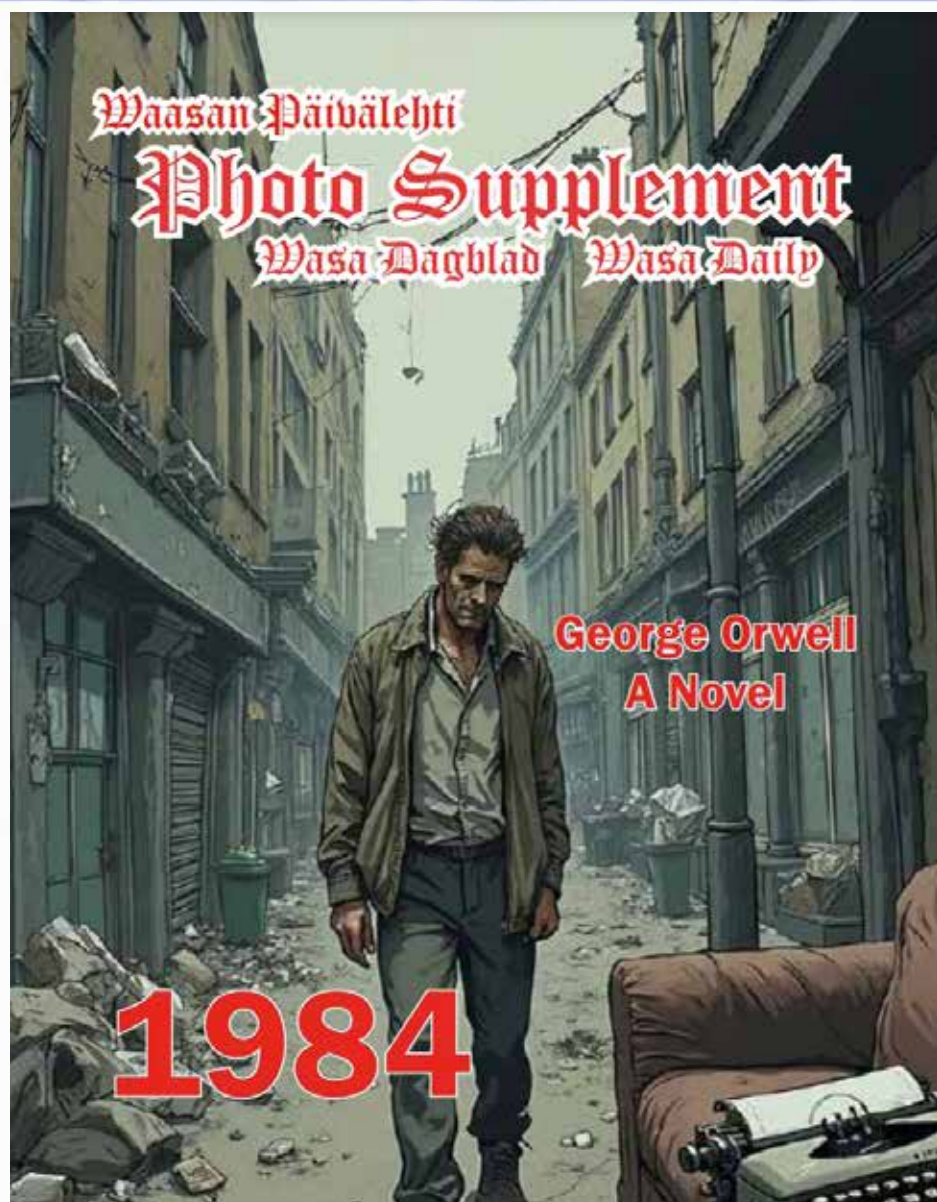


WASA DAILY



Let's make Orwell fiction again
Page 2



LOCAL NEWS

THE PHARMACY IN TÖYSÄ The Sleep Pill That Vanishes — Doxepin's Final Act Shocks Finland



For years, a small pharmacy in Finland has quietly carried a giant responsibility: producing Doxepin 3 mg, the gentle, low-dose sleep medication trusted by thousands. But now, in a twist worthy of a tabloid headline, Täysä Pharmacy is shutting down its Doxepin production overnight — and the nation's light sleepers are sounding the alarm.

Locals describe Täysä's Doxepin as “the pill that never betrayed you”, a rare medication that soothed restless minds without the heavy fog of harsher alternatives. It became a cult favorite among doctors and patients alike, a tiny capsule with a reputation far larger than its milligram count.

But now, when a new pharmacist takes office, the manufacturing will stop. Not immediately though - probably not until a year later. The manufacturing of medicines requires a permit from the authorities, Fimea, and Fimea no longer issues permits for such activities, meaning that when the pharmacist changes, the permit is no longer there.

In addition to doxepin, the medicines manufactured by Töysä also included quetiapine, mirtazapine and gagapentine.

But everything changed the moment a new pharmacist stepped in. With a single administrative decision, the production line goes dark, leaving loyal users scrambling. One longtime customer put it bluntly: “It feels like someone stole my nights.”

Experts reassure the public that Doxepin will still exist through other manufacturers — but the locally crafted version, known for its consistency and care, is now slipping into history. A quiet tradition ends, replaced by uncertainty and nostalgia.

“When sleep is fragile, losing what protects it feels dramatic.”

TODAY

EDITORIAL

Let's Truly Make Orwell Fiction Again

FEW WRITERS HAVE left as deep a mark on political imagination as **George Orwell**.

His novels 1984 and Animal Farm are more than works of fiction; they are cultural touchstones that have shaped how generations understand tyranny, censorship, and the manipulation of truth. In recent years, a slogan has appeared in the United States that captures this concern in a single phrase: *"Make Orwell Fiction Again."*

The words are a clever play on Donald Trump's campaign motto "Make America Great Again." But instead of harkening back to a golden past, this slogan points to an urgent present. The message is clear: what Orwell once wrote as dystopian warning signs should remain on the page, not seep into daily life. When citizens talk about making Orwell "fiction again," they are voicing alarm that surveillance technologies, disinformation campaigns, and authoritarian tendencies are edging worryingly close to the realities Orwell described.

The slogan has been adopted by libertarian and conservative groups, who see in it a rallying cry against government overreach and censorship. But it resonates more broadly as well. Across the political spectrum, people sense that truth itself is under strain—whether through fake news, deepfakes, or the algorithmic echo chambers

of social media. The brilliance of Orwell's vision was that he did not tie oppression to any one ideology, but to the abuse of power itself. That universality explains why, decades later, his words still sting.

Still, it is important to remember that slogans are not solutions. To truly "make Orwell fiction again," societies must commit to practices that keep dystopia at bay: protecting free speech, encouraging critical thinking, holding leaders accountable, and building transparency into institutions. Citizens need to be vigilant not only about what governments do, but also about how corporations and technologies shape the information we consume.

The popularity of this slogan, then, should not be read as despair, but as a sign of democratic vitality. It shows that people are still attentive, still capable of naming dangers, still unwilling to surrender truth without a fight. Orwell's fiction was meant to serve as a warning, not a prophecy. The fact that people today are echoing his voice in clever new forms suggests that his work is doing what it was intended to do: awaken us.

So let us take the call seriously. Let us make Orwell fiction again—not by silencing his warnings, but by ensuring that his nightmares remain confined to literature, while we choose a freer, more honest reality.

Photo Supplement



NEWS

VAASA CITY THEATRE

World Premiere: A story about Kaija Koo, a Finnish Pop Music Icon



If Vaasa had been looking for happiness on Thursday evening, it would have been in the entire full hall of the City Theatre!

The premiere of the musical *Tinakenkäyttö* (Tin Shoe Girl) was a success. Beautiful songs, a gripping story and brilliant artists swept the audience – literally. At the end, the whole hall stood up, danced and applauded enthusiastically.

The evening was just as the name promises: beautiful, a little indecent and above all happy. If the atmosphere at the premiere tells you something about the future, it's a good idea to have your phone close at hand at the City Theatre box office. The Tin Shoe Girl can keep the seats reserved for a long time to come!

MALAX and SUNDOM

Food robots are rolling in – Sundom is next



Small and friendly food-delivery robots are becoming an increasingly familiar sight in Ostrobothnia. The little robots are already operating in Malax, and next week they will begin rolling through Sundom.

Looking rather like small bears on wheels, the robots move carefully along the roads and follow traffic rules with remarkable precision. Their mission is simple: to deliver groceries directly to families at home.

In Sundom, the robots will be able to travel up to three kilometres along the area's winding roads. For custo-

mers, the service offers a convenient way to receive their groceries without having to make a trip to the shop themselves.

The service is not free, however. Customers pay a delivery fee, while staff collect the items on the shopping list and prepare the order for the robot to transport.

The little robots are another sign of how everyday services are changing. In the future, the family's groceries may well arrive at the front door quietly rolling along the road – on four small wheels.

MALAX

Memory at the centre of Malax's information day

What happens when memory starts to fail – and where is the help? These are questions that are at the centre of Maalahti International Alzheimer's Day on Monday 21 September. An information day will be organised at the Övermalax parish hall from 10 am to 12 noon. The programme includes brain health, lifestyle, support for people with memory disorders and their families, and information about the services of the Memory Outpatient Clinic. There will also be a joint Q&A session and the opportunity to meet others. Above all, the organisers want to convey knowledge, hope and community. No one should have to stand alone when their memory changes.

Time and place: Monday 21.9 at 10–12, Övermalax parish home. Registration no later than 16.9. Reference: Malax municipality.

MALAX

Go for a quiz walk – and maybe go home as a winner

Can you exercise, learn about the right of public access and also win prizes? In Malax, the answer is yes. The Family on the Move project invites you to a quiz along Major's nature trail. The 1.2-kilometre-long trail contains eight questions that test your knowledge of the right of public access. Just bring your family and head out on the trail. The concept is simple: a little exercise, a little brain teaser and a chance to win. Hopefully, no major muscle soreness will have to come home with you – but one or two new knowledge certainly does.

Location: Majors naturtrail, Malax. Reference: Malax municipality.

MOTHER'S DAY MEDALS

Do you know a mother who should get a medal?

FINLAND. It's time to start thinking about the mothers who have done something special. Nominations for the 2027 Mother's Day medals must be submitted by 2 November 2026. The medal is awarded to women who have distinguished themselves by exemplary work for children and young people, as well as for family life and parenthood. Contributions to child welfare, youth and sports organisations, for example, can also be considered. The candidate must be at least 40 years old. Biological and non-biological children can also propose a mother, while other relatives and acquaintances can take the initiative through an organisation or authority. The medal will be awarded by the President of the Republic on Mother's Day, 9 May 2027.

Last day for proposals: 2.11.2026. Reference: National Supervisory Authority.

KUNTSI

Magical Worlds of Light Open in Vaasa – Marja Pirilä's Came-

WELLBEING AREAS

OSTROBOTHNIA

Can the Crime Cycle Be Broken? Young People Get a Second Chance

A crime may already have been committed – but that does not mean a young person's future has to be defined by crime. In Ostrobothnia, a new approach is bringing help directly to young people.

The Kåppi project, run by the Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia, is looking for new ways to intervene in serious youth crime and prevent young people from becoming trapped in a continuing cycle of offending.

The service is aimed at people under 30 who are suspected of, or have been convicted of, repeated or serious offences, including violent, drug-related and sexual offences.

The key idea is simple: the young person does not have to find the service alone. Kåppi workers meet clients in their everyday surroundings and make it easier to accept help. Support can also begin soon after an arrest, rather than waiting for a potentially lengthy legal process to reach its conclusion.

