

Wasa Daily

Wasa Daily Nr9 Sunday, March 1, 2026 — Our fourth Year — ISSN 2965-2456

Here we are:
www.vpress.fi
24/7



CITY ORCHESTRA

Star conductor returns to Vaasa – James Lowe conducts the Philharmonic Orchestra in March



In the spring, Vaasa will see a long-awaited return when the former chief conductor of the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, James Lowe, will once again step in front of the orchestra.

Lowe conducted the Vasa City Orchestra from 2016 to 2020, and now he will return for one evening for a concert on Thursday 5 March at 6 pm at the City Hall.

Lowe has made an international career on five continents and currently works as the mu-

sical director of the Spokane Symphony in the United States.

The soloist of the concert will be mezzo-soprano Monika Evelin Liiv, who is a member of the permanent ensemble of the Royal Opera House in London. He has been described as a world-class singer whose technical prowess and musicality impress.

The evening's program offers Spanish glow and Italian drama. Liiv interprets de Falla's Siete canciones populares españolas song cycle and Respighi's Il tramonto. In addition, Arriaga's Ddmajor Symphony and de Falla's ballet suite El sombrero de tres picos will be performed.

During the intermission, there will be a Meet & Greet, where the audience will be able to meet Lowe and ask him questions.

Source: City of Vaasa

MALAX

Malax steps up – municipality donates aid to Ukraine on war's fourth anniversary



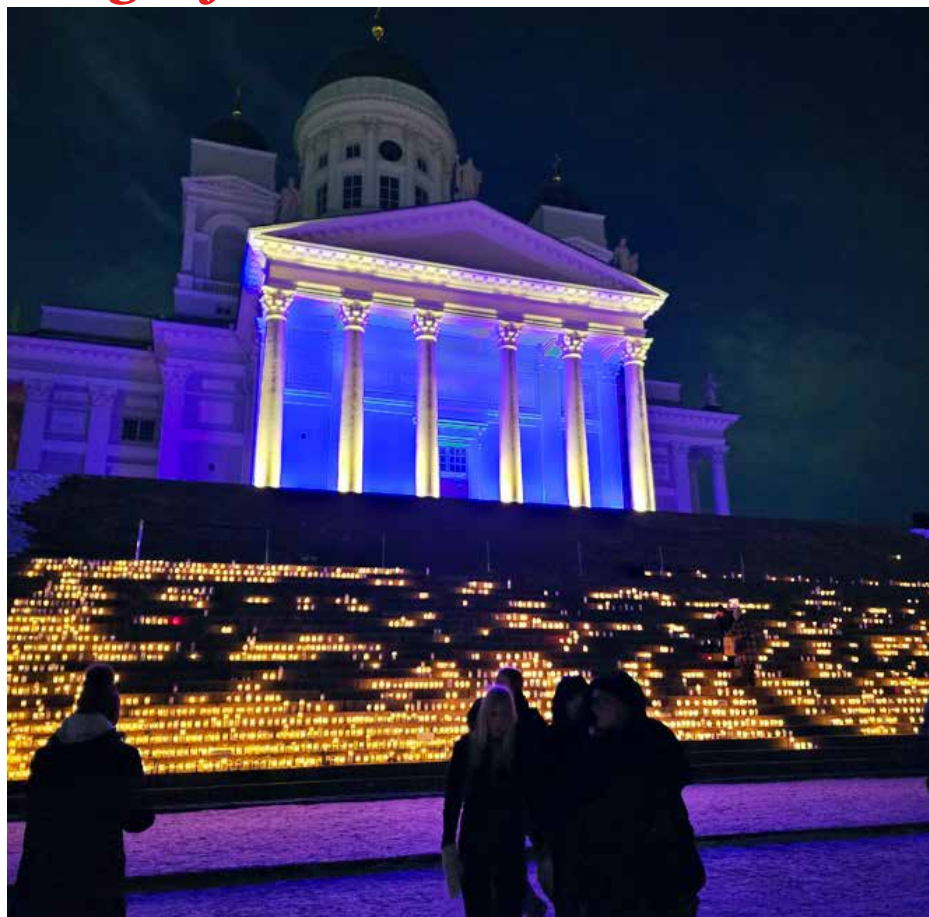
February 24 marks four years since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The war continues to hit civilians hard, especially through repeated attacks

on energy infrastructure that leave people without heat, electricity and water. To support Ukraine in this critical situation, Malax is joining a regional effort where several municipalities contribute emergency funds. Vaasa is donating €60,000 via Kalyna r.f., and other municipalities add

roughly €60,000 more. Malax contributes €3,500, directed specifically toward urgently needed generators in Ukraine. The goal is to provide practical help where it is most needed and show that Ostrobothnia stands united with Ukraine. Source: Malax.fi

Image of the Week:



On Tuesday, Russia's attack on Ukraine had continued for four years. Senate Square in Helsinki was lit up in Ukrainian colors.

WASA TEATER

A Magical Thriller in the Woods – Hansel and Gretel Premieres!



Get ready for this spring's theatrical highlight! On March 14, 2026, the curtain rises for a spectacular production of Hansel and Gretel.

