

WASA DAILY



**Vaasa is the second best
in Finland - page 3**



**The Old Church in Isokyrö
will open today, page 10**



**Flowers in Vaasa
Page 5**

LOCAL NEWS

STORMOSSEN

**Stormossen is one of the
cheapest in the country –
vacation home owners save
big bucks**



It is a good idea to own a holiday home in the Vaasa region. A national comparison shows that Stormossen has the sixth lowest waste fee for holiday homes in Finland. The annual cost is only €37.57, while the national average is €86.95. Stormossen's fees are also close to the national average for single-family houses. At the same time, the waste management company wants to make it easier for residents to influence their costs. Stormossen's website now has a new cost calculator that allows homeowners to see how different emptying intervals and better sorting affect their own waste fee. The goal is both lower costs and a higher recycling rate. Source: Stormossen / City of Vaasa.

WÄRTSILÄ

**World First: Wärtsilä
Powers Spain's Grid with a
100% Hydrogen Engine**



Finnish technology company Wärtsilä has reached a milestone that could reshape the future of clean electricity. At its research laboratory in Bermeo, northern Spain, the company has successfully operated the world's first large-scale engine running entirely on hydrogen, delivering electricity

TODAY

EDITORIAL

A Second Career Could Be Something for You

Retirement at 60 or 65 no longer means the end of your productive years—it could be the beginning of an entirely new chapter. With advances in healthcare and longer life expectancies, today's retirees can look forward to 20 to 30 years of active, healthy living ahead of them.

That's more than enough time to embark on a completely different career path, one that could prove even more fulfilling than your first.

The concept of a second career is transformative. Unlike your initial career, which was often chosen out of necessity or limited options, a second career represents true freedom of choice. You've already proven yourself professionally, built financial stability, and gained decades of invaluable experience. Now you can pursue what genuinely interests you, whether that's teaching, consulting, starting your own business, or diving into a field you've always been curious about but never had the chance to explore.

This shift in perspective can be incredibly beneficial for your well-being. Research consistently shows that having purpose and staying in-

tellectually engaged are crucial factors in healthy aging. A second career provides structure, social interaction, and mental stimulation—all elements that contribute to both cognitive health and emotional satisfaction. Rather than facing the potential isolation or restlessness that sometimes accompanies traditional retirement, you're actively creating new challenges and opportunities for growth.

What makes this even more compelling is how much more common second careers are in other countries compared to Finland. In the United States, for example, it's not unusual to see professionals completely reinvent themselves in their 60s. Former executives become teachers, engineers pursue art, and corporate managers open small businesses. This cultural acceptance of career transitions later in life creates an environment where experience is valued alongside fresh perspectives.

Finland could benefit tremendously from embracing this model more fully. One particularly promising approach would be implementing a 5% quota for seniors in universities and polytechnics. This isn't about charity or filling seats—it's about recognizing the immense value that mature students bring to educational environments.

Consider what a 60-year-old brings to a classroom that a 20-year-old simply

cannot: decades of tacit knowledge. This is the kind of wisdom that can't be found in textbooks—the understanding of how theories work in practice, the ability to see patterns and connections that only come with experience, and the perspective that helps distinguish between what's truly important and what's merely trendy. When a former business manager studies social work, they bring insights about organizational dynamics. When a retired nurse pursues environmental science, they understand human behavior and community health in ways that enrich classroom discussions.

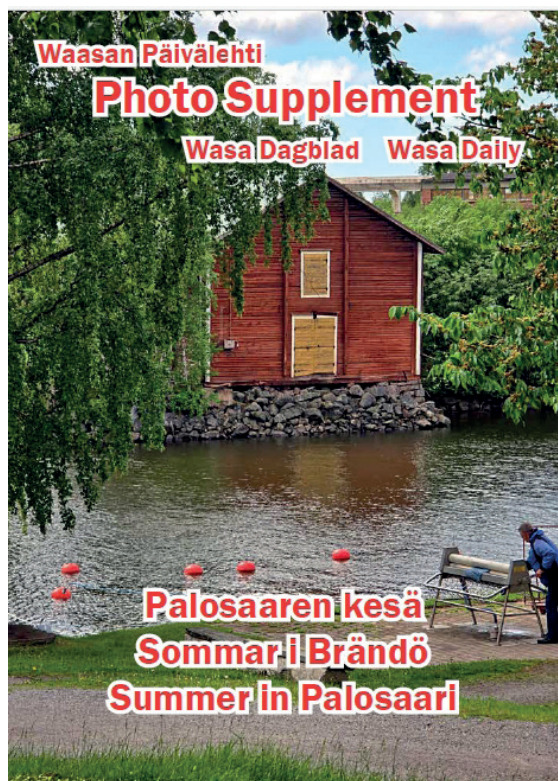
Young students would benefit enormously from this intergenerational learning environment. They gain mentors, role models, and a broader perspective on life and career possibilities. Meanwhile, senior students often bring a level of motivation and focus that can inspire their younger classmates. They're not there because they have to be—they're there because they choose to be, and that enthusiasm is contagious.

The economic benefits are equally compelling. A society that fully utilizes the talents and experience of its older citizens is more productive and innovative. Second careers often involve entrepreneurship, consulting, or part-time specialized work that continues contributing to the economy while allowing for greater work-life balance.

The key is changing our cultural narrative about aging and productivity. Instead of viewing retirement as an endpoint, we should see it as a transition point—an opportunity to apply decades of accumulated wisdom in new ways. Whether it's returning to education, starting a business, or pursuing a completely different profession, a second career offers the chance to remain engaged, challenged, and purposeful well into your later years.

The question isn't whether you're too old for a second career—it's whether you're ready to embrace the possibilities that your experience and freedom can create.

Photo Supplement



NEWS

directly to Spain's national power grid.

The demonstration marks a significant advance for carbon-free power generation. As wind and solar output fluctuates, hydrogen-fuelled engines can provide fast, flexible backup power without carbon emissions at the point of use. Wärtsilä's new 31H2 engine is based on the company's proven engine platform but operates exclusively on pure hydrogen.

Spain, one of Europe's renewable energy leaders, offered an ideal real-world testing environment. According to Wärtsilä, the successful trial shows that the technology is technically ready for wider deployment, provided hydrogen production and infrastructure continue to expand.

The achievement builds on Wärtsilä's 2024 launch of the world's first large-scale hydrogen-ready power plant concept. With this latest breakthrough, the company has moved from concept to real grid operation, potentially opening a new chapter in balancing renewable electricity systems and accelerating Europe's transition toward net-zero emissions.

Image caption: Wärtsilä has started validation of a new 100% hydrogen engine to power Spain's national electricity grid in Bermeo, northern Spain – the world's first demonstration of a large-scale, 100% hydrogen engine. © Wärtsilä Corporation
Source: Wärtsilä press release

WÄRTSILÄ

Natural gas to reduce emissions – major upgrade at cement plant in Jordan



A major energy boost awaits Qatrana Cement Company in Karak, Jordan. Vaasa-based company Wärtsilä has been commissioned to rebuild the engine-based power plant that powers the cement factory – an investment that will both significantly reduce emissions and reduce operating costs. The work was booked already in the first quarter of 2026 and was announced on 17 June.