77 young people already involved

The project began in August 2024 and has so far worked with 77 clients, almost one third of whom are minors. Most are boys or young men, and some have experienced anxiety or trauma.

The results are still developing, but there are encouraging signs. Several young people have started new hobbies or accepted other forms of support and services.

Kåppi works closely with police, child welfare services and organisations. If contact with a young person is lost, the workers actively try to reconnect.

The project has received additional funding from Finland's Ministry of Justice and will continue until the end of 2027.

The ambition is clear: help young people leave crime behind before it becomes their future – and give them a realistic opportunity to build a different life.
Source: Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia

OSTROBOTHNIA



Your own doctor is coming back – Ostrobothnia expands care-team model

Could the days of explaining your medical history to a different doctor every time be coming to an end? Finland's Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County is expanding its model of personal care teams and family doctors.

The aim is to give patients who regularly need healthcare a more continuous relationship with a familiar team. The model has already been operating for some time at the health centre in Vaasa. Preparations will begin in September in Korsholm and Pietarsaari, with pilot operations scheduled to start in January 2027. The system will then gradually be developed across the entire region.

The project has received €1.7 million in funding from Finland's Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

Particular attention will be given to patients with long-term illnesses and the continuity of their care.

Patients will be assigned to a specific team consisting of doctors and nurses. The personal doctor will have primary responsibility, but another professional from the same team can step in when necessary. Patients will also receive contact information for their team.

The goal is partly to reduce unnecessary emergency visits and pressure on healthcare needs assessments.

Experiences from similar models elsewhere in Finland have been encouraging: patients have reported greater satisfaction and trust, while healthcare professionals have found teamwork less demanding.

The idea is simple – better continuity, more familiarity and hopefully a healthcare system that feels a little more human.

Reference: Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County, press release

WHOOPING COUGH

Whooping cough is circulating in northern Finland – the warning sign to watch for

An old respiratory disease is making a comeback. Cases of whooping cough have recently been detected in Finland's North Ostrobothnia region, including individual cases and small, limited outbreaks in Oulu and southern parts of the wellbeing services county.

The cases have been reported in several municipalities and come as schools reopen, a time when many respiratory infections begin spreading. Health officials stress, however, that most of the respiratory illnesses currently circulating are ordinary viral infections – so there is no reason for general alarm.

Whooping cough, or pertussis, is caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis* and spreads through respiratory droplets. One of its most characteristic symptoms is severe, prolonged bouts of coughing. Anyone known to have been exposed who develops cold-like symptoms within one to three weeks should contact their local health centre or use the region's digital healthcare service.

For older children and adults, the disease is usually unpleasant rather than dangerous. For babies under six months, however, whooping cough can become serious.

Vaccination remains the most important protection. Since 2025, Finland has included whooping-cough vaccination for pregnant women in its national vaccination programme, helping protect newborn babies during their most vulnerable first months.

Reference: North Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County/Pohde

WASA DAILY

Nearly everything You need to know on 18 pages

vpress.fi

NEWS

ra Obscura Captivates



As autumn darkness settles over Vaasa, a special kind of light magic comes alive at Kuntsi Museum of Modern Art. From 19 September 2026 to 9 January 2027, the extensive exhibition Marja Pirilä – Camera Obscura invites visitors into poetic, multi-layered visual worlds.

Marja Pirilä (born 1957 in Rovaniemi) is one of Finland's leading photographic artists. For more than 30 years she has explored the ancient camera obscura technique, creating refined images where light and dark, interior and exterior, nature and city meet. The show features her long-running Interior/Exterior series (since 1996), In Strindberg's Rooms from a residency in France, Milavida from an empty palace in Tampere, and Talking House, along with three-dimensional works made with Petri Nuutinen.

Tapani Rinne's soundscapes complement the photographs, and the exhibition has been selected for the national Art Testers programme. Tickets: €15/9/0. A captivating journey into the secret interplay of light and shadow – not to be missed.

Source: Vaasa.fi / Kuntsi Museum of Modern Art

WÄRTSILÄ

The hospital that sails to those in need – Wärtsilä strengthens Mercy Ships' lifeline



When healthcare cannot reach patients, the hospital itself can set sail. Wärtsilä is now helping ensure that two Mercy Ships hospital vessels remain ready to deliver vital medical care.

The Finnish technology company has signed new long-term service agreements with Mercy Ships International. The deal includes a five-year renewal covering the Global Mercy, the world's largest purpose-built civilian hospital ship, and a three-year service agreement for the organisation's new Africa Mercy II. Both vessels are equipped with Wärtsilä engines.

For Mercy Ships, reliable machinery is not simply a technical matter. A vessel that cannot operate cannot reach patients who may have little or no access to advanced surgical care.

The agreements cover spare parts, field services, crew training and Wärtsilä's Expert Insight digital predictive-maintenance system. By combining advanced analytics, artificial intelligence and engineering expertise, the system is designed to identify potential problems before they develop into disruptive failures.

The Global Mercy has six operating rooms and around 200 patient beds. Mercy Ships provides free

VINTERAGENT

There's Still Time to Become Vaasa's Winter Agent!



How easy is it really to walk or cycle in Vaasa when snow and ice arrive? The city is now recruiting enthusiastic residents to become “winter agents”, helping assess the quality and accessibility of winter maintenance on the main walking and cycling routes.

Winter agents observe the condition of the routes and report their findings. Their feedback will be used to improve winter maintenance and make everyday travel safer and more accessible. No special trips are required: ordinary journeys to work, shopping, leisure activities, walks and cycling trips are enough.

This winter, Vaasa particularly wants to broaden the range of experiences represented in the project. In addition to pedestrians and cyclists, the city is looking for people who use walkers or wheelchairs and people travelling with prams. Their experiences can reveal accessibility problems that might otherwise go unnoticed.

The winter-agent project is already well established. Agents have assessed winter maintenance in Vaasa for two seasons, and during the 2025–2026 season, 180 pedestrians and cyclists took part.

Participants will receive training explaining which routes they should assess and the criteria they should use. Reporting is designed to be quick and straightforward.

The initiative is part of Vaasa's Cycling Alliance. GRK is responsible for the contract for enhanced winter maintenance, while Sitowise measures customer satisfaction using feedback from the winter agents. Vaasa City organises the training sessions and possible meetings.

Applications must be submitted by 20 September 2026. Active winter agents will also have a chance to win gift cards in monthly draws.

Reference: Vaasa City



surgery and medical training, primarily in underserved communities in Africa.

The mission is ultimately simple: keep the hospital moving, keep the operating rooms running and bring treatment to people who need it most. Reference: Wärtsilä press release, 3 September 2026

Image caption: Global Mercy™, prototype for the Africa Mercy II, recently arrived in Ghana West Africa © Mercy Ships

JOAKIM STRAND:

€1.1 Million Boost for Patient Safety – Good News for Ostrobothnia



Amid tough budget negotiations in Finland, Ostrobothnia has secured an important victory. The region's work to improve client and patient safety is set to receive more stable funding.

As part of the government's 2027 budget agreement, €1.1 million has been allocated through a new funding arrangement for the Finnish Centre for Client and Patient Safety, which operates in Vaasa. The centre works nationally to improve safety in healthcare and social services and to promote better practices for preventing harm to patients and clients.

Earlier in 2026, the centre published Finland's first national overview of client and patient safety. The report brings together comparable information on factors affecting safety and highlights differences between regions.

The budget package also contains several other investments benefiting the Vaasa region. The research infrastructure of the University of Vaasa will receive €1 million, while another €1 million is earmarked for infrastructure projects in the Vaasa area.

A further €19 million spending authorisation has been reserved for widening a section of Highway 8 between Bäckliden and Brännbacken.

Minister Joakim Strand says the decisions strengthen research, education, infrastructure, safety and regional growth.

For Ostrobothnia, the message is encouraging: better healthcare safety and stronger regional development can move forward together.

Reference: STT Info/Swedish People's Party

VAASA

New bike service stations – fix your bike on the road

GALLERY WEEK

Art comes close – national Gallery Week opens doors to 72 galleries A gallery from Vaasa involved



Audiogalleria_Galleriaviikko2025 Photo Vesa Ranta

n September, something unusual happens in Finland. You don't have to travel to a museum or buy a ticket for art – the doors of galleries open all over the country.

Finnish visual arts will have its own theme week in September, when the national Gallery Week will be held from 21 to 27 September 2026. This year, the event, which will be held for the second time, will spread to as many as 23 localities and 72 art galleries.

The goal is ambitious but easy to understand: the aim is to bring art closer to ordinary Finns.

The organisers of Gallery Week remind us that entering a gallery does not require knowledge of art history, fancy terms or a ready-made opinion. It is enough to be curious.

"You can come and see, experience and interpret art from your own starting point," the event organisers say.

In addition to exhibitions, there will be surprises

During the week, in addition to exhibitions, the galleries will organise artist meetings, workshops, performances, concerts, openings and guided tours, among

other things. The event calendar includes, for example, a lecture by curator Anna Kortelainen in Järvenpää and an experimental workshop in Kemi focusing on biomaterial made from eggshells.

Attention has also been paid to accessibility. In Lahti, Gallery Uusi Kipinä will organise a sign-language exhibition tour on Saturday, 26 September at 1 pm.

One of the interesting aspects of Gallery Week is its versatility. During the same week, you can stop by traditional painting, participate in a workshop or get to know experimental contemporary art.

And best of all: as a rule, admission to art exhibitions and events is free.

Gallery Week was created for the first time in 2025. At that time, more than 70 galleries participated in the event, and the programme included more than a hundred exhibitions and numerous other events.

The 2026 event is coordinated by Muu, the Association of Finnish Sculptors, the Finnish Printmakers' Association, the Finnish Painters' Union and the Finnish Association of Photographic Artists. The Gallery Week is organised with the support of the Arts and Culture Department.

So, in the last week of

September, you should take a little test: enter the gallery even if you don't consider yourself an art person.

You may be surprised by what you find on the wall – and even more so by what the work evokes in your own mind.

Time: 21.–27.9.2026
Location: 23 locations in Finland, 72 galleries
Entrance fee: free admission to exhibitions and events

Source: Gallery Week

Vaasa's art scene gets its own spotlight – Fringe opens its doors during Gallery Week

It is worth heading to Sepänkyläntie in Vaasa at the end of September. The Fringe Gallery participates in the national Gallery Week and offers a glimpse into the more experimental world of contemporary art.

When the national Gallery Week starts on 21 September 2026, the Vaasa-based Fringe will also be present. The gallery is one of the more than 70 participants of the Finnish Gallery Week and brings its own, strongly experimental perspective to the event.

The Fringe is located at Sepänkyläntie 2, Vaasa, and operates in conjunction with Filmverkstaden. The gallery's focus is on contemporary art, especially experimental film, alternative

photography, moving image, and installations.

So it's not just an ordinary gallery.

Fringe describes itself as an artist-led gallery that boldly seeks the periphery of art and new ways to combine photography, film, light and material, for example. In addition to exhibitions, the gallery also hosts film screenings, sound art, live film performances, artist speeches and lectures.

On Saturday, let's take a peek behind the scenes

The Vaasa programme of the Gallery Week includes one particularly interesting event.

On Saturday, 26 September from 2 pm to 2.45 pm, the Fringe invites the public to take a short tour behind the scenes of the gallery. The tour will include a solo exhibition by visual artist and experimental filmmaker Paola Guzmán Figueroa.

The idea of the event is to offer the audience a closer glimpse into what is happening in the gallery – and what kind of art is created and presented within its walls.

The Fringe's activities fit well with the idea of the Gallery Week: you can come to the gallery without prior knowledge and let the works surprise you.