Wasa Teater brings the Brothers Grimm classic to life in a visually stunning performance where fairy tale meets reality. The story of the siblings lost in the deep forest, facing

the sinister witch, remains as gripping and relevant as ever. Expect a journey filled with suspense, bravery, and magic for the whole family. Source, Image: Wasa Teater

WASA FUTURE FESTIVAL

Future Week Returns – Wasa Future Festival 2026 Set for August

Wasa Future Festival takes place 10–15 August 2026, marking the event's 10th anniversary. The week-long program brings together companies, researchers, policymakers and cultural voices in Vaasa to explore innovation, sustainability and the "New Nordic" theme. Events are held at Wasa Innovation Center and Bock's Village, and admission is completely free.



UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

University of Vaasa expands to Helsinki – new downtown campus!

The University of Vaasa is strengthening its presence in the capital by launching a new campus in the heart of Helsinki. The expansion aims to enhance study opportunities and foster closer ties with corporate partners. This strategic move brings Vaasa's expertise to the national hub of decision-making, supporting lifelong learning and professional networking. The new facilities mark a significant milestone in the university's nationwide growth.

Please share this magazine with family and friends on Facebook, WhatsUp or other social media

TODAY

EDITORIAL

”Russia won the war – in a parallel universe where everything goes according to plan”



Four years after the invasion of Ukraine, the Kremlin continues to assure the world that everything is going great. If you ask the Russian state media, the whole thing is a kind of military spa weekend where the army is ”advancing on all fronts” and where reality is a disturbing detail that is best ignored..

Critics dryly state that the plan was to invade Ukraine in five days. Five. days. The winning articles were even pre-written. Unfortunately, someone forgot to inform Ukraine, which rudely refused to surrender according to the script.

In the spring of 2022, Russia controlled 27 percent of the country. Now about 20

percent. But according to Putin, this is, of course, further proof of ”success”. By the same logic, minus is plus, up is down, and gasoline shortage in an oil country is a sign of strength.

Independent analysts estimate that up to a million Russian soldiers have been killed or wounded. A million more have fled the country – often the most educated. According to the Kremlin, of course, this is only ”strategic personnel optimization”.

About the economy? Officially blooming. Unofficially: inflation, double food prices, and an industry that manufactures weapons but can barely produce... gasoline. Former allies have left the room, leaving Russia as North Korea’s last friend.

Ukraine is promised reconstruction. Russia is promised... Nothing. Except perhaps more ”strategic successes”.

In Helsinki, the Senate Square was lit up in Ukrainian colours on Tuesday. Light in the darkness – and a reminder that reality, while it may be annoying for some, still exists.

NEWS

THL

THL launches extensive study on the hidden effects of war – lessons learned to strengthen Finland’s preparedness

The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) is launching a new research project to map the impact of Russia’s war of aggression on the well-being and mental resilience of the Ukrainian civilian population. The aim is to develop concrete recommendations that can strengthen the preparedness of Finland and other European countries.

The war in Ukraine has shown how modern warfare is focused on more than physical destruction. Civilians are exposed to systematic attempts to undermine security, trust and everyday stability – factors that in the long run erode the entire society’s crisis management capacity.

THL’s projects are based on literature reviews, interviews in Ukraine and scenario modeling. The researchers want to understand how authorities, organisations, local communities and the media can support the population when crises become long-lasting and psycho-



logically stressful.

Project manager Laura Kestilä emphasises that deliberately created uncertainty is a central part of today’s conflicts. ”We want to identify practical methods that strengthen people’s mental stamina even

when the crisis drags on,” she says. The results will also be shared with Ukraine as part of the reconstruction work. The project will run until the end of 2026 and the final report will be published in early 2027. Source: THL Image: Meta

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Nature photographers reveal their secrets – exclusive lecture at the Museum of Ostrobothnia on 7 March



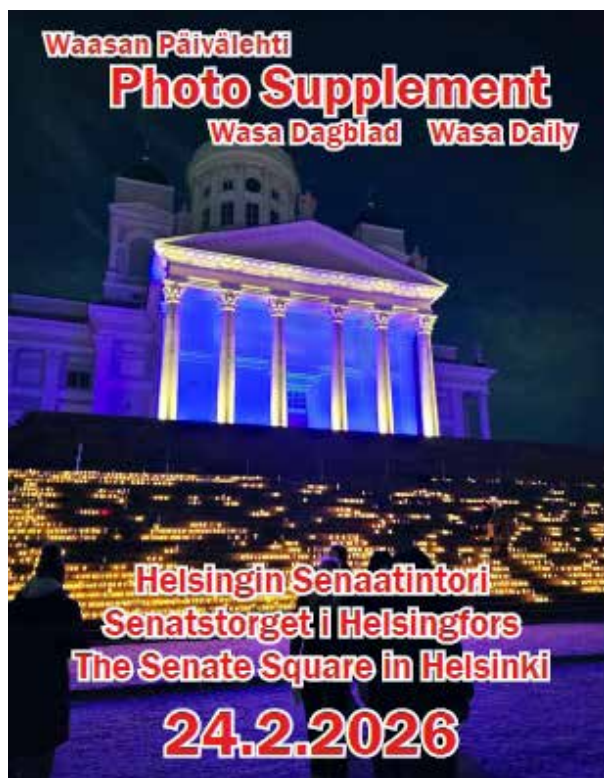
Nature photographers Benjamin Pöntinen and Jukka Risikko, known for the exhibition Creatures of Night and Day, will visit Terranova at the Museum of Ostrobothnia on Saturday 7 March from 1 pm to 3 pm

The Lapua duo tell how their images came to be and what moments it took to capture foxes, owls, flying squirrels and

other nocturnal and daily adventurers. The landscapes range from plains to forests in South Ostrobothnia and show the breadth of the region’s nature. At the end of the lecture, the audience gets to ask questions. The event will be held in Finnish and is included in the museum’s entrance ticket, which also gives access to the exhibition.

