

Wasa Daily

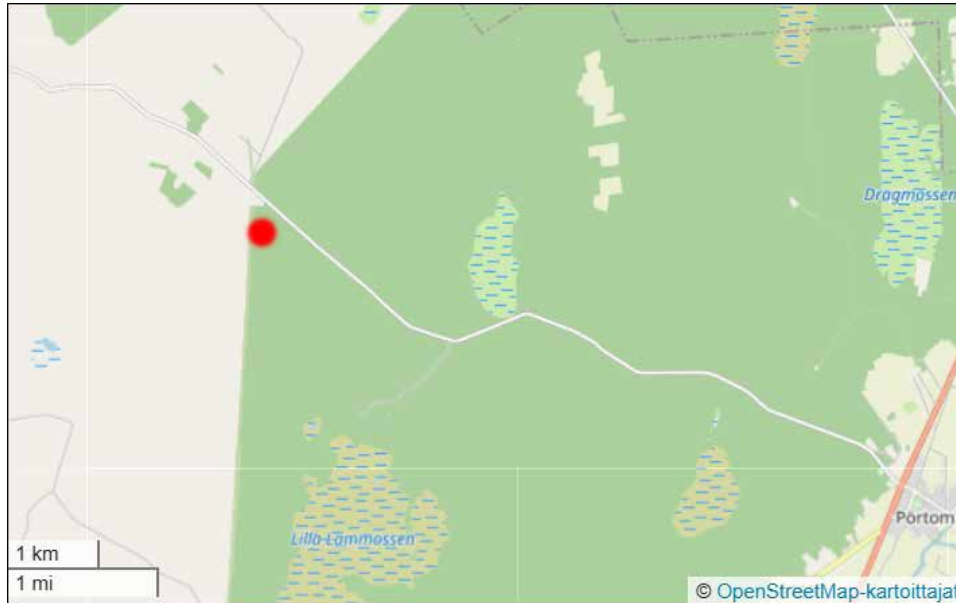
Wasa Daily Nr 10 Sunday, March 8, 2026 — Our fourth Year — ISSN 2965-2456

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



PÖRTOM

AI Powerhouse Coming to Pörtom: Energy Needs Match a Whole City!



A massive 100 MW AI data center is set to transform Pörtom, Närpes, with electricity consumption equivalent to the city of Vaasa.

Developed by BESS Solutions Finland and a US-listed partner, the project is sche-

duled for a late 2026 construction start. This major investment is expected to create 300 jobs during construction and over 50 permanent positions.

Mayor Mikaela Björklund welcomes the move as a key step in diversifying the local economy. Located

next to an existing substation, the facility will securely handle vast data volumes without the need for new transmission lines, marking a new era for regional digitalization.

Map: Open Data Commons Open Databas
Source: : BESS Solutions Finland

Image of the Week:



International Women's Day

CITY THEATRE

A Tribute to the Boundless Imagination of Children



Vaasa City Theatre's new production Aladdin and the Magic Lamp pays tribute to the boundless imagination of children and the transformative power of play.

The classic tale from One Thousand and One Nights is reimagined for today's audiences as a fast-paced, visually rich adventure that begins not in a distant land,

but in a child's bedroom. When sleep won't come, a child recalls a favourite story and casts themselves as Aladdin, while toys take on the roles of legendary characters.

The production blends comedy, suspense and heartfelt emotion, highlighting themes of honesty, courage and the magic of storytelling. With its energetic staging and colourful world-building, the show invites viewers of all ages to rediscover how imagination can turn the ordinary into the extraordinary.