Source: Fringe



Three new bicycle service stations have been opened in Vaasa. Here you can inflate tires, tighten nuts and make minor adjustments mid-tour. The tools are attached with wires and the areas have camera surveillance.

The stations are located at: • Metvikpuisto (Järvenkatu 11, next to Café Metlahti) • Strampen parking in the Inner Harbour (Rantakatu 7) • Bicycle garage at the Travel Centre (Ratikatu 14)

The bike is hung up in a repair rack for convenient servicing. An investment that responds to residents' wishes and makes cycling even smoother.

Source: vaasa.fi



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 – Kvarken 20 Years" at Bergö parish hall. On Wednesday 16 September Per-Erik Berglund talks about fairways, pilot and rescue stations at the same venue. Both events are free and open to all.

On Tuesday 15 September Ann-Sofi Back-

KAIJA KOO

Who Is Kaija Koo? From a Frightened Young Woman to Finland’s Pop Icon

She now turns 64 – and her extraordinary life is now being brought to the stage in Vaasa.

For more than four decades, Kaija Koo has been one of Finland’s most recognizable voices. Her songs about love, loss, disappointment and finding strength have become part of the soundtrack of Finnish life.

Born Kaija Irmeli Kokkola in Helsinki on September 10, 1962, she turns 64 today. Her musical career began when she was still a teenager. She performed with the band Steel City and later worked as a backing singer before establishing herself as a solo artist.

Then came the breakthrough. In 1993, Kaija released Tuulten viemää. The album became a phenomenon, selling around 175,000 copies and reaching triple-platinum status. It remains one of Finland’s best-selling albums. Its major hit, Kuka keksi rakkauden, became a Finnish pop classic.

Behind the superstar was a very different story The road to fame was not easy.

Kaija has spoken about fear and insecurity earlier in her life. The death of her father was a particularly painful experience, and at one point her musical career was interrupted.

Eventually, however, music became much more than a profession.

It became a way of processing difficult emotions – and her audience noticed. Yle has described how fans began to regard Kaija almost as a kind of emotional therapist. Her concerts could become intensely emotional experiences because her songs dealt openly with subjects many people recognized from their own lives.

Four decades of Finnish pop history

During the 1990s, Kaija Koo followed her breakthrough with successful albums including Tuulikello, Unihiek-kamyrsky, Operaatio jalokivi-meri and Tinakenkäyttö.



Later came songs such as Vapaa and Supernaiset. She also became familiar to a new generation through the television series Vain elämää.

In 2023, she reached another remarkable milestone. Around 39,000 people attended her concert at Helsinki Olympic Stadium, making her the first Finnish female solo artist to perform her own concert there.

Now her life becomes a musical This autumn, Kaija’s story is moving from the cinema screen to the theatre stage.

Tinakenkäyttö – a musical about the life of Kaija Koo had its world premiere at Vaasa City Theatre on September 10, on the Romeo stage.

The production combines fact and fiction and follows Kaija from childhood through the difficult stages of growing up,

the struggle to find her own voice and finally the extraordinary success of her career.

Three performers portray Kaija at different ages. Marika Huomolin plays the adult Kaija, Mari Hirvi the young Kaija, while three child performers share the role of young Kaija. Around 20 ensemble members and a six-piece band are also involved. The musical is directed by Marco Bjurström.

The audience will hear some of Kaija’s best-known songs, including Tinakenkäyttö, Vapaa, Kuka keksi rakkauden and Supernaiset.

First the movie – now the arenas Kaija’s life also reached the big screen this year. Selma Vilhunen’s film Kaunis rietas onnellinen premiered on February 18, 2026, with Oona Airola portraying Kaija. The film focuses not only on fame but also on grief, personal struggles and the search for one’s own voice.

And Kaija is certainly not stepping away from the stage. This autumn she launches the major Tuuleen piirretyt vuodet arena tour. She will perform at Nokia Arena in Tampere on October 23 and Veikkaus Arena in Helsinki on October 30, followed by concerts in Kuopio, Oulu and Lahti. The tour celebrates 40 years of her artistic career.

From a young woman battling insecurity to one of Finland’s most enduring pop stars, Kaija Koo’s story has become much bigger than a collection of hit songs.

It is now a film, a musical – and a story that millions of Finns recognize as part of their own lives.

Source: Vaasa City Theatre, Solar Films, Warner Music Finland and Yle. Photo: Tuonas Vitikainen, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported

gren lectures on “The Strong Priest” and on Thursday 17 September Christoffer Björklund shows “Kvarken 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 Stormögha, a new pontoon sauna, the escape game “The Eagle has Landed” and mini-golf. Saturday 19 September 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/fira-varldsarvsveckan-i-malax-1220-9>

TELEVISION

MTV

Nainen joka katosi – The Woman Who Disappeared: A love story turns into a chilling mystery



It begins almost like a dream. A warm summer night, a chance encounter and two lonely people who suddenly seem to have found exactly what they were looking for.

Then the woman disappears.

Finnish author Simo Halinen’s award-winning novel Nainen joka katosi (The Woman Who Disappeared) has now been transformed into a four-part psychological thriller for television.

The series premiered on MTV Katsomo+ on Thursday, 20 August 2026. The first two episodes were released on the same day, followed by episode three on 27 August and the final episode, “Maura’s Demons,” on 3 September. The series was filmed in Turku, Finland, during the summer.

The story begins in Helsinki, where Aaro meets the mysterious Maura on a summer night. Their relationship quickly becomes intense. Maura then persuades him to join her on a boat trip.

The next morning, she is gone.

Aaro begins searching for her – only to discover that almost everything Maura told him may have been a lie.

What initially looks like a romantic encounter slowly turns into something much darker. Three interconnected storylines reveal pieces of a crime committed in the past and show how its consequences continue to haunt the characters years later.

The four leading actors are Saga Sarkola, Johannes Holopainen, Oona Airola and Pekka Strang. Halinen himself directed and wrote the television

THE PUDDLE

The programme for The Puddle is ready: magic, adventure, music and octopuses are promised



The Puddle - Children's Culture Weeks, produced by the City of Vaasa's Culture and Library Services, will once again offer many activities and experiences for families with children throughout October.

Pölen, Lätäkkö. the Puddle - Culture Weeks for children will be held 1-31.10.2026.

Pölen is filled with workshops, children's art, concerts, dance and singing, story times and museum tours. Pölen's programme is organised for families with children, early childhood education and grades 1-6 in different parts of the city. Most of the programme is free of charge.

Magical opening on 1.10 at 5-7.30 pm at the Main Library

The pool starts on 1.10 in the morning with the opening tour of the Magician Karis for the students of Suvilahden koulu and the children of Teeriniemen päiväkot. The tour is offered by cultural services. At the pre-events of the Vaasa Museums, daycare centres and schools can participate in art workshops.

At the opening event for the whole family on 1.10 at 17.00-19.30 at the Main Library, Kari the Magician will perform at 18.00. The opening programme also includes dancing, the opening of Studio Pölen, the

escape game In the Eye of the Storm and many other pleasant programmes.

During the inauguration, TaiKon's community artwork will be presented, and you can participate in it throughout the Puddle. The children's section of the Main Library celebrates Winnie the Pooh's 100th anniversary in many different ways. The A Little Rhymes writing campaign, which is part of the activities organised by the Welfare Unit, invites you to make rhymes. A good mood provides various task points in the library's yard, and you can also leave a message in a bottle to the library.

Naming contest for the sea monster and Valfabetet - Vaasa's own alphabet

Last year, the students of Kristillinen koulu made a nice mascot for Pölen, a sea monster that was five meters high. The naming competition for the sea monster opens on 1.10 and it ends on 15.10. Book prizes will be raffled off between the participants.

The Mervy Monster's name day celebration will be celebrated at an event for the whole family on Saturday 17 October at 10.30-13.00 in the Drama Hall of the Main Library in the form of storytelling and sea adventures both indoors and outdoors.

When Vaasa turns 420, it is time to create its own alphabet for Vaasa. Therefore,

on 2.10 at 14.00-16.30, an election fabet will be put together in the Drama Hall of the Main Library.

The whole family enjoys Studio Pölen

During the month of October, you can paint on your own in Studio Pölen (in the Matilda room), which is open during the library's opening hours. The works and decorations of summer artists from the Hampuis-to and Lilla Kasen daycare centres and youth services are displayed there. In Studio Pula, you can also create art on your own or play the Pölen board game, developed by the students of Hieta-lahden koulu. You can also solve the escape game In the Eye of the Storm, which was designed by class 6 A of the Länsimetsän koulu.

Singing in the Puel: sing-along evening with children's songs

Pölen also invites you to sing children's songs together. Accordionist Aila Ala-Aho will lead the sing-along during the autumn holidays on 15 October at 6-7.30 pm in the Drama Hall at the City Library. Rhythm instruments will also be made together, so it is a good idea to bring your own small jar.

Art splash - Saturdays for families with children at the main library

The Art Splash offers unforgettable cultural experiences for families with children.

On 3.10 at 10.30-13.00, we will get acquainted with the autumn forest and its animals and plants together with the shrew, Vips. At the Kvarken Nature School's task points, there are activities inside and outside.

At 10.10 at 10.30 and at 12.00 during the concerts Rhythms of the Pool, participants will be introduced to special instruments and ways of playing under the direction of multi-instrumentalist Julius Rantala: at 10.30 the concert will be presented in Finnish and Swedish and at 12 in English. In a workshop, you can have fun with water painting.

The goal of Pölen is to offer children and families an opportunity to create and experience art. An extensive network of actors involved in activities for children and families is involved in the planning and implementation of the programme. In addition, early childhood education and schools are involved in the implementation of Pölen, and they are also targeted at programme offerings. Greetings and wishes can be submitted for future Pua's Wish Pools Studio Pula.

The entire programme will be published on the City of Vaasa's Cultural Services website: vasa.fi/pol.

City of Vaasa | Press release 28.8.26

adaptation.

And this is not intended to be a conventional thriller filled with nonstop action. Halinen has described the series as a story in which tension gradually builds from episode to episode, with subtle acting and close attention from the viewer playing a central role.

The novel already had a strong reputation

The original novel was published in 2022 and received the Finnish Whodunnit Society's debut crime novel award in 2023. The jury praised Halinen's ability to combine crime and suspense with loneliness, disappointment and the pain of losing another person.

A Finnish book review similarly praised the novel's ominous atmosphere and gripping storytelling, describing it as a story that draws the reader firmly into its mystery.

Now the story has moved from the printed page to the screen - with Halinen himself controlling both the original story and the television adaptation.

The final episode has already been released. But the mystery remains the heart of the story:

Who is Maura really - and what happened before she disappeared?

Sources: MTV Pressi, Finnish Whodunnit Society, Kirsin kirjanurkka and Kirjavinkit.

ART

ATENEUM 18.8.2026-8.8.2027

Elga Sesemann gets her moment in the spotlight at 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,

NEWS

NEW MAP OF THE WORLD

The World Looks Different Now: UN Backs a New Map That Finally Shows Africa’s True Size



For generations, millions of school-children have stared at the same familiar world map. Europe looks prominent, Greenland appears enormous – and Africa seems surprisingly small.

Now, that picture is changing.

On 4 September 2026, the United Nations General Assembly in New York overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution promoting a new approach to depicting the world: the Equal Earth projection. The vote was striking – 164 countries supported the resolution, six abstained and only the United States voted against it.

Africa gets its true proportions

The problem is not that the old map is simply “wrong”. It is a consequence of trying to flatten our spherical planet onto a sheet of paper.

The famous Mercator projection, created by Flemish cartographer Gerardus Mercator in 1569, was designed primarily for navigation.