The core of the project is to convert the plant to natural gas operation, which will result in lower fuel consumption and less need for lubricating oil. At the same time, the engines are being prepared to run on sustainable fuels in the future, which makes the plant more flexible at a time when industry is

under pressure to reduce its climate footprint.

QCC CEO Amer Khatib emphasizes that the upgrade is part of the company's long-term strategy for energy efficiency and sustainability. The cooperation with Wärtsilä dates back to 2008, and according to the company, the work will be carried out without disrupting cement production.

Wärtsilä's Regional Manager Alexandre Eykerman points out that natural gas operation improves plant utilisation and provides stable power generation – while reducing costs and improving environmental performance.

The project also strengthens Wärtsilä's already strong presence in Jordan, where the company has previously delivered large power plants such as IPP3 in Amman and IPP4 with its 16 trifuel engines.

Caption: Wärtsilä will carry out a fuel conversion project at a Wärtsilä engine-based power plant in Jordan. © Qatrana Cement Company
Source: Wärtsilä

NEW DAYCARE CENTRE

New daycare centre opened in the historic barracks area – modern environment for the children of the future

A new daycare centre has opened its doors in the Kasarmi area of Vaasa, one of the city's most culturally and historically valuable areas. The first children moved in in June, and the activities are now in full swing in modern premises that combine today's educational requirements with a historic setting. The new daycare centre offers safe and flexible learning environments as well as spacious courtyards for play and outdoor activities. At the same time, the establishment strengthens services in an area that has grown rapidly in recent years with new homes and more families with children. The barracks area, with its well-preserved buildings from the 1800s, has developed into an attractive district where history and modern urban development meet in a unique way. Source: City of Vaasa.

NEWS

VAASA

Vaasa climbs to the top of Finland – JHL’s ranking makes it the second best municipality in the country



Vaasa once again has a reason to celebrate. JHL’s latest municipal survey 2026 ranks Ostrobothnia as the second best municipality in all of Finland, just after Helsinki. Vaasa received an overall score of 8.6, exactly the same score as Helsinki, which came in first place. The first place was only decided by comparing individual areas.

The comparison published on Tuesday, 16 June 2026 shows that Vaasa has managed to build an exceptionally strong unit. The city stands out especially in the number of employees, employment opportunities and work experience, where it even beats the capital.

Helsinki, on the other hand, scored slightly better in terms of municipal finances, treatment ratios and voter turnout, which was enough to keep it slightly at the top.

Vaasa’s success is no coincidence. The city is already known as the most significant energy technology hub in the Nordic countries. There are more than 180 energy companies operating in the area, forming the internationally renowned EnergyVaasa cluster. A strong export

industry, two universities and a growing international workforce have increased the city’s attractiveness for several years. At the same time, the population of Vaasa has been steadily growing, which distinguishes the city from many Finnish municipali-

ties. JHL, and the indicator has been implemented by Aula Research.

The ten largest municipalities of the year included only two large cities: Helsinki and Vaasa. Kittilä came in third, and the top ten also included Sodankylä, Pietarsaari,

just an investment. It is a strong message that the city has managed to combine a lively business life, high-quality working life and sustainable development in a way that attracts attention throughout Finland. If the current trend continues, Vaasa may well



ties.

JHL’s municipal indicator does not only look at the economy. The comparison is assessed by municipalities using eleven different indicators. The topics covered include municipal finances, business, service efficiency, demographic development, employment, quality of work, work ability and the realisation of democracy. The data are based on data from the member survey conducted by Finland’s local and regional authorities, Statistics Finland

Rauma, Eurajoki and Porvoo, among others. The results show that success can be built in very different municipalities around Finland.

For Vaasa, however, the silver medal is more than

become number one in the whole country in the next comparison.

Source: JHL’s municipal indicator 2026, press release published on 16 June 2026.

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

KILLER SNAIL

The hunt for the killer snail is now on – Vaasa residents are urged to help



The Spanish forest snail has started to spread again, and now the City of Vaasa is appealing to residents to join the fight against the invasive species.

During the summer, when the snails are most active, they can cause great damage in gardens, parks and cultivations. The city urges residents to collect and kill the snails as early as possible to slow the spread.

The Spanish forest snail has no natural enemies in Finland and can lay hundreds of eggs in one season. Therefore, early intervention is crucial. Even small actions in your own garden can make a big difference when many people help each other.

+

The City of Vaasa will organise a pest control event on Tuesday, 30 June 2026 at 16:00–18:00 behind the allotment garden in Kotiranta.

The City of Vaasa organised its first snail control campaign last summer. The control continues, as several years of long-term measures are required to remove the alien species from the area.

“Last year, many people were already interested and participated in the speech. Now we also hope for new participants who want to try fighting Spanish forest snails,” Marttila encourages.

The snails can be fought with various substances, snail fences and tape, but these either have a limited duration of action or only protect a small area. In order to effectively control the species, it is therefore always necessary that adult individuals are picked up.

Vaasa is the European Green Leaf city in 2026. The European Commission annually awards the award to cities that promote sustainable development and work purposefully for the environment and climate. The event is part of the INSPIRE project, which is funded by the EU’s Interreg Aurora programme.

Photo: Rob Mitchell
Source: City of Vaasa.

MICROSOFT

Microsoft reserves huge land area – could pave the way for new billion-dollar investment

A new step towards a possible giant investment has been taken in the Vaasa region. Microsoft has reserved about 190 hectares of land in Mustasaari and Vaasa to investigate the possibilities for future establishments.

THE OLD CHURCH IN ISOKYRÖ

The 700-year-old greystone church comes to life – the bishop will lead the opening service on Midsummer Saturday in Isokyrö

Isokyrö Old Church, known as the Pearl of Ostrobothnia, will open its doors after the restoration on Midsummer Saturday, June 20, 2026. The historic Mass begins at 12 noon and is led by Bishop Matti Salomäki. The moment that has been awaited for years is finally here.



The greystone church on Isokyrö Museum Road is one of Finland's most respected and oldest church buildings – a unique national treasure with roots dating back to the early 1300s. Now the monumental stone, whose walls are up to two meters thick, has been given new life after years of renovation.

The bishop leads – the spirit of Midsummer fills an ancient room

On Midsummer Saturday, June 20, at 12 noon, the church will be filled with people for the first time in a long time, when Bishop Matti Salomäki will lead the opening mass. Within the gray stone walls, where history can be felt in the pores of every stone, people gather to celebrate something very special.

The atmosphere of Midsummer Week guarantees a warm and festive atmosphere – under the Midsummer sun rising in the evening sky, in the middle of Ostrobothnia's most beautiful landscape, something happens that has not been experienced twice.

History in every stone layer

The old church in Isokyrö is dedicated to Saint Laurentius, the patron saint whom the Finns knew and loved. The early history of the church is intertwined with legends and traditions – it is said that before the current greystone building, a wooden church stood on the site as early as 1304, or perhaps as early as the end of the 13th century.

The current greystone church is impressive in its proportions: 33 metres long, 11.3 metres wide and the steep roof of shingles reaches a height of 23.8 metres. The acoustics of the church are legendary – they have made the place a favorite for concerts and special music events.

