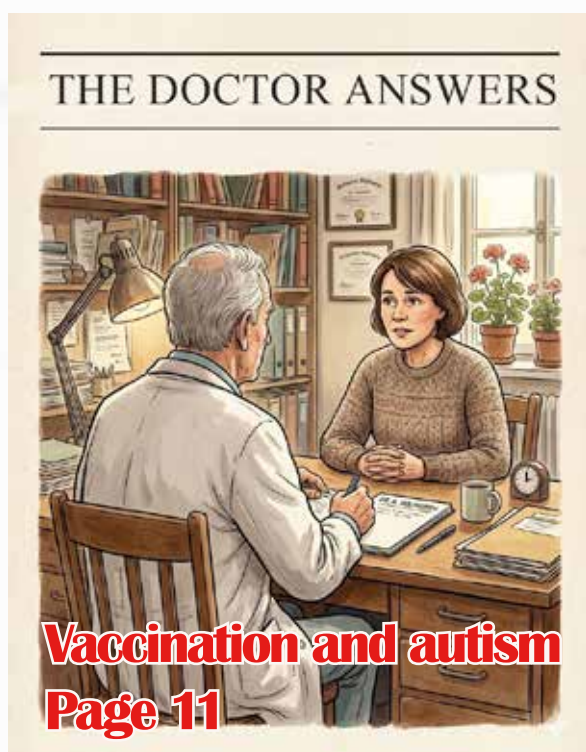


WASA DAILY



Flowers at the Brinken Museum
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Vaccination and autism
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Elga Sesemann in Ateneum
Page 7

LOCAL NEWS

OLD VAASA DAY. AUG 16 **Old Vaasa comes alive - a day with kings and mamselles**



History takes centre stage in Old Vaasa on Sunday as the city celebrates Vanha Vaasa Day, a special event bringing the area's remarkable past closer to today's visitors.

The programme centres on the historic Old Vaasa district and the Old Vaasa Museum at Kauppiaankatu 10. The museum will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

One of the highlights is the dramatic guided tour "Mamsellin salaisuudet" – "Mamsell's Secrets" – at 12.30 p.m. It offers a lively way to explore a past filled with kings, pirates, libraries and grand celebrations.

Visitors can also explore the exhibition marking 250 years of the Vaasa Court of Appeal. The exhibition tells the story of the court from its foundation in 1775, its early years in Old Vaasa and the lives of officials and their families before the devastating fire of 1852.

For families, history enthusiasts or anyone curious about the origins of modern Vaasa, the day offers an unusual opportunity to see the city through a different lens.

No time machine is required. Just head to Old Vaasa on Sunday – and let the past do the rest.

Time and place: Sunday, 16 August 2026, Old Vaasa, Vaasa. Museum open 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
Source: City of Vaasa, Vaasa Museums.

TODAY

EDITORIAL

The SDP's New Immigration Policy: A Necessary Shift or a Dangerous Precedent?

Finland's main opposition party has thrown down the gauntlet. At its summer meeting in Kouvola, the Social Democrats unveiled a package of immigration proposals that borrows heavily from the tough approaches of Sweden and Denmark. The party argues that integration has not met its goals and warns against the emergence of parallel societies. It calls on immigrants to commit to Finnish values and abandon "incompatible practices from their countries of origin". But is this a necessary correction or a dangerous new direction?

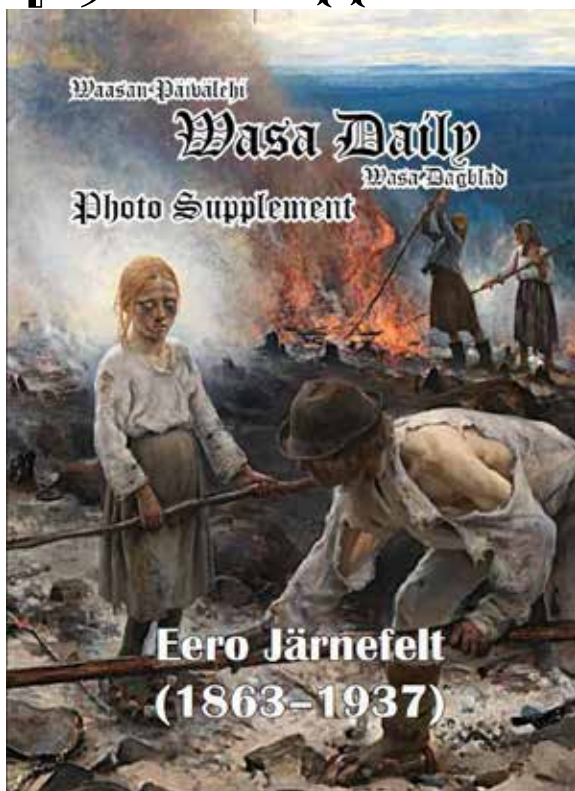
The SDP's shift is undoubtedly a political calculation. With parliamentary elections looming next April, the party—currently Finland's most popular—is seeking to reclaim ground on an issue that has long belonged to the right. By proposing to link social security to language studies and limit free interpreting services, the party is signaling that it is serious about integration. Its focus on preventing the kind of gang violence and segregation seen in Sweden is a pragmatic response to real fears. The emphasis on the integration of second-generation

immigrants and their parents is also a sound investment in social cohesion.

However, this new line is fraught with risk. Critics have pointed out that the SDP has previously voted against many of the government's own immigration-tightening measures. This sudden about-face invites accusations of opportunism. More fundamentally, the demand to abandon "practices from countries of origin" is a vague and troubling formulation. Who decides which practices are incompatible? The risk of veering into cultural discrimination is real, and the party leadership has had to deny that it is courting the True Finns Party's voters.

The SDP's new policy is a genuine attempt to address a difficult issue, but it must navigate carefully. It can champion integration and civic values without resorting to rhetoric that could stigmatize entire communities. The challenge lies in the execution—balancing the legitimate demand for adaptation with the fundamental respect for individual dignity that should define Finnish social democracy.

Photo Supplement



MALAX

Malax jubilee blasts off: Kvarken World Heritage turns 20 – Bergö fills with adventure!

This September Malax celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Kvarken Archipelago World Heritage Site with a packed week of events. The unique archipelago, listed by UNESCO since 2006 together with Sweden's High Coast, offers hiking, lectures, a Vi-king ship and escape games.

From 12 to 20 September a quiz trail runs along the 3.5 km southern Bergö hiking route. All ages can take part and win fine prizes.

On Monday 14 September photographer Rasmus Söderholm presents "Culture and Nature – Kvar-ken 20 Years" at Bergö parish hall. On Wednesday 16 September Per-Erik Berglund talks about fair-ways, pilot and rescue stations at the same venue. Both events are free and open to all.

On Tuesday 15 September Ann-Sofi Backgren lectures on "The Strong Priest" and on Thursday 17 September Christoffer Björklund shows "Kvar-ken in Words and Pictu-res" at Malax municipal hall. Both cost €15 and require registration via Malax-Korsnäs adult education centre.

Friday 18 September brings an activity afternoon at Bredhällan featuring the Viking ship Stormög-ha, a new pontoon sauna, the escape game "The Eagle has Landed" and mini-golf. Saturday 19 Sep-tember hosts the Bergö archipelago market and Sunday 20 September a guided walk with nature guide Tuija Warén.

Come celebrate our unique shared heritage!

Source: Malax.fi

See details: <https://www.malax.fi/nyheter/fi-ra-varldsarvsveckan-i-malax-1220-9>

DISTILLERY FESTIVAL

"Kyröfest Turns 10 – Two Days of Distillery Magic in Isokyrö!"

The small community of Isokyrö is gearing up for a celebration with extra sparkle as Kyröfest 2026 takes over the Kyrö Distillery Company grounds on 21–22 August 2026. Finland's most distinctive distillery festival marks its 10-year anniversary by expanding into a full two-day experience of music, art and local flavours.

Friday's lineup brings high-energy performances from Karri Koira, Aaro630, Lyyti, Yona, Figaro and Stepa. On Saturday, the party continues with Vesta, Windows-95Man, Eevil Stöö – Iso vauva Jeesus 10v, Rättö & Lehtisalo, Lala Salama, Bobomobile, Malla, Ullalintulampi, MC KOO and Hopeasiivet.

Kyröfest blends award-winning rye spirits with a warm, slightly eccentric backyard-festival atmosphere. Organisers describe it as "a bit grandiose," promising expanded areas, new art installations and plenty of unforgettable moments.

The event is fully accessible: wheelchair access, accessible toilets and free entry for assistants. All tickets are exchanged for wristbands at the gate.

Kyröfest 2026, Isokyrö, 21–22 August 2026
Reference: tapahtumainfo.fi/kyrofest.fi

NEWS

VAASA

Royal Visit to Vaasa – Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel Heading to Finland



Photo: Bengt Nyman, Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license.

It's official – Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel are coming to Vaasa! On 21 August, the royal couple will visit the city to honour the 250th anniversary of Vaasa Court of Appeal. This marks the first royal visit to Vaasa since 2006, when King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia attended the city's 400th anniversary celebrations.

– The Court of Appeal's historic anniversary year is such a significant event that we decided to approach the Swedish Royal Court and invite a representative to grace the celebration with their presence. We are truly honoured that the Crown Princess and Prince Daniel accepted our invitation, says President of the Court of Appeal Sakari Laukkanen.

The royal couple will begin the day with an hour-long visit to the Court of Appeal, which was founded by King Gustav III in 1775 and commenced operations exactly 250 years ago, on 21 August 1776. Following this, the Crown Princess will plant a commemorative tree in Hovioikeudenpuisto (Court of Appeal Park).

At 10:30 a.m., the royal guests will walk to Hovioikeudenpuistikko (Court of Appeal Esplanade), where they will have the opportunity to greet local residents. The tour then continues to Vaskiluoto, where the Crown Princess and Prince Daniel will explore Wärtsilä's technology centre and learn about cutting-edge developments in carbon-neutral maritime transport and energy production.

– Vaasa proudly showcases to its royal visitors how the city has evolved over the past four centuries and how it is rapidly growing into the energy capital of the Nordics, says Mayor Tomas Häyry.

The visit concludes with a lunch hosted by the city at Maaherrantalo. Vaasa is getting ready for a royal day to remember!

Source: STT Info / City of Vaasa

VIKTORIA and DANIEL

Royal tech tour in Espoo: Victoria and Daniel dive

WELLBEING AREAS

STUDENTS HEALTH

“Major Overhaul Ahead: Finland to Reform Health Checks for Upper Secondary Students in 2026”

Finland is preparing a significant reform of health examinations for upper secondary students, set to roll out in autumn 2026. According to a recent bulletin from the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), the aim is to reduce regional inequality and strengthen student wellbeing.

Currently, the quality and frequency of health checks vary widely across the country. The new model introduces a personal health assessment for every student, along with more structured support for mental health, lifestyle habits and study capacity.

THL highlights that students in vocational education often face more health challenges than those in general upper secondary schools. The reform seeks to close this gap by ensuring faster follow-up for students with greater needs and closer cooperation with student welfare services.