It has an important advantage: directions useful to sailors can be represented in a practical way.

But there is a dramatic side effect. Land areas become increasingly exaggerated towards the poles.

The result can be astonishing. Africa is about 14 times larger than Greenland, although on a traditional Mercator map the two can look surprisingly similar in size.

The Equal Earth projection, developed in 2018 by cartographers Tom Patterson, Bojan Šavrič and Bernhard Jenny, is designed to preserve the relative areas of continents much more accurately. Africa therefore suddenly appears much more imposing, while Europe, North America and Russia lose some of their familiar visual dominance.

More than just a map Supporters argue that maps influence how people understand the world. A distorted image, repeated in classrooms and media for decades, can unconsciously influence our



perception of the importance and size of different regions.

Togo led the UN initiative, supported by the African Union. Togo has said it plans to introduce the new projection into school geography materials before the end of 2026.

But there is an important catch: the UN resolution is not legally binding. Mercator will not suddenly disappear, and it remains useful for navigation.

Still, something significant has happened in New York on 4 September 2026. The world has officially been encouraged to look at itself differently.

And perhaps the biggest surprise is this: Africa was never small. Our map simply made it look that way.

MAPS: Tom Patterson, Equal Earth. Wikipedia Commons, Public Domain

NEWS

focusing on 20th-century artists from the Finnish National Gallery collections.

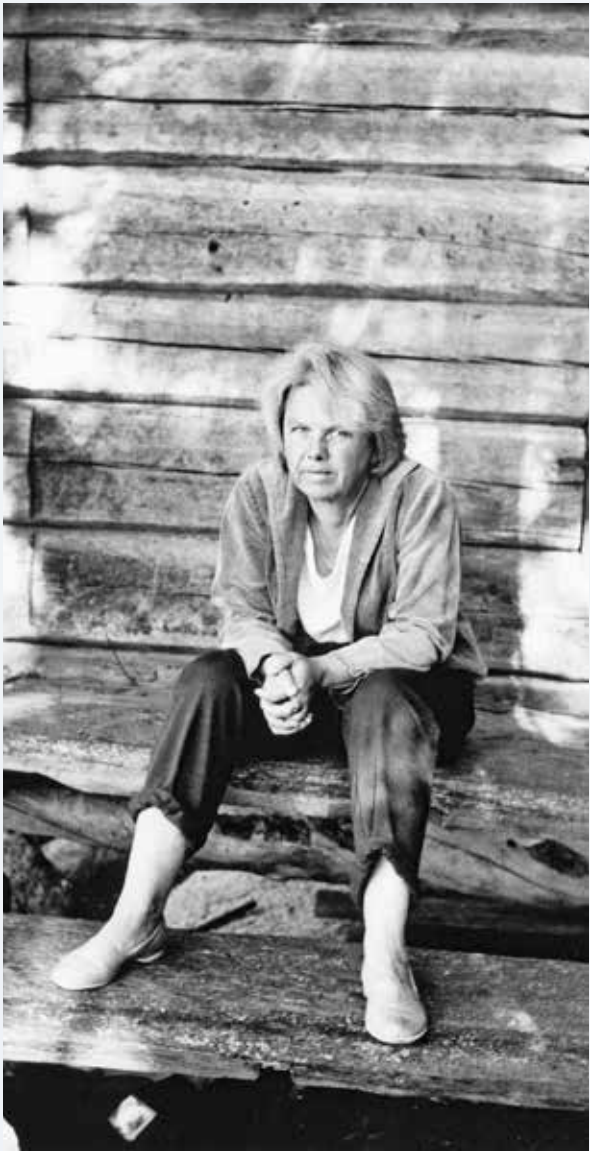
Sesemann’s first solo exhibition in Helsinki took place in 1945, when she was just 23. Critics immediately noticed her distinctive use of colour and highly personal style. During her long career, her expression continued to evolve.

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.



Elga Sesemann aitan kuistilla, Ruovedellä, 1969. Yksityiskokoelma

CASPIAN SEA

Shadow War Spills into the Caspian Sea



Tensions between two distant conflicts edged closer this summer when Ukrainian forces struck vessels linked to Iranian military supplies heading to Russia across the Caspian Sea. One Iranian commercial ship was hit, killing a sailor, according to Tehran, while Kyiv claimed the cargo included equipment destined for the Russian war effort. Diplo-mats quickly intervened to prevent open retaliation, but the incident highlighted how arms flows and intelligence sharing between Moscow and Tehran are drawing the Ukraine and Iran wars into overlapping flashpoints. Analysts warn that further strikes in this landlocked waterway could force major powers into direct confrontation spanning Eurasia. For an evening paper, the episode underscores the growing risk that regional wars no longer stay contained. Based on reports from international diplomatic and security sources, July–September 2026.

SAUDI ARABIA
Pipeline Blackout Rattles Global Oil Routes



Saudi Arabia abruptly shut its East-West pipeline after drones launched from

Iraqi terri-tory struck sections of the line, injuring several people. The pipeline is a key alternative route that bypasses the contested Strait of Hormuz, making the closure especially sensi-tive amid the ongoing US-Israeli campaign against Iran. Simultaneously, Yemen’s Houthi forces seized a strategic island controlling approaches to the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, tightening their grip on another vital shipping artery. Energy markets reacted with sharp price spikes as traders feared cascading disruptions to crude and refined products. Eve-ning readers watching fuel costs will note that these twin developments place fresh press-ure on global supply chains already strained by months of conflict. Drawn from energy ministry statements and regional security updates, September 2026.

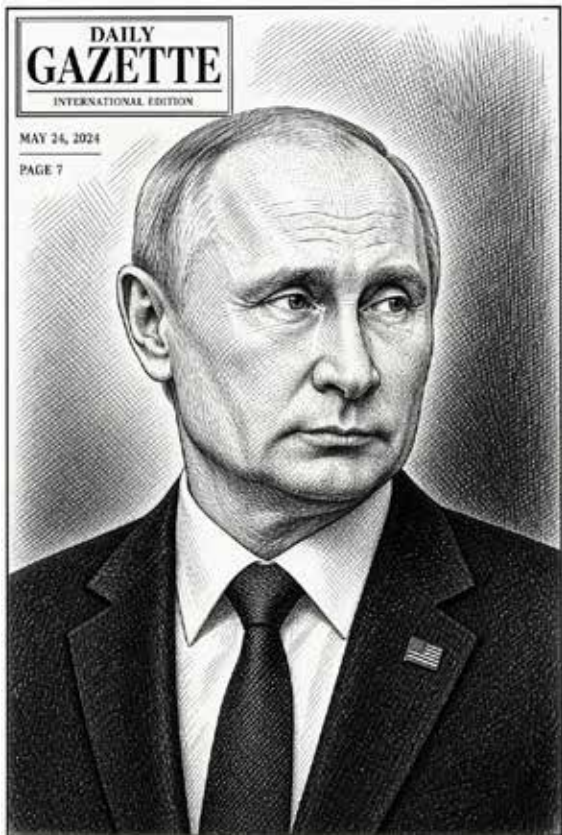
DONALD J TRUMP
Trump Eyes Midterm Finish Line for Iran Conflict

US President Donald Trump has floated a new timeline for the war against Iran, sug-gesting hostilities could wind down after the November midterm elections. He accused Tehran of trying to influence the American vote while warning against activity at a hea-vily fortified underground nuclear site. The conflict, now in its seventh month, has seen renewed exchanges of strikes on naval forces and oil tankers, with Washington enforcing a blockade and Iran responding with ballistic missiles. Domestic inflation and higher



fuel prices have complicated the political picture. For evening audiences, the remarks signal that electoral calculations may increasingly shape battlefield decisions in the Middle East. Compiled from presidential comments and official briefings, early September 2026.

VLADIMIR PUTIN
Putin Doubles Down on Ukraine and Support Tehran



Russian President Vladimir Putin used a regional summit appearance to reaffirm

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

intensi-fied strikes on Ukraine and continued backing for Iran. Meeting Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, he praised Iranian resilience and pledged practical assistance amid the US-Israeli campaign. On the Ukrainian front, Moscow faces Ukrainian drone attacks on energy infrastructure and shipping, while Russian forces press ahead with ballistic missile barrages that have left cities rotating power. Putin dismissed talk of a new dome-stic draft after upcoming elections. The dual commitments illustrate how the two wars reinforce each other, complicating any quick diplomatic off-ramp. From Kremlin statements and summit coverage, September 2026.

BRICS

BRICS Leaders Gather Amid War and Energy Strain

Leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and newer members including Iran convened in New Delhi for a summit overshadowed by Middle East fighting and soaring energy prices. Iranian President Pezeshkian's presence highlighted the bloc's attempt to present an alternative to Western-led order, yet internal differences over the Iran conflict and oil market shocks tested unity. Discussions focused on stable energy supplies, alternative payment systems and calls for diplomacy. With Brent crude recently topping key psychological levels, the gathering offered a stage for emerging economies to voice frustration at supply disruptions. Evening readers will watch whether the summit produces any concrete coordination or remains largely symbolic. Based on diplomatic reporting from the New Delhi summit, September 2026.

RED SEA

Houthis Tighten Grip on Red Sea Chokepoint



Yemen's Houthi movement completed a rapid advance along the Red Sea coast, seizing Perim Island and surrounding positions that overlook the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. The gains give the Iran-aligned group greater ability to threaten commercial shipping between the Red Sea and the Gulf



of Aden. Saudi Arabia, already dealing with the pipeline clo-sure, has sought but not received direct US military assistance against the new threat. International shipping companies are rerouting vessels, adding days and costs to jour-neys. The offensive marks the Houthis' most significant territorial expansion in years and adds another layer of risk to already fragile energy corridors. From regional military assessments and shipping advisories, September 2026.

NORTH KOREA

North Korea Tests Missiles as Allies Drill

North Korea launched a series of short-range ballistic missiles from the Wonsan area into the Sea of Japan, South Korean and US monitors reported. The firings came immedia-tely after the United States, South Korea and Japan concluded joint military exercises that Pyongyang views as rehearsals for conflict. The launches did not pose an immediate threat to US territory or allies but served as a pointed demonstration of readiness. Ana-lysts see the timing as both a protest and a signal that the North continues refining its mis-sile forces amid broader global tensions. For an evening paper, the episode is a

reminder that East Asian flashpoints remain active even as attention focuses elsewhere. According to South Korean Joint Chiefs and US Pacific Command statements, 12 Septem-ber 2026.

UKRAINE

Aid Lifeline and Winter Worries for Ukraine

Canada announced a new air-defence package worth hundreds of millions of dollars for Ukraine as Kyiv warned of critically low stocks of Patriot interceptors. Russian ballistic missile and drone attacks have intensified, forcing hospitals to rotate power and leaving civilians in danger. Ukrainian forces continue long-range strikes on Russian energy and logistics targets, while diplomatic contacts between Washington and Moscow remain in-termittent. With winter approaching, energy infrastructure remains a priority for both sides. Evening readers following the conflict will note that external military support is still decisive in preventing further degradation of Ukrainian defences. Drawn from Canadian government announcements and Ukrainian official updates, September 2026. Images: Grok.com

COELIAC DISEASE



COELIAC DISEASE

New research findings give us hope: Can bacteria in the gut help us against gluten?

For people with coeliac disease, a little gluten can be more than a dietary mistake. A small amount from a restaurant meal, a cutting board or incorrect labelling can be enough to trigger an immune reaction.

But now comes a research finding that arouses cautious optimism.

Researchers have identified two previously unknown enzymes from bacteria in the human gut that can break down particularly difficult-to-digest parts of the gluten protein in laboratory experiments. The results were published on 31 August 2026 and may eventually open the door to a completely new type of protection for people with celiac disease.