Restoration continues – the work is not over yet

A thorough restoration of the church began in 2021, and cleaning and renovation of the walls is still ongoing. The work is demanding and slow – experts estimate that it will continue for several more years. But the inauguration of Midsummer marks a symbolically important milestone: the church returns to living use, even if the work around it continues.

nues.

Open to everyone – join us!

After the opening service, the church will be open to the public from Midsummer to the end of August on Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 to 16:00. There will be a guide from the Isokyrö Guide Club, who will tell you about the rich history of the church.

Before the inauguration ceremony, on Wednesday

17 June at 10.00, a joint volunteer group will be held – the "opening kitchen in the old church" – where everyone is welcome to help with the preparations for the church.

If the Midsummer program is still open, the old church in Isokyrö offers an experience this Saturday that cannot be found anywhere else.

Source: Isokyrö parish



Photos: The Old Church before restoration

The land reservation does not yet imply a final investment decision, but shows that the region continues to attract international interest. The area offers good access to electricity, modern infrastructure and proximity to the leading energy technology clusters in the Nordic region. Data centers and AI infrastructure require large amounts of electricity and advanced grid solutions – something that the Vaasa region has good conditions to offer. If the project goes ahead, it could mean significant investments, new jobs and a strengthened international profile for the entire region.

Source: Mustasaari Municipality.

ELLY SIGFRIDS SQUARE

The Summer Market is back – every Thursday Smedsby is filled with life

The summer will once again be full of market atmosphere at Elly Sigfrid's square in Smedsby. From 4 June to 13 August 2026, a summer market will be held every Thursday, where local entrepreneurs, food artisans and associations gather to meet visitors.

The square offers locally produced food, handicrafts, flowers and other local products. At the same time, the square will be a natural meeting place with music, activities and a vibrant street life that attracts both municipal residents and summer guests.

The summer market has become a cherished tradition in Mustasaari and is an important part of the municipality's work to strengthen local commerce and create life in the city centre during the summer months.

Time: Every Thursday 4 June–13 August 2026.

Location: Elly Sigfrids torg, Smedsby, Mustasaari.

Source: Mustasaari Municipality.

KUNTSI

Kuntsi's terrace comes to life – new entrepreneur invests in summer meeting place



Already during Midsummer Week 2026, the terrace of the Kuntsi Museum of Modern Art in Vaasa will be filled with life and movement again. A new entrepreneur is taking over the business and wants to make the terrace a pleasant meeting place for both Vaasa residents and tourists during the summer.

Visitors can look forward to café service, light food, refreshments and various summer events. The location by the scenic inner harbor makes the terrace one of the city's most attractive viewpoints, close to promenades, museums and the marina.

The investment is part of the city's ambition to create a vibrant cultural quarter around the harbour, where art, food and the marine environment meet. The hope is that the terrace will attract visitors well into late summer.

VAASA

Summer Blooms Return – Vibrant Flower Displays Ready for Midsummer



Vaasa is putting on one of its most colourful displays of the year as thousands of summer flowers transform the city's parks, squares and streets into vibrant floral landscapes.

This year's plantings offer much more than traditional favourites – visitors will also discover several unusual and eye-catching species that add a fresh twist to the city's green spaces and delight both residents and tourists.

The floral displays can be enjoyed throughout the summer along a self-guided flower walk through Vaasa's city centre. The route leads visitors past some of the city's most spectacular flower beds, where familiar blooms mingle with rarer varieties that are not commonly seen in Finnish urban landscaping. Whether you're a gardening enthusiast, photographer or simply looking for a pleasant summer stroll, the colourful trail promises something new around every corner.

The summer planting programme is also closely linked to Vaasa's role as European Green Leaf 2026, a prestigious award presented by the European Commission to cities demonstrating outstanding commitment to sustainability, environmental innovation and biodiversity. The flowers are therefore more than decorative features—they showcase the city's broader vision of creating greener, healthier and more attractive urban environments.

Behind the spectacular displays lies months of careful planning. The plants have been cultivated in the city's greenhouses using biological pest control instead of conventional chemical pesticides, hel-

ping to reduce environmental impact. Spring pansies have been reused in several summer flower beds, spring bulbs are being saved for future growing seasons, and biochar has been incorporated into many planting areas to improve soil quality, retain moisture and reduce watering needs.

The diverse selection of flowering plants also benefits local wildlife. Bees, bumblebees and butterflies will find a rich supply of nectar throughout the growing season, making the flower beds an important contribution to urban biodiversity and pollinator conservation.

Visitors can enjoy Vaasa's floral spectacle throughout the summer and into early autumn. The city's parks and streets invite people to slow down, explore the colourful displays and experience how beautiful sustainable urban planning can be. The self-guided flower walk in Vaasa city centre is free to enjoy at any time during the summer, offering residents and visitors alike a blooming reason to spend more time outdoors.



Download the Summer Flower Brochure
https://www.vaasa.fi/app/uploads/2026/05/kukkaesi-te_2026_netitaso.pdf
 to plan your own floral tour of Vaasa.
 SOURCE: vaasa.fi



Source: City of Vaasa.

ICE CREAM

Italian Gelato Flavours in the Inner Harbour



This summer's most delicious attraction has arrived in the Inner Harbour: authentic Italian gelato served in a variety of tempting flavours.

KVARKENSHOP

Summer Attraction in Svedjehamn – Kvarkenshop Opens Daily from Midsummer



Visitors to the Kvarken Archipelago will have a new place to explore this summer as Kvarkenshop in Svedjehamn, Björköby, opens for the season from Midsummer onward. The shop will welcome customers every day from 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The seasonal store features locally produced handicrafts, gifts, souvenirs and regional products, giving visitors an opportunity to discover authentic items made by local artisans and small businesses. The initiative is designed to strengthen the area's tourism offering while creating new sales opportunities for producers in the Kvarken region.

Svedjehamn is one of the most popular destinations in the UNESCO-listed Kvarken Archipelago, attracting thousands of visitors each summer to the Saltkaret observation tower, scenic hiking trails and the unique landscape shaped by post-glacial land uplift. The new shop is expected to add another reason for tourists to stop and spend more time in the area.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/ekoarthandsry>

NEWS

AI

Here's the AI model that was too good – now Europe is being stopped from using it

Anthropic's most powerful AI model was removed globally just days after its launch, triggering European backlash. Claude Fable 5, which was released last week and received widespread acclaim for its coding and reasoning capabilities, has been shut down worldwide following a directive from the US government – and European leaders are furious.

It was meant to be a triumphant moment for Anthropic.

On June 9, 2026, the company released Claude Fable 5, calling it its most capable, publicly available model ever – a “Mythos-grade” system that is state-of-the-art on almost all tested benchmarks for AI capabilities, demonstrating exceptional performance in software development, knowledge work, vision, scientific research, and many other areas. According to Anthropic, in a Ruby codebase of 50 million lines, the model performed a codebase-wide migration in one day that would otherwise have taken an entire team over two months by hand.

The launch came with built-in guardrails. In high-risk areas such as cybersecurity, biology, chemistry, and distillation, the model blocks responses and falls back on Claude Opus 4.8. Anthropic positioned this as proof that frontline AI could be deployed responsibly to hundreds of millions of users

Then came the lockdown

Just a few days later, everything changed. The U.S. government issued an unprecedented export control directive ordering Anthropic to immediately shut down all access to its top-of-the-line Claude Fable 5 and Claude Mythos 5 models for foreign nationals, citing unspecified national security authorities. Instead of building a system to restrict access by nationality, Anthropic blocked all public access to both



models globally – meaning no users around the world can access them at this time, not even paying corporate customers and Anthropic's internal employees.