The nationwide implementation is planned for the 2026–2027 academic year.
Reference: THL

OSTROBOTHNIA

VICTORY! Dental Care Nightmare Ends in Ostrobothnia – Massive €800k Fines Narrowly Avoided

It was a crisis marked by chaos and agonizing waiting lists. This spring, alarm bells rang: dental care in Vaasa, Korsholm, Laihia, and Malax had severe shortcomings. The supervisory authority threatened a fine of €800,000. But now, the nightmare has flipped into a stunning success story for Ostrobothnia!

Through heroic evening and weekend shifts, executed by dedicated staff and private services, the queue-crushers have delivered. The crisis hit Vaasa hardest, where they were short by ten dentists.

– We are very pleased the queue situation is under control. When a patient calls, they instantly get an appointment, not a waiting list, says a relieved leading dentist **Hanna Kangasmaa**.

Regional Chief Dentist **Petra Kari** confirms that intense recruitment has paid off, bringing professionals to the Vaasa units. Today, staff can breathe freely, and patients are smiling. Under the strict national care guarantee, treatments are now successfully delivered within the mandated six-month window.

The dental care crisis has been a national issue in Finland, fueled by a shortage of trained professionals. Yet, Ostrobothnia has proven that

decisive action and hard work pay off. Patients no longer suffer in uncertainty, and the country keeps its vital tax euros. A genuinely bright piece of news for the evening!
Source: Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County

CHICKENPOX VACCINE

Free Chickenpox Vaccine Now Available for More Adults

A major change in Finland's vaccination programme is giving more adults a chance to protect themselves against chickenpox. Since 1 August 2026, the Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County has offered free chickenpox vaccinations to adults who have never had the disease or who have not completed the recommended two-dose vaccination series.

Although chickenpox is usually mild in children, it can cause serious complications in adults, including pneumonia, encephalitis and severe skin infections. The vaccine is especially recommended for people planning a pregnancy, healthcare workers, those about to start immunosuppressive treatment and adults born between 2000 and 2005.

Most people over the age of 50 are already naturally immune because they had chickenpox during childhood. The vaccination programme consists of two doses given at least three months apart, with appointments available through local health centres, telephone services and online nursing chat.

Time and place: From 1 August 2026 at health centres across the Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County, Finland.

Source: Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County and Finland's National Vaccination Programme.

WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY OF OSTROBOTHNIA

Giving Birth Becomes Free in Vaasa – New Pilot Began on 1 August

Expectant families in Western Finland have received welcome news. From 1 August 2026, Vaasa Central Hospital will offer free maternity care for childbirth, making it one of the first hospitals in Finland to launch such a pilot programme. The trial will continue until the end of 2027.

WASA DAILY
Nearly everything You need
to know on 14 pages
vpress.fi

NEWS

into the future!

On Friday afternoon 21 August 2026, Sweden's Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel visit Aalto University in Otaniemi, Espoo. It is their first joint visit to the university, focused on three strategically important fields where Finland and Sweden cooperate closely: quantum technology, space and satellite technology, and ice research. Hosted by Rector Ilkka Niemelä and Camilla Wardi, the couple will hear from Professor Mikko Möttönen about Aalto's rise in quantum computing, including the university's own AaltoQ20 quantum computer. Doctoral researcher Marius Anger explains how Finland became a space nation in just over a decade, while Professor Tua Björklund presents the Design Factory. The visit ends at the world's largest indoor ice basin, the Aalto Ice and Wave Tank, where Otto Puolakka demonstrates ship testing in icy conditions. They will also meet students with Swedish backgrounds. The stop is part of their Finland tour, which includes Vaasa. The public may catch a glimpse outside the Design Factory around 15:00 and outside the School of Business around 16:00. A royal encounter with tomorrow's innovations!
Source: Aalto University

PÖRTOM

Music, Tradition and Summer Evenings – Pörtom Welcomes Visitors Throughout August

Peaceful summer evenings, beautiful music and local traditions come together this August in Pörtom, a village in the municipality of Närpes on Finland's west coast. Throughout the month, the local church and historic church cottage will host a series of cultural and spiritual events open to residents and visitors alike.



The concert series "Music in the August Evening" begins on Thursday, 13 August at 8:00 p.m. in Pörtom Church. Soprano Sofia Rosendahl will perform together with accompanist Jan-Ola Granholm and organist Gerd Lindén-Liljehage. A second concert follows on Thursday, 20 August at 8:00 p.m., featuring vocalist Emilia Tikkala and organist Hannes Uunila.



BRINKEN MUSEUM

Where history blooms – Brinken Museum celebrates a colourful Ostrobothnian tradition

Flowers, old farming traditions, blue botanical artwork, coffee and waffles turned Brinkens Museum in Malax into a colourful meeting place on Sunday, August 9. The museum’s annual Flower Day brought together local history, gardening and sustainability in the middle of a historic museum garden.

Brinken Museum offers visitors a glimpse into traditional rural life in Ostrobothnia, showing how people once lived, worked and made their living. Its garden is an important part of that story, preserving the connection between everyday life, cultivation and the seasons.

Flower Day has become a long-standing tradition at Brinkens. Its roots can be traced back to the Orre sisters, who were already cultivating flowers and useful plants in the 1920s and selling them at the market in Vaasa. What was once a practical way of earning a living has become part of the region’s cultural heritage.

This year’s programme also looked firmly towards the future. Horticulturist Jari von Wendt spoke about small-scale agroforestry and how traditional cultivation methods can provide inspiration for more sustainable gardens today.

Anita Storm introduced Aktion Österbotten’s Eco Club, which grows its own plants on the museum grounds.

Visitors could also try cyanotype, a photographic printing technique that produces distinctive blue images using flowers and other plants. The free workshop was led by Daniel Beijar from the Replot Archipelago Local Heritage Association.

There was plenty for visitors beyond the programme itself: coffee, waffles, books and bouquets were available for purchase, while the museum flea market was also open.

The result was a celebration combining nature, history and community – a reminder that some of the most interesting stories of the future can begin in very old gardens.

Flower Day was held on Sunday, August 9, 2026, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Brinkens Museum, Museivägen 5, Malax. Source: Brinkens Museum



Between the concerts, the traditional Cottage Worship Service in Swedish will be held on Sunday, 16 August at 3:00 p.m. at the historic Church Cottage in Pörtom, offering a peaceful gathering in a picturesque outdoor setting.

The August programme concludes on Thursday, 27 August at 8:00 p.m., when cellist Emma Strömbäck-Mård performs together with the Pörtom Choir, conducted by Jan-Ola Granholm.

Known for its vibrant cultural life and strong community spirit, Pörtom continues to demonstrate how small rural villages can offer memorable experiences through music, heritage and togetherness.

Time and place:

Thursday 13 August, 8:00 p.m. – Music in the August Evening, Pörtom Church
Sunday 16 August, 3:00 p.m. – Cottage Worship Service, Church Cottage, Pörtom
Thursday 20 August, 8:00 p.m. – Music in the August Evening, Pörtom Church
Thursday 27 August, 8:00 p.m. – Music in the August Evening, Pörtom Church
Source: Närpes Parish.

STATISTICS

Student Apartment Prices Split Finland – Vaasa Sees the Fastest Rent Increase

Students preparing to start university this autumn may face an unexpected challenge before classes even begin: finding an affordable apartment. A new comparison shows that rental trends vary sharply across Finland’s university cities, with Vaasa and Lappeenranta emerging as complete opposites.

According to the latest figures, rents for privately owned studio apartments increased the most in Vaasa during the past year, while Lappeenranta was among the few university cities where studio rents actually declined slightly. Helsinki remains Finland’s most expensive student city despite a modest drop in rental prices.



Vaasa’s growing popularity as a university city helps explain the trend. The city attracts students through its internationally recognised energy technology cluster and several higher education institutions. Increased demand for small apartments has pushed rents upward, even though organisations such as VOAS continue to provide affordable student housing.

Housing experts recommend applying for accommodation as early as possible. As the autumn semester approaches, the best studio apartments are often rented out within days.

Time: Statistics cover January–June 2026 and were published during summer 2026.
Place: University cities across Finland.
Source: Statistics Finland

NEWS

BRINKEN MUSEUM



MALAX

Creativity explosion at the Kvarken Boat Museum – "Provapåkalaset" attracts the whole district

Malax, 19 August 2026, 17:30–19:30. There will be colour, celebration and full speed ahead when the Kvarken Boat Museum is transformed into a creative amusement park for all ages. Malax municipality invites you to the year's most playful Tryout Party – an event where you can stumble into a circus workshop, end up in the middle of a theatre exercise or suddenly stand and speed cub as if you were training for the World Championships. On site is everything from the children's choir Körvana to Art in Malakta, 4H and the municipal library. It's as if all of Malax's creative soul has come together in one place – and admission is also free. Music, art, theatre and surprises are promised, and the organisers promise that no one goes home without having discovered a new hobby or at least laughed at someone else's attempt. A perfect late summer event for those who want to try something new – or just enjoy the atmosphere by the sea.

Reference: Malax municipality

ARTE MARE

Wasa Theatre takes over Arte Mare – the gallery becomes a magical showroom in August



Replot, 4–30 August 2026, 10 am–6 pm. In August, something unusual happens at Replot bridge: Galleri Arte Mare is transformed into a living theatre universe when Wasa Teater moves in and turns the gallery into its own creative showroom. Visitors get to step straight into the scenes of the performing arts – literally.

The exhibition showcases visual elements from the production OAS, and provides a unique chance to see how costumes, set design and storytelling are woven together into magic. It's like getting a sneak peek behind the curtain, but without having to duck props or stressed actors.

In addition, the autumn's repertoire will be presented, so theatre lovers can already start planning their cultural evenings. An unusual and inspiring visit for anyone who wants to see how theatre is created – from idea to finished performance.

Address: World Heritage Gate, Replotvägen 2, Replot

Reference: Mustasaari Municipality

ALIBABA AI

Alibaba's Qwen 3.6 and Qwen 3.8: China's AI Giant Challenges ChatGPT



Artificial intelligence is advancing at an astonishing pace. While most people have heard of ChatGPT, Google Gemini, or Claude, a powerful challenger from China is rapidly attracting worldwide attention. Alibaba's newest AI models – Qwen 3.6 and the newly released Qwen 3.8 – are among the most capable systems ever developed. But what makes them different, and should ordinary users care?

For the past few years, American companies such as OpenAI, Google, Anthropic, and Meta have largely dominated the AI race. Today, however, Chinese technology companies are catching up quickly. Alibaba, one of the world's largest technology firms, has invested billions of dollars in AI research, and its Qwen family of language models has become one of the fastest-growing AI platforms in the world.

From Qwen 3.6 to Qwen 3.8
Qwen 3.6, introduced earlier this year, represented a major leap forward over previous Qwen versions. It became better at logical reasoning, programming, mathematics, and analyzing both images and text. It also introduced enormous context windows—allowing users to upload books, lengthy reports, or thousands of pages of documentation in a single conversation.

Only a few months later Alibaba surprised the AI world again by unveiling Qwen 3.8 Max, its most ambitious model so far.

The flagship model reportedly contains 2.4 trillion parameters, making it one of the

largest AI models ever built. Thanks to an advanced "Mixture of Experts" architecture, however, it activates only a fraction of those parameters during each response, making it considerably faster and more economical than its enormous size would suggest. It also supports multimodal input, meaning users can work with text, photographs, diagrams and even video within the same conversation.

What makes Qwen different?
Unlike many earlier AI systems, Qwen combines several important innovations.