The theatre describes the work as both a joyful spectacle and a reminder that play opens doors to worlds where anything is possible.
PHOTO: Aladdin and the magic lamp (2026) Kasper Dalkarl

PARLIAMENT

Ellen Bos appointed as Ingo's new parliamentary aide

Member of Parliament Christoffer Ingo (SFP) has appointed Ellen Bos as his new aide. Bos, with experience in journalism and studies in international law, began her duties on March 2 and will support Ingo in communication, political preparation and committee work.
Source: SFP



PARLIAMENT

Finnish Minister appoints new assistant – "Excellent qualifications"

New role. European Affairs Minister Joakim Strand (SPP) has appointed Josephine Sundqvist as his new parliamentary assistant. Sundqvist is a fourth-year law student at the University of Helsinki's Vaasa unit with a background in banking. "As a law student, Josephine has excellent qualifications to support me," says Strand. Sundqvist, from Nykarleby, is eager to promote regional interests in politics.
Source: SPP



TODAY

EDITORIAL

A day to celebrate progress – and continue the fight

Today, March 8, International Women's Day is celebrated all over the world. It is a day to stop, reflect and celebrate – but also to remind ourselves that the fight for gender equality has not yet been won.

International Women's Day has remarkable roots. It all started in 1909 in New York, when female textile workers organized the first "Women's Day" to protest against inhumane working conditions. A year later, the German socialist Clara Zetkin proposed at an international socialist congress in Copenhagen that the day should be international. On March 19, 1911, the first International Women's Day was celebrated in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland – with over a million participants.

But it was the events of March 8, 1917, that cemented the date. In St. Petersburg, women went on strike for "bread and peace", in protest against the food shortages, miserable living conditions and the First World War. Their courage sparked the Russian Revolution and led to the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II. Russian women were given the right to vote – one year before British women and three years before American women. Since 1975, the United Nations has officially recognized March 8 as International Women's Day.

Today, the picture is mixed. We have made enormous progress. Women lead countries, companies and organisations. The level of education among women has never been higher. The right to vote, which was once radical, is now self-evident in most democracies. The #MeToo movement has broken the silence around sexual harassment and violence. Women's voices are heard in a way that was unthinkable a century ago.

But let's be honest: gender equality is



still not a reality. Women earn less on average than men for the same work. They are underrepresented in leadership and overrepresented in unpaid care work. Violence against women is a global pandemic that requires urgent action. In some parts of the world, girls are denied education and women basic human rights.

International Women's Day is therefore more than a celebration – it is a reminder of what has already been achieved and what remains to be done. It is a day when we honor the pioneers: the suffragettes who fought for suffrage, activists like Clara Zetkin and Rosa Parks, and millions of nameless women whose daily struggles have paved the way for us.

But most importantly: this day does not belong only to women. Gender equality is not a zero-sum game. When girls receive an education, the whole society benefits. When women receive equal pay, the economy is strengthened. When women are included in decision-making, better decisions are made. Gender equality does not only liberate women – it frees us all from limited gender norms and stereotypes.

One theme for this year's Women's Day is "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future". It reminds us that women's leadership is crucial to solving the greatest challenges of our time – from the climate crisis to social justice.

So today let's celebrate how far we've come. But let us also commit ourselves to completing the work that women began over a hundred years ago. Because gender equality is not a women's issue – it is a human right and a democratic imperative.

NEWS

HANKEN

Hanken wins the jackpot: Over 2.5 million euros to attract top researchers – "This strengthens our security"

Hanken School of Business has received significant funding of EUR 2.5 million from the Academy of Finland. With the funding, a leading international researcher comes to Hanken, with a special focus on disaster management and societal resilience.

This is part of the Academy of Finland's larger package of EUR 27.5 million, which will attract 11 leading international experts to Finland. The funds Hanken receives will be used to recruit a new professor and his research group.

Professor Adriana Leiras, who will start her work in early April, will focus her research on the effectiveness and equity of humanitarian aid. The background is the perspective of security of supply and comprehensive security – how climate change affects disaster preparedness and the success



of relief efforts, for example.

"In particular, we study the effectiveness and effectiveness of humanitarian aid and its relationship to the Sustainable Development Goals," says Gyöngyi Kovács, Head of Research at Hanken.