Current Fable 5/Mythos 5 sessions ended with errors, and new queries are automatically routed to older, less capable models like Opus 4.8.

Anthropic strongly opposed the decision. In a statement, the company said: “We are following the government's legal directives and removing access to Fable 5 and Mythos 5 for all users. However, we do not agree that the discovery of a narrow potential jailbreak should be reason to revoke a commercial model distributed to hundreds of millions of people.” The company warned that if this standard were applied across the industry, it would essentially halt all new model deployments for all front-end model vendors, adding, “We believe this is a misunderstanding and are working to restore access as soon as possible.”

According to Al Jazeera, Anthropic's experts concluded that the order likely stemmed from a limited capacity that allows the AI to review

specific program code and correct errors – a capability that the company noted is also found in competing models like OpenAI's GPT-5.5.

Europe reacts: “A wake-up call”

The consequences in Europe were immediate and clear. European politicians sounded the alarm about sovereign AI, and many called for increased investment in domestic technology.

A French official opined: “Washington's decision to cut off access to Anthropic's most powerful models should serve as a wake-up call. France has unique assets in Europe: nuclear power that is decarbonized and sovereign, engineers among the best in the world, but also companies like Mistral, OVHcloud, Scaleway and ChapsVision, which can compete with American giants. But we must put an end to naivety and finally decide to rearm our technological power.”

In the UK, the reaction was just as sharp. A former minister, who had recently resigned due to a dispute over defence spending, said: “This week, the most advanced AI model on the planet was shut down by a foreign government. British researchers

studied it. British companies tested it. British hospitals tested it. Not anymore. This is not an AI story. That's the story of every industry we used to lead.”

Dutch politician Geert Wilders wrote on X: “I want my #Antropiska Claude Fable 5 back!” and added that “AI is more and more national sovereignty.”

A gift to the competitors

The lockdown also reshaped the competitive landscape overnight. AI founder Alex Finn called the lockdown a “wake-up call” and urged developers to run local models on home GPUs to insulate themselves from regulatory volatility and warned that “a company or government will NEVER be able to take away your local models”. Meanwhile, Chinese open-source AI provider MiniMax quickly highlighted its new M3 model on the frontline, contrasting its decentralized availability with the sudden disappearance of Fable 5.

What happens now

Currently, both Fable 5 and Mythos 5 are still unavailable to everyone – including US users – while Anthropic is working with regulators to resolve the dispute. The episode has reignited a broader debate in Europe about the reliance on U.S. AI infrastructure, just as the technology began testing in hospitals, research labs, and in enterprise software pipelines across the continent.

Whether access returns in days or months now depends perhaps less on the technology itself than on negotiations between Anthropic and Washington – a reminder of how geopolitics, not just code, increasingly determines who gets to use the world's most powerful AI tool.

CITY ORCHESTRA

Free Music by the Sea – Strömsö to Host Two Summer Concerts



Summer evenings in Vaasa are about to get even more memorable. The Vaasa City Orchestra will perform two free outdoor concerts at Strömsö, offering audiences a chance to enjoy live music in one of the region's most picturesque seaside settings.

The concerts will take place on July 14 and July 16, 2026, at Strömsö in Vaasa. Audiences can expect a varied programme featuring classical music, tango, folk melodies and beloved popular tunes. The performances will be given by smaller ensembles from the city orchestra, creating an intimate atmosphere close to the audience.

With free admission and a beautiful waterfront backdrop, the concerts are expected to attract both local residents and summer visitors. Organisers hope the events will become a highlight of Vaasa's cultural summer season.

Venue: Strömsö, Vaasa, Finland
Dates: July 14 and July 16, 2026
Admission: Free
Source: City of Vaasa / Vaasa City Orchestra

UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF VAASA Can clean energy lift Finland? University of Vaasa brings the debate to Suomi-Areena



How will Finland go from growing public debt to increased competitiveness? That is the main question when the University of Vaasa organises a topical seminar during SuomiAreena in Pori on Tuesday 23 June at 11.00–11.45 at Kirkkolava, Hallituskatu 1. Under the heading “From debt Finland to attractiveness Finland”, researchers and experts discuss how clean energy, investments and strengthened resilience can create new economic growth. In recent years, Vaasa has developed into the leading energy cluster in the Nordic region, which gives the university a strong starting point in the

SHORT STORY

AN INSTRUCTIONAL STORY

The Fisherman and the Businessman



This short story is available in different versions in several countries. One version is dedicated to Paulo Coelho. Here is a slightly updated version.

The big city businessman was on vacation in a small coastal town. One morning he saw a simple Fisherman sitting casually in his boat next to the pier, coffee cup in his hand and a small catch of fish beside him. The businessman became curious and approached.

"Good morning!" said the businessman. "You seem to have a nice catch for the day. How long did it take you to fish for it?" "Good morning," replied the fisherman. "It didn't take long, maybe a few hours."

The businessman looked

confused. "Why don't you stay outside longer and catch more fish?" The Fisherman smiled and calmly replied: "I have had enough to support my family and myself today. The rest of the time I enjoy life."

"But what will you do for the rest of the day?" asked the businessman.

"I sleep a little longer in the morning, fish a little, play with my kids, have a Siesta with my wife, and in the evening I go to the bar where I drink coffee and play guitar with my friends. I live a full and happy life."

A businessman who was very successful and always thought about business could not understand it. "I have an MBA from a prestigious university and I can help you. If you spent more time fishing, you could catch more fish. Over

time, you can buy a larger boat and maybe several boats. Eventually, you could have a whole Fleet of fishing boats."

The Fisherman listened politely and nodded. "And then what would I do?"

"Thanks to the increased catch, you were able to open your own fish factory, eliminate middlemen and sell directly to retailers. You could move to a bigger city and run your business from there."

"And how long would all this last?" asked the fisherman.

"Maybe 15-20 years," the businessman replied.

"So what?" asked the fisherman.

The businessman laughed and said: "The best is coming! When the time is right, you can sell the company and become very rich. You could live like a king and retire with big money." The Fisherman thought for

a moment, and then asked, "And then what should I do?"

"Then," said the businessman with a smile, "you can move to a small coastal town, sleep a little longer in the morning, fish a little, play with your children, have a Siesta with your wife, and in the evening go to a bar where you can drink coffee and play guitar with your friends."

The Fisherman smiled and looked at the businessman.

"But that's exactly what I'm doing now. Why wait 20 years to do something I already enjoy?"

The businessman was speechless. He suddenly realized that he had lost the meaning of life in pursuit of success and prosperity. And so he walked away, a little wiser than before, while the Fisherman returned to his simple and happy life.

NEWS

debate on Finland's future competitiveness. The conversation is expected to attract both decision-makers, companies and the general public during one of the country's most important social arenas.

Time: Tuesday 23 June 2026 at 11.00–11.45 Location: Kirkkolava, Hallituskatu 1, Pori

Source: University of Vaasa / SuomiAreena.

UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

New mobile app turns nature excursions into a game – attracting more people to the pearls of South Ostrobothnia



Discovering nature can soon become as exciting as playing a mobile game. Researchers at the University of Vaasa have developed a new mobile game that will inspire more people to visit nature destinations in South Ostrobothnia – while tourism takes place in a sustainable way.

The game is based on visitors solving missions, collecting digital rewards and learning more about the area's natural and cultural environments during their excursions. The goal is to spread visitors across more destinations and reduce the load on the most popular destinations.

The project combines digital technology with nature tourism and shows how gamification can contribute to both increased tourism and better nature conservation. Similar solutions have already attracted interest internationally, where digital experiences are used to make outdoor life more attractive, especially for younger generations.

Source: University of Vaasa

Photo: University of Vaasa.

UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

Millions in support for future research – University of Vaasa invests in energy, health and safety



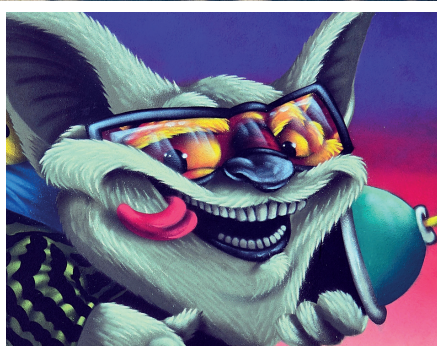
The University of Vaasa is strengthening its research after being granted significant external research grants for several new projects. The funding will be used for research in the energy transition, healthcare, cyber security and societal

GRAFFITI

Stunning Street Art Mural, not easy to find

Young artists collaborated with graffiti pro to transform Vaasa service building

Vaasa's urban landscape has gained a vibrant new addition as local youth and professional graffiti artist Tony Laine teamed up to create a spectacular mural on the wall of Carl & Carolina service home's storage building. The fiveday street art camp one year ago resulted in a colorful masterpiece now visible near Rauhankatu, not easy to find though!

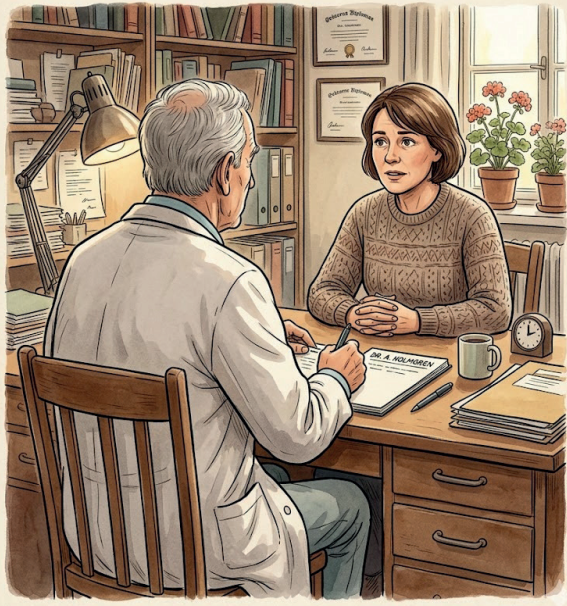


HEALTH

THE DOCTOR ANSWERS

Hypothyroidism

THE DOCTOR ANSWERS



I am a 70 year old very healthy lady who went to my doctor for an annual check-up. A laboratory value, TSH, was very high and the doctor said that I have under-function of the thyroid gland. What kind of disease is this, is it common, how dangerous is it and how is it treated. My sister has the same disease and she also has celiac disease. Is there a connection there?

When the doctor tells you that the TSH level is high, it means that the thyroid gland is working too slowly – a condition called hypothyroidism. The thyroid, the small butterfly-shaped gland at the front of the neck, controls the body's metabolism through the hormones thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3). When the production of these hormones decreases, the brain tries to compensate by increasing TSH (thyroid-stimulating hormone).

Hypothyroidism is one of the most common hormonal disorders, especially in women and the elderly. In Finland, it is estimated that several percent of the population has the condition, often without knowing it. Common symptoms include fatigue, cold-

ness, weight gain, dry skin, hair loss and depression – but they can come insidiously and be mistaken for age changes.

The disease is not dangerous if it is detected and treated. The treatment consists of daily administration of the hormone that the body lacks, usually levothyroxine in tablet form. The dosage is adjusted individually and checked with blood tests. When balance is restored, the symptoms usually disappear and the quality of life improves.

Your sister's combination of hypothyroidism and celiac disease is not uncommon. Both are autoimmune diseases, which means that the body's immune system attacks its own tissue – in the thyroid gland in hypothyroidism and in the small intestine in coeliac disease. People with an autoimmune disease have a slightly increased risk of developing more, which explains the association.

It is wise to monitor thyroid values regularly once a year and tell the doctor about any new symptoms. With the right treatment, you can live a completely normal life.

preparedness.

The university is already internationally known for its energy research through the strong cooperation with energy cluster companies in the Vaasa region. The new projects will, among other things, develop smarter energy systems, improve the efficiency of healthcare and strengthen society's resilience to future crises.

Research funding is highly competitive, which makes the new grants particularly significant. The results are expected not only to contribute to new science, but also to provide concrete solutions for business, the public sector and international partners.

Source: University of Vaasa

Photo: University of Vaasa.

UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

Human error behind many accidents – new research will make workboats safer



Fast work boats are used daily by authorities, rescue services and the offshore industry. Now, research by Mikko Lehtimäki from the University of Vaasa shows that safety can be significantly improved by focusing more on the person behind the helm.

The study points out that the human factor – such as stress, fatigue, communication and decision-making – often plays a crucial role in accidents. Through better training, clearer procedures and modern technology, the risks can be significantly reduced.

The results are important not least for Finland, where fast work boats are used along the long coast and in the archipelago all year round. The research may also have international significance as similar vessels are used by coast guards and rescue organizations worldwide.

Source: University of Vaasa

Photo: Mikko Lehtimäen väitöstutkimuksen mukaan vaaratilanne- ja onnettomuusanalyysit keskittyvät edelleen liiaksi yksilöiden virheisiin. Kuva: Mikko Lehtimäki. Kuva vapaasti käytettävissä.

UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

Innovations can create bigger gaps – researchers want to see a new model for cities

Innovations are often highlighted as the key to the cities of the future. However, new research by Johanna Kalliokoski from the University of Vaasa warns that the development can also increase inequality if all residents are not given the opportunity to take part in the changes.

The researchers believe that investments in new

NEWS

technology and digitalisation often benefit already strong areas, while other districts risk falling behind. The solution is a more inclusive innovation policy where citizens, businesses and decision-makers work together from the start.



The issue is topical in many European cities that are investing heavily in smart city solutions. According to the researchers, social sustainability can be just as important as technological development when planning the cities of the future.

Photo: University of Vaasa. The image is freely available.

Source: University of Vaasa

ENERGY RESEARCH

Hydrogen can bring its own power plants to residential areas – the energy of the future is already being tested



Imagine a residential area that produces its own electricity – or a ship that is powered by a local energy system based on hydrogen. That vision can become a reality, according to new research at the University of Vaasa conducted by Vahid Shahbazbegianin.

The researchers are investigating how so-called hydrogen microgrids can store energy from wind and solar power and then deliver electricity and heat when the need is greatest. The technology can reduce dependence on large electricity grids and at the same time make the energy supply more robust.