First, it can automatically decide how deeply it should think. Simple questions receive immediate answers, while difficult mathematical problems or programming tasks trigger much longer reasoning processes. This produces better answers without unnecessarily slowing down everyday conversations.

Second, Qwen has become remarkably multilingual. While earlier generations handled only a limited number of languages well, the Qwen 3 family supports well over one hundred languages and dialects, making it attractive for international businesses and researchers.

Third, Alibaba has embraced an open-weight strategy. Unlike completely closed systems, developers can download and customize many Qwen models for their own servers and applications. This has made Qwen especially popular among universities, startups, and software developers.

What is Qwen best at?
Although almost any AI

assistant can answer questions or write emails, different models have different strengths.

Qwen is particularly strong for:
software development and programming
mathematical calculations
scientific research
analyzing very large documents
translating between many languages
building AI assistants for companies
processing both text and images simultaneously

Because it can read extremely large amounts of information at once, businesses can use it to analyze contracts, technical manuals, legal documents, financial reports or research papers that would overwhelm many older AI systems.

Is it better than ChatGPT?
The answer depends on what one means by "better."

In coding, mathematics and structured reasoning, many independent benchmark tests place recent Qwen models among the world's leading AI systems. Alibaba also claims that Qwen 3.8 competes directly with the strongest American models. However, some of these performance claims have not yet been independently verified because comprehensive benchmark results for the newest model are still limited.

For everyday users, ChatGPT still offers several advantages.

OpenAI has spent years refining conversation quality, reliability, safety systems, voice interaction, memory, productivity tools and

integration with external services. Many users also find ChatGPT's responses slightly more natural and polished during long conversations.

On the other hand, Qwen often shines in technical tasks, large-scale document analysis, multilingual work and open-source development.

Which AI should you choose?

For ordinary users wanting help with writing, studying, travel planning, creativity or general questions, ChatGPT remains one of the easiest and most polished choices.

For programmers, engineers, researchers and organizations wanting to customize their own AI or process enormous amounts of information, Qwen is becoming an increasingly attractive alternative.

The competition is also benefiting consumers. Only two years ago today's AI capabilities would have seemed almost science fiction. Now companies from the United States and China are pushing each other forward at breathtaking speed, releasing increasingly capable models every few months rather than every few years.

The AI race is only beginning

The launch of Qwen 3.8 demonstrates that artificial intelligence is no longer dominated by Silicon Valley alone. China has become a genuine competitor at the highest level of AI research.

Whether Qwen ultimately surpasses ChatGPT remains to be seen. Independent evaluations over the coming months will provide a clearer picture. One thing is already certain: competition between OpenAI, Google, Anthropic, Meta, Alibaba and other AI developers is accelerating innovation at an unprecedented pace.

For users around the world, that means smarter assistants, lower costs, and increasingly powerful AI tools arriving faster than ever before.

END OF VILLA SEASON PARTY

The last Saturday in August there will be fireworks – but only on certain conditions



The Venetsian weekend is approaching, and fireworks are allowed – but only if you follow the rules. It is a kind of "shoot if you are able to do the right thing" policy that is supposed to keep both the party atmosphere and safety at its peak. In the area of the Ostrobothnia Rescue Department, rockets may be fired without special notification on 29.8.2026 at 18.00 – 24.00, but not in urban areas, residential areas or near buildings. And if the Finnish Meteorological Institute issues a warning for a ground fire, it is a complete stop – then the rockets are allowed to stay in the box. Everyone is also reminded of common sense: don't aim fireworks at your neighbour's barbecue, and make sure you have a bucket of water close at hand. And protect your eyes! After all, the Venetsian night is a celebration of joy, not of the fire brigade or the ophthalmologist

PHOTO CONTEST

Capture the World Heritage Site – win €500!



Do you have a mobile full of pictures from the archipelago? Now they can be worth money. The Kvarken World Heritage Site celebrates 20 years with a photo competition where everyone can participate. Take your best shot – whether it's sunset over the archipelago, a seal looking up or just that perfect archipelago atmosphere – and send it in. The winner takes home 500 euros. The exact rules and deadline for submission can be found on the website of the City of Vaasa. But one thing is certain: here you have to recharge – both the camera and the imagination. Send the photos by 31.8.2026. More information here: <https://www.vaasa.fi/sv/se-och-upplev/kvarkens-skargard/kvarken-20/fototavling-20/> And for those who don't win? At least you get an excuse to spend a day out in the World Heritage Site. That's a win too.

Source: City of Vaasa / Kvarken 20, July 2026

NEWS

MUSEUM DAY

Record number of museums open for Ostrobothnian Museum Day on Aug 23

On Sunday 23 August, Ostrobothnian Museum Day is celebrated for the third time – this year with a record 33 museums taking part across the region. The aim is to show-case the rich variety of Ostrobothnian museums and the voluntary local heritage work that sustains them.

A new participant is the Sausage and Butcher Museum “Toola” in Vähäkyrö. All participating sites offer open doors, with guides present at some locations and additional programme available.

“We want to attract new visitors and keep the threshold as low as possible. Last year’s event was a great success with the public,” says regional researcher Kaj Höglund of the Vaasa Museums, the regional responsibility museum for Ostrobothnia.

The day forms part of the European Heritage Days, whose 2026 theme is “Worth Pre-serving”. Parallel museum days are also held in South Ostrobothnia and Central Ostrobothnia.

These museums are open on Aug 23:
Pörtom hembygdsmuseum, Riksåttan (riksväg 8) 4720, Pörtom, öppet kl. 12–16
Kuddnäs museum, Jakobstadsvägen 22, Nykarleby, öppet kl. 12–17
Kvevlax hembygdsmuseum, Kvevlaxvägen, Korsholm, öppet kl. 11–16
Kaskö hembygdsmuseum, Rådhusgatan 48, Kaskö, öppet kl. 13–15
Kaskö Fiskemuseum, Sjöbobacksgränden, Kaskö, öppet kl. 12–16
Kvarkens båtmuseum, Åminnevägen, Malax, öppet kl. 13–16, fritt inträde och kaffeservering
Brinkens museum, Museivägen 5, Malax, öppet kl. 13–16, fritt inträde, avgiftsfria guidade turer kl. 13.30 och 15



Brinkens museum in Malax



The Museum in Kaskinen

Vasa arbetarmuseum, Frihetsvägen 27, Vasa
Smedsby Hembygdsförening rf, Smedsbyvägen 253, Korsholm, öppet kl. 12–15. På plats finns guider som berättar om verksamheten, fritt inträde.
Laihela hembygdsmuseum och Sparsamhetens museum, Rudontie 234, Laihela, öppet kl. 12–16. Guidningar.
Laihela museum för våra krigs veteraner, Laihelavägen 39, Laihela, öppet kl. 12–18
Lillkyros hembygdsmuseum, Kirkonsilta 6, och skolemuseum, Merikartvägen 5, Lillkyro, öppet kl. 13–16
Korv- och slaktarmuseet ”Toola”, Merikartvägen 5, Lillkyro, öppet kl. 13–16
Bleckslagarmuseet ”Fyrry”, Merikartvägen 5, Lillkyro, öppet kl. 13–16
Hyysikkämuseet (”dassmu-

seet”), Merikartvägen 5, Lillkyro, öppet kl. 13–16
Kronoby Hembygdsförening, Tolvmansgården, Backfolkvägen 43, öppet kl. 12–15
Gamla Vasa museum, Köpmansgatan 10, öppet kl. 10–17
Furirbostället, Slagfältsvägen 130, Oravais, öppet kl. 12–18
Jakobstads museum, Malm-ska gården, Storgatan 2, Jakobstad, öppet kl. 12–16
Jakobstads museum, utställningshallen Tempus, Jakobstad, öppet kl. 12–16
Vasa sjöfartsmuseum, Brändö sund, Vasa, öppet kl. 12–15
Korsnäs hembygds-museum, Kyrkobylvägen 32, Korsnäs, öppet kl. 13–17
Vaasan 4H-yhdistys ry och Alkula gård, Gripstigen 1, Vasa, öppet kl. 13–16
Vasa Krigsveteranmuse-

um, Kyrkoesplanaden 22 A, Vasa, öppet kl. 14–16
Ålidens hembygdgård, Nybrännvägen 760, Purmo
Korsnäs prästgårdsmuseum, Kyrkobylvägen 32, Korsnäs, öppet kl. 12–15
Sundom hembygds-museum, Myrgrundsvägen 467, Vasa, öppet kl. 13–17
Mortes gårdsmuseum, Uppbyggted 71, Björköby, öppet kl. 10–16
Björkö båtmuseum i Svedje-hamn, öppet kl. 10–16
Torgare prästgård, Torgare-vägen 22, Kronoby, öppet kl. 12–15
Hannas stuga, Gerby-Vesterviks hembygds-museum, Västerviksvägen 288, Vasa, öppet klo 12–17
Virgo arbetarbostadsmuseum, Masugnsvägen 29, Oravais, öppet kl. 13–16
Meteoria Söderfjärden, Marenvägen 294, Vasa,

NEWS

AI

AI
EU Unveils New AI Warning Icon – A Digital “Truth Shield” for All Europeans

Basic icon 	When AI was involved in the creation of deep fake content (image, audio, video) or published text or when a custom text label or interactive second layer is implemented	Deep fake video with the text label “voices generated with” followed by the basic icon
Fully AI-Generated 	When the entire deep fake content (image, audio, video) or text is fully generated by AI with no human-created elements or human editorial control (apart from prompting)	Fully AI-generated deep fake videos with politicians or fictional events Fully AI-composed music or art* AI-generated news summaries
Partially AI-Modified 	When pre-existing, human-made content was partially modified with AI turning it into a deep fake or text on matters of public interest	A face in an authentic photograph is swapped with a face of a politician using AI Authentic photographs of an empty apartment is furnished using AI

A brand-new symbol is about to appear across Europe’s digital landscape – a small icon with a massive mission: revealing when content has been generated or altered by artificial intelligence. The European Commission has officially released its set of AI-labelling icons, marking a turning point in the fight against deepfakes and online manipulation.

The icons, available in four versions, were refined through extensive user testing. Their purpose is simple but powerful: help every citizen instantly recognise whether a video, image, audio clip or text is human-made or machine-generated. “Transparency is our strongest defence against misinformation,” an EU official said.

Under the AI Act, any AI-generated or AI-manipulated content that could influence the public must be clearly labelled. Deepfakes – realistic but fabricated videos or photos – are a particular concern, especially during elections and major public events. The icon must be placed directly on the content, remain visible when shared, and be accessible to assistive technologies.

Creative works such as art, satire and fiction receive lighter requirements, but audiences must still be informed when AI has played a role.