The new professorship strengthens Hanken's well-known HUMLOG Institute, which specializes in research in humanitarian logistics. The funding is part of the Academy's Profi9 initiative, which strengthens the international competitiveness of

Finnish universities and the quality of research.

"It is very motivating to be able to strengthen research that helps us better prepare for and respond to future crises," Leiras rejoices.

Hanken operates on its campuses in Helsinki and Vaasa, and is particularly known for its strong corporate collaboration and international engagement.

Source: Hanken, Vaasa
Photo: Jani Hakomäki, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0

UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

University of Vaasa's top three: New master's programmes respond to the challenges of the time – artificial intelligence and resilience are gaining ground



The University of Vaasa is once again making a strong contribution to the field of education. In autumn 2026, three new, highly topical master's programmes will be launched, whose themes stem directly from today's global megatrends: resilience and artificial intelligence.

The application period for the new programmes starts on Monday 2 March and lasts until the end of the month. There are a total of up to 2000 study places available for different degree programmes, but the focus is particularly on

three new programmes.

The first Master's programme to be launched in Finland is the Master's Programme in Preparedness and Resilience, which trains experts in identifying risks and managing security networks in a changing world. The program responds directly to society's growing need to strengthen comprehensive security and preparedness.

The other two novelties delve into the artificial intelligence revolution. In the Artificial Intelligence for Accounting and Finance programme, students learn how to use machi-

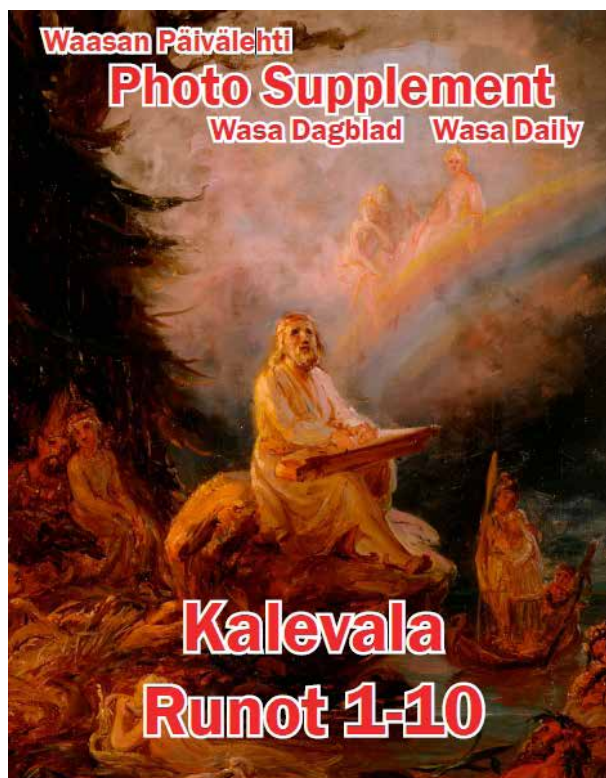
ne learning and generative artificial intelligence, among other things, in demanding tasks in the financial sector. Artificial intelligence and analytics, on the other hand, provide a strong mathematical foundation for the application of artificial intelligence in an interdisciplinary way, leading to either a Master of Science in Technology, a Master of Science in Business and Economics, or a Master of Science in Administrative Sciences.

"We want to train not only those who react to change, but also those who shape it themselves. The new programmes will directly serve Finland's economic growth, energy transition and digital transformation," says Rector Minna Martikainen proudly.

The application period starts next week, and the university is once again expecting a large number of applicants – in recent years, it has profiled itself as the fastest growing university in Finland, where the employment of recent graduates is among the best in the country.

Photo and source: University of Vaasa

Photo Supplement



NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE

Study reveal a hard fact about machine-translated subtitles: "Works for information transmission, but the quality is poor"

A recently published doctoral thesis from the University of Tampere praises and criticizes machine-translated subtitles. While automatic translation can convey important information, it is not a winner over a professional translator.