The hunt began in the gut bacterial world

The researchers looked for useful enzymes among genes from bacteria in the



human gut. Out of more than 200 possible candidates, two were selected for closer examination.

One enzyme came from the bacterium *Segatella copri*, the other from *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*. In the laboratory, they were able to attack different parts of gliadin – a central part of gluten.

And the really interesting part came next.

When the gluten fragments were first treated with the enzymes, they seemed to cause less damage to the so-called intestinal barrier in cultured intestinal cells. The levels of the inflammatory neurotransmitter interleukin-6 also decreased.

This does not mean that the researchers have found a new drug. The study has not yet been tested on humans, and it is therefore far too early to start eating ordinary bread and hope that an enzyme will save the situation.

For people with celiac disease, a strict gluten-free diet is still the established treatment.

Source: Harnessing gut microbiome enzymes: *Segatella copri* and *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* prolyl peptidases degrade gliadin peptides and improve epithelial barrier function in a celiac disease model

Authors: Bhagyashree Karmarkar
<https://doi.org/10.1128/spectrum.03214-25>

VAASA UNIVERSITY

Vaasa University Rector: Knowledge Could Hold the Key to Finland's Growth



Minna Martikainen, Rector of the University of Vaasa. Photo: University of Vaasa. Image freely available.

Finland's most important growth resource may not be found underground or in a factory – but in the skills and knowledge of its people.

That was the strong message from Minna Martikainen, Rector of the University of Vaasa, as the university opened its new academic year on September 7.

Martikainen argued that high-quality research and education create new knowledge and innovation, improve productivity and strengthen the ability of companies and society to adapt.

She also warned that Finland's economic growth must not be held back by a lack of skilled people.

Finland is facing difficult decisions over public finances, but Martikainen stressed that balancing the budget should not undermine the foundations needed for long-term growth. Stable university funding is therefore essential, she said.

There is some encouraging news. The government's proposed budget for next year includes €3.4 billion for research and development, an increase of €230 million from this year. The University of Vaasa is also set to receive €1 million to strengthen its research infrastructure.

Vaasa University is now the country's largest provider of business education for the third consecutive year. Its new EQUIS accreditation places its business school among the top three percent of business schools worldwide. Source: University of Vaasa

ÅBO AKADEMI

AI Research Gets a Boost – Johan Pensar Appointed Associate Professor

Artificial intelligence is advancing at extraordinary speed. Now Åbo Akademi University is strengthening its AI research with Johan Pensar, who has been appointed Associate Professor of Artificial Intelligence.

Pensar joins Åbo Akademi's Information Technology research community. His position is part of the university's tenure-track system, signalling a long-term investment in his academic career and research.

His background includes statistics, probabilistic modelling and machine learning. His published research has included Bayesian

decision-support models and graphical models – approaches that can help analyse complex relationships and deal with uncertainty in data.



Johan Pensar has been appointed PSFellow, ELLIS PI and assistant professor of artificial intelligence at Åbo Akademi. He is stationed in Vaasa. Photo: Åbo Akademi/Catrin Sandvik

A bigger Finnish AI push

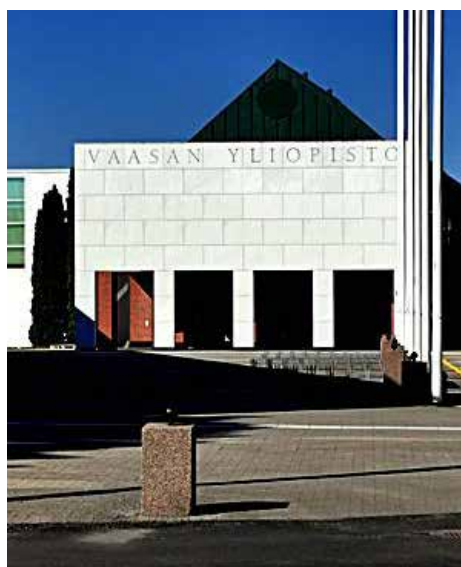
The appointment is part of a wider expansion of AI research at Åbo Akademi. The university has recruited several internationally recognised AI researchers and is involved in ELLIS Institute Finland, a national research centre dedicated to artificial intelligence and machine learning.

AI is already transforming fields ranging from medicine and industry to language technology and decision-making. As the technology becomes more powerful, the need for researchers who can understand its mathematical foundations – and its limitations – is growing just as quickly.

Johan Pensar's appointment strengthens that expertise at Åbo Akademi and contributes to Finland's broader effort to remain competitive in one of the world's fastest-moving technologies. Source: Åbo Akademi University.

VAASA UNIVERSITY

When the crisis hits, Finland may need its volunteers – Vaasa leads major study



What happens when society is shaken by a serious crisis? Then it is not only the authorities that must be ready. Thousands

of volunteers and associations can become a crucial resource.

Now their significance will be investigated in a new national research initiative led by the University of Vaasa. The KAMUT project has been commissioned by the Prime Minister's Office and will analyse how non-governmental organisations can contribute to Finland's comprehensive security and crisis preparedness.

The research consortium includes the University of Vaasa, Laurea University of Applied Sciences, VTT, Pellervo Economic Research Institute PTT and the University of Lapland.

Among other things, the researchers want to find out when the organisations can help the authorities, how their preparedness works and what resources are actually available when the crisis comes. The financial value of the organisations' efforts must also be assessed.

An important question is also the law: what opportunities and limits does the Constitution set for the participation of NGOs?

The project combines document studies, interviews, surveys and workshops. The results can be used when Finland develops its preparedness for future disruptions and crises.

The project started in June 2026 and will run until June 2027. The work is led by Research Director Petri Uusikylä at the University of Vaasa.

Time and place: The research project will run nationally from June 2026 to June 2027, with the University of Vaasa as the coordinating university.

Source: University of Vaasa

VAASA UNIVERSITY

Can a game help Finland cope with the next crisis? Yes – at least that's the idea behind a new collaboration between the University of Vaasa and the National Defence University

On 12 August, the rectors of the universities signed a cooperation agreement in Vaasa. The goal is long-term cooperation in research, education and the development of national and international networks.

The first concrete project is called T-REX – Training, Research and Exercise. It is about developing a gaming and educational environment where various crises and disruptions can be simulated. Students, researchers and decision-makers should be able to practice making decisions when the situation changes rapidly and the information is incomplete. It is therefore not a question of computer

games for entertainment. Games and simulations are used as advanced tools to test strategies, detect weak links and see what consequences different decisions can have.

The Defence University contributes primarily with knowledge about defence, war games and military simulations. The University of Vaasa has strong expertise in areas such as resilience, preparedness, leadership, economics and technology. T-REX will also be able to be used in the University of Vaasa's new international master's programme Preparedness and Resilience, which will start in autumn 2026.

The collaboration will be intensified during the autumn and the long-term goal is an international research and education network. Time and place: The cooperation agreement was signed in Vaasa on 12 August 2026. The T-REX work will continue in autumn 2026 and beyond. Source: University of Vaasa, 14.8.2026.

UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE Forget about the expensive biological age test? The scale and tape measure can tell you more



IMAGE: Sari Laapotti/Tampere UNIVERSITY

Can the future of health be assessed without an expensive laboratory test? According to a study by the University of Tampere, a surprising amount of information is still available with fairly everyday tools.

In the study, body mass index, waist circumference, smoking and alcohol consumption predicted later morbidity in middle-aged people better than the epigenetic biological age measures included in the study.

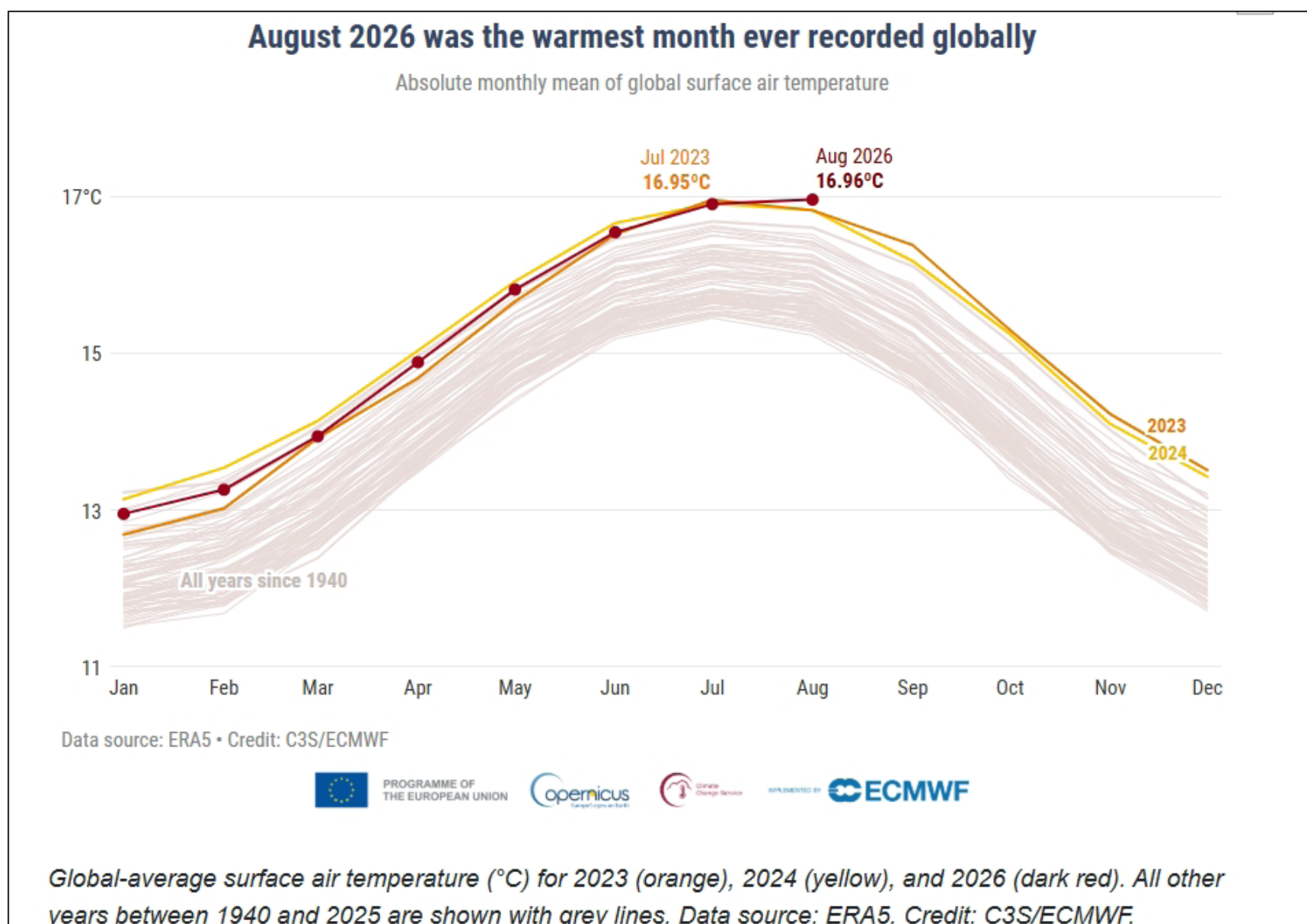
Epigenetic so-called biological clocks aim to estimate how old the biological characteristics of human cells and tissues are. They are now also offered to consumers, and the tests can cost hundreds of euros. The study utilised an extensive LASERI follow-up study. The study included 1108 people aged 34–49 at the start of the study and were followed for 7–9 years.