The solution can have a major impact on residential areas, industrial areas and the maritime sector, where the need for emission-free energy systems is growing rapidly. The Vaasa region, with the largest energy technology cluster in the Nordic region, is already an important test environment for the hydrogen technology of the future.

Source: University of Vaasa

Image: Vahid Shahbazbegian's doctoral thesis shows how hydrogen-powered microgrids can balance variable renewable energy production, improve energy security and reduce costs. Photo: University of Vaasa. The image is freely available.

WELLBEING COUNTIES

FAKE MESSAGES

Fake Child Protection Messages Spark Alarm – Authorities Say: Don't Click the Link

The Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia is warning residents about fraudulent emails claiming that a child protection report has been filed concerning their child. The messages urge recipients to log in using online banking credentials, but the emails are phishing attempts designed to steal personal information.

Officials stress that child protection services never send links by email or ask for banking credentials. Genuine contact is made by phone, or by text message requesting the recipient to call back. Anyone receiving a suspicious message should delete it immediately without opening the link. If personal or banking details have already been disclosed, recipients should contact their bank at once and file a police report. Similar scams have recently been reported across several wellbeing service counties in Finland.

Source: Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia.

WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTIES

The wellbeing services county of South Ostrobothnia will be subjected to an assessment procedure – what it means

The state takes the lead: the decision-making power of the wellbeing services counties of South Ostrobothnia, South Karelia and Kymenlaakso is now significantly restricted. Huge deficits in the background – more than 120 million euros in South Ostrobothnia.

On Tuesday, the Ministry of Finance struck On Tuesday, 16 June 2026, the Ministry of Finance decided to launch an assessment procedure in the wellbeing services counties of South Ostrobothnia, South Karelia and Kymenlaakso. The decision was signed by Minister of Local Government and Regional Affairs Anna-Kaisa Ikonen (National Coalition Party). The procedure is based on financial realisation data and financial statements for 2025.

In South Ostrobothnia, the situation is critical: the deficits of previous years have accumulated more than EUR 120 million. Wellbeing services county director Tero Järvinen confirms that it is a question of financial problems, not the quality or sufficiency of services. Will the region lose its decision-making power? Yes and no. The initiation of the assessment procedure restricts the wellbeing services county's own decision-making power. The region cannot make decisions that would have significant and long-term effects on its economy. However, the decision-making power will not be transferred directly to the ministry – but the evaluation group will guide and propose measures. An evaluation group will be set up for the region, which will include members from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, the Ministry of the Interior and the wellbeing services county itself. A person independent of the region and ministries will be appointed as the chairperson of the group. The groups will be appointed at the end of August and the work will begin in September – with the aim of completing it in the summer of 2027.

"Fear is worse than a bang"

Paula Risikko (National Coalition Party), Chair of the South Ostrobothnia Regional Council, was not surprised by the decision – the wellbeing services county meets the criteria defined in the law. According to Risikko, there is no need to be afraid of the assessment procedure, even though it sets a strict framework.

"Basic services are a human right, and I trust that they

are not required of us. Fear is often worse than a bang," Risikko says.

However, the county councillors fear drastic weakening of services. Hanna Peräaho (Centre Party), a councillor from Lapua, wonders about the situation: "It's a bit strange that the Ministry of Finance defines social and health care services."

Savings are now hitting Seinäjoki

So far, the savings have been targeted at the peripheral areas – the inpatient ward of the Lapua Health Centre has already been closed, and three other wards will be closed soon. Now the focus is on the central hospital city of Seinäjoki.

Jouni Vallin and Petri Juurakko, regional councillors of the Finns Party, say that they were not surprised to have to go through the assessment procedure – the savings made are not enough, and the big policies have not been made.

The state is now taking the reins – and it is time for South Ostrobothnia to put its finances in order. At any cost.

Source: Ministry of Finance, Yle, Verkkouutiset 16.6.2026

HEALTH

COELIAC DISEASE

Hope for Coeliac Disease Patients – Experimental Drug Protects the Entire Body from Gluten

A promising breakthrough could change the future of coeliac disease treatment. An international study led by the Universities of Oulu and Tampere found that the experimental drug ZED1227 protects not only the small intestine but the entire body from gluten-related damage. The findings were published in the medical journal BMC Medicine.

The drug works by blocking the enzyme transglutaminase 2 (TG2), which triggers the immune reaction responsible for coeliac disease. Adults who had followed a gluten-free diet for years were exposed to small amounts of gluten for six weeks. Those receiving the drug showed dramatically reduced changes in metabolism, blood proteins and epigenetic markers compared with the placebo group.

Researchers stress that the treatment is not intended to replace a gluten-free diet, but it could eventually become an important additional therapy for people accidentally exposed to gluten. Around two percent of Finland's population is estimated to have coeliac disease, making the findings especially significant.

Source: University of Oulu, Tampere University, BMC Medicine.

EBOLA

Facts about Ebola

Ebola is a serious and often fatal viral disease that was first discovered in 1976 near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The disease is caused by viruses in the family Filoviridae and is transmitted to humans from wild animals (probably flying dogs) and then spread through direct contact with blood, body fluids or tissues from infected people. Common symptoms are fever, fatigue, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhoea and, in severe cases, internal and external bleeding.

The incubation period is usually 2–21 days, and the disease has a high mortality rate, which varies between different virus variants. You are only contagious after the symptoms have broken out, and the virus does not spread through the air.

RUSSIA

RUSSIA

Petrol shortage worsens in Crimea – unconfirmed information about stop to private sales

The fuel crisis in Russian-occupied Crimea seems to be deepening. According to information spread on Telegram, private individuals are no longer able to buy gasoline in the normal way, while the authorities are imposing increasingly strict restrictions. The information has not been independently confirmed.

However, the Russian-installed authorities in Crimea have confirmed that the acute fuel shortage has led to a temporary halt to cash sales of gasoline and the introduction of rationing. The shortage is linked to recurring Ukrainian drone attacks on refineries and important transport routes that supply the peninsula.

On Telegram, it is claimed that food prices risk rising and that store shelves in some places are starting to gape empty. However, this information has not been verified by independent media.

Source: Telegram (unconfirmed information),

RUSSIA

Telegram: Nabiullina warns of poverty, hunger and riots



According to posts on Telegram, Russian Central Bank Governor Elvira Nabiullina is reported to have warned that Russia risks hunger, poverty and social unrest. The same sources also claim that she is prevented from public appearances and that official data on sick leave is used as an explanation.

The information has not been confirmed by independent media or official sources. There are also no publicly available statements from Nabiullina in which she uses the wording reproduced in the Telegram posts.

At the same time, several international media outlets report that the Russian economy is under growing pressure through high war costs, lower growth and disruptions in the energy sector following Ukrainian attacks on oil infrastructure.

Source: Telegram (unconfirmed data)

Image: Press Service Creative Commons Attribution 4.0

EVENTS

TODAY

THE OLD CHURCH IN ISOKYRÖ

The 700-year-old greystone church comes to life – the bishop will lead the opening service on today Midsummer Saturday in Isokyrö.