The creatures of night and day will be shown in Terranova 3.12.2025–29.3.2026.

Photo Supplement



NEWS

FOUR YEARS OF RUSSIA'S BRUTAL WAR OF AGGRESSION "Russia has already lost" – four years after the invasion of Ukraine



Four years have passed since Russia launched its full scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. According to multiple analysts, the Kremlin initially expected to seize the country within days – reports of a swift victory were even said to have been drafted in advance. Today, many experts argue the outcome looks very different.

In spring 2022, Russia controlled roughly 27 percent of Ukrainian territory. That figure is now closer to 20 percent, despite Moscow's repeated claims of "advances on all fronts." Independent estimates suggest up to one million Russian soldiers have been killed or wounded, while another million citizens – often young and educated – have fled the country.

Economically, Russia faces mounting challenges. Inflation is high, food prices have surged, and several former allies, including Kazakhstan and Armenia, have distanced themselves. Industry is heavily militarized, and fuel shortages have become a recurring issue despite Russia's status as a major oil producer.

Meanwhile, Ukraine continues to receive international support for reconstruction. In Helsinki, the Senate Square was illuminated in Ukraine's colors on Tuesday as a gesture of solidarity.

Source: Expert assessments and public reports

EDUCATION

Åbo Akademi trains the next generation of bilingual doctors – demand surges



For years, Finland has struggled with a shortage of bilingual doctors, especially in coastal regions, the archipelago and Åland. To address the gap, the University of Turku and

Åbo Akademi launched a new bilingual medical track in autumn 2023. Three years later, the programme has established itself as a successful model.

Interest has been high

from the start: nearly 50 applicants competed for 20 seats in the first year, and demand has continued to grow. Students complete preclinical courses in Swedish at Åbo Akademi while following the Finnish-language medical curriculum at the University of Turku. The goal is to train doctors who can work fluently in both national languages in regions where Swedish-speaking patients form a significant part of the population.

The initiative is seen as crucial for ensuring equal healthcare access as Finland's well-being services counties take responsibility for Swedish-language services. For many patients, receiving care in their own language is essential for safety, trust and understanding – and Turku is now producing a new generation of doctors ready to meet that need.

Source: Åbo Akademi



STORMWATER

Everything you want to know about stormwater - and why it is increasingly causing flooding in cities



In the coming years, Finnish cities will have to prepare for completely new kinds of extreme weather phenomena. Heavy rainfall, condensation in winters and sudden melting periods burden stormwater systems in a way that the old plans and pipelines are no longer sufficient for.

Asiantuntijoiden mukaan hulevesitulvat ovat jo nyt selvästi yleisempiä kuin vielä kymmenen vuotta sitten - ja kehitys jatkuu, ellei kaupunkien suunnittelua päivitetä vastaamaan muuttuvaa ilmastoa.

Hulevesillä tarkoitetaan sade- ja sulamisvesiä, jotka eivät imeydy maahan vaan valuvat kaduille, pihalle ja viemäreihin. Kaupungeissa ongelma korostuu, koska suuri osa maanpinnasta on päällystetty asfaltilla ja betonilla. Kun vesi ei pääse imeytymään, se kerääntyy nopeasti ja aiheuttaa tulvia, jotka voivat vahingoittaa rakennuksia, sähköjärjestelmiä ja liikennettä.

Viime vuosina on nähty tilanteita, joissa yhden rankkasateen aikana vettä on tullut enemmän kuin

koko viemäriverkosto pystyy hetkessä käsittelemään. Tällöin tulviminen on väistämätöntä. Asiantuntijat huomauttavat, että ongelma ei johdu pelkästään putkista - vaan myös siitä, että kaavoitus ja rakentaminen eivät ole pysyneet ilmastonmuutoksen vauhdissa.

Monissa kaupungeissa on edelleen käytössä ohjeita, jotka perustuvat vanhoihin sademääriin. Käytännössä tämä tarkoittaa, että uudetkin alueet suunnitellaan liian pienille hulevesikapasiteeteille. Samaan aikaan vanhoilla alueilla putkistot ovat jo valmiiksi ääriarjoilla. Kun päälle lisätään tiivistyvä kaupunkirakenne, ongelma kasvaa nopeasti.

”Tutkimusta tehdessämme hämmästyimme, kuinka suuri kuilu ohjeistusten ja käytännön toteutuksen välillä on. Vaikka kunnilla on tahtoa kehittää hulevesien hallintaa, ratkaisut eivät vielä siirry suunnitelmista asemakaavoihin”, toteaa väitöskirjatutkija **Minna Mäki-Asiala**, jonka väitöskirja tarkastettiin Oulun yliopistossa pe 27. helmikuuta.

Ratkaisuja kuitenkin on. Yhä useampi kaupunki on alkanut rakentaa viivytysalueita, viherkattoja ja imeytyskenttiä, jotka

hidastavat veden kulkua ja vähentävät tulvariskiä. Myös katujen muotoilulla voidaan ohjata vettä turvallisempiin paikkoihin. Asiantuntijat korostavat, että hulevesien hallinta ei ole vain tekninen kysymys - se on osa kaupunkien turvallisuutta ja ilmastonmuutokseen sopeutumista.