This new system is the first unified AI-labelling standard in the world. It may fundamentally reshape how Europeans judge authenticity in the digital age – giving everyone a simple visual cue to separate truth from technological illusion. Source: European Commission

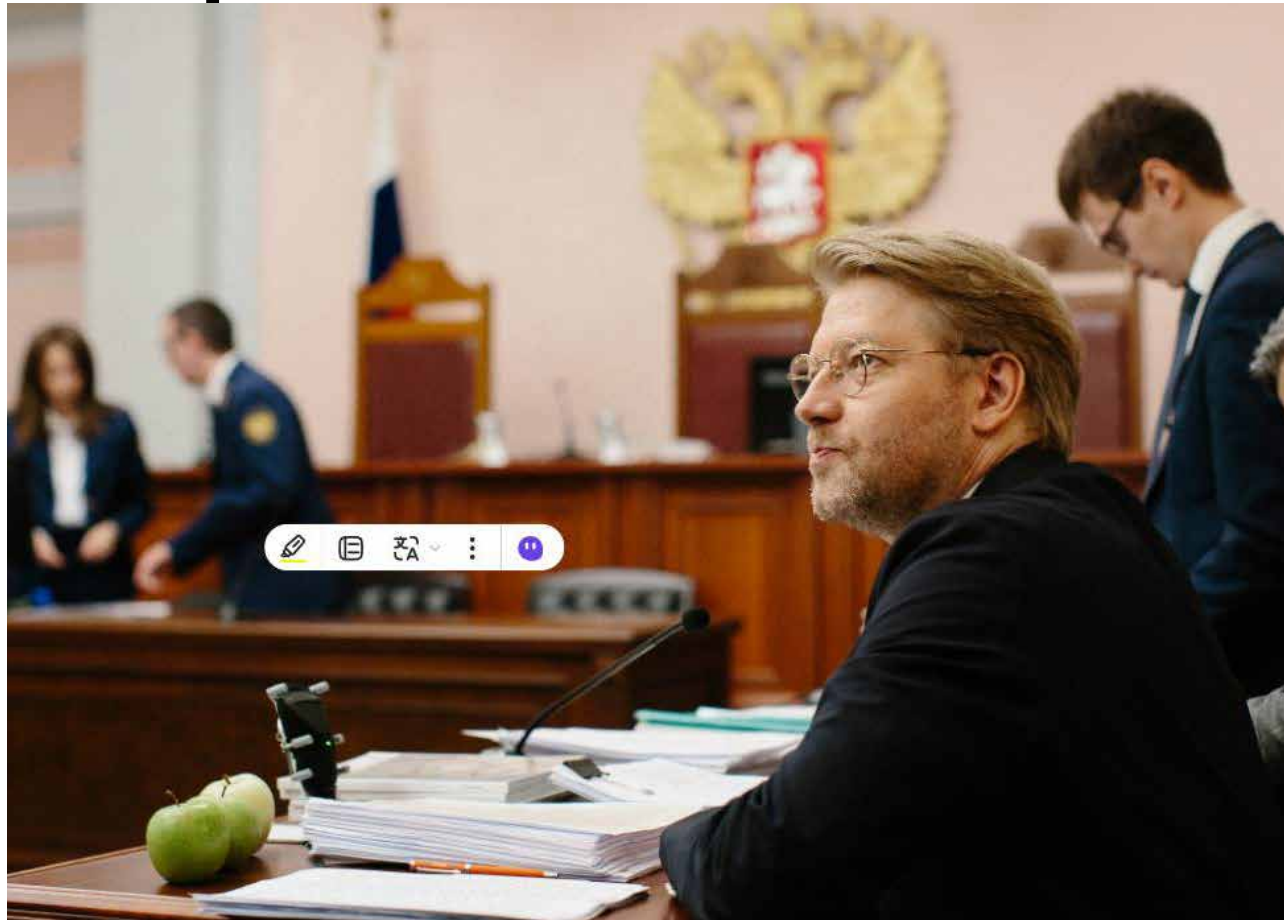
ART

ATENEUM 18.8.2026-8.8.2027
Elga Sesemann gets her moment in the spotlight at

RUSSIA

DUMA ELECTION

When peace is not allowed on the ballot



Party leader Nikolay Rybakov. Image: The Yabloko Press Service

One could almost think that Russia is a democracy. There are political parties, parliaments and elections – including the elections to the State Duma in September. But when you look at the system more closely, the picture becomes completely different.

Ahead of this autumn's election, eleven parties had hoped to run. Ten of them mainly support the Kremlin's policies, including Russia's war against Ukraine. The eleventh, the liberal Yabloko, occupies a completely different position. The party demands a ceasefire and peace.

Thus, the election could have been a rare opportunity for Russian voters to express their opinion on one of the country's most important issues: war or peace?

But that is not the case.

Russia's Supreme Court has now banned Yabloko from participating in the election. The official decision is justified by formal and legal objections, but for an outsider it is difficult to ignore the political dimension. An election in which even a peace-oriented opposition party is allowed to participate

could give an indication of what Russians actually think about the war.

And that seems to be something the Kremlin does not want to know.

In his speech to the Supreme Court, Yabloko's party leader, Nikolai Rybakov, tried to defend the party's right to participate in the elections. However, his arguments did not change the court's decision.

Yabloko is shut out.

Here is part of the speech:

Dear Court!

Our Charter and our long history prove that we are an exclusively peaceful, civilized and lawful political organization. Do we oppose other parties? Yes, we oppose. But political resistance is not identical and will never be identical to incitement to social division. Political competition is at the heart of elections. A party participates in elections precisely to show the difference in its program, to criticize other positions and to convince the electorate to support its list, its program, its ideas. If we follow the logic of the plaintiff, then the elections in Russia should be banned, because all campaigning is a dispute and criticism of opponents.

The plaintiff went so far as to independently invent something for the Yabloko Party that we had never said.

There are exactly 43 words in our election program, I read them out:

FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM!

FOR A LIFE WITHOUT FEAR!

For a ceasefire agreement, diplomacy and peace!

Our goal is to prevent nuclear war! For a Russia free from fear and political repression!

For the preservation of life, respect, dignity and well-being of a person!

Our goal is a prosperous democratic Russia!

The plaintiff takes these words and begins to build up a speculative chain of assumptions: allegedly, the ceasefire agreement amounts to the rejection of territories, and the rejection of territories is a violation of the integrity of the Russian Federation and thus extremism. Dear Court! The plaintiff does not assess what the party actually wrote, but what he himself constructed in his head. I have known the administrative plaintiff for many years and I know how he uses these methods of deception in television programs, but we are in the Supreme Court and this is unacceptable here.

The proposal for a bilateral ceasefire is about saving lives, it sets no limits and does not touch territorial disputes in any way. The plaintiff is now simply trying to mislead the Supreme Court.

Yes, it is known that the Yabloko Party is an opposition

party. But we are in favour of conducting a dialogue for the sake of the future. And we support opportunities for dialogue.

I would like to draw your attention to a quote from President Putin: „Let me remind you that Russia has repeatedly taken initiatives to build a new, reliable and fair architecture for European and global security. We offered alternatives and rational solutions that could suit everyone in America, Europe, Asia – all over the world. We believe it would be worth returning to their substantive discussion in order to consolidate the conditions for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Ukraine to be achieved – and the sooner the better.“

This is a quote from Vladimir Putin's speech at the ceremony to receive proxies from newly arrived ambassadors of foreign states in the Kremlin on January 15, 2026. I repeat again: „... In order to... substantive discussion (I explain to the plaintiff that substantive discussion is negotiation) should be resumed in order to consolidate the conditions under which a peaceful solution to the conflict in Ukraine can be achieved – and the sooner the better.“ That is to say, yes, there is such a factual situation that the Yabloko Party believes that negotiations are needed, President Putin believes that negotiations are needed, and the administrative plaintiff believes that this is extremism.

Source: Yabloko.ru

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NEWS

the Ateneum

She attracted attention as a young artist, was compared with major names such as Edvard Munch and Helene Schjerfbeck, and yet later slipped into relative obscurity. Now Elga Sesemann is getting a major second look.



Elga Sesemann: *Omakuva* (1946), Kansallisgallerian kokoelma / Ateneumin taidemuseo
Image: Kansallisgalleria / Yehia Eweis

On Tuesday, the Ateneum Art Museum opens a comprehensive exhibition devoted to Elga Sesemann (1922–2007). It also launches the museum's new Modern Classics exhibition series, focusing on 20th-century artists from the Finnish National Gallery collections.

Sesemann's first solo exhibition in Helsinki took place in 1945, when she was just 23. Critics immediately noticed her distinctive use of colour and highly personal style. During her long career, her expression continued to evolve.

The exhibition presents around 80 works, with approximately 50 on display in the initial presentation. The selection comes from the Finnish National Gallery as well as other museums and private collections.



Elga Sesemann: *Kahvilassa* (1945). Kansallisgallerian kokoelma / Ateneumin taidemuseo. Image: Kansallisgalleria / Hannu Aaltonen

Her paintings can be strikingly atmospheric. People often appear isolated, with vacant or partly blurred faces, while empty rooms and quiet landscapes create an unsettling, dreamlike mood. Memories of childhood in Vyborg and the family's evacuation to Helsinki during the Winter War became recurring elements in her art.

Later, after the death of her husband, angels, birds and wings increasingly appeared in her work.

The result is an art that feels both deeply personal and surprisingly contemporary – dealing with displacement, identity, loneliness and the search for meaning.

Place: Ateneum Art Museum, Kaivokatu 2, Helsinki.
Exhibition: 18 August 2026–8 August 2027.

AI

AI-MUSIC

The Best AI Music Generators in 2026 – From Rap Beats to Opera Masterpieces



Imagine a 16-year-old aspiring rapper who wants to craft the next viral hit but doesn't know how to produce beats. Or a retired music teacher dreaming of composing an opera but lacking the technical skills. Maybe even a podcaster looking for the perfect background track without paying expensive licensing fees.

In 2026, AI music generators have become so advanced that they can turn anyone—regardless of musical training—into a composer.

But with so many options available, which AI tools truly stand out? We tested the top platforms to find the best AI music generators of 2025, catering to different needs, genres, and skill levels.

Suno AI 3.0 – The King of AI-Generated Songs

Suno AI made waves in 2024 with its ability to generate full songs—lyrics, vocals, and instrumentals—from simple text prompts. In 2025, Suno AI 3.0 has refined its algorithms to produce even more natural-sounding vocals and genre-specific compositions.

Best for: Aspiring singers, songwriters, and content creators.

Why it's great: Type in a prompt like "upbeat pop-punk song about summer love", and Suno generates a complete track in seconds.

Perfect for: Our teen rapper who just typed "hard-hitting trap beat with aggressive flow" and got a studio-quality demo in minutes.

Udio Pro – The Ultimate AI Music Collaboration Tool

Udio took a different approach by focusing on human-AI collaboration. Its 2025 "Pro" version lets users start with a melody, hum a tune, or even

upload a rough recording, which the AI then refines into a polished track.

Best for: Musicians who want AI assistance rather than full automation.

Why it's great: Udio Pro's "Smart Remix" feature can transform a simple piano riff into a full orchestral arrangement or a synth-heavy EDM drop.

Perfect for: Our opera-loving senior, who hummed an aria idea and watched Udio turn it into a sweeping, orchestrated piece complete with synthetic operatic vocals.

AIVA 4.0 – The Classical and Film Score Specialist

While many AI tools focus on pop and electronic music, AIVA 4.0 remains the go-to for classical, jazz, and cinematic compositions. It's used by indie filmmakers, game developers, and even professional composers for inspiration.

Best for: Composers, filmmakers, and game devs.

Why it's great: AIVA's "Emotion Engine" lets users adjust the mood of a piece (e.g., "more melancholic" or "heroic climax"), making it ideal for scoring scenes.

The Future of AI Music?