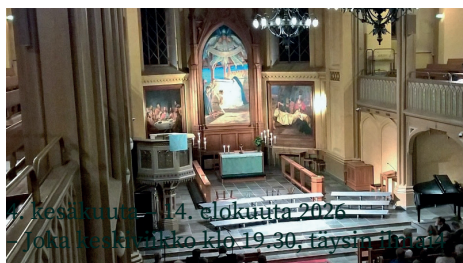


Isokyrö Old Church, known as the Pearl of Ostrobothnia, will open its doors after the restoration on Midsummer Saturday, June 20, 2026. The historic Mass begins at 12 noon and is led by Bishop Matti Salomäki. The moment that has been awaited for years is finally here.

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

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 Yliopistopuistoa

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

BIG DAY FESTIVAL JULY 10-11.7.2026

Alan Walker heading to Vaasa – Big Day Festival promises huge summer crowds

Big Day Festival 2026 is preparing for one of the biggest music weekends of the summer as international stars and Nordic favorites arrive in Vaasa this July.

The festival takes place on July 10–11, 2026, at the seaside university area in Vaasa, Universitetsstranden 7. Major acts include Alan Walker, Miriam Bryant and Mirella, alongside several Finnish and Scandinavian artists.

Organizers describe Big Day as one of Finland's largest bilingual festivals, attracting thousands of visitors every year with live music, food areas and summer atmosphere by the sea. The festival is open to all ages, while separate 18+ and VIP sections will also be available.

Ticket sales are already underway, and more artist announcements are expected before the festival weekend arrives. Source: Big Day Festival

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

Source: Bothnia Classic

KAAOS 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

VASA FESTIVAL

A star-studded party by the water

Vaasa Festival opens its doors for the eleventh year in a row – and offers a cavalcade of artists that will make your mouth water. We have already seen names like Robin Packalen, Isac Elliot and Nordman. Three days of music, food and a great atmosphere in the inner harbor. Remember that the VIP area has its own entrance, toilets and the best view of the stage. Age limit 18 years.

- When: July 30 – August 1, 2026

- Where: Vaasa city center, inner harbora

AUGUST

VAASAN MARSSI

7-9.8.2026

42 kilometres, sea views

and no stopwatch – Vaasa prepares for massive walking event

The city of Vaasa will once again become a hub for endurance walkers when the international Vaasan Marssi takes place from 7 to 9 August 2026. The three-day event begins daily from Market Square at Hovioikeudenpuistikko 15a and attracts participants from across Finland and abroad.

Walkers can choose routes ranging from 10 kilometres to a demanding 42-kilometre challenge. The event features scenic routes through Strömsö, Old Vaasa and the UNESCO World Heritage archipelago area. Organisers stress that the event is not a race – there is no timekeeping – but the physical challenge is still significant, especially for those attempting several days in a row. Vaasan Marssi is also Finland's only IML-recognised walking event.

VASA FUTURE FESTIVAL

The future is here – and it is the New Nordic



Vaasa will once again become a center for future optimists when the Wasa Future Festival kicks off. For ten days, companies, decision-makers, researchers and artists will gather to build a better tomorrow under the theme "New Nordic". You will come here to network, be inspired and make a real difference. Expect both serious and crazy ideas – all on the same stage.

- When: 10–15 August 2026
- Where: Wasa Innovation Center & Bock's Village, Vaasa

NIGHT OF ART AUG 13

Night of Art: The whole of Vaasa becomes a big stage



Want to be part of creating the biggest cultural night in the region? Now is your chance! The program of the Night of Art is created together with the people of Vaasa – both small and large projects are welcome to participate. Imagine the streets filled with music, dance and unexpected art experiences.

UKRAINE PRESIDENT

Address by the President of Ukraine to the Participants of the 35th Meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group in the Ramstein Format



18 June 2026 - 21.47

Thank you so much, dear Minister!

First of all, I want to thank all of you – all the defense ministers and all the defense leaders here today.

Secretary General Rutte, Minister Pistorius, and with us today, as the Minister said already, is the new UK Defence Secretary Jarvis – it is good to see you, and I wish you success in your

new role.

Some of you, dear friends, I remember from the very first days of this war. Some ministers have changed over time. But what matters, and what has never changed, is our determination, our cooperation, and our support for one another. You always look for ways to help, and you find them. And because of you, thousands and thousands of lives have been saved.

Dear friends, thank you. I am glad that this format remains as active as it needs to be. Thank you so much!

It is important that we are meeting right after such a strong G7 Summit in France.

We had good meetings and talks with all the leaders, including President Trump. The President of the United States is very clear about increasing pressure on Russia to end this terrible war

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Russia has brought against Ukraine and all of Europe. And this is also the shared position of all G7 leaders. We are grateful for this unity.

We have the tools, and they are strong enough to put Russia on a path where diplomacy becomes the only choice.

We all see that Putin is now relying on one last thing: constant missile attacks. He has ballistic missiles. So

we need anti-ballistic capabilities.

We've done a lot to defend against drones, and our interception rate is above 90 percent. That is a serious, very serious achievement. We are also defending against cruise missiles. But Russian ballistic missiles remain a problem, and we need an answer to that problem.

So today, Ukraine and Germany are taking a very im-

portant, I think, important joint step. We have some technologies, Germany has some technologies, and today our defense ministers already signed an agreement to bring these capabilities together.

READ MORE HERE:

<https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/zvernennya-prezidenta-ukrayini-do-uchasnikiv-35-go-zasidan-ny-105017>

ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK

Anders Zorn
18.2.1860, Utmeland
22.8.1920, Sweden
Woman smoking, 1883
Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum, Beatrice Granberg Collection
Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Janne Mäkinen

George Orwell

1984

Part 32

He tried to think of O'Brien, for whom, or to whom, the diary was written, but instead he began thinking of the things that would happen to him after the Thought Police took him away. It would not matter if they killed you at once. To be killed was what you expected. But before death (nobody spoke of such things, yet everybody knew of them) there was the routine of confession that had to be gone through: the grovelling on the floor and screaming for mercy, the crack of broken bones, the smashed teeth and bloody clots of hair.

Why did you have to endure it, since the end was always the same? Why was it not possible to cut a few days or weeks out of your life? Nobody ever escaped detection, and nobody ever failed to confess. When once you had succumbed to thoughtcrime it was certain that by a given date you would be dead. Why then did that horror, which altered nothing, have to lie embedded in future time?

He tried with a little more success than before to summon up the image of O'Brien. 'We shall meet in the place where there is no darkness,' O'Brien had said to him. He knew what it meant, or thought he knew. The place where there is no darkness was the imagined future, which one would never see, but which, by foreknowledge, one could mystically share in. But with the voice from the telescreen nagging at his ears he could not follow the train of thought further. He put a cigarette in his mouth. Half the tobacco promptly fell out on to his tongue, a bitter dust which was difficult to spit out again. The face of Big Brother swam into his mind, displacing that of O'Brien. Just as he had done a few days earlier, he slid a coin out of his pocket and looked at it. The face gazed up at him, heavy, calm, protecting: but what kind of smile was hidden beneath the dark moustache? Like a leaden knell the words came back at him:

WAR IS PEACE
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH

PART TWO

Chapter 1

It was the middle of the morning, and Winston had left the cubicle to go to the lavatory.

