence that calms.

But motherhood is not a solitary act. It is a collaboration—with the other parent, with extended family, with schools, and with society at large. To recognize the importance of mothers is also to offer them support, time, and space. A person who is allowed to rest and be seen gains the strength to carry others.

At the same time, the idea of motherhood is changing. It now encompasses many forms and life situations. What matters is not the form, but the function: to be there, to listen, to remain when the winds rise.

In uncertain times, it becomes clear that stability is not created by grand words, but by small, repeated acts of care. There, in the fabric of everyday life, lies the quiet strength of the mother—and perhaps it is that strength which ultimately carries society forward.

Photo Supplement



SUMMER VACATION

Should Finland Move Summer Vacation? Minister's Proposal Sparks Heated Debate



Could Finnish schoolchildren soon spend two extra weeks in classrooms before summer break begins?

That question is now fueling a national debate after Education Minister Anders Adlercreutz suggested that Finland's school summer vacation could be shifted two weeks later.

Under the idea, schools would continue further into June, while the autumn term would begin later in August. According to Adlercreutz, Finland's current school calendar no longer fully matches today's climate or modern family lifestyles.

Traditionally, Finnish schools close at the beginning of June — often before truly warm summer weather arrives. Meanwhile, August has increasingly become one of the warmest and sunniest months of the year.

The minister argues that a later school start could

benefit families, tourism and children's recovery time. Many parents are still on holiday when schools reopen in early August, creating scheduling challenges for families.

But the proposal has also triggered criticism. Opponents warn that extending the spring term could exhaust students and teachers after the long Nordic winter. Others fear disruptions to summer jobs, matriculation exams and existing school schedules.

The debate is therefore about far more than vacation dates. It touches on changing weather patterns, work-life balance and how Finland's education system should adapt to a changing society.

No official decision has been made, but the discussion is expected to continue throughout the year. Source: andersadlercreutz.fi



Montenegro's Minister for Europe, Maida Gorčević, visited Finland on Thursday, among other things, to discuss future EU membership. Hr together with Finland's Minister for Europe, Joakim Strand.

NEWS

for identification and disease monitoring. According to the researchers, this year's collection season has started "with a bang," with particularly large numbers of taiga ticks already reported.

Experts believe the unusually mild winter may be one major reason. When the ground does not freeze properly, more ticks survive and spread into new environments.

People in the Vaasa area are now being urged to take extra precautions while hiking, gardening or spending time in forests and grassy coastal areas. Careful skin checks after outdoor activities remain the most effective protection.

Researchers also warn that Finland could be facing an exceptionally long tick season this year. Source: University of Turku

THE VITALITY CENTRE

Major road projects start – but the money is not enough for everything

The transport and road plan for 2026 includes several major projects, including improvements to Highway 8 and new cycle paths in Ostrobothnia. But the Swedish Transport Administration warns: the funding is not enough for the entire network. "We have to prioritize safety first," the agency says.

Major construction projects to begin in 2026 In 2026, several significant road and traffic investments will be initiated in the region, with the aim of improving traffic flow and safety:

A level crossing will be built at the intersection of highways 3 and 19 in Jalasjärvi.

In Seinäjoki, the dangerous Tepo intersection will be removed from Highway 19 in Nurmo and replaced with new road arrangements.

In Vaasa, the Liaison Road will be transformed into a four-lane road from the motorway to the Sepänkylä Road.

In Pedersöre, 2+2 bypass sections will be implemented on Highway 8 between Edsevö and Lepplax. In Kokkola, Highway 8 will have four lanes close to the city centre.

At the same time, several new planning and improvement projects are waiting for funding decisions for the coming years. Source: Vitality Centre

KORSHOLM

Ice cream summer on Fjärdskär – new kiosk opens by the sea



Now summer guests and boat tourists will have a new stop in the archipelago. On 1 May, a new ice cream kiosk will open on Fjärdskär in Korsholm – just in time for the start of the intense summer season.

NEWS



Heavy Metal Shockwave Hits Vaasa – Kaaos Festival Wins Major Culture Award

What started as a bold gamble in an abandoned amusement park has now become one of Vaasa's biggest cultural success stories of the year.

Kaaos Festival has officially been named "Cultural Achievement of the Year 2025" in Vaasa after winning a public vote organized by the city's cultural services.

The festival, launched for the first time in summer 2025, transformed the former Wasalandia amusement park area in Vaskiluoto into a massive gathering point for heavy metal fans. Visitors arrived not only from across Finland, but also from Sweden and Central

Europe.

The two-day event took place on July 25–26, 2025, in Vaasa's seaside Vaskiluoto district. Thunderous guitar riffs, internationally known bands and a packed festival crowd turned the old amusement park into a dark and energetic concert arena.

According to the City of Vaasa, the festival received exceptional praise for its artist lineup and atmosphere. Officials also noted that the event boosted tourism and increased Vaasa's visibility among heavy music fans internationally.

The victory is seen as remarkable because many cultural events in Finland are currently struggling financially. Kaaos Festival instead managed to create immediate buzz and attract a loyal audience during its very first year.

The annual Cultural Achievement award is granted to a person or organization that has significantly contributed to Vaasa's cultural life. The €2,000 prize has now been awarded for the seventh time. Other finalists included church musician Tarja Viitanen and young tinsmith Oskari Tuominen, known for preserving traditional craftsmanship.