While AI music tools still can't fully replace human creativity, they've become indispensable assistants—helping beginners create professional-sounding tracks and giving experts new ways to experiment.

The best part? Most of these tools offer free tiers, so anyone can start composing today. Whether you're a teen rapper, a retired opera enthusiast, or just someone who loves making music, 2026's AI music generators have something for you.

FROM OUR READERS

FROM OUR READERS

I Know What I Should Do – But Do I Actually Do It?

Most of us know that exercise, maintaining muscle strength, and keeping our minds active help us stay fit and preserve our independence. But why does that knowledge so often remain just that – knowledge? Why is it so difficult to turn it into action?

This morning, once again, I am sitting at the table, tapping away at my computer. I am waiting for the others to wake up. At least I cooked oatmeal for everyone. But why didn't I go outside and enjoy the beautiful weather? Why didn't I take a brisk walk and climb a few steep hills to strengthen my legs? I could at least have walked at a pace that would maintain – or perhaps improve – my basic fitness.

Did the desire for comfort win once again over my fear of the future?

I know perfectly well that regular exercise builds muscle strength. That is why I go to the gym – but only during the winter. I want to be able, even in old age, to get out of bed on my own, manage my trips to the bathroom independently and cope with the many other ordinary tasks of everyday life.

I have seen what can happen when people stop moving. In old age, they may become bedridden and end up in a care facility for a long time – perhaps even for years. That is hardly an attractive prospect.

Over the years, I have accumulated both knowledge and experience. I have read that muscle strength can improve even in people who are a hundred years old if they begin exercising. Naturally, I was sceptical – after all, I am already over eighty. We Finns tend to believe things only when we have seen or experienced them ourselves.

TAXES

"A tax surprise in the berry forest – frozen berries and collected bottles can have tax consequences!"

The enthusiasm for berry picking in the summer is at its peak, but at the same time a surprising tax risk has been revealed to many. According to the Finnish Chamber of Commerce, many Finns do not know that in certain situations they have to pay tax on both berries and bars in bottles.

The sale of wild berries is tax-free when they are sold as such to consumers. But if you freeze the picked berries before selling, the tax authorities interpret it as treatment – and the income becomes taxable.

The taxation of bottle deposits is also confusing. Deposits from your own beverage containers are tax-free, but if you pick up bottles from the park or return your neighbour's cans, the deposit money is ta-

There is a pull-up bar in the doorway. I decided to try it. I couldn't manage a single pull-up. Not one!

So I decided to turn the attempt into a habit. Every time I passed the bar, I would try three or four times a day. And, amazingly, my strength began to improve. Eventually, I managed eight pull-ups.

Then I had to modify the exercise. With my legs hanging freely, my back was placed in an awkward position and started to hurt. I therefore need to find a way of exercising that is kinder to my back. That is where physiotherapists can certainly offer good advice.

But one thing has become clear: it is possible to maintain the condition of our legs even as we grow older. To my surprise, even my joint pain decreased as my muscles became stronger. Perhaps I really can remain sufficiently active well into old age – as long as I keep using my muscles.

So I must keep going.

The brain also needs constant stimulation. Mine certainly gets plenty when I follow what is happening in the world, read, write and think about all kinds of things. A good and varied diet and enough rest are, of course, equally important parts of the whole.

Sleep is obviously the most important form of rest. But perhaps rest also means changing what we do: reading after exercising, going outside after writing, and sometimes simply allowing our thoughts to wander. I know what I should do. Now I just have to do it.

Kyösti

xable income.

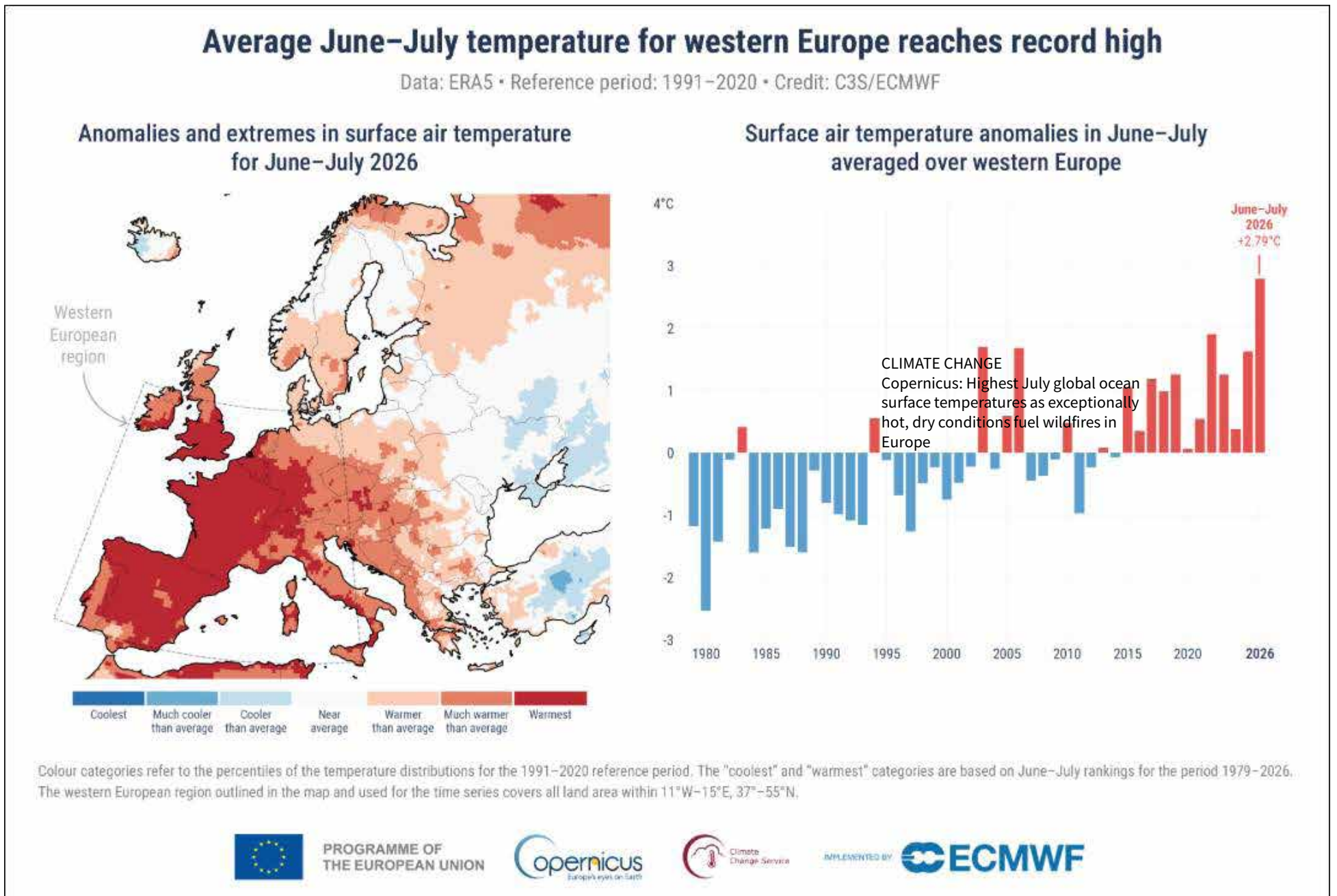
Chief Tax Specialist Tomi Viitala emphasises that the regulation should be clear and that the administrative burden should be as low as possible. According to him, the government's proposal for tax exemption of mortgages would be a sensible deregulation.

Source: Finnish Chamber of Commerce

CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE

Copernicus: Highest July global ocean surface temperatures as exceptionally hot, dry conditions fuel wildfires in Europe



(Left) Anomalies and extremes in surface air temperature in June–July 2026. Colour categories refer to the percentiles of the temperature distributions for the 1991–2020 reference period. The “coolest” and “warmest” categories identify areas where temperatures were the lowest or highest for June–July during 1979–2026.

(Right) Average June–July surface air temperature anomalies for western Europe (11°W–15°E, 37°–55°N). Anomalies are relative to the June–July average for the 1991–2020 period.

In July 2026, prolonged hot and dry conditions in western Europe led to the spread and intensification of extreme wildfires. The month also saw the highest sea surface temperature (SST) ever recorded for July across the extra-polar oceans, partly fuelled by developing El Niño conditions in the equatorial Pacific, as reported by Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), IMPLEMENTED BY THE EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF).

July saw exceptionally high temperatures for the month across a large portion of the tropical Pacific, an area where El Niño conditions are present and forecast to further strengthen in the coming months. Around Europe, record high SSTs along the Atlantic and western Mediterranean were associated with widespread strong or severe marine heatwaves, affecting coastal communities and ecosystems.

Western Europe experienced its hottest June–July period on record and July saw the third and fourth heatwaves since May, marking an exceptional run of extreme heat this summer. Much of the region also saw the widespread dryness observed in May and June persist and intensify, with exceptionally low rainfall and/or soil moisture reported for France, Spain, parts of Germany and the UK. Across the dry regions, river flows were much lower than average or exceptionally low, with the Seine, Rhine and Danube particularly affected, impacting water supply, irrigation and energy production in several countries.

Samantha Burgess, Strategic Lead for Climate at ECMWF, commented: “July 2026 was the third consecutive month of exceptional heat in western Europe, bringing the combined temperature for June and July to a new record for the region. Persistent high-pressure systems trapped heat over western Europe, the extreme temperatures also amplified widespread drought. As soils dry out, they lose their ability to provide

natural cooling, allowing heat to build more readily. This is a clear example of how climate change is intensifying heat extremes, with heat and drought increasingly reinforcing one another.”

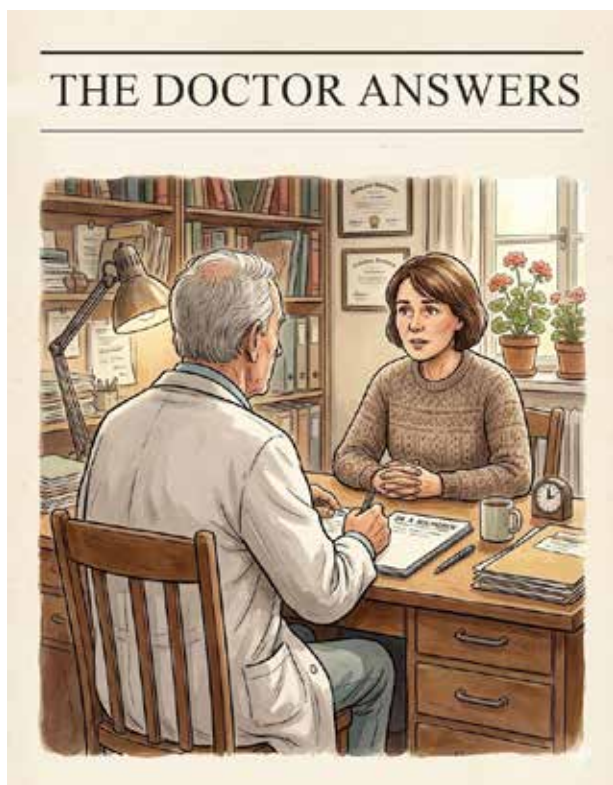
Laurence Rouil, Director of the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) at ECMWF, added: “Last month saw exceptional wildfire activity across western Europe, in terms of the area burnt and emissions. Climate change is increasingly bringing the kinds of hot and dry conditions that favour large, high-intensity wildfires in southern Europe while extending the fire season northwards. Larger fires produce more smoke and inject it higher into the atmosphere, meaning it can travel further and impact air quality not only locally, but across the wider region. Countries that experience relatively few wildfires may be increasingly impacted by long range transport of smoke, even if they are thousands of kilometres away.”