The researchers' message is quite down-to-earth: before paying for a fancy-sounding biological age measurement, you might want to look at your weight, waist and lifestyle. Source: Tampere University,

CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE

Copernicus: Earth turns up the heat again: August becomes the hottest month ever recorded



Summer may be over on the calendar, but the planet's temperature gauge is still flashing red.

According to the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service, August 2026 was the warmest August ever recorded – and, when all months are compared, it tied for the hottest month on record with July 2023.

The global average surface air temperature reached 16.96°C. The difference from the July 2023 record was less than one hundredth of a degree.

That tiny number hides a much bigger story.

Above the 1.5°C mark

August was 1.65°C warmer than the estimated pre-industrial average for 1850–1900. It was the first month since November 2025 to rise above 1.5°C relative to that reference period.

There is an important qualification. The 1.5°C target in the Paris Agreement is a long-term climate goal, not a ceiling that cannot be crossed during a single month. One exceptionally hot month does not mean the

Paris target has been permanently breached.

But the latest figure is still a powerful warning.

The oceans are heating up too

The world's oceans added another record to the story.

The average sea-surface temperature across ice-free, extra-polar oceans reached 21.07°C in August, the highest August value in the Copernicus record.

On 24 and 25 August, the daily average reached 21.11°C, the highest daily value recorded in the dataset.

One important ingredient is El Niño, which is strengthening in the tropical Pacific. But scientists stress that El Niño is not the main reason for the long-term rise in global temperatures. The underlying driver remains human-caused climate change, particularly greenhouse-gas emissions from burning fossil fuels.

Europe's extraordinary summer

Western Europe experienced an especially

remarkable season. The June–August period was the warmest summer ever recorded for the region, with an average temperature of 21.69°C – 2.54°C above the 1991–2020 average.

The previous record was set during the notorious heatwave summer of 2003.

Across parts of Europe, extreme heat was accompanied by drought, wildfires and exceptionally low river levels. The Rhine and Danube were among major rivers affected by unusually low flows.

Yet there is another side to the story.

The future is not completely written. Cutting greenhouse-gas emissions, expanding clean energy, improving energy efficiency and adapting cities and infrastructure to heat can still make a major difference.

The August record is therefore more than a frightening number.

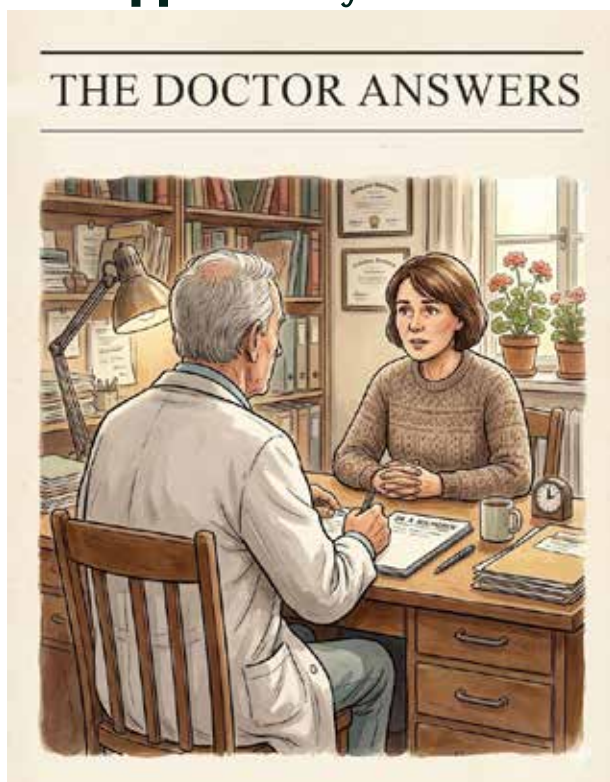
It is a warning – but also a reminder that humanity still has choices.

Source: Copernicus Climate Change Service

HEALTH

THE DOCTOR ANSWERS

One Apple a Day



Question: One Apple a Day Keeps Doctors Away - One apple a day keeps the healing away. The meaning of this saying is that if you eat one apple a day, you need to go to the doctor very rarely. Is there any scientific evidence for such a claim? Are apples actually that very healthy?

Answer: The phrase "An apple a day keeps the doctor away" has become one of the world's most famous health advice. But is it just an old saying - or is there actually science behind it? The answer is: apples are very healthy, but of course, a single apple a day is no guarantee of avoiding the doctor.

A medium-sized apple contains about 95 kilocalories and provides about 3 grams of fiber. In addition, it contains, among other things, vitamin C and several so-called polyphenols, including quercetin. The apple's fiber, especially pectin, can contribute to better bowel function and has been linked in studies to beneficial effects on cholesterol, among other things.

The research also points to possible benefits for the heart. A meta-analysis of randomized trials has found improvements in certain risk markers for cardiovascular disease in people who ate apples or apple polyphenols. At the same time, the results are not conclusive and the researchers emphas-

ize that more and longer studies are needed.

In observational studies, apples have also been associated with a lower risk of type 2 diabetes and stroke, among other things. But here is an important caveat: such studies show a connection, not that the apple alone is the cause of better health. People who eat a lot of fruit can also exercise more, smoke less and have a generally healthier lifestyle.

And the saying itself has actually been tested! An American study of 8,399 people found that those who ate one apple a day did not have fewer visits to the doctor when other factors were excluded. However, they used slightly less prescription drugs.

So no - the apple can't replace the doctor. But it's an unusually wise snack. Ideally, eat the whole apple with the peel after it's been thoroughly washed. And most importantly: don't let an apple become an excuse to skip exercise, sleep, healthy eating, or necessary doctor's visits.

Research from 2026 also confirms that apples may have positive effects on several health markers, but that the evidence is still too varied to literally say that one apple a day "keeps the doctor away".

In short: The apple is not medicine - but it is definitely a fruit with a good reputation and quite good scientific merits.

HEALTH

OBESITY AND INFECTIONS

Major study: Obesity may turn common infections into a greater health threat



HELSINKI - A bout of flu or pneumonia may be little more than an unpleasant few days for many people. But a major international study suggests that obesity can change the picture dramatically - increasing the risk that an infection will lead to hospitalisation or even death.

Researchers studying more than 540,000 adults found that people with obesity had a 70 per cent higher risk of hospitalisation or death from infectious disease than people in the normal-weight range.

The participants were followed for an average of 13-14 years, using large Finnish and British health datasets, including national registers and the UK Biobank. The research was published in The Lancet in 2026.

The heavier the weight, the greater the risk

The researchers found that the risk increased steadily with body weight.

For people with a BMI of 40 or higher, the risk of severe infection was approximately three times higher than for people with a BMI between 18.5 and 24.9.

The finding was not limited to one particular disease. Higher risks were seen with influenza, Covid-19, pneumonia and gastrointestinal and urinary tract infections. Interestingly, the same pattern was not observed for HIV or tuberculosis.

But the study contains an encouraging message too.

People who lost enough weight to move from obesity into the overweight or healthy-weight range experienced 20 per cent fewer severe infections than people whose obesity persisted. In the opposite direction, moving from overweight to obesity was associated with about a 30 per cent increase in infection risk.

Could the immune system be the missing link?

The researchers believe that one possible explanation is the immune system. Obesity may impair the body's ability to control infections effectively, making severe disease more likely.

However, scientists are careful not to overstate the findings. This was an observational study, meaning that it demonstrates an association but cannot by itself prove that obesity directly causes severe infections. BMI is also an imperfect measure because it cannot distinguish body fat from muscle mass.

The researchers nevertheless say the findings add severe infectious diseases to the growing list of health problems associated with obesity.

There is also a striking global dimension. The researchers estimated that around 600,000 of the 5.4 million infectious-disease deaths worldwide in 2023 were associated with obesity - approximately one in ten. In Finland, the estimated share was 19 per cent, compared with 13 per cent in Sweden. These figures are estimates based on the study's modelling and should not be interpreted as proof that obesity directly caused every one of those deaths.

And there is a simple piece of advice that does not require waiting for further research: keep vaccinations up to date, particularly if you belong to a group for which booster doses are recommended.

The study's most positive message may be that health risks are not necessarily fixed. When weight changes, infection risk may change too.

Source: Nyberg ST, Frank P, Ahmadi-Abhari S, Pentti J, Vahtera J, Ervasti J, Suominen SB, Strandberg TE, Sipilä PN, Meri S, Sattar N, Kivimäki M. Adult obesity and risk of severe infections: a multicohort study with global burden estimates. *Lancet* 2026. Doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(25)02474-2, *Lancet* 2026.

EVENTS

TODAY

METEORIIHI

When space struck Earth – Meteorian open today at 12-16



Dive into the story of a crater formed over 520 million years ago – from the meteorite impact to today's farmland and Natura 2000 area. Explore rare meteorites, old farming machinery, an astronomical observatory, and a bird tower in one of Finland's most important crane resting sites. A solar system model and crater scale model bring the cosmos down to earth. Don't miss this journey through deep time! Source: <http://www.meteoria.fi>

FLEA MARKET

Small bargains are waiting around the corner – flea market in Hietalahti

VAASA. Sometimes you don't have to go far to make a bargain. On Sunday 13 September, Hietalahti in Vaasa will be transformed into a large neighborhood flea market area. A yard flea market will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the participating yards will be marked with balloons. Here, visitors can walk from farm to farm looking for everything from old items to things that someone else has long missed. The event is free of charge and is suitable for both bargain hunters and curious strollers. Maybe the next big find is closer than you think – just a few steps from your own front door. Time and place: Sunday 13.9 at 11–14, Hietalahti, Vaasa. Reference: Pohjanmaan tapahtumakalenteri.

BRAGE

Harvest festival with vintage tractors and four-legged guests

VAASA. Autumn makes its real entrance when Brage's open-air museum organises a traditional harvest market on Sunday 13 September. Between 12 noon and 3 pm, the area is filled with local harvest products, pastries and handicrafts. Visitors can also look at the exhibition "Utsmornat", try activities on the farm and meet Korsholm's friend dogs. For those who get hungry, there is coffee and serving in Lillstugan and sausages in the yard. And for those interested in motoring, vintage tractors also await. In other words, it will be an afternoon where both people, dogs and old machines get their moment in the spotlight. Time and place: Sunday 13.9 at 12–15, Brage Open-Air Museum. Reference: Pohjanmaan tapahtumakalenteri.

FOR ALL DANCERS

Now it's time for dancing – and coffee is included

VAASA. The dancing shoes are allowed

to come out of the closet. On Sunday 13 September, the autumn dance series starts at the Pensioners' Activity Centre at Ajurinkatu 14 in Vaasa. Between 4 and 7 pm, an orchestra plays and welcomes dancers of all ages. Admission is 15 euros and includes coffee and buns – a pretty good argument for those who need a little break between dances. The autumn dances also continue on 27 September and 4 and 25 October, 8 and 22 November and 13 December. Here it is quite possible to both exercise and have coffee at the same time. Time and place: Sunday 13.9 at 4–7 pm, Formaninkatu 14, Vaasa. Reference: Pohjanmaan tapahtumakalenteri.

SEPTEMBER

WASA TEATER

"Tillsammans"-premiere on September 19, 2026



On September 19, "Tillsammans (Together)" will premiere on Wasa Theatre's main stage in Vaasa. The performance is based on Lukas Moodysson's story and has been dramatized for stage by Maria Lundström. Here, the audience moves to a housing collective in a Stockholm suburb – in the middle of 1970s idealism, music, fashion and social debate. Everyone wants to change the world – but no one gets along. In the collective, there are big dreams of a different way of life. But when people with different personalities and life choices have to share everyday life, conflicts soon arise.