And the chaos is far from over. Organizers have already confirmed that Kaaos Festival will return to Vaskiluoto on July 24–25, 2026 – promising even bigger acts, louder performances and an even heavier atmosphere next summer.

PHOTO; Kaaos Festival was chosen as the Vaasa Cultural Work of the Year 2025. Pictured are Kaaos Festival representatives Ari Rintamäki and Arto Mäenpää (center), as well as the candidates Oskari Tuominen (left) and Tarja Viitanen (right) who participated in the public vote. Photo: Jouko Keto.

The new kiosk will sell ice cream, cold drinks and simple summer refreshments to visitors who move around the area. Fjärdskär is already a popular destination for locals and tourists alike, especially on sunny summer days.

The municipality hopes that the investment will increase well-being and make the area even more attractive for families and leisure boats. The opening will take place on Thursday 1 May 2026, just in time for the spring's first major excursion weekend.

For many, it will also be the first real signal that summer is now on its way to Ostrobothnia.

Reference: Mustasaari Municipality

KORSHOLM

Toby's beach gets a facelift – the residents decided

There will be summer renewal at Toby swimming beach in Mustasaari. The municipality's resident budget for 2026 will go to renovate the area around the popular swimming area, after the residents themselves voted for the project.

The plans include improvements that will make the area more pleasant and functional for both families with children and summer guests. Toby swimming beach is one of Mustasaari's most visited bathing spots on hot summer days, and the municipality now hopes that the investment will attract even more visitors.

The residents' budget means that the residents themselves can influence how part of the municipality's money is spent. According to the municipality, there has been great interest in the vote.

Work on the renovation is expected to begin in the summer of 2026.

Reference: Mustasaari Municipality

MALAX

Pride takes place in Malax – rainbow celebrations begin in June



Malax is gearing up for colorful Pride celebrations when the month of June begins with rainbow flags, programs and community.

The event will be held in early June 2026 in Malax and, according to the organisers, will highlight equality, openness and everyone's right to be themselves. The program is aimed at both young people and adults and is expected to gather participants from all over the region.

Pride celebrations in smaller municipalities have grown in importance in recent years, and in Malax it is hoped that the event will create both visibility and security for people in different life situations.

The organizers describe the event as a combination of party, culture and community involvement. Exact program items will be announced later in the spring.

Reference: Malax municipality

LIFTI

Bus Fares Set to Rise in Vaasa – But Only Slightly

Taking the bus in Vaasa may soon cost a little more, but city officials say passengers can avoid any major price shock. The ticket will become 20 c more expensive.

The City of Vaasa is proposing modest fare increases for Lifti public transport tickets as operating costs continue to rise. The planned changes would affect both single tickets and some travel passes used across the Vaasa region.

According to the city, the goal is to maintain service quality and avoid larger cuts to public transport routes while still keeping buses affordable for everyday commuters.

Lifti buses are widely used by students, pensioners and workers travelling daily in Vaasa and nearby areas.

Officials stress that the increases are intended to remain

moderate so public transport continues to compete with private car use.

The proposal will be discussed by city decision-makers during spring 2026. If approved, the new prices could take effect later in the year.

Source: City of Vaasa

WASA DAILY
Nearly everything You need
to know on 12 pages
vpress.fi

NEWS

King Charles III's speech on 28 April 2026 in the U.S. Congress



In this day and age, when world leaders seem to have lost all common sense and their speeches are filled with aggression, hatred, threats and statements about destroying an entire civilization, it is a wonderful experience to hear and read a speech – full of important content, full of nuance, but without threats, without aggression, without fake news

In this day and age, when world leaders seem to have lost all common sense and their speeches are filled with aggression, hatred, threats and statements about destroying an entire civilization, it is a wonderful experience to hear and read a speech – full of important content, full of nuance, but without threats, without aggression, without fake news.

Here are the most salient passages and ideas from King Charles III's address to the United

States Congress, distilled into key excerpts and themes. I've kept close to the original phrasing where possible, but condensed for clarity:

1. Shared democratic heritage

"Our nations are bound not only by history, but by values—liberty, the rule of law, and the dignity of the individual."

This opening frames the speech: the UK-US relationship is presented as principled, not merely strategic.

2. Defense of democracy under pressure

"Democracy cannot be taken for granted; it must be renewed and defended by each generation."

A direct acknowledgment of contemporary instability, urging vigilance against democratic backsliding.

3. Ukraine and international responsibility

"We must stand firm in support of those who resist aggression and defend

their sovereignty."

A clear, if diplomatically phrased, endorsement of continued Western support for Ukraine.

4. Warning against isolationism

"History reminds us that retreat from the world does not bring safety, but uncertainty."

This is one of the sharper lines—implicitly addressing debates within the US about global engagement.

5. Climate and long-term stewardship

"The challenges we face—from climate change to biodiversity loss—require not only urgency, but unity."

Consistent with Charles's long-standing environmental advocacy, elevating climate to a strategic priority.

6. The role of alliances

"Our alliances are not burdens, but the very instruments through which we secure peace."

A defense of multilateralism, including institutions like NATO.

7. Tone of continuity and restraint

"We meet not as strangers, but as partners—tested by time, and bound by common purpose."

The closing reinforces stability, continuity, and mutual trust.