Source: C3S

HEALTH

THE DOCTOR ANSWERS

Vaccination and autism



Question: President Donald Trump signed a recommendation a few days ago to reduce the number of vaccines routinely recommended for American children, from 18 to 11 vaccinations. According to the BBC, among others, he refers to an alleged link between vaccinations and autism. Is there really such a connection?

Answer: No. There is no scientific evidence that childhood vaccinations cause autism. It is an issue on which there is actually a very strong scientific consensus.

The claim dates back to a study published in 1998 that claimed a link between the MMR vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella and autism. The study was found to be seriously flawed and fraudulent, was withdrawn by the journal and the researcher behind it lost his medical license. Since then, the issue has been investigated in a large number of significantly better studies.

The WHO's most recent review, published in December 2025, included 31 research studies from several countries. The conclusion was clear: vaccines do not cause autism. Nor is there any support that the small amounts of aluminum or thiomersal present in some vaccines cause autism.

But let's turn the question around: What would the world look like without vaccinations?

We don't really have to guess. Before the measles vaccination, measles was a common childhood disease that could cause pneumonia, encephalitis and death. When the vaccination rate drops, the diseases come back – something that has already been seen in several countries. The WHO points out that vaccination has saved at least 154 million lives over the past 50 years.

And we don't have to go around being afraid of smallpox or polio. Why? Well, thanks to vaccinations!

Vaccination is not just an individual protection. It is also a collective protection for infants, the elderly, and people with compromised immune systems. A person vaccinated against measles does not get this disease and thus does not spread the infection.

It is wise to ask questions about vaccines. But the answers should come from the overall scientific research – not from political statements.

In summary, there is no association between childhood vaccinations and autism. However, there is very strong evidence that vaccinations save lives.

VACCINATION

Chickenpox gets a new opponent – Finland offers free vaccination to adults

Chickenpox is usually associated with childhood, but catching it as an adult can be a much tougher experience. Finland is now expanding protection. From August 1, 2026, adults without immunity to chickenpox can receive the vaccine free of charge as part of the national vaccination programme.

The offer applies to people born in 2005 or earlier who have neither had chickenpox nor previously been vaccinated against it. Vaccination is voluntary and free. Particular attention is being paid to people about to begin treatments that strongly weaken the immune system, those planning a pregnancy and healthcare professionals.

Chickenpox is caused by the varicella-zoster virus. Most cases are mild, but complications such as pneumonia and encephalitis can occur. Finland's wellbeing services counties are responsible for organising the vaccinations and will provide information about local vaccination arrangements.

Time and place: From August 1, 2026; vaccination locations and arrangements vary by wellbeing services county in Finland.

Reference: Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL).

HEPATITIS C

Finland Closer Than Ever to Defeating Hepatitis C

Finland is making remarkable progress in the fight against hepatitis C, bringing the country closer to eliminating the disease as a major public health threat. According to the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), access to testing and treatment has improved significantly, allowing more people to be diagnosed and cured before serious liver damage develops.

Hepatitis C is a blood-borne viral infection that often causes no symptoms for many years. If left untreated, it can lead to liver cirrhosis, liver failure or liver cancer. Fortunately, modern antiviral medicines can cure more than 95 percent of patients, usually within 8 to 12 weeks.

Finland has committed to the World Health Organization's goal of eliminating hepatitis C by 2030. To achieve this, the government is expanding low-threshold testing services, introducing faster diagnostic methods and simplifying access to treatment, particularly for people at highest risk. More than €13 million has been allocated to the national elimination programme for 2025–2027.

WHO says Europe has already made major progress, but stresses that wider testing and timely treatment remain essential if hepatitis C is to become a disease of the past.

Time and place: THL announcement published in August 2026. The programme covers all of Finland.

Source: Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, World Health Organization (WHO)

HEALTH

DIGITAL HEALTH CHECK

Digital health check gives Finnish students a smarter route to care

HELSINKI, 12 August 2026. Health care for students in Finland's upper-secondary schools and vocational institutions is getting a digital makeover. From autumn 2026, all new students will complete a digital health questionnaire when they begin their studies.

The aim is to identify support needs earlier and help health professionals provide the right services at the right time. Students of compulsory-school age will still receive a health examination by the year they turn 18. If the questionnaire indicates a need for support, the examination can take place during the first year of study. Adult students have a separate questionnaire, with examinations arranged according to need.

From 2027, another change will reduce bureaucracy. The Finnish Defence Forces' separate pre-prescription health questionnaire will be discontinued, with the relevant health assessment integrated into student health care. Students will therefore provide the necessary information only once instead of repeating the same process.

The digital questionnaire will operate through Omaolo, while key information will be stored in Finland's Kanta health-data services. Nationwide data can also help the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) monitor student wellbeing, identify emerging problems and improve services.

But there is an important safety valve: students can always contact student health care themselves, regardless of what the questionnaire says.

Source: THL, 11 August 2026.

DOGS AND MICROBES

Dogs may change the microbes in our homes – and perhaps help keep babies healthier

A family dog may bring more into a home than companionship, muddy paws and a little extra hair. New Finnish research suggests that dogs can alter the microbial environment indoors in ways that may partly explain why young children exposed to dogs have sometimes been found to experience better health.

Researchers followed 368 Finnish children through their first year of life. Parents recorded episodes of fever, ear infections, antibiotic use and contact with dogs. The researchers also analysed floor dust collected when the children were two months old, looking for bacterial and fungal communities associated with dogs.

The findings are intriguing. Eight dog-associated microbial genera individually explained 10–23% of the protective associations between dog keeping and at least one health outcome. Three bacterial genera together explained about 25% of the association between dog keeping and reduced antibiotic use.

But there is an important caveat: the study does not prove that dogs prevent infections. It demonstrates associations, and other factors may also contribute.

The researchers suggest that dogs may introduce a more diverse mix of microorganisms into the home. Early exposure to a broader microbial environment may influence the developing immune system.

So the family dog may be doing something invisible while it sleeps under the kitchen table – helping to shape the microscopic world around a child.

Source: Mäki JM et al., Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, 2026, DOI 10.1111/pai.70408.

EXHIBITIONS

ATENEUM 18.8.2026- 8.8.2027

Elga Sesemann gets her moment in the spotlight at the Ateneum



Elga Sesemann: Kahvilassa (1945). Kansallisgallerian kokoelma / Ateneumin taidemuseo. Kuva: Kansallisgalleria / Hannu Aaltonen

She attracted attention as a young artist, was compared with major names such as Edvard Munch and Helene Schjerfbeck, and yet later slipped into relative obscurity. Now Elga Sesemann is getting a major second look.

On Tuesday, the Ateneum Art Museum opens a comprehensive exhibition devoted to Elga Sesemann (1922–2007). It also launches the museum's new Modern Classics exhibition series, focusing on 20th-century artists from the Finnish National Gallery collections.

VAASA ART HALL

The Peace Progress 24.7. – 16.8.2026



Can art create peace? An appealing exhibition opens at Vaasa Kunsthalle. Peace, nature and the connection of people come together in the new exhibition The Peace Process, which will be on display at Vaasa Art Hall (Senaatinkatu 1 D) 24.7.–16.8.2026. The exhibition invites visitors to stop and reflect on current themes at a time when the importance of peace seems more important than it has been for a long time. The exhibition is produced by the Flora and Fauna Project, whose contemporary artworks deal with coexistence, dialogue and the importance of the environment, among other things. The works challenge the viewer to think about how art can build understanding and hope. Since 2024, the Art Hall, which is maintained by the Vaasa Artists' Association, has become one of the city's most important contemporary art exhibition spaces. Admission to the exhibition is free. Opening hours: Tue–Fri 11 am–5 pm, Sat–Sun 12:00 pm–4:00 pm. Closed on Mondays. Source: Vaasa Artists' Association.

KORSNÄS

Forget the gallery – Korsnäs turns a nature trail into an art experience

What happens when contemporary art leaves the gallery and moves into the forest? Visitors to the Waterloo nature trail in Korsnäs can find out this summer at “Nature into Geometry”, an outdoor art trail combining nature, abstract

art and unexpected encounters along the path.

The exhibition features paintings and sculptures by artist Bekim Hasaj together with text art by Valentina Gelain. The works are placed along the first section of the trail, with signs offering information about the pieces and their ideas.

The project aims to bring contemporary and public art into rural and natural environments in Ostrobothnia. It is a cultural experience with a refreshing bonus: there is no admission fee.

Time and place: August 10–29, 2026, Waterloo Trail, Strandvägen 3681, Korsnäs, Finland. Free admission.

ÖVERMARK

Echoes in an Abandoned Home: "The Hidden Spots"



In the quiet village of Övermark, art has taken over a century-old, derelict house. The site-specific exhibition, The Hidden Spots, invites visitors to wander through rooms where time seems to have frozen. Created by the artist duo Black Box Genesis, the installation blends soundscapes, poetry, and physical relics to explore memory and transience. As part of a multidisciplinary regional project, this evocative showcase encourages guests to interact directly with the layers of history hidden within the walls of a forgotten home. Regional Art Exhibition 4.7.-2.8.2026. Address: Dermossvägen 20, 64610 Ylimarkku. Opening hours: Wednesday–Thursday 12–17 Friday–Sunday 12–18 Image: Bekim Hasaj and Valentina Gelain

VAASA

Street Art Takes Over: Wasa Graffitilandia

Vaasa's most vibrant summer tradition is back in full force. Wasa Graffitilandia has transformed over 3,000 square meters into a sprawling, colorful maze of street art and urban culture. Now in its sixth year, this summer edition showcases a massive collection of works from local and international artists. The exhibition serves as a dynamic contrast to the region's traditional museum offerings, providing a gritty, energetic space for creative expression that continues to push the boundaries of what is considered "gallery art" in Ostrobothnia.

STUNDARS

Historic Charm: Stundars Open Air Museum



The Stundars Open Air Museum in Mustasaari has launched a pair of compelling exhibitions that dive deep into the region's heritage. With Paint and Bricks explores the traditional decorative painting and fireplace artistry found throughout Ostrobothnia. Running alongside this are curated displays in the historic Hemmer's House and the local Stone Mason's Cottage, offering a glimpse into the craftsmanship that defined the area centuries ago. These exhibitions provide a peaceful, educational retreat for those looking to connect with the authentic roots of the

coastal landscape.

VAASA

400 Years of Vaasa

The Ostrobothnian Museum's permanent exhibition, Vaasa 400 – Tales of a City, offers a captivating journey through the city's four-century history. From its founding in 1606 and 17th-century witch hunts to the devastating fire of 1852 and the rise of shipping and industry, the exhibition weaves together events that shaped society, education, and everyday life. Highlights include Ostrobothnian folk art, painted furniture, and reconstructed interiors of a burgher's home and a factory worker's dwelling. Old publicity films and scale models of the city's changing town plan complete this rich historical tapestry.