Cooperation between municipalities has risen to an important role, as stormwater problems do not stop at municipal borders. Residents also have a role to play: asphaltting yards, for example, increases the risk of flooding, while green areas and permeable surfaces help water to be absorbed.

Although the challenges are great, the experts point out that flood risks can be significantly reduced with the right solutions. The most important thing is that zoning, construction and stormwater guidelines are updated to correspond to today's precipitation - not yesterday's.

Stormwater floods are no longer the exception, but the new normal. Therefore, cities must act now, before the next heavy rain makes the problem even more expensive.

Source: University of Oulu

Photo: META

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

Timothy Snyder, February 14, 2025:
The text is as relevant now as it was then

Timothy David Snyder (born 1969) is an American historian who specializes in the history of Central and Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and the Holocaust. He is the Richard C. Levin Professor of History at Yale University and a Permanent Scholar at the Institute for the Humanities in Vienna



the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic license.

”Appeasing Russia, whether it leads to Russia’s victory now or later, may well create the conditions for a world war. Russia, which is effectively destroying Ukraine with the help of the Americans, would be a completely different country.

Ukraine’s resources, such as those of Czechoslovakia in 1938, would make the aggressor a much stronger force. This is a difficult point, but it must be taken into account. Ukraine has Europe’s best army and the toughest in the battle. It is the only Western country to have fought a major war in this decade. It regenerates faster than others can copy. All of this, along with agriculture, minerals and ports, will belong to Russia if Russia gains control of Ukraine. And then, after a while, Europe will of course be faced with a much stronger country, a country that wants to wage war and now has an experienced army at its disposal, a country whose leaders believe that war will work.”

Timothy Snyder: <https://snyder.substack.com/p/appeasement-at-munich>

VAASA UNIVERSITY

Space data meets energy transition – Professor Arslan joins University of Vaasa

The University of Vaasa is boosting its energy research with a high-profile international hire: Professor Ali Arslan has joined the university to advance work at the intersection of space technology, artificial intelligence and sustainable energy systems. Arslan’s background includes satellite data analytics, digital twins and energy modelling – tools increasingly seen as essential for managing the green transition.

His research focuses on how satellite imagery, sensor networks and AI-driven predictions can help energy companies anticipate consumption peaks, optimize production and detect risks before they escalate. The goal is to create smarter, more resilient energy systems capable of adapting to climate-driven changes.

Vaasa has positioned itself as Finland’s leading energy innovation hub, and Arslan’s arrival is viewed as a major reinforcement. According to the university, space-based data will play a central role in future energy solutions – and now that expertise is being built directly in Vaasa. Source: University of Vaasa



MAGAZINES

MAGAZINES

DIGITAL SHIFT: Finland to Digitize All Swedish-Language Magazines – Major Project Launches in 2026



Finland's Swedish-language cultural heritage is heading for a major digital leap. At the start of 2026, the National Library of Finland will launch an ambitious five-year project to digitize every Swedish-language magazine ever published in Finland. The initiative is carried out together with the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland (SLS) and the copyright organization Kopiosto, and is funded by six Finland-Swedish foundations with a total of €2.1 million.

Swedish-language magazines have been published since 1771, covering more than 3,000 titles across science, religion, hobbies, organizations, companies, schools, satire and annual publications. Until now, only about one third of the material has been digitized.

Scientific journals first in line
The digitization work begins in February 2026. Scientific journals will be processed first and made available to users by the end of the year.

The project is funded by:

Amos Andersons fond, Stiftelsen för Åbo Akademi, Stiftelsen Tre Smeder, Svenska folkskolans vänner, Svenska kulturfonden and Svenska litteratursällskapet i Finland. How the public will access the material
Because much of the material is still under copyright, special access arrangements have been agreed with Kopiosto:

All magazines published up to 1974 will be freely available online at digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi. Material from 1975–2024 can be accessed at SLS archives in Helsinki and Vaasa. Scientific journals will be available online up to 2016, and in the archives up to 2024. Researchers at universities participating in the Tutkain agreement can access the material through the Tutkain service.

All material is also available at Finland's legal deposit libraries.

"A vital part of cultural heritage"

National Librarian Kimmo Tuominen praises the foundations for supporting such a significant cultural effort and highlights the success of the previous joint project, which digitized all Swedish-language newspapers up to 1949 between 2021 and 2023.

SLS CEO Björn Teir notes that the magazines offer a unique window into Finland-Swedish identity, scientific life and grassroots movements. Kopiosto CEO Valtteri Niirinen adds that the project improves public access while ensuring fair compensation for creators and publishers.

Finland's Swedish-language cultural heritage is now entering a new digital era — open, searchable and accessible to everyone.

Source: University of Helsinki / National Library of Finland

PHOTO: Swedish-language magazines available on the Digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi service. National Library

MUSEUMCARD

Museum card breaks records – every second museum visit with a fee is made with the card. What are the most popular museums in Ostrobothnia?

The attractiveness of museums is not diminishing: in 2025, Finns made a total of 8.6 million museum visits, almost the same number as in the previous year. There were 4.8 million paid visits, of which 51 per cent were made with the museum card.

Last year, there were 2.45 million visits with museum cards, and the number of card users rose to

363,000 in Finland – an increase of six per cent. The ten-year-old Museum Card has established itself in the wallets of culture enthusiasts across the country.

Pekka Impiö, CEO of FMA Creations Oy, says that interest continues to grow: "The card is actively used all over Finland, and more and more people are buying it for themselves or as a gift."