Bottom line

The speech is less rhetorical flourish and more strategic messaging: it combines soft constitutional language with firm positioning on democracy, Ukraine, climate, and alliances. If you read it closely, the subtext is a polite but unmistakable argument against political fragmentation and geopolitical withdrawal. Photo: White House, Public Domain

VÖRÅ

The season is now underway in Vörå – the ski centre's roller ski track opened

Now it's time for summer training in Vörå. The roller ski track at Vörå Ski Centre has been opened for the season and is expected to attract both recreational and elite skiers from all over the region.

The facility is particularly popular with cross-country skiers who want to stay in shape all year round, but regular exercisers also use the track for roller skiing, running and cardio training. In recent years, Vörå Ski Centre has become known as an important training ground for both national and international skiers.

The paved track offers varied terrain and is used extensively already during spring and summer. The municipality is now hoping for an active training season after a winter with great interest in ski exercise.

Reference: Vörå municipality

MICKELSÖRARNA

Summer adventure to Mickelsörarna – day cruises attract out to sea

This summer's day trips to Mickelsörarna in the Kvarken are now starting. The excursions will be held on 28 June and 26 July 2026 and will take visitors out to the unique archipelago environment outside Vörå.

The Mickelsör region is known for its dramatic nature, its old fishing villages and the UNESCO-protected Kvarken Archipelago World Heritage Site. During the day trips, visitors have the opportunity to experience nature trails, sea views and archipelago environments that are otherwise difficult to reach.

The trips are aimed at both locals and tourists and are expected to be popular during the height of summer. Interest in nature tourism and day trips in the Kvarken has increased sharply in recent years.

The organizers recommend advance registration as the number of places is limited.

Reference: Vörå municipality – <https://www.vora.fi/nyheter/aktuellt/gor-en-oforglomlig-dagsresa-till-mickelsorarna-28-626-7-2026>

LAIHIA

Shock news in Laihia – entire staff could be laid off

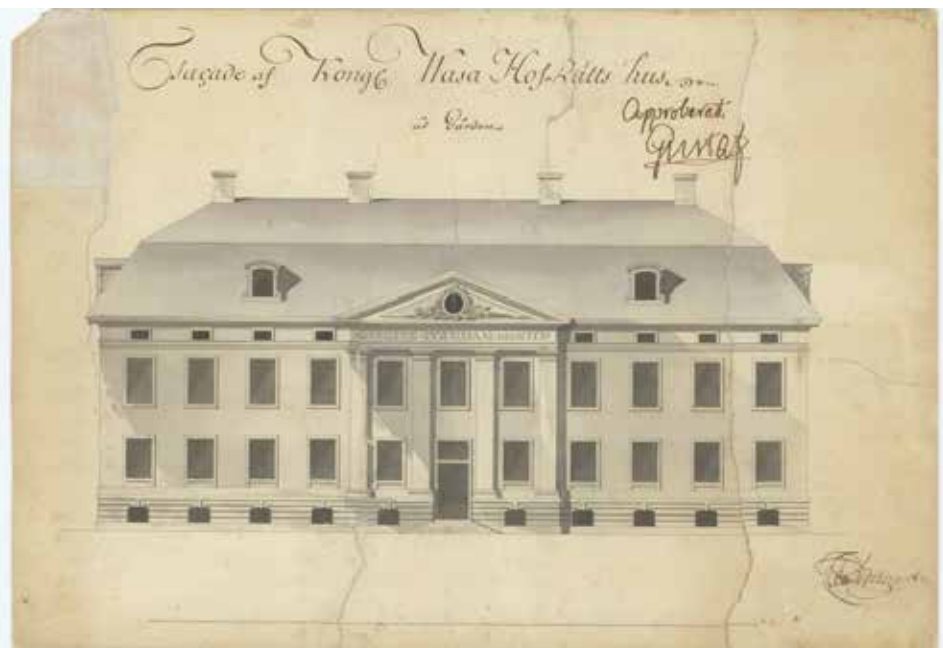
The municipality of Laihela is planning drastic cost-cutting measures that could affect the entire staff. The municipal executive board proposes fixed-term layoffs of up to 90 days in 2027.

The background is the municipality's squeezed finances and the need for extensive savings. According to the plans, the lay-offs will be carried out according to a separate lay-off plan that will be presented to the employees' representatives. The municipality expects the measures to result in savings equivalent to five person-years already if the layoffs last a week.

In addition, changes are planned in the education sector, where the number of classes in secondary school is reviewed to reduce costs. However, the municipality assesses that this particular measure does not directly affect the workforce.

In total, personnel measures are estimated to reduce the work input by nearly 20 person-years through lay-offs, retirements and reorganisations. Source: Laihela Municipal Executive Board

EXHIBITION



The magnificent 250-year history of the Vaasa Court of Appeal unfolds in Old Vaasa – the king himself designed the building

The Old Vaasa Museum opens an exhibition for the summer, which takes the visitor back 250 years to the time when Vaasa became a legal and cultural power.

The story is full of royal splendor, architectural challenges, and the rise of the city as a center of civilization.

In the summer of 1776, something significant happened in Vaasa. King Gustav III handed over the power of attorney of the Court of Appeal in Stockholm and appointed Arvid Fredrik Kurck as its president. Vaasa was just about to become one of Finland's most important legal centres – and at the same time, the fate of the entire city changed irrevocably.

Now this wonderful story is told in a new way in an exhibition at the Old Vaasa Museum, which is open 7.5.–29.8.2026.