Photo: Wasa Teater

KUNTSI

Marja Pirilä's Camera Obscura opens at 19.9.2026



As autumn darkness settles over Vaasa, a special kind of light magic comes alive at Kuntsi Museum of Modern Art. From 19 September 2026 to 9 January 2027, the extensive exhibition Marja Pirilä – Camera Obscura invites visitors into poetic, multi-layered visual worlds.

STREETDANCE 24.9.2026

Baroque music meets street dance – young dancers give new energy to the classics

Baroque music will have a whole new expression when Vaasa Baroque invites you to Breaking Baroque on Thursday 24 September at 19.15 at the Ritz in Vaasa. Together with dancers from Tanssikoulu Kipinä, works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Antonio Vivaldi and Jean-Philippe Rameau, among others, will be interpreted in street dance, hip hop and show dance. Choreographer Jenna Linnolahti has created the movements together with the young dancers Micaella Cornelio, Alissa Haataja, Susanne Hienonen, Kalle Lorenz, Fiona Puska and Benjamin Svahn. Jazz singer Kaisa Sainio performs baroque songs and the Vasa Baroque Ensemble plays under the direction of violinist Anthony Marini. The artistic design is by Kajsa Dahlbäck.

The performance lasts about 45 minutes, is suitable for all ages and is followed by an artist discussion. The secondary schools in Vaasa, Närpiö and Teuva are offered to see it during school hours. Tickets: netticket.fi/vaasa-baroque-syksy-host-26 Source: vaasabaroque.com

OCTOBER

CITY ORCHESTRA

Pepe Willberg 80 – a legend in Finnish music – comes to Vaasa on Oct 1, 2026



Motopark, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0

Pepe Willberg turns 80 this year, and the anniversary will also be celebrated in Vaasa. On Thursday 1 October 2026 at 18:00, the anniversary concert "I got everything from life" will be held at Vaasa City Hall. Willberg's career began back in the 1960s, so it will be quite a journey back in time to Finland's popular music history on stage. The Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra will be conducted by Satu Simola, and Willberg will be joined by Pete Nikkinen, Ako Kiiski, Leevi Leppänen and Lauri Schreck. The program will feature well-known music from the decades, and the evening will also include stories about the stages of a long career. 80 years and more than six decades of music – it already has such a repertoire that there should be no shortage of songs to sing right away.

Location: Vaasa City Hall, Senaatinkatu 1, Vaasa. Time: 1.10.2026 at 18.00.

RITZ

Michael Bleu and Emma Darling warm up the Ritz with soul 2.10.26



Vaasa's own soul voice Michael Bleu (Mikko Kananoja) returns home and brings an evening full of iconic soul classics and American hits to the Ritz stage. The evening will also be supported by Emma Darling. Bleu's warm retro-soul style and stage charisma promise an immersive experience. Local roots and a strong performance make the evening an easy choice for those who crave soulful music. The atmospheric hall of the Ritz is perfect for a gig like this. References: ritz.fi

VAASA CITY THEATRE

Näytelmä joka menee pieleen

A show that goes wrong. Directed by Sari Siikander, this physical comedy guarantees surprising situations and precise timing. If you haven't seen when a theater performance goes completely wrong, now is your chance. Premiere Oct 8, 2026

HELSINKI BOOK FAIR

22.-25.10.2026

Words take centre stage at Helsinki Book Fair



Language will be in the spotlight when Helsinki Book Fair returns this autumn. From 22–25 October 2026, Helsinki Expo and Convention Centre will host authors, books and discussions, with almost 1,000 programme events planned.

USA

DONALD J TRUMP

Trump redraws the map – Canada, Greenland and Mexico suddenly become the USA

Donald J. Trump  
@realDonaldTrump · 2d



Donald Trump chose on Labor Day weekend to let a map say something much bigger: in the image posted on Truth Social, Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean are covered by the American flag. The entire area is marked „United States of America.“

Trump did not provide any further explanation for the image, which was published on September 7, 2026. But the message immediately attracted international attention.

For years, Trump has talked about the United States taking over Greenland and has also described Canada as a country that in the future could become the United States' 51st state. Now that rhetoric has been given a spectacular visual version.

The reaction was not long in coming. Iceland summoned U.S. Ambassador Billy Long to the State Department on September 8 and described the map as „completely inappropriate.“ Denmark and Greenland have also indicated that Greenland does not want to become American.

Of course, the map does not change the borders of a single country. The US president cannot unilaterally annex Canada, Mexico or Greenland through a post on social media.

But the picture shows Trump using Truth Social to communicate his vision – often with images that are far more dramatic than traditional diplomatic statements.

Source: Truth Social

Trump promises \$5,000 to Americans – but only if Republicans win

DALLAS – A political election promise with a price tag of over a thousand billion dollars. Donald Trump promised on September 9, 2026, that American adults could receive \$5,000 each if Republicans retain control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate after this fall's congressional elections.

Trump presented the idea during the Republicans' first national convention ahead of the midterm elections, in Dallas, Texas. He called the payment a „Trump Dividend“.

The promise is spectacular – but also financially and legally complicated. Estimates point to a total cost of about \$1.35 trillion. The president cannot decide on such a payment himself without the participation of Congress.

Vice President J.D. Vance has later hinted that the wealthiest Americans could possibly be left out and that customs revenues could be used to fund the payments.

The problem is that, according to economic assessments, the tariffs do not come close to covering the entire cost alone.

The proposal comes as Republicans try to mobilize voters ahead of the midterm elections on November 3, 2026. Trump is making the election a referendum on his policies and warning of what could happen if the Democrats take control of Congress.

If the \$5,000 promise ever becomes a reality, many questions remain.

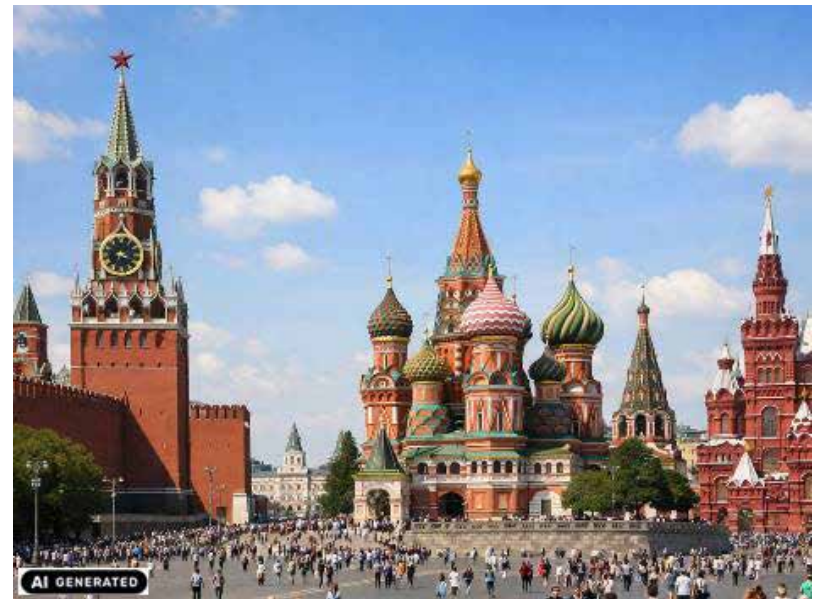
But one thing is already certain: Trump has managed to make this fall's election even more dramatic.

Source: Truth Social and Donald Trump's speech in Dallas

RUSSIA

RUSSIA

A Critical Analysis of Russian Government Narratives on Ukraine



THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT's attempts to justify its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine represent a masterclass in historical revisionism, deflection, and the weaponization of legitimate geopolitical concerns to mask imperial ambitions. The standard Russian narrative, consistently promoted through official channels, relies on several interconnected falsehoods that deserve systematic debunking.

The NATO Expansion Myth

Perhaps the most persistent Russian claim is that NATO expansion "forced" Russia's hand. This argument fundamentally misrepresents both the nature of NATO membership and Russia's own role in driving Eastern European nations toward the alliance. NATO membership is voluntary and requires extensive democratic reforms—qualities that made these nations safer and more prosperous. The suggestion that Russia has a legitimate sphere of influence over sovereign neighbors is a throwback to 19th-century imperial thinking that has no place in modern international law.

Moreover, Ukraine was never on a fast track to NATO membership. The 2008 Bucharest Summit offered only vague future possibilities, not concrete membership plans. If NATO expansion truly concerned Russia, invading Ukraine—thereby guaranteeing permanent NATO reinforcement on Russia's borders—represents spectacularly counterproductive strategy.

The "Denazification" Fabrication

Russia's claim that Ukraine

needed "denazification" is particularly cynical given that Ukraine elected a Jewish president in 2019 with 73% of the vote. While far-right elements exist in every society, Ukraine's far-right parties consistently receive minimal electoral support—often less than 2%. This contrasts sharply with Russia's own Wagner Group, which openly used Nazi symbols and recruited from extremist networks.

The historical irony is profound: Russia invokes the memory of fighting fascism while conducting a war of aggression that mirrors fascist tactics—targeting civilians, forcibly relocating children, and attempting to erase Ukrainian national identity. Historical Distortion and Imperial Nostalgia

Russian narratives consistently portray Ukraine as an artificial construct rather than recognizing its millennium-long distinct cultural and political development. The claim that Russians and Ukrainians are "one people" who were artificially separated ignores centuries of Ukrainian resistance to Russian rule, from Cossack uprisings to the independence movements of the 20th century. This historical revisionism serves to legitimize territorial conquest by denying Ukrainian agency and statehood—a classic imperial tactic used throughout history to justify absorption of neighboring territories.

The Western Provocation Excuse

Perhaps most fundamentally flawed is the argument that Western actions "provoked" the invasion. This narrative

strips Ukrainians of agency in their own democratic choices while portraying Russia as a passive victim rather than an aggressive actor. The timeline alone undermines this claim: Russia began its aggression in 2014, not in response to any immediate NATO action, but following Ukraine's democratic revolution that threatened Putin's own authoritarian model.

The Reality Behind the Rhetoric

The evidence overwhelmingly suggests that Russia's invasion stems not from legitimate security concerns but from Putin's determination to restore imperial control and prevent the success of democracy on Russia's borders. Internal Russian documents and statements reveal goals of regime change, territorial partition, and cultural elimination—objectives that have nothing to do with NATO or Western "provocation."

The tragedy is that these false narratives not only justify devastating aggression but also trap Russia in a conflict that serves no genuine Russian interest. By promoting these myths, the Russian government ensures continued international isolation, economic damage, and military losses—all while Ukrainian resistance continues to demonstrate the bankruptcy of imperial dreams in the 21st century.

True security for Russia would come from peaceful coexistence with prosperous democratic neighbors, not from the impossible task of maintaining unwilling imperial subjects through force.

UKRAINE PRESIDENT

The President Discussed Ukraine’s Defense Needs and the Necessity of Progress in Diplomacy with Mark Rutte and Alexander Stubb



4 September 2026 - 19:50

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy held phone calls with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte and President of Finland Alexander Stubb.

The Head of State briefed them on the situation with Russian strikes, Ukraine’s defense needs, and preparations for meetings with envoys of the President of the United States.

“Mark and I see the need for progress in diplomacy in the same way, and the meetings taking place in the coming days

could be useful,” Volodymyr Zelenskyy said following his conversation with the NATO Secretary General.

The President thanked the partners for hearing Ukraine’s need to cover the gap in defense funding and for working on this.

Mark Rutte briefed the President on his conversations regarding the financing of the PURL initiative and the Patriot missiles Ukraine needs.

The Head of State thanked the President of Finland for keeping Ukraine front and center and for

their joint work to bring greater security to both countries and peoples.