Most popular Museum Card destinations in Ostrobothnia 2025

Museum of Ostrobothnia, Vaasa
Kuntsi Museum of Modern Art,

Vaasa
Tikanoja Art Museum, Vaasa
Wasa Graffitilandia, Vaasa
The Carlsro Museum, Kristines-tad

The most popular destinations with Museum Card 2025 were mainly in the capital:

Ateneum Art Museum, Helsinki
Amos Rex, Helsinki
Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, Helsinki
Didrichsen Art Museum, Helsinki
HAM Helsinki Art Museum, Helsinki

Vapriikki Museum Centre, Tampere
Heureka, Vantaa
Natural History Museum LUOMUS, Helsinki
Exhibition Centre WeeGee, Espoo
Museum of Architecture and Design, Helsinki

The Museum Card is an annual ticket to more than 360 museums from the Åland Islands to Inari. The income from the card system is refunded to the museums based on the number of visitors.
Source: Museum Card

YOUR HEALTH

Coffee Protects Against Alzheimer's – But Without Sugar!

For years, coffee has been touted as more than just a morning pick-me-up. Studies have hinted at its potential to protect against neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Now, a large, long-term study has provided compelling evidence, confirming the link and, crucially, revealing a vital caveat: the protective effect only applies to unsweetened and caffeinated coffee.

The research, published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, followed over 200,000 participants in the UK Biobank for a median of nine years. Researchers meticulously tracked their coffee consumption, categorizing it by type: sugar-sweetened, artificially sweetened, unsweetened, caffeinated, and decaffeinated. They then analyzed the incidence of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD), Parkinson's disease (PD), and mortality related to these conditions.

The results were striking. Individuals who consumed the highest amount of unsweetened, caffeinated coffee (at least three cups a day) showed a significantly reduced risk of both ADRD and PD compared to those who didn't drink coffee. Specifically, they had a 25% lower risk of ADRD and a 29% lower risk of PD. This protective effect extended even to reducing the risk of death from neurodegenerative causes, although this finding was not statistically significant.

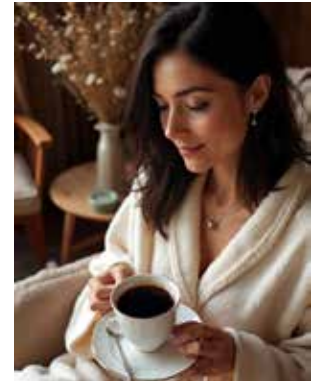
However, the study also revealed a crucial detail: this protective effect vanished when sugar, either natural or artificial, was added to the coffee. Neither sugar-sweetened nor artificially sweetened coffee showed any significant association with a reduced risk of neurodegenerative diseases. Similarly, decaffeinated coffee offered no protective benefits.

This distinction is key. While previous studies have suggested a link between coffee and reduced dementia risk, they often failed to differentiate between various coffee types. This new research clarifies the picture, emphasizing that the benefits are specifically tied to the combination of caffeine and the absence of sweeteners.

Why does this matter?

Alzheimer's and Parkinson's are devastating neurodegenerative diseases affecting millions worldwide. Finding

ways to reduce the risk of these conditions is a major public health priority. This study offers a simple, accessible lifestyle modification that could potentially make a significant difference.



What's the science behind it? While the exact mechanisms are still being investigated, several theories exist. Caffeine, a known stimulant, has been shown to have neuroprotective properties. It can block adenosine receptors in the brain, which are involved in slowing down nerve activity and promoting sleep. By blocking these receptors, caffeine may help to protect brain cells from damage.

Furthermore, coffee beans contain a variety of other compounds, including antioxidants, which can help to protect cells from damage caused by free radicals. These antioxidants may also play a role in the neuroprotective effects of coffee. However, the addition of sugar might counteract these beneficial effects through various mechanisms, such as promoting inflammation or impacting insulin sensitivity. Further research is needed to fully understand the complex interplay between coffee, caffeine, sugar, and the brain.

What should you do?

If you enjoy coffee and are concerned about your risk of neurodegenerative diseases, this study suggests that switching to unsweetened, caffeinated coffee could be a beneficial choice. Aiming for at least three cups a day appears to offer the most significant protection. However, it's essential to consult with your doctor before making any significant changes to your diet, especially if you have underlying health conditions.

This new research provides strong evidence that unsweetened, caffeinated coffee can play a role in protecting against Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. While more research is needed to fully understand the mechanisms involved, this study offers a valuable insight into the potential benefits of this popular beverage – as long as you skip the sugar.

AI

META - A NEW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The AI-War Heats up: META AI Storms the North – is this the end for CHATGPT?

Spring is in the air, but on the tech front, a full-scale battle is raging. Mark Zuckerberg’s latest weapon, Meta AI, is landing in the pockets of users across the globe with a bang. But is it making us smarter—or is it just a new way to vacuum up our personal data?

Everywhere You Already Are

While ChatGPT requires its own dedicated app and Google Gemini relies on the power of search, Meta AI strikes where we spend most of our time: Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp.

Powered by the cutting-edge Llama model, Meta AI isn’t just another chat window. It’s integrated directly into your social feeds. You can ask it to plan a grocery list for a weekend trip directly inside a WhatsApp family group, or have it analyze the fashion style of an Instagram post with a single command.

Why is Meta “Better”?