The king designed himself

The establishment of the Vaasa Court of Appeal in 1775 was no small matter. It was part of King Gustav III's ambitious nationwide reform of the administration and judiciary. The judicial district of the Vaasa Court of Appeal was huge – it included large areas in Northern and Eastern Finland that had previously belonged to the Turku and Svea Courts of Appeal.

But why was Vaasa chosen?

"Vaasa was chosen because of its good transport connections, administrative position and symbolic value," says the exhibition. The city and the surrounding areas were enthusiastic about the project and supported the construction with donations.

It is particularly interesting that King Gustav III himself participated in the design of the Court of Appeal building. Officially, the chief curator Carl Fredrik Adelcrantz was responsible for the design, but the king himself defined the main lines of the building. The result was a magnificent building in the Gustavian style, consisting of the main building and two wings.

Construction progressed slowly – but resulted in a boulevard as a by-product

However, not everything went according to plan. Construction work began in the 1770s, but progressed much slower than planned. The biggest problem was the construction site, which turned out to be too damp.

The construction site had to be moved to a drier area – and this led to a surprising by-product: the creation of the first park alley in Vaasa. This historic alley still exists and is a reminder of a construction project from 250 years ago.

The building was completed in stages, and the Court of Appeal was finally able to move into its new premises in 1786 – ten years after it began operations.

The centre of the intelligentsia and the starting point of culture

The establishment of the Court of Appeal did not only bring legal activity to Vaasa – it changed the character of the entire city.

Educated people, culture and new institutions arrived in Vaasa. The second printing house in the country was established in the city in 1776 – just a year after the Court of Appeal began operating. In 1794, Finland's first public reading and lending library

was established in Vaasa – a pioneer in the whole country.

Vaasa had suddenly become a lively administrative and cultural centre, where the intelligentsia gathered, ideas flowed and new practices were born.

The exhibition highlights notable people from this period, such as the President of the Court of Appeal, Axel Christian Reuterholm, and his wife, the artist Charlotta Malm Reuterholm. These people were not just civil servants – they were promoters of culture and disseminators of civilization.

The many lives of the Court of Appeal

The exhibition tells not only about the golden age of the Court of Appeal, but also about what happened to the building later.

In 1852, the devastating fire of Vaasa changed the city thoroughly. However, the old Court of Appeal building remained in the fire, and the Court of Appeal continued to operate there until 1862.

Then something significant happened: the building was converted into a church. The change was radical and required major changes to the interior. The Korsholm Church, which was built according to the plans of provincial architect C.A. Setterberg, was consecrated on 3 September 1863.

The former Court of Appeal building, where sentences were once pronounced and legal history was made, was transformed into a space where the gospel was now preached and services were celebrated. The exhibition opens up this architectural historical transformation in a unique way.

Improvements and extensions in the 1800s

The exhibition also tells about how the surroundings of the Court of Appeal were developed in the 1800s. The building and the yard area were repaired and expanded in many ways.

Added drainage systems to solve moisture problems. An archive and a spraying room were built – important functional additions. A garden and a gazebo were created – signs that it was also a representative space, not just an office building.

These details make history alive: this was not just a building, but a living environment in which people worked, lived and created history.

An exhibition full of treasures

The exhibition at the Old Vaasa Museum is not just text on the walls. On display are scale models that illustrate what the building and its surroundings looked like in the past. Visual material brings history to life. And stories about the everyday life, administration of justice and administration at the Court of Appeal – stories of ordinary and unusual cases that were solved in these premises.

The exhibition is planned and implemented by the Vaasa Museums in cooperation with the Vaasa Court of Appeal. A wide range of partners have been involved: Aalto University, the Vaasa City Archives, the Korsholm Parish Union, the Finnish Library Museum and the Jakobstad Museum. Photographer Gunnar Bäckman has participated in the visual implementation.

Take a look – admission is free

The Old Vaasa Museum is open from 7 May to 29 August 2026 from Wednesday to Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm. The great thing is that there is no entrance fee to the museum – history is available to everyone.

The exhibition is on display on the second and third floors of the museum. And if a visit to the museum awakens hunger or thirst, there is a café on the first floor of the museum, which is open during the museum's opening hours.

This is a unique opportunity to get to know the 250-year history of the Vaasa Court of Appeal – a story that is also the story of the history of Vaasa, Ostrobothnia and the whole of Finland. The story of how a small coastal town emerged as a legal and cultural center, and how its influence is still felt today.

History is not just the past – it is the foundation of where we are today.

Vaasa Court of Appeal 250th anniversary exhibition

Where: Old Vaasa Museum, Vaasa

When: 7.5.–29.8.2026

Opening hours: Wed–Sat 10 am–5 pm

Admission: Free

More information: Vaasa Museums

Photo: Ostrobothnian Museum

NEWS

VAASA

Postikatu to be closed – major renovation starts in Vaasa

From 18 May 2026, most of Postikatu in central Vaasa will be closed for extensive renovation. The work includes new water pipes, street paving and lighting. Traffic will be diverted via Hovioikeudenpuistikko. The project is expected to last until the end of August.

Source: City of Vaasa

VAASA

Food support in Vaasa secured with a new funding model

The City of Vaasa and local organisations have agreed on a joint financing model that ensures the distribution of food to those in need. The goal is that no one should have to go hungry – even during economically difficult times.