Ostrobothnian Museum, Museokatu 3, Vaasa. Open Wed–Sun 10–17. Admission 15/9/0€. – Reference: museot.fi

VAASA

The Scavengers' Garden

Insects and invertebrates take centre stage at the Ostrobothnian Museum this summer. The nabbteeri artists' collective presents The Scavengers' Garden Ostrobothnian Museum, Museokatu 3, Vaasa. Open 9 May – 20 September 2026. Wed–Sun 10–17. – Reference: vaasa.fi

VANHA VAASA

250 Years of Justice



The Old Vaasa Museum marks a significant anniversary with its exhibition on the Vaasa Court of Appeal, established in 1775 by King Gustav III. Running until 29 August, the exhibition sheds light on the court's early years, its activities, and its profound impact on the lives of people across historical Ostrobothnia. Through miniature models, visual material, and stories of officials and their families, visitors gain insight into the ceremonies, power, and everyday life of one of Finland's oldest judicial institutions. History buffs will find this a fascinating journey into the region's legal heritage. Museum of Old Vaasa, Wasastjernan kauppiastalo, Kauppiaankatu 10, Vaasa. Open 1 June – 29 August 2026. Wed–Sat 10–17. Free admission. – Reference: museot.fi

KRISTINESTAD.

The Splendid Villa's Dramatic Fall

Carlsro Museum in Kristinestad presents the gripping tale of Alfred Carlström, once the richest man in Ostrobothnia. The Splendid Villa exhibition recounts the opulent villa era and its dramatic collapse when an embezzler drove the ship-owning family into bankruptcy in 1910. Visitors can glimpse elegant celebrations, peacocks wandering freely, and the idyll that shattered, bringing an entire town to its knees. This summer's exhibition honours the villa's anniversary year and tells the full story of what became of Carlsro and its family. A captivating tale of wealth, betrayal, and ruin. Carlsro, Carlsrovägen 181, 64100 Kristiinankaupunki. Open 1 June – 31 August 2026, daily 11–17. Closed Midsummer 23–25 June. Admission 8/2/0€. – Reference: museot.fi

EVENTS

TODAY

KORSHOLM CHURCH 50 years of choral singing – anniversary choir cele- brates on 16.8



There will be both history and song when the Psallite Chamber Choir celebrates half a century with a special anniversary concert. On Sunday 16 August, the Psallite Chamber Choir and the Jubilee Choir will meet in Mustasaari Church under the direction of conductor Erica Nygård. 50 years of choral singing is hardly something you whistle away – and the concert will be a chance to hear several generations of choral singers together. For those who like powerful choral sounds, an afternoon with plenty of music and an anniversary atmosphere awaits. Best of all: it costs nothing to listen. Time and place: Sunday 16 August 2026 at 15:00, Korsholm Church, Free admission. Reference: Korsholm's Swedish parish.

OLD VAASA DAY. AUG 16 Old Vaasa comes alive - a day with kings and mamsel- les



History takes centre stage in Old Vaasa on Sunday as the city celebrates Vanha Vaasa Day, a special event bringing the area's remarkable past closer to today's visitors.

The programme centres on the historic Old Vaasa district and the Old Vaasa Museum at Kauppiaankatu 10. The museum will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

AUGUST

ARTE MARE Wasa Theatre takes over Arte Mare – the galle-

ry becomes a magical showroom in August



Replot, 4–30 August 2026, 10 am–6 pm. In August, something unusual happens at Replot bridge: Galleri Arte Mare is transformed into a living theatre universe when Wasa Teater moves in and turns the gallery into its own creative showroom. Visitors get to step straight into the scenes of the performing arts – literally.

DISTILLERY FESTIVAL “Kyröfest Turns 10 – Two Days of Distillery Magic in Isokyrö!”

The small town of Isokyrö is gearing up for a celebration with extra sparkle as Kyröfest 2026 takes over the Kyrö Distillery Company grounds on 21–22 August 2026. Finland's most distinctive distillery festival marks its 10-year anniversary by expanding into a full two-day experience of music, art and local flavours.

Friday's lineup brings high-energy performances from Karri Koirra, Aaro630, Lyyti, Yona, Figaro and Stepa. On Saturday, the party continues with Vesta, Windows-95Man, Evil Stöö – Iso vauva Jeesus 10v, Rättö & Lehtisalo, Lala Salama, Bobomobile, Malla, Ullalintulampi, MC KOO and Hopeasiivet.

Kyröfest blends award-winning rye spirits with a warm, slightly eccentric backyard-festival atmosphere. Organisers describe it as “a bit grandiose,” promising expanded areas, new art installations and plenty of unforgettable moments.

The event is fully accessible: wheelchair access, accessible toilets and free entry for assistants. All tickets are exchanged for wristbands at the gate.

Kyröfest 2026, Isokyrö, 21–22 August 2026
Reference: tapahtumainfo.fi / kyrofest.fi

KAJ KAJ returns home – a big concert awaits at Lemon- soft Stadion on 22.8.



Photo: Pedro J Pacheco Creative Commons

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After their successes on stages around the Nordic countries, it's time for the comedy group KAJ to return to their home audience. On Saturday, August 22, 2026, the northern trio will take over the Lemonsoft Stadium in Vaasa in a long-awaited home concert with live bands.

The audience can look forward to an evening full of precise humour, captivating music and a special Ostrobothnian warmth that has made KAJ one of Finland's most popular entertainment names. The concert is expected to attract fans from all over Swedish-speaking Finland as well as from Sweden, where the band's popularity has grown sharply in recent years. The stadium opens at 4:00 pm, while the main show starts at 8:00 pm. The organizers also promise units that will be presented later. The concert is expected to last about two hours.

Tickets are available in several price ranges, ranging from standing seats on the field to grandstand seats and VIP packages. The organizer recommends that tickets be purchased well in advance, as there is a lot of interest.

Time: Saturday, August 22, 2026. The stadium opens at 16:00, the concert starts at 20:00.

Location: Lemonsoft Stadion, Vaasa.
Source: Netticket / United Stage

KARLEBY Karleby Autumn Chambers: Young virtuosos take over – from baroque to modern in three days

KARLEBY August 21–23, 2026

The festival is only eight years old, but the artists are some of the most successful musicians in the country. Kokkola Autumn Chambers was founded in 2018 by cellist Antto Tunkkari and double bassist Pauli Pappinen, who still lead the program. – We bring together young virtuosos in the intimate world of chamber music. The result is unique.

The program varies from baroque to contemporary music. What about the milieu? August in Kokkola – fresh, beautiful and full of melodies.

Three days are enough. Don't miss it.
Source: Bothnia Classic

KORSHOLM CHURCH Flute, viola and harp – an unexpected trio takes over the church 23.8



Three instruments with three different personalities meet when Augustitoner continues in Mustasaari Church. On Sunday 23 August, flute, viola and harp will take centre stage. The music is provided by Stella Michael, flute, Anthony Hall, viola, and Maaria Pulakka, harp. The program is called Fracta manu and promises a different and atmospheric music experience. The combination of the soft harp, the warm sound of the viola and the lighter tones of the flute are well suited

for a late summer evening in the church's special acoustics.

And this time, too, admission is free – a pretty good way to end August's musical Sundays.

Time and place: Sunday 23 August 2026 at 19.00, Korsholm Church Free admission. Reference: Korsholm's Swedish parish.

SEPTEMBER

SUNDOM Sundom turns into a trea- sure hunter's paradisi 5.9

Forget the shopping mall – on September 5, the best bargains may be waiting in ordinary neighbourhood yards. Sundom's popular Loppisrace turns the village into a giant open-air flea market, with sellers setting up their own stalls around the area. An interactive map helps visitors track down everything from vintage treasures to children's clothes and furniture. A special car-boot sale will also be held at the youth centre, where visitors can enjoy coffee, waffles and grilled sausages while hunting for bargains.

Time and place: Saturday, September 5, 2026, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., Sundom, Vaasa.
Source: Sundom Loppisrace.

LAPUA Lapua Kansainvälinen Ur- kufestivaali: Suomen suu- rimmat urut saavat maail- mantähtiä

LAPPO, 14. syyskuuta 2025

Noin joka toinen vuosi. Lappon tuomiokirkossa. Suomen suurimman kirkkourkun kanssa. Sitten se tapahtuu: Lappo Kansainvälinen Urkufestivaali.

Esiintyvät urkutaiteilijat ovat maailman eliittiä. Järjestäjänä toimii Lappo Urkufestivaaliyhdistys, joka ei varsinaisesti ker- sku sillä – mutta ne, jotka tietävät, tietävät. – Urut ylisevät ja kuiskaavat. Se on elämys, joka kestää aikaansa.

Tarkista liput yhdistyksen verkkosivuilta. Ja ole nopea – paikkoja on rajoitetusti, äänimaailmaa on loputtomasti.

Lähde: Bothnia Classic

NOVEMBER

LITTFEST VAASA LITERATURE FESTIVAL LITTFEST 12- 14.11.2026

The literature festival that will be held in November, 12–14.11.2026, will once again bring together well-known writers in Vaasa. LittFest will be attended by Monika Fagerholm, Kjell Westö, Kirsti Manninen (Enni Mustonen), Axel Åhman, Emmi Itäranta, Jessikka Aro and Tuomas Enbuske. In the autumn, book circles are also promised before the festival.

RUSK Rusk Pietarsaassa: Ka- marimusiikkia keskellä pimeintä marraskuuta –

UKRAINE PRESIDENT

Ukraine Imposed Sanctions on Entities Involved in the Illegal Export of Ukrainian Grain



4 August 2026 - 19:31

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a decree enacting the decision of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine to impose sanctions on individuals and companies involved in the illegal export of Ukrainian grain, as well as

on vessels used for this purpose.

The sanctions package includes 13 seagoing vessels sailing under the flags of Russia – eight vessels, Panama – three, and Belize and Saint Kitts and Nevis – one each, as well as 11 Russian nationals and 28 legal entities.

All of them are involved in the illegal export of Ukrainian grain from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. Sanctions have also been imposed on the owners and captains of these vessels and on companies involved in the export of our grain.

Ukraine will provide its partners with all the necessary information to synchronize sanctions across international jurisdictions.

“The illegal export of Ukrainian grain from the temporarily occupied territories must have consequences for everyone involved – from companies and owners to captains and vessels. We expect our international partners to prevent this grain from entering their markets,” said Vladyslav Vlasiuk, Advisor – Commissioner of the

President of Ukraine for Sanctions Policy.

Presidents of Ukraine and Egypt Discussed Food Security and Bilateral Relations
14 August 2026 - 21:20

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy had a phone call with President of Egypt Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

The Head of State thanked the President of Egypt for his attention to the challenges to food security and to the situation in our Black Sea region.

“Ukraine is one of the largest food suppliers to Egypt and to a significant number of other countries in Africa and the Middle East. These supplies are now under serious threat because of Russia’s war,” Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Unfortunately, two Egyptian citizens were also killed as a result of Russian strikes on cargo vessels. The President of Ukraine expressed his condolences to the President of Egypt.

The Head of State noted that there has already been a significant reduction in supplies, and this could have very serious consequences due to rising prices and shortages. The leaders discussed how to counter this and protect lives.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Abdel Fattah El-Sisi also discussed energy cooperation and bilateral relations between Ukraine and Egypt in detail.