“We must do everything possible to end this insane Russian war and guarantee a normal life. We are working together,” Volodymyr Zelenskyy stressed following his conversation with the President of Finland.

Alexander Stubb assured him of Finland’s steadfast support for Ukraine and the peace process. The leaders coordinated their next steps.

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

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ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Alexandra Frosterus-Sältin
6.12.1837, Ingå
29.2.1916, Vaasa
Old woman gathering sticks, 1875
Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Jenni Nurminen

George Orwell
1984
Part 44

‘Oh, rubbish! Which would you sooner sleep with, me or a skeleton? Don’t you enjoy being alive? Don’t you like feeling: This is me, this is my hand, this is my leg, I’m real, I’m solid, I’m alive! Don’t you like THIS?’

She twisted herself round and pressed her bosom against him. He could feel her breasts, ripe yet firm, through her overalls. Her body seemed to be pouring some of its youth and vigour into his.

‘Yes, I like that,’ he said.

‘Then stop talking about dying. And now listen, dear, we’ve got to fix up about the next time we meet. We may as well go back to the place in the wood. We’ve given it a good long rest. But you must get there by a different way this time. I’ve got it all planned out. You take the train—but look, I’ll draw it out for you.’

And in her practical way she scraped together a small square of dust, and with a twig from a pigeon’s nest began drawing a map on the floor.

Chapter 4

Winston looked round the shabby little room above Mr Charrington’s shop. Beside the window the enormous bed was made up, with ragged blankets and a coverless bolster. The old-fashioned clock with the twelve-hour face was ticking away on the mantelpiece. In the corner, on the gateleg table, the glass paperweight which he had bought on his last visit gleamed softly out of the half-darkness.

In the fender was a battered tin oilstove, a saucepan, and two cups, provided by Mr Charrington. Winston lit the burner and set a pan of water to boil. He had brought an envelope full of Victory Coffee and some saccharine tablets. The clock’s hands said seventeen-twenty: it was nineteen-twenty really. She was coming at nineteen-thirty.

Folly, folly, his heart kept saying: conscious, gratuitous, suicidal folly. Of all the crimes that a Party member could commit, this one was the least possible to conceal. Actually the idea had first floated into his head in

the form of a vision, of the glass paperweight mirrored by the surface of the gateleg table. As he had foreseen, Mr Charrington had made no difficulty about letting the room. He was obviously glad of the few dollars that it would bring him. Nor did he seem shocked or become offensively knowing when it was made clear that Winston wanted the room for the purpose of a love-affair. Instead he looked into the middle distance and spoke in generalities, with so delicate an air as to give the impression that he had become partly invisible. Privacy, he said, was a very valuable thing. Everyone wanted a place where they could be alone occasionally. And when they had such a place, it was only common courtesy in anyone else who knew of it to keep his knowledge to himself. He even, seeming almost to fade out of existence as he did so, added that there were two entries to the house, one of them through the back yard, which gave on an alley.

Under the window somebody was singing. Winston peeped out, secure in the protection of the muslin curtain. The June sun was still high in the sky, and in the sun-filled court below, a monstrous woman, solid as a Norman pillar, with brawny red forearms and a sacking apron strapped about her middle, was stumping to and fro between a washtub and a clothes line, pegging out a series of square white things which Winston recognized as babies’ diapers. Whenever her mouth was not corked with clothes pegs she was singing in a powerful contralto:



It was only an ’opeless fancy.
It passed like an Ipril dye,
But a look an’ a word an’ the dreams they stirred!
They ’ave stolen my ’cart awye!

The tune had been haunting London for weeks past. It was one of countless similar songs published for the benefit of the proles by a sub-section of the Music Department. The words of these songs were composed without any human intervention whatever on an instrument known as a versificator. But the woman sang so tunefully as to turn the dreadful rubbish into an almost pleasant sound. He could hear the woman singing and the scrape of her shoes on the flagstones, and the cries of the children in the street, and somewhere in the far distance a faint roar of traffic, and yet the room seemed curiously silent, thanks to the absence of a telescreen.

Folly, folly, folly! he thought again. It was inconceivable that they could frequent this place for more than a few weeks without being caught. But the temptation of having a hiding-place that was truly their own, indoors and near at hand, had been too much for both of them. For some time after their visit to the church belfry it had been impossible to arrange meetings. Working hours had been drastically increased in anticipation of Hate Week. It was more than a month distant, but the enormous, complex preparations that it entailed were throwing extra work on to everybody. Finally both of them managed to secure a free afternoon on the same day. They had agreed to go back to the clearing in the wood. On the evening beforehand they met briefly in the street. As usual, Winston hardly looked at Julia as they drifted towards one another in the crowd, but from the short glance he gave her it seemed to him that she was paler than usual.

‘It’s all off,’ she murmured as soon as she judged it safe to speak. ‘Tomorrow, I mean.’

‘What?’

‘Tomorrow afternoon. I can’t come.’

‘Why not?’

‘Oh, the usual reason. It’s started early this time.’

HUMOUR ONE HUND-RED YEARS AGO

BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING.

Colonel: I feel sorry for you, Lieutenant Möller, because there are still complaints about you not paying your debts. Aren't you going to sort out your financial situation soon? The lieutenant; Well, Colonel, just yesterday I bought a ticket in the class lottery.

A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION.

An English doctor claims that his countrymen eat too much meat. As a morning snack, he recommends: A cup of tea, a cutlet and a dog, which eats the cutlet.

ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE.

A little boy was always pestering his mother with questions, a habit that little boys often have. One day he wanted to know why men are so often bald. It is because they have so much work that their brains are getting tired, replied the mother patiently. Then I also know why the women don't have beards, exclaimed the hopeful little one delighted. Why then, my dear boy? asked the mother in surprise. Because they have so much work to do with their mouths, they talk all the time, was the surprising answer.

MR WESTER

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

HAPPY SWEAT

"Where are you from?" "From the station. I followed my sister-in-law." "But the other day you said that you never bothered with something like that for your sister-in-law's sake." "When she comes, yes, but when she leaves, it's something else entirely."

NO DETAILS THANKS!

The American billionaire was on a road trip around the world. "Where are we now?" he asked his driver as the dust swirled around the wheels. The driver leaned to the side and

said: : Paris." "Oh," said the billionaire, "I don't care about any details. I mean which part of the world?"

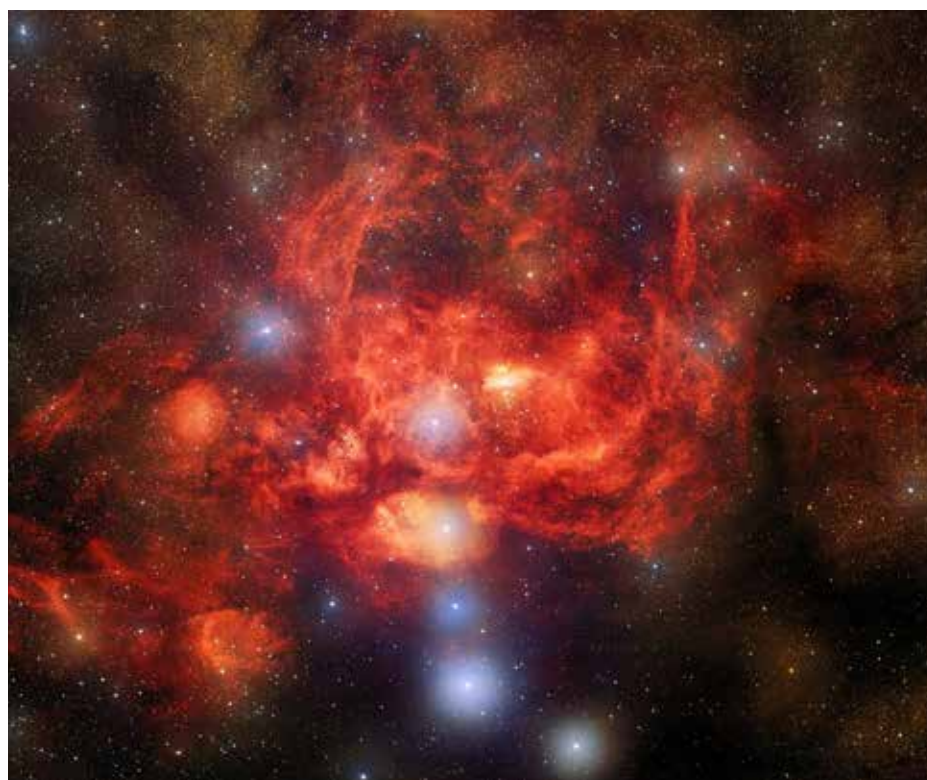
WILD MAN

"Hello, old friend, were you lucky?" cried a man to an acquaintance who was coming from a hunt. "Shoot seventeen ducks." "Were they savages." "No, not exactly, but the man on whose land they were."

THE CAUSE.

I just can't stand the sound of a car horn. Why not? I will tell you that some time ago my driver stole my car and ran away with my wife, and every time I hear a car horn, I fear that he will come back with her.

Astronomic picture of the week:



Dark Energy Camera Captures Bright, Young Stars Blazing Inside Glowing Nebula

This image reveals bright, young stars surrounded by billowing clouds of dust and gas inside NGC 6357, which is also known as the Lobster Nebula.

Credit: CTIO/NOIRLab/DOE/NSF/AURA

T.A. Rector (University of Alaska Anchorage/NSF NOIRLab), J. Miller (Gemini Observatory/NSF NOIRLab), M. Zamani & D. de Martin (NSF NOIRLab)
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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! 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

ADVERTISE

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

wasadagblad@gmail.com

HOROSCOPE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

September Horoscope for the Gluten-Free Stars

Aries (March 21–April 19)
You'll boldly march into September – straight past the bread basket. Friends admire your will-power, even if the garlic bread flirts with you.

Taurus (April 20–May 20)
Comfort food calls, but your inner gourmet finds joy in new gluten-free recipes. September's motto: brownies can still be life-changing.

Gemini (May 21–June 20)
You'll be double-booked socially – luckily, you've mastered the art of discreetly asking waiters about cross-contamination. Your charm smooths every menu question.

Cancer (June 21–July 22)
Your sensitive stomach meets your sensitive soul. Good news: the stars show an abundance of gluten-free snacks arriving just when you need them most.

Leo (July 23–August 22)
Spotlight's on you at the dinner table. With confidence, you show others that gluten-free isn't a restriction – it's a culinary adventure. Applause guaranteed.

Virgo (August 23–September 22)
This is your month! Organization shines: you label your flours, conquer the kitchen, and become a gluten-free wizard. Friends beg for your recipes.

Libra (September 23–October 22)
You'll weigh your options between oat milk and almond milk – balance is everything. Don't worry, both go beautifully with your cookies.

Scorpio (October 23–November 21)
Passion is your theme – and it even applies to gluten-free pasta. September brings intensity, but remember: not every debate about pizza bases needs stings.

Sagittarius (November 22–December 21)
Adventures await! You'll discover a new gluten-free café or a recipe that makes travel less

risky. Your optimism is more infectious than sourdough starter.

Capricorn (December 22–January 19)
Practical as always, you plan ahead: snacks in your bag, gluten-free crackers in the car. September rewards your foresight with stress-free outings.

Aquarius (January 20–February 18)
Innovation rules your diet this month. Chickpea flour pancakes? Cauliflower crust pizza? The stars applaud your bold experiments. Even skeptics will ask for seconds.

Pisces (February 19–March 20)
Dreamy September brings comfort in soups and safe bread alternatives. Trust your intuition – it will guide you toward the coziest gluten-free gatherings.

☐ **September is proof: you don't need gluten to sparkle.**