Source: City of Vaasa

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: stinfo.fi/.../forslag-avgiftsfria-forlossning-ar-i-vasa-i-fortsattningen

THE WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY

MAJOR SHAKE-UP FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES 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),

ROAD CHURCHES



ROAD CHURCHES

Finding peace on the road!

Finding Peace on the Road: A Look at Europe's Road Churches

For centuries, churches have served as places of comfort and spiritual renewal for communities. But in modern Europe, a unique concept has emerged: roadside churches. These are churches specially designed or adapted to welcome travelers and offer a haven for prayer, reflection, or just a peaceful break from travel.

Germany: The Pioneer Nation

Germany is considered to have given birth to the concept of the road church. The first is believed to have opened decades ago in Baden-Baden and offered a rest area for tired passengers on the Autobahn. These Autobahn chapels, as they are sometimes called, often feature distinctive architecture, creating a visually striking landmark along the highway.

Finland's extensive network

Finland has received the concept of the road church with remarkable enthusiasm. With over 200 roadside churches scattered across the country, they offer a haven for travelers, especially during the summer months. While some close during the winter, some dedicated ones remain open

year-round, offering a warm and welcoming space for all.

Beyond borders: Road churches are becoming more common. While Germany and Finland have the most established networks, the concept of road churches is gradually gaining ground in other European countries. East Terrike, Hungary, and the Netherlands are just a few examples where you can find these travel-friendly places of worship.

Are there road churches in the United States? Currently, the concept of dedicated road churches is not as widespread in the United States. But there are examples of churches along major highways that offer similar hospitality to travelers. Some have designated resting places or open their doors for prayer and contemplation. In addition, truck-car stops often have canopies or designated quiet spaces that cater to travelers on the road.

A beacon for the modern traveller

In an age of fast travel, road churches offer a valuable service. They offer a place for weary travelers to find a moment of peace, reconnect with their faith, or simply appreciate a beautiful space. The unique architecture and welcoming



atmosphere make them more than just rest areas; They are cultural landmarks and evidence of the enduring power of spiritual connection.

How to find the road church!

In Finland, more than 260 road churches open their doors to visitors in the summer. Many of these churches are easily accessible by following the white road church signs along the roadside. However, before your trip, you should take a look at Tiekirkot.fi website, where you can find detailed information about roadside churches. • You can search for road churches using the map search and choose your own som-marlov route to see which churches fall along the way. • You can also browse the list of road churches and search for churches by location or church type (wooden,

concrete and stone churches). The church's opening hours vary, so always check our website on the church's own page. Most churches are open 5.6.-20.8. from 11 am to 4 pm, but some road churches serve visitors year-round.

Churches can offer worship services as well as other events such as concerts and meditation. Finland's first highway churches were opened in the early 1990s, initially in a few churches in northern Finland. The idea of churches with open doors, which originated in Germany, has since become widespread. Both Evangelical Lutheran and Orthodox churches are involved, and new churches join every year. In addition, you can find information about Road Churches on Facebook and Instagram on account @tiekirkot. Follow Road Churches on social media and admire people's church spotting with the hashtag #tiekirkko

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 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 longstanding 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

HISTORY



Into Konrad Inha in Replot 1895

Inha, wrapped in a thick coat against the biting Finnish wind, squinted through the viewfinder of her large-format camera. The brass shone and reflected the skeletal silhouette of Helsinki Cathedral against the blue winter sky.

He was not just any photographer; Inha, with her fiery beard and boundless curiosity, was a columnist who captured the soul of a nation on the brink of change. In 1895 he photographed seal hunting in Replot.

These pictures were published in the book "FINLAND IN PICTURES".



KAOS FESTIVAL

The metal storm returns to Vaasa – Kaaos Festival gears up for a new invasion

After last year's success, Kaaos Festival is making a comeback in Vaasa – and the organizers promise even heavier names and a larger audience in the summer of 2026.

The festival will be held in Vaskiluoto on 24–25 July 2026 in the old Wasalandia area, which will be transformed into a massive festival area for hard rock and metal fans from all over the Nordic region. Last year's debut attracted audiences far beyond Ostrobothnia and brought Vaasa international attention in the metal scene. Now the organizers are hoping for an even greater impact. The festival is marketed as one of the most intense metal experiences of the summer in Finland, with both international and Finnish bands on the program. Hotel bookings in Vaasa are already expected to increase ahead of the festival weekend.

Source: Kaaos Festival – <https://kaaosfestival.fi/>

UUSIKAUPUNKI

Crusell Week blows in with French elegance. The Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra participates

Uusikaupunki will be transformed into the capital of music from 27 July to 2 August 2026 when Crusell Week takes over the city's squares, churches and auditoriums. The festival opens with Avajaispuhallus on the square (27.7 at 12 noon), and the week offers everything from the children's concert Freija to the grand Grand Concert Festif in the New Church (30.7 at 6 pm) with the Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra and Helena Juntunen as soloist. The evenings end with lantern concerts and French tunes under the stars. Source: crusell.fi/konsertit-2026

CRUSELL WEEK IN UUSIKAUPUNKI

Helena Juntunen leads Crusell's big anniversary concert

On 30 July at 6 p.m. in the New Church in Uusikaupunki, the highlight of the Crusell Week will be celebrated: the Grand Concert de Celebration. Soprano Helena Juntunen and conductor Teemu Hämäläinen lead the Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra through Crusell's own songs and French orchestral music. A festive evening that combines classic elegance with Nordic passion. Source: crusell.fi/grand-concert-de-celebration

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.