Meta’s biggest trump card is seamlessness. You never have to switch apps to get an answer. Furthermore, the new Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses take the technology a step further: you can ask, “Hey Meta, what building am I looking at?” and the AI answers directly in your ear based on what the camera sees.

Meta AI’s advantages over the “older” giants:

Integration: It lives inside the apps you already use daily.

Speed: The Llama architecture is famous for being lightning-fast and efficient.

Creativity: It is exceptionally sharp at generating images and editing content directly within social media platforms.

“This is the Swiss Army knife of the AI world. It’s not just a tool; it’s becoming a part of our social fabric,” says one tech analyst.

Is it Truly the King of the Hill?

While Meta AI excels at everyday tasks, ChatGPT still holds its ground when it comes to deep academic research and complex coding. Meta is optimized for conversation and entertainment, whereas its competitors focus more on technical precision and heavy-duty logic.

However, the rollout has raised massive privacy concerns. Meta uses public posts from Facebook and Instagram to train its AI, which has put data protection authorities on high alert. While users have the right to object, doing so often requires digging through complex settings menus.

Convenience vs. Privacy: You Decide

Meta AI is undoubtedly the most “social” AI available today. It might not be the world’s smartest professor, but it’s that quick-witted friend who is always available in your group chat. Is it better? That depends entirely on whether you value convenience more than your personal data.

IMAGES: On the top of Mount Everest. Images from META



UKRAINE PRESIDENT

It Is Fair to Give the Iranian People a Chance to Rid Themselves of a Terrorist Regime and to Guarantee Security for All Nations That Have Suffered From Terror Originating in Iran – Address by the President

28.2.2026
I wish you good health!

Today has been packed with international work. Rustem Umerov has already delivered a briefing following this week's meetings with envoys of President Trump. We discussed the main outcomes of the Geneva meetings – mostly on economic matters and reconstruction. And we are continuing preparations for the trilateral format, whenever that may take place.

Right now, we see that events

in the Middle East and the Gulf region are unfolding extremely rapidly. Unfortunately, Ukraine knows all too well what this is about. Although Ukrainians never threatened Iran, the Iranian regime chose to become Putin's accomplice and supplied him with "shahed" drones, and not only the drones themselves, but also the technologies. Iran also provided other weapons to Russia. Over the course of this full-scale war, the Russians have used more than 57,000 shahed-type attack drones against Ukraine – against our people, against our cities, and against our energy infrastructure. Other nations have also suffered from this terror. Therefore, it is fair to give the Iranian people a chance to rid themselves of a terrorist regime – to rid themselves of it and to guarantee security for all nations that have suffered from

terror originating in Iran.

Our position – it's well-known, and Ukraine has stated it repeatedly, including recently. It is important to preserve as many lives as possible. It is important to prevent the war from expanding. It is important that the United States is acting decisively. Whenever there is American resolve, global criminals weaken. This understanding must also come to the Russians. People cannot know the day or the hour, yet every act of evil, terror, and aggression against neighbors ultimately meets a just response. We expect that, in the end, the Middle East region will become safer and more stable. Much has already changed toward that goal. Ukraine is ready to help every nation so that security and justice increase, and terrorist

regimes decrease.

Depending on the security situation and real diplomatic possibilities, the time and place of the next meeting of our team and the U.S. team – the meeting with the Russians – will be determined. Russia must end its aggression against us – against Ukraine and against all of Europe. And security must be guaranteed. I have issued updated directives to our negotiating team and the broader Ukrainian diplomatic team. Peace is needed – true peace – and a real possibility for people to live freely and to live safely.

Also today, an important meeting was held here in Kyiv with representatives from the Netherlands – a state that is one of the leaders in supporting Ukraine and our defense. I want to express my gratitude that members of the new Dutch government – the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs – came almost immediately to visit us here in Ukraine. And that speaks volumes. I am thankful for it. I briefed them on the security situation and on what our intelligence expects from Russia in the near future. Of course, we

also discussed the prospects for negotiations. I am grateful for the Netherlands' readiness to continue supporting our state and our people. Our priority remains air defense. The Netherlands contributes significantly both through the PURL initiative and on a bilateral basis. We will continue this cooperation. At all levels with the Netherlands, with all our partners in Europe, and with all partners in the free world, we will continue building relationships that enhance protection for life.

I thank everyone who is helping us!
Glory to Ukraine!



COPYRIGHT: The Presidential Office of Ukraine. All materials featured on this site are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International. The use of any materials posted on the website is permitted provided you link to www.president.gov.ua regardless of full or partial use of materials.

ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Fanny Churberg
12.12.1845, Vaasa
10.5.1892, Helsinki
Girls on the Shore, 1869
Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum
Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Jenni Nurminen

George Orwell 1984 19

The eyeless creature with the quacking voice would never be vaporized. The little beetle-like men who scuttle so nimbly through the labyrinthine corridors of Ministries they, too, would never be vaporized. And the girl with dark hair, the girl from the Fiction Department—she would never be vaporized either. It seemed to him that he knew instinctively who would survive and who would perish: though just what it was that made for survival, it was not easy to say.

At this moment he was dragged out of his reverie with a violent jerk. The girl at the next table had turned partly round and was looking at him. It was the girl with dark hair. She was looking at him in a sidelong way, but with curious intensity. The instant she caught his eye she looked away again.