A solitary figure was coming towards him from the other end of the long, brightly-lit corridor. It was the girl with dark hair. Four days had gone past since the evening when he had run into her outside the junk-shop. As she came nearer he saw that her right arm was in a sling, not noticeable at a distance because it was of the same colour as her overalls. Probably she had crushed her hand while swinging round one of the big kaleidoscopes on which the plots of novels were 'roughed in'. It was a common accident in the Fiction Department.

They were perhaps four metres apart when the girl stumbled and fell almost flat on her face. A sharp cry of pain was wrung out of her. She must have fallen right on the injured arm. Winston stopped short. The girl had risen to her knees. Her face had turned a milky yellow colour against which her mouth stood out redder than ever. Her eyes were fixed on his, with an appealing expression that looked more like fear than pain.

A curious emotion stirred in Winston's heart. In front of him was an enemy who was trying to kill him: in front of him, also, was a human creature, in pain and perhaps with a broken bone. Already he had instinctively started forward to help her. In the moment when he had seen her fall on the bandaged arm, it had been as though he felt the pain in his own body.



'You're hurt?' he said.

'It's nothing. My arm. It'll be all right in a second.'

She spoke as though her heart were fluttering. She had certainly turned very pale.

'You haven't broken anything?'

'No, I'm all right. It hurt for a moment, that's all.'

She held out her free hand to him, and he helped her up. She had regained some of her colour, and appeared very much better.

'It's nothing,' she repeated shortly. 'I only gave my wrist a bit of a bang. Thanks, comrade!'

And with that she walked on in the direction in which she had been going, as briskly as though it had really been nothing. The whole incident could not have taken as much as half a minute. Not to let one's feelings appear in one's face was a habit that had acquired the status of an instinct, and in any case they had been standing straight in front of a telescreen when the thing happened. Nevertheless it had been very difficult not to betray a momentary surprise, for in the two or three seconds while he was helping her up the girl had slipped something into his hand. There was no question that she had done it intentionally. It was something small and flat. As he passed through the lavatory door he transferred it to his pocket and felt it with the tips of his fingers. It was a scrap of paper folded into a square.

While he stood at the urinal he managed, with a little more fingering, to get it unfolded. Obviously there must be a message of some kind written on it. For a moment he was tempted to take it into one of the water-closets and read it at once. But that would be shocking folly, as he well knew. There was no place where you could be more certain that the telescreens were watched continuously.

He went back to his cubicle, sat down, threw the fragment of paper casually among the other papers on the desk, put on his spectacles and hitched the speakwrite towards him. 'Five minutes,' he told himself, 'five minutes at the very least!'

HUMOUR ONE HUND-
RED YEARS AGO

SUMMER WIS-
DOM

"Summer is the time when it is too hot to do the jobs it was too cold to do in winter."

"A vacation is what you take when you can't take what you've been taking any longer."

"The best way to keep cool is to keep your temper."

"Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." — Popular old joke (often associated with Charles Dudley Warner, 1897).

"The man who invented hammocks understood summer better than the man who invented clocks."

"A picnic is a meal spoiled by ants and improved by appetite."

"Nothing makes a day seem hotter than seeing someone else sitting in the shade."

"Summer boarders are people who leave home to complain about somebody else's cooking."

"The fisherman always catches the biggest fish—after he gets home."

"It's a fine summer day when even the scarecrow wishes for a tree."

"Summer is the season when the days are long enough to finish yesterday's work."

"A sunny morning is nature's way of saying, 'Try again.'"

"The best shade is the one shared with a friend."

"Summer teaches patience: no apple ripens because you pull on the branch."

"A fisherman always says the biggest fish

escaped yesterday."

"When the swallows fly low, take your umbrella. When they fly high, take your picnic."

"The only thing that grows faster than the grass in June is the list of jobs waiting to be done."

"Summer rain never asks permission—it simply reminds the flowers who's in charge."

"A long winter makes every summer evening worth two."

"If happiness had a season, it would smell of fresh hay and sound like laughter across a lake."

Astronomic picture of the week:



Antennae galaxies

This NASA Hubble Space Telescope image of the Antennae galaxies (NGC 4038 & 4039) is the sharpest yet of this merging pair of galaxies. During the course of the collision, billions of stars will be formed. The brightest and most compact of these star birth regions are called super star clusters. The two spiral galaxies started to interact a few hundred million years ago.

Credit;
NASA, ESA, and the Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA)-ESA/Hubble Collaboration
Public domain

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! Editorial office: Wasa Daily, Koulukatu 37 B 7, 65100 Vaasa, tel. +358-40-5462455. Helsinki editorial office: Wasa Daily, Toinen linja 9 B 36, 00530 Helsinki. Phone +358-40-5462455. Email: wasadagblad@gmail.com

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 JUNE 2026

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

Aries (March 21 – April 19)
You're ready to conquer the world – just remember to put on real pants first. June brings you adventure (or at least a new brand of toothpaste). Romance is on the horizon, possibly involving someone who thinks your sweaty gym look is "natural and compelling."

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)
You crave stability, snacks, and soft blankets – and not necessarily in that order. In June, you may feel a strong urge to impulse-buy a cactus. Do it. Financially, you're fine as long as you don't walk past any store that sells vintage mugs.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)
This month your mouth works faster than your brain. Great for party banter, less great for job interviews. Love is playful and possibly confusing. Is it flirting, or just a shared obsession with crosswords? Time will tell. Or not.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)
Home is where your heart – and probably your laundry – is. In June, feelings run deep. You may cry at an

ad for breakfast cereal. That's okay. Your emotional radar is strong; use it to sniff out both love and passive-aggressive neighbors.

Leo (July 23 – August 22)
June puts you center stage, even if the audience is just your cat. You radiate charm. Someone falls for you this month – possibly a barista who accidentally writes your name right. Fortune favors the bold, so dare to try karaoke again.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22)
You've got lists for your lists, and that's great – until you accidentally alphabetize your sock drawer. This month urges you to loosen up. Take a walk without counting steps. Eat a cookie without Googling the ingredients. You might enjoy the chaos.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)
Balance is your thing, but June throws in a few wobbly surprises. You'll face a dilemma involving brunch and loyalty to your favorite café. Love could blossom – or at least send you a weird emoji. Watch for signs. Or just interpret all signs creatively.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)
Mysterious? Always. Brooding? Maybe. Overthinking a five-word text? Definitely. June turns up the heat, romantically and otherwise. Let people in – not everyone wants to steal your secrets. Some just want to know your Wi-Fi password.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)
You're itching to travel – even if it's just to the fancy supermarket across town. A spontaneous decision this month could lead to greatness. Or minor confusion. Either way, exciting! Love may come from a foreign land. Or a friend-of-a-friend's dog walker.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)
You work hard, dream big, and sometimes forget to blink. This month, remember: even empires need coffee breaks. Someone sees your potential – probably someone in HR. Love's possible if you stop trying to impress people with Excel spreadsheets.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)
You're five steps ahead, which explains why no one knows what you're talking about. In June, weird is your superpower. Embrace it. Someone special may finally "get" you. Or at least pretend convincingly. That counts.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)
You're dreaming of far-off lands and deep conversations with your houseplants. June is rich in imagination, slightly short on practicality. That's okay. Channel your magic into a new hobby – interpretive dance, perhaps? The universe approves.