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

HEALTH

The Hanta virus raises concerns – but is it the beginning of a new pandemic??

In recent days, the world has once again started talking about a virus epidemic on a cruise ship.

This time, it is not a coronavirus, but a hantavirus – a group of viruses that normally spreads from rodents to humans. The suspicion that the virus strain, the so-called Andean virus, may have spread among people on board the MV Hondius, has attracted particular attention from researchers and health authorities.

What is hantavirus?
Hantavirus is a family of viruses that are spread mainly by mice and moles. Humans usually become infected by inhaling dust that contains viruses from rodent urine, feces, or saliva. Infection can also occur through direct contact with contaminated surfaces.

The disease can cause high fever, muscle aches and flu-like symptoms. In severe cases, the lungs or kidneys are attacked. The mortality rate varies depending on the virus variant.

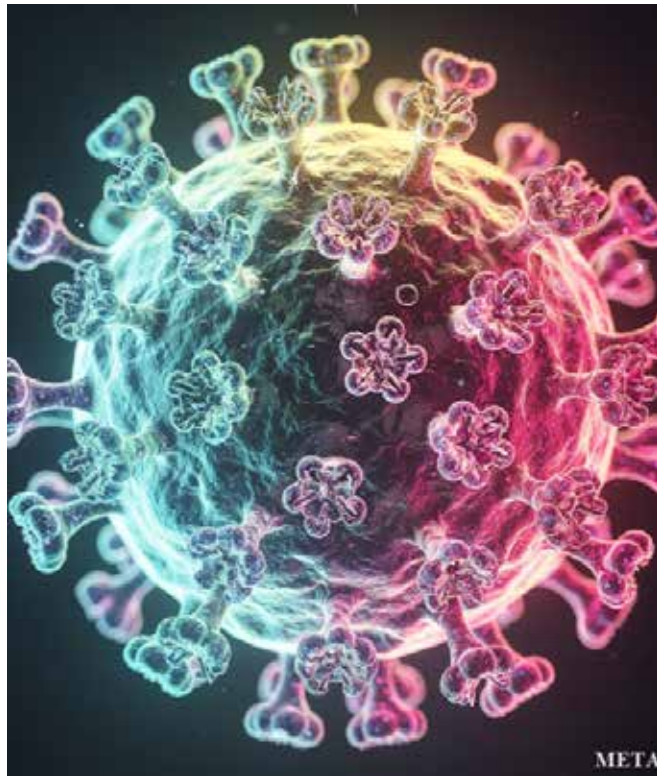
In Europe and Finland, the hanta virus most often causes kidney binding and so-called mole fever, while the American variants often cause severe lung failure, the so-called "mole fever". HPS (Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome).

Unusual Andean virus

Experts are now concerned that the Andean virus – which is mainly found in Argentina and Chile – is the only variant of hantavirus in which human-to-human transmission has been clearly documented.

On board the cruise ship, several people have fallen ill and at least three have died. The WHO suspects that the infection has spread among people who have been in close contact, such as spouses or cabin sharers.

At the same time, the WHO stresses that the risk to the public is still low. The virus does



not seem to spread as easily as influenza or COVID-19. The infection seems to require close and long-term contact.

What kind of hantaviruses are there in Finland?

In Finland, the Puumala virus is common. It spreads through the forest vole and causes epidemic nephropathy, which is colloquially called mole fever.

In fact, Finland is one of the European countries where the hanta virus is most common. During the so-called mole years, thousands of Finns may fall ill. Most people make a full recovery, but the disease can be very troublesome in the following situations:

- High fever
- Headache
- Back and abdominal pain
- Renal involvement
- Temporary visual disturbances

However, the mortality rate in the Finnish form is low compared to the Andean virus.

There are also other hantaviruses in Europe, such as:

- Dobrava virus
- Seoul virus
- Tula virus

These have different rodents as host animals and the disease pictures vary.

Could a new "corona crisis" arise?

Most virologists believe that the risk of a new hantavirus-type pandemic is currently significantly lower than that of COVID-19.

There are several reasons:

- Hantavirus does not usually spread efficiently between humans.
- The incubation period is long.
- The chains of infection are usually short.
- The virus often requires close contact.

The coronavirus, on the other hand, had several features that made it highly susceptible to the pandemic:

- Airborne infection
- Infection before symptoms

The Andean virus is more dangerous for an individual patient, but it is likely to spread much worse globally.

However, this does not mean that researchers take the situation lightly. Every time a virus shows the ability to infect humans, the risk increases that it will eventually evolve through mutations.

Can vaccines be developed?

Yes – and the investigation is already underway.

The problem is that hantaviruses are relatively rare worldwide, making it difficult and expensive to develop large-scale vaccines. Vaccines

for some Asian hantaviruses are already available in China and South Korea, but they are not being used internationally on a larger scale.

The researchers are currently working on:

- The mRNA roccott
- Extensive vaccines against several hantaviruses
- Antivirals
- Antibody treatments

The experiences of the COVID pandemic have made vaccine technology significantly faster than before. If the Andean virus or some other variant were to spread more efficiently among humans, vaccines could probably be developed much faster than just ten years ago.

A reminder of nature's virus storehouse

The incident on the cruise ship is above all a reminder of how many viruses circulate in nature among animal species. Most never reach people. Some do so – and very few are able to spread out further among people.