Read more:
<https://www.president.gov.ua/en>

ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Severin Falkman
25.4.1831, Tukholma, Ruotsi
9.7.1889, Helsinki
Aino, 1850 - 1869
Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum
Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Jenni Nurminen

George Orwell

1984

Part 40

Winston watched it with a sort of vague reverence. For whom, for what, was that bird singing? No mate, no rival was watching it. What made it sit at the edge of the lonely wood and pour its music into nothingness? He wondered whether after all there was a microphone hidden somewhere near. He and Julia had spoken only in low whispers, and it would not pick up what they had said, but it would pick up the thrush. Perhaps at the other end of the instrument some small, beetle-like man was listening intently--listening to that. But by degrees the flood of music drove all speculations out of his mind. It was as though it were a kind of liquid stuff that poured all over him and got mixed up with the sunlight that filtered through the leaves. He stopped thinking and merely felt. The girl’s waist in the bend of his arm was soft and warm. He pulled her round so that they were breast to breast; her body seemed to melt into his. Wherever his hands moved it was all as yielding as water. Their mouths clung together; it was quite different from the hard kisses they had exchanged earlier. When they moved their faces apart again both of them sighed deeply. The bird took fright and fled with a clatter of wings.

Winston put his lips against her ear. ‘NOW,’ he whispered.

‘Not here,’ she whispered back. ‘Come back to the hide-out. It’s safer.’

Quickly, with an occasional crackle of twigs, they threaded their way back to the clearing. When they were once inside the ring of saplings she turned

and faced him. They were both breathing fast, but the smile had reappeared round the corners of her mouth. She stood looking at him for an instant, then felt at the zipper of her overalls. And, yes! it was almost as in his dream. Almost as swiftly as he had imagined it, she had torn her clothes off, and when she flung them aside it was with that same magnificent gesture by which a whole civilization seemed to be annihilated. Her body gleamed white in the sun. But for a moment he did not look at her body; his eyes were anchored by the freckled face with its faint, bold smile. He knelt down before her and took her hands in his.

‘Have you done this before?’

‘Of course. Hundreds of times--well, scores of times, anyway.’

‘With Party members?’

‘Yes, always with Party members.’

‘With members of the Inner Party?’

‘Not with those swine, no. But there’s plenty that WOULD if they got half a chance. They’re not so holy as they make out.’

His heart leapt. Scores of times she had done it: he wished it had been hundreds--thousands. Anything that hinted at corruption always filled him with a wild hope. Who knew, perhaps the Party was rotten under the surface, its cult of strenuousness and self-denial simply a sham concealing iniquity. If he could have infected the whole lot of them with leprosy or syphilis, how gladly he would have done so! Anything to rot, to weaken, to undermine! He pulled her down so that they were kneeling face to face.



‘Listen. The more men you’ve had, the more I love you. Do you understand that?’

‘Yes, perfectly.’

‘I hate purity, I hate goodness! I don’t want any virtue to exist anywhere. I want everyone to be corrupt to the bones.’

‘Well then, I ought to suit you, dear. I’m corrupt to the bones.’

‘You like doing this? I don’t mean simply me: I mean the thing in itself?’

‘I adore it.’

That was above all what he wanted to hear. Not merely the love of one person but the animal instinct, the simple undifferentiated desire: that was the force that would tear the Party to pieces. He pressed her down upon the grass, among the fallen bluebells. This time there was no difficulty. Presently the rising and falling of their breasts slowed to normal speed, and in a sort of pleasant helplessness they fell apart. The sun seemed to have grown hotter. They were both sleepy. He reached out for the discarded overalls and pulled them partly over her. Almost immediately they fell asleep and slept for about half an hour.

Winston woke first. He sat up and watched the freckled face, still peacefully asleep, pillowed on the palm of her hand. Except for her mouth, you could not call her beautiful. There was a line or two round the eyes, if you looked closely. The short dark hair was extraordinarily thick and soft. It occurred to him that he still did not know her surname or where she lived.

The young, strong body, now helpless in sleep, awoke in him a pitying, protecting feeling. But the mindless tenderness that he had felt under the hazel tree, while the thrush was singing, had not quite come back. He pulled the overalls aside and studied her smooth white flank. In the old days, he thought, a man looked at a girl’s body and saw that it was desirable, and that was the end of the story. But you could not have pure love or pure lust nowadays. No emotion was pure, because everything was mixed up with fear and hatred. Their embrace had been a battle, the climax a victory. It was a blow struck against the Party. It was a political act.

HUMOUR ONE HUND-RED YEARS AGO

On new technology – the telephone

”Operator, I’ve been cut off!”
”Sir, please hold the line while I reconnect you.”
”Hold the line? Madam, I can’t even find the line!”

On doctors and patients

Patient: ”Doctor, you must help me! I think I’m a dog.”
Doctor: ”How long have you felt this way?”
Patient: ”Ever since I was a puppy.”

On modern appliances – vacuum cleaners

Door-to-door sales-man: ”Madam, this new electric vacuum cleaner will cut your housework in half!”
Housewife: ”Splendid! Then I’ll take two of them.”

On golf – a booming sport in the 1920s

Golfer to his caddie: ”Do you think my game is improving at all?”
Caddie: ”Oh, yes, sir. You’re missing the ball much closer now than you did last week.”

On politicians

A politician is a fellow who can stand on a platform for an hour without saying a single reasonable word—and then take questions from the crowd on everything he didn’t say.

On flapper fashion

Young lady: ”I wear my skirts so short because I have pretty knees.”
Her friend: ”Then why don’t you wear short sleeves?”
Young lady: ”Because I haven’t got pretty elbows!”

On the ”good news / bad news” routine – a vaudeville staple

Doctor: ”I have bad news and terrible news.”
Patient: ”Give me the bad news first.”
Doctor: ”You have only twenty-four hours to live.”
Patient: ”Good heavens! What’s the terrible news?”
Doctor: ”I was supposed

to tell you this yesterday.”

IN TEN YEARS

Affectionate husband (sitting on bench, counting): My lady weighs 80 kilos; every summer She travels to Mariehanb to bathe and loses 8 kilos; in ten years I will be free of HER!

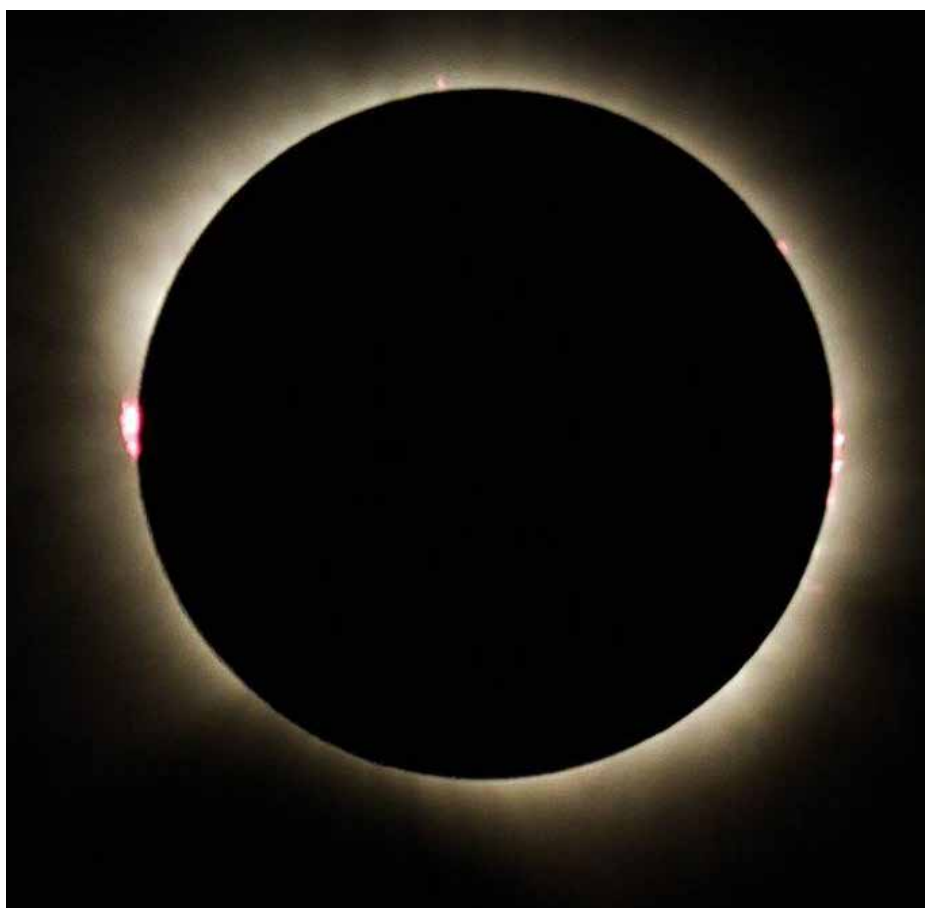
DOCTOR

Doctor: »Listen, I have to tell you. Something has happened to me today that has never happened to me in my entire time as a doctor.
- Well, tell me, you must have cured someone.

RELIGION

Where did religion originate?
From laziness! They didn’t bother to clarify things, but believed that it was as they said.

Astronomic picture of the week:



SOLAR ECLIPSE ON AUG 12, 2026

seen in Spain

foto: Malopez 21

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BLOG WRITERS

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

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

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

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

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

WASA DAILY

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

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

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

Editor-in-chief Hans Björknäs. Readers’ writings are welcome! The magazine is locally owned and will remain so. For ever!
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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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Being among the first to advertise in this historic and hyper-modern daily may have some PR value. Send ads to wasadagblad@gmail.com

WASA DAILY

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HOROSCOPE FOR AUGUST 2026

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

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)
You’ll have a brilliant idea this August! Unfortunately, someone already had it in 2003. Console yourself with ice cream. And more ice cream. With sprinkles – obviously.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)
Money is coming your way! Well, a discount coupon at best. Love may blossom – but only if you remember to water it. (Yes, this includes your plants.)

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)
You’re everywhere and nowhere – just like your vacation plans. Try deep breathing. It won’t help, but at least you’ll look peaceful while searching for your keys.

Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)
You’re feeling emotional. That’s okay. Everyone cries over overcooked pasta now and then. A surprise awaits at the end of the month – possibly pizza.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)
It’s YOUR month! The world revolves around you – just the way you like it. Enjoy the spotlight, but remember: other people exist too. Sadly.

Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)
You try to control everything. August has other plans. Let go – at least of your color-coded to-do list. But keep the Excel sheet. We’re not crazy.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)
You can’t decide: sunhat or raincoat? Take both. August weather can’t decide either. Love? Yes. Confusion? Also yes.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)
Mysteries attract you this month: ”Who took my charger?” ”Why aren’t they texting back?” Keep your cool – and your sting sharp, just in case.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)
Adventure calls! Unfortunately, only to the corner store. Still, every baguette run is a journey. Remember: all epic tales start small – often with snacks.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)
You’re trying to be responsible – but August wants you to chill. Ditch the blazer, wear flip-flops. The world will survive without your spreadsheets for two days. Maybe.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)
Your head is full of wild ideas. Some are even good! Don’t start a podcast. Or do – but only if it’s about guinea pigs and existential dread. That could work.

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)
You’re daydreaming more than doing. And that’s fine. August feels like a watercolor painting – beautiful but slightly soggy. Write your thoughts down. They may become a book. Or a very weird shopping list.