The sweat started out on Winston's backbone. A horrible pang of terror went through him. It was gone almost at once, but it left a sort of nagging uneasiness behind. Why was she watching him? Why did she keep following him

about? Unfortunately he could not remember whether she had already been at the table when he arrived, or had come there afterwards. But yesterday, at any rate, during the Two Minutes Hate, she had sat immediately behind him when there was no apparent need to do so. Quite likely her real object had been to listen to him and make sure whether he was shouting loudly enough.

His earlier thought returned to him: probably she was not actually a member of the Thought Police, but then it was precisely the amateur spy who was the greatest danger of all. He did not know how long she had been looking at him, but perhaps for as much as five minutes, and it was possible that his features had not been perfectly under control. It was terribly dangerous to let your thoughts wander when you were in any public place or within range of a telescreen. The smallest thing could give you away.

A nervous tic, an unconscious look of anxiety, a habit of muttering to yourself—anything that carried with it the suggestion of abnormality, of having something to hide. In any case, to wear an improper expression on

your face (to look incredulous when a victory was announced, for example)

was itself a punishable offence. There was even a word for it in Newspeak:

FACECRIME, it was called.

The girl had turned her back on him again. Perhaps after all she was not really following him about, perhaps it was coincidence that she had sat so

close to him two days running. His cigarette had gone out, and he laid it carefully on the edge of the table. He would finish smoking it after work, if he could keep the tobacco in it. Quite likely the person at the next table was a spy of the Thought Police, and quite likely he would be in the cellars of the Ministry of Love within three days, but a cigarette end must not be wasted. Syme had folded up his strip of paper and stowed it away in his pocket. Parsons had begun talking again.

'Did I ever tell you, old boy,' he said, chuckling round the stem of his pipe, 'about the time when those two nippers of mine set fire to the old market-woman's skirt because they saw her wrapping up sausages in a poster of B.B.? Sneaked up behind her and set fire to it with a box of matches. Burned her quite badly, I believe. Little beggars, eh? But keen as mustard! That's a first-rate training they give them in the Spies nowadays—better than in my day, even. What d'you think's the latest thing they've served them out with? Ear trumpets for listening through keyholes! My little girl brought one home the other night—tried it out on our sitting-room door, and reckoned she could hear twice as much as with her ear to the hole. Of course it's only a toy, mind you. Still, gives 'em the right idea, eh?'

At this moment the telescreen let out a piercing whistle. It was the signal to return to work. All three men sprang to their feet to join in



the struggle round the lifts, and the remaining tobacco fell out of Winston's cigarette.

Chapter 6

Winston was writing in his diary:

It was three years ago. It was on a dark evening, in a narrow side-street near one of the big railway stations. She was standing near a doorway in the wall, under a street lamp that hardly gave any light. She had a young face, painted very thick. It was really the paint that appealed to me, the whiteness of it, like a mask, and the bright red lips. Party women never paint their faces. There was nobody else in the street, and no telescreens. She said two dollars. I---

For the moment it was too difficult to go on. He shut his eyes and pressed his fingers against them, trying to squeeze out the vision that kept recurring. He had an almost overwhelming temptation to shout a string of filthy words at the top of his voice. Or to bang his head against the wall, to kick over the table, and hurl the inkpot through the window—to do any violent or noisy or painful thing that might black out the memory that was tormenting him.

Your worst enemy, he reflected, was your own nervous system. At any moment the tension inside you was liable to translate itself into some visible symptom. He thought of a man whom he had passed in the street a few weeks back; a quite ordinary-looking man, a Party member, aged thirty-five to forty, tallish and thin, carrying a brief-case. They were a few metres apart when the left side of the man's face was suddenly contorted by a sort of spasm. It happened again just as they were passing one another: it was only a twitch, a quiver, rapid as the clicking of a camera shutter, but obviously habitual. He remembered thinking at the time: That poor devil is done for. And what was frightening was that the action was quite possibly unconscious. The most deadly danger of all was talking in your sleep. There was no way of guarding against that, so far as he could see.

HUMOUR ONE HUND- RED YEARS AGO

FROM A SMALL CHILD- REN'S SCHOOL IN VY- BORG

The children had been given the task of drawing figures that would illustrate what the children intended to be when they grew up. Thus one boy had designed a sailing ship, so he wanted to be a sailor, another an automobile, he was to be a driver, etc.

Little Elsa had not drawn at all. When the teacher asked why she had not made any drawings, the girl replied "I'm going to get married, but I don't know how it's drawn."

IN PRISON

Prison Director: What, you're here again! I thought your last visit here would have improved you? Prisoner: It did, sir, but I want to be even better.

THEFT ON THE WAY

Movie actress: I beg you to write in your newspaper about the theft of my jewels!
Reporter: When did it take place?
Film actor: Next Monday.

EXPENSIVE DRESS

Wife: I want a new dress.
Doctor-man: Oh yes, then I have to look through my patient list, maybe someone still has their appendix.

TO COUNT CORRECTLY. AND WRONG.

Teacher: Why do you always add wrong?
Student: I don't know.
Teacher: Is someone helping you?
Student: Yes, my dad.
Teacher: What is he then?
Student: Waiter.

TRYING TO LOSE WEIGHT

"I told you that you would say no the second time you were offered cake."
"I did, but they invited me three times and then I didn't know what to do."

To complain to a newspaper

The editor: — And this joke you say must be new? My grandmother already told me that when she was a little girl.

CHILD MAIDEN

— My miss, how can you read your novel when the child screams so terribly.

The nanny: — Bad, my lord, and since you're also bothering me, I cannot read at all.