The Hanta virus is therefore not yet a new pandemic. But it is a clear example of why the world's infection control authorities follow even small and unusual epidemics with the utmost precision.

NEWS

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

THEATRE

VAASA CITY THEATRE Big Emotions and Hit Musicals Coming to Vaasa – City Theatre Reveals New Season



PHOTO: The title roles of the Katri Helena musical are played by Emma-Sofia Hautala (left) and Satu Taalikainen. Photo: Vaasa City Theatre

The autumn season of the Vaasa City Theatre's large stage opens with a sparkling musical about willpower. The audience will be taken on a journey through the twists and turns of the beloved pop star's life when the Katri Helena musical premieres on September 18. The title role of Katri Helena will be played by Satu Taalikainen and the young Katrina will be played by Emma-Sofia Hautala. The musical is directed by theatre director Seppo Välinen and the conductor is Sauli Perälä, who is also responsible for the music arrangement. Katri Liikola will be the guest choreographer, Juho Lindström will be the set designer and Ulla-Maija Peltola will be the costume designer. The sound designer is Niklas Nybom, the new sound designer at the Vaasa City Theatre.

The second premiere of the autumn on the Romeo stage will take you across the seas and back. Colorado Avenue is a musically flavored play about big dreams and the courage to embrace life with both hands. Based on Lars Sund's best-selling novel, the play is a playful and absurd story about Dollari-Hanna and her son Oto, as well as the people in their lives. The play is directed by Maiju Sallas and the composition and music are by Sauli Perälän. Annukka Pykäläinen is the stage designer, Paula Varis is the costume designer, and Niklas Nybom is the sound designer. Colorado Avenue will premiere on November 5th.

Source: Vaasa City Theatre

FINLAND

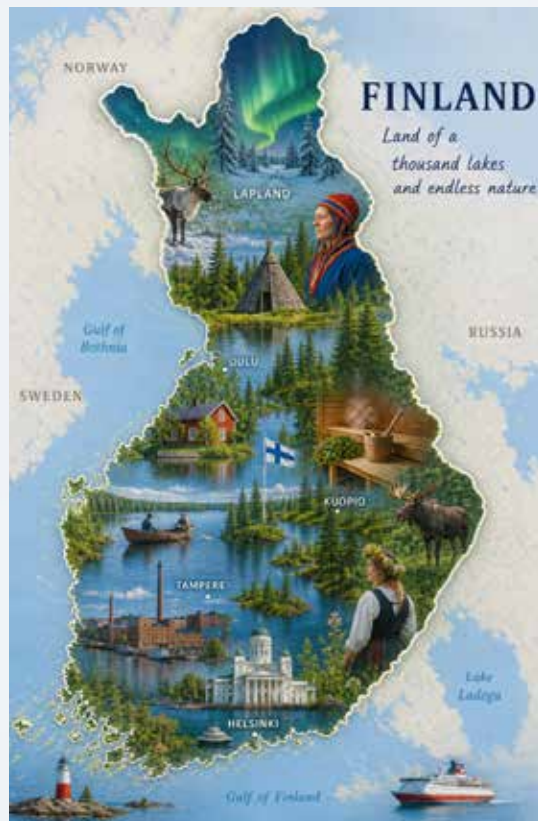
ALERT
Alert: Fake government messages surge – scammers exploit Suomi.fi

NEWS

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—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



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

POLITICS

GREENS Prohibition of mediation protects the victim – not a cost-cutting measure



The Greens demand that the ban on mediation in violent crimes should be seen as a protection for the victim, not as a way to save money. The party reacts to the fact that some municipalities have tried to limit the ban on mediation for financial reasons. According to Virta, the lack of police resources is a real problem, but it cannot be addressed by weakening the position of victims and children who are victims of violence. In a panel on domestic violence, THL's Senior Researcher Johanna Hietämäki pointed out that in previous mediation, for example, violence control had not been identified and the process was aimed at the victims. "A victim of violence cannot be an equal partner at the mediation table, and the experience of violence by an adult close to the child is always harmful to the child. The prohibition on mediation protects victims of domestic violence, and it is not suitable for savings," says Virta.

Virta has pushed for an initiative against child peace violations in Parliament, which would give a child who witnesses domestic violence the status of a victim of crime in criminal law, thereby improving the child's legal protection. The initiative gathered a majority of over a hundred members of parliament from all parliamentary parties. Source: The Greens

GREENS Early support for the elderly – Greens want to secure everyday life

The Greens propose a comprehensive package to ensure the safety of older people in their everyday lives. The proposal includes early care, better home services and more preventive home visits. "The hoivan must start on time – not only when the crisis is here," says the party's social policy working group. Source: The Greens

RUSSIA

RUSSIA Moscow is locked down ahead of Victory Day – Putin is protected "like never before"

Security around Vladimir Putin is being tightened sharply ahead of Russia's big Victory Day celebration on May 9 in Moscow. According to information from sources within the Federal

Protection Service (FSO), exceptional security measures are awaiting around the president during the military parade on Red Square. Sources describe the situation as serious and urge the public to be vigilant in central Moscow during the festivities. At the same time, the extensive internet and communication interruptions that have already been noticed in the capital are defended. According to the information, the measures are both about protection against drone and missile attacks and about fear of threats from internal enemies. The communication restrictions are also seen as a test of how a major national lockdown would work in practice. Victory Day on 9 May is one of Russia's most important political and military symbolic events and is held annually on Red Square in Moscow. Reference: Telegram

RUSSIA
Moscow tests digital lockdown – internet blockades could become permanent tool
The extensive internet and communication disruptions in Moscow are now described as a success by Russian government sources. According to information from Telegram channels, the blockades are being used as part of the protection of President Vladimir Putin ahead of Victory Day on May 9. At the same time, the measures are said to serve as a dress rehearsal for future major communications controls in Russia. The authorities are said to be satisfied with how the restrictions worked during the first tests. Residents of Moscow and the Moscow region have reported problems with mobile networks, internet connections and digital services during the week. Critics believe that the measures show how quickly the state can limit the flow of information in a crisis situation. The Victory Day celebration on Red Square is expected to bring together both military and political elites under the strictest possible security surveillance. Reference: Telegram

RUSSIA Alarm about growing pharmaceutical crisis in Russia – cancer patients risk being left without treatment

Russia is facing a serious shortage of medicines that is now hitting cancer patients directly. Russian human rights representatives and patient organizations are warning about this after growing reports of empty pharmacy shelves around the country. The situation is particularly difficult for important cancer drugs such as methotrexate and etoposide. According to data from the President's Council on Human Rights, complaints have increased sharply in several regions. Experts warn that the consequences could be dramatic in the longer term. According to sources, the lack of treatment risks leading to more serious cancer cases within four to five years. The problems do not only apply to cancer drugs. Vaccines and other important medicines are also reported to be difficult to obtain. At the same time, reduced funding and financial problems are pointed out as causes of the growing crisis. Russian pharmaceutical manufacturers are not considered to be able to fully cover the need. Reference: Telegram

EVENTS

TODAY

RITZ

Mother's Day in style – Ritz offers a warm and beautiful concert

Ritz celebrates all mothers with an atmospheric 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.

MAY

CYCLING WEEK

Cycling fever hits Vaasa – a week of movement and creativity



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

Peter Jöback takes over the Ritz – an evening of musical splendor 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 – opera 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

Vaasa 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

JUNE

EVENING MUSIC

50 years of free evening music in Vaasa – stars take over Vaasa 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 Yliopistopuisto

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 Gustafsson 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 basket – and a handkerchief. It can be so beautiful that it hurts.

Source: Bothnia Classic

KAAOS FESTIVAL

The metal storm returns to Vaasa – Kaos Festival gears up for a new invasion

After last year's success, Kaos Festival is making a comeback in Vaasa – and the organizers promise even heavier names and a larger audience in the summer of 2026. The festival will be held in Vaskiluoto on 24–25 July 2026 in the old Wasalandia area, which will be transformed into a massive festival area for hard rock and metal fans from all over the Nordic region. Last year's debut attracted audiences far beyond Ostrobothnia and brought Vaasa international attention in the metal scene.

Now the organizers are hoping for an even greater impact. The festival is marketed as one of the most intense metal experiences of the summer in Finland, with both international and Finnish bands on the program.

Hotel bookings in Vaasa are already expected to increase ahead of the festival weekend.

Source: Kaos Festival – <https://kaosfestival.fi/>

UUSIKAUPUNKI

Crusell Week blows in with French elegance. The Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra participates

UKRAINE PRESIDENT

What Tomorrow Brings Depends on What We Hear Today – Address by the President



I wish you health, fellow Ukrainians!

Today – our warriors, our combat brigades: the 31st and 67th Mechanized Brigades, the 20th Army Corps. I want to thank you, warriors!

Now, on May 8, when most of the world remembers and honors the warriors of World War II – those who defeated the Nazis – one must recognize that today's Russian Nazis are continuing their war and are still trying to bring back the same insane order that was defeated in World War II. Our defense against Russia's invasion is not only the defense of

Ukraine alone; it is not only the defense of our independence. Russia threatens almost all of its neighbors and all of Europe, not just one country. And it is in forests like these, on lands like these – in the Dnipro region and in the east of our country, in Donbas, in the Kharkiv, Sumy, and Chernihiv regions – that previous generations of Ukrainians fought against the occupier in World War II. And now, here, our Ukrainian heroes are defending the life of the people and the people's right to life – defending it from this Russian occupier, who so closely resembles the one from the 20th century. We will definitely defend Ukrai-

ne's life and our independence – without a doubt.

There was extensive work with combat brigades today, and I am grateful for the honest assessments. We understand that more UGVs are needed, along with improved capabilities of these systems. We will try to increase funding further – in particular so that brigades can continue refining their own developments and ensure that everything necessary for specific tasks can be secured on the ground quickly. I thank every warrior and all commanders who are truly creative in their developments and solutions.

Glory to Ukraine!

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ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Alexandra Frosterus-Sältin

6.12.1837, Ingå

29.2.1916, Vaasa

Mother with Her Sleeping Child, 1862

Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum

Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Aleks Talve

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 drew 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 drew 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?”

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.

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.

Astronomic picture of the week:



Galaxy NGC 1232

This spectacular image of the large spiral galaxy NGC 1232 was obtained on September 21, 1998, during a period of good observing conditions. It is based on three exposures in ultra-violet, blue and red light, respectively. The colours of the different regions are well visible : the central areas contain older stars of reddish colour, while the spiral arms are populated by young, blue stars and many star-forming regions. Note the distorted companion galaxy on the left side, shaped like the greek letter "theta".

Credit: ESO

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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.