IN COURT

— Mr. Judge, my husband called me "you old cow", and then he threw me out. I request that he be punished.
— Good, Mrs. H. We judge him to take you in again.

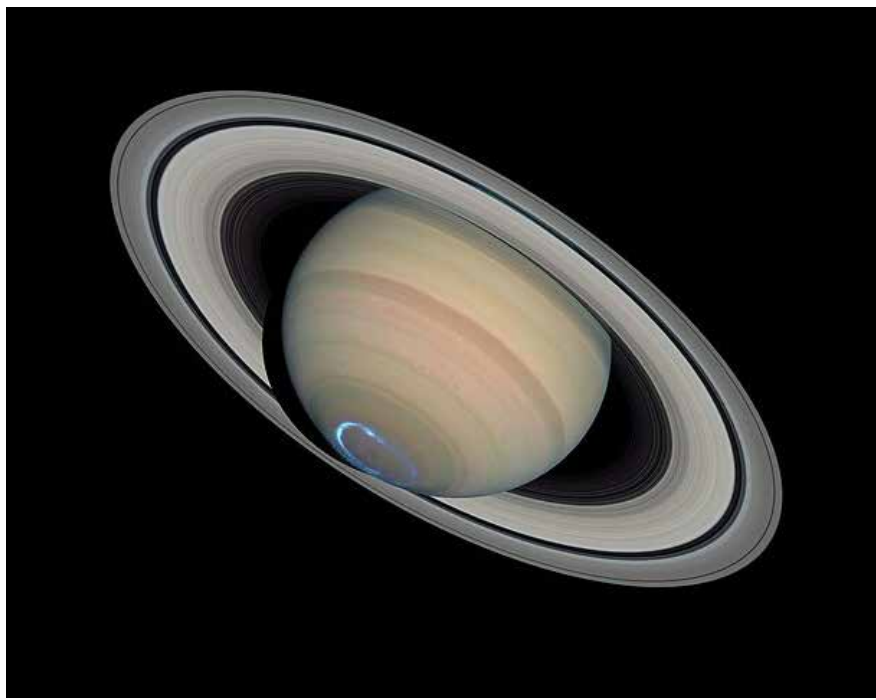
AFTER THE LETTER.

The newlywed husband: But dear, little one, this pudding is full of eggshells. The young lady: Yes, I have also used four eggs. The man; But
Wife: It's not a "but" at all, because it's clearly stated in the cookbook: Then you take four whole eggs.

TERRIBLE VIEWS.

Little Greta comes to her mother one day and says that her schoolmates said that her father and mother are going to divorce and she will be divided!

Astronomic picture of the week:



SATURN WITH AURORAS

Photomontage of Saturn with a false-colour image of ultraviolet aurora taken with the Imaging Spectrograph on January 24 superimposed on an image of visible light taken with the Advanced Camera for Surveys on March 22, 2004 from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope

NASA, ESA, J. Clarke (Boston University), and Z. Levay (STScI)

Public domain

BLOG WRITERS

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

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

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

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

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

WASA DAILY

A modern newspaper with a layout with features of the press of the 1870s. Back then, newspapers had only 4-8 pages. Lots of text, but no images at all, so there's a lot to read on a few pages. Our paper is one of the very few newspapers in English serving English-speaking inhabitants in the Ostrobotnia 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 MARCH 2026

Fabulous March Horoscope

Aries (March 21–April 19)
Spring energy is rushing through your veins! Unfortunately, you keep forgetting your umbrella everywhere. No worries — you're not made of sugar (probably).

Taurus (April 20–May 20)
The slushy remains of winter make you grumpy, but you pretend to be fine. Curl up on the couch, drink a liter of tea, and refuse to acknowledge that March is technically a spring month.

Gemini (May 21–June 20)
Your brain is overflowing with ideas and plans! Too bad you'll only follow through with one. But hey, thinking about doing something is practically the same as doing it, right?

Cancer (June 21–July 22)
You're feeling extra emotional and nostalgic. Try not to call your ex or cry over old weather forecasts. Spring is coming — promise!

Leo (July 23–August 22)
The sun is finally peeking out, and you can return to your natural habitat — the center of attention. Just remember, wearing sunglasses doesn't make March a summer month.

Virgo (August 23–September 22)
You're already spring-cleaning, but spring doesn't seem to be cleaning up for you. Breathe deeply and accept that dust bunnies, like old friends, always come back.

Libra (September 23–October 22)
Do you know what you want? No. But that's okay, because you just accidentally mixed up three different coffee orders at the café. Let the adventure begin!

Scorpio (October 23–November 21)
You are mysterious and irresistible — except when you're struggling to put on your winter boots in a hurry. Let spring arrive at its own pace, like a really good thriller.

Sagittarius (November 22–December 21)
March brings big opportunities! Or maybe just more slush. But your attitude is everything, so keep your shoes dry and your spirits high.

Capricorn (December 22–January 19)
You have a plan for spring. The universe has another. Flexibility is the key to success — and to not losing your temper when the bus is late.

Aquarius (January 20–February 18)
Your creative mind is inventing a new spring fashion trend. Too bad it involves sandals and wool socks. Maybe not yet, but we admire your vision!

Pisces (February 19–March 20)
Birthdays and spring vibes turn you into a hopeless romantic. Just make sure you don't wander straight into a snowdrift while gazing at the sunshine. Dream big — but watch where you're going!!