In her doctoral thesis, researcher Frederike Schierl investigated how viewers experience subtitles produced by machines and humans in educational videos. The results were surprising: machine translation is no more disruptive or cognitively burdensome for the viewer than the professional translator's version. There was also

no significant difference in learning level.

"Machine translated subtitles work when the goal is to transmit information. They are particularly useful when there is no other way to obtain information," concludes Schierl.

But: quality problems are obvious. The machine often translates the words too literally and does not follow the subtitling requirements.

A professional translator, on the other hand, knows how to show empathy, summarize and create fluent reading.

The viewers who participated in the study clearly preferred human-made subtitles, although learning went almost equally well in both ways. Eye tracking showed that the viewing behavior depends surprisingly much on the viewer's own language skills.

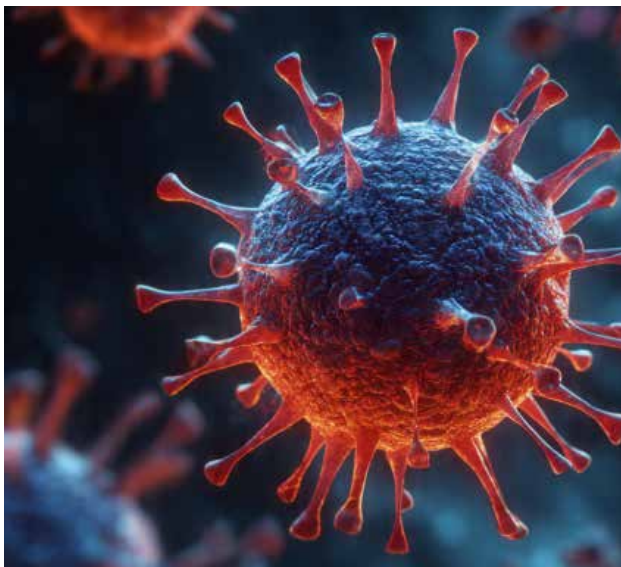
Schierl points out that machine translations have potential, but that they should be used with caution.

"They may be suitable for entertainment, but in more sensitive contexts they should only be used when modified by humans.

Source: University of Tampere
Photo: Tiia Monto
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CORONA

THL: That's why people didn't die in Finland – "Many things could have gone differently"



As Europe mourns hundreds of thousands of coronavirus deaths, Finland can breathe a sigh of relief – at least almost.

A recent giant study reveals that we coped with excess mortality during the pandemic much better than many countries. The reason for this was the drastic restrictions, which kept the elderly in particular alive through the first waves.

But, but... This is where the story gets a twist. Tuija Leino, Research Professor at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, points out that the whistles and dances were short. When the restrictions worked too well, an "immunity debt" was created. When the elderly's resistance to other diseases began to weaken, the clock began to tick in the other direction.

"Due to the restrictions, the effects were also slightly prolonged," Leino says

diplomatically.

In other words: Finland succeeded in postponing the inevitable, but not in avoiding it completely. Those who were both vaccinated and met with the virus fared best – like nature's own booster shot. Would any other strategy have worked better? The professor does not take a stand, but leaves a tantalizing thought in the air:

"Many things could have gone differently.

This study shows that there is always a more complex story behind the mortality rates. Finland did not "avoid" all deaths, but they were postponed to a later date. This is an important reminder that assessing a pandemic requires perseverance – and that simple headlines rarely tell the whole truth. It would be interesting to know how this "prolonged mortality" is visible, for example, right now, when the follow-up period of the study has already ended.

Source: THL
Photo: META

LAIHIA

Live camera monitoring



The municipality of Laihia has introduced live camera monitoring in the

upper school and Rauhala school areas to improve safety and prevent vandalism.

The cameras cover only public outdoor spaces, such as yards and entrances, and footage is viewed in real time only when necessary. Recorded material is accessed solely when there is justified suspicion of a crime, damage or a safety-related incident, and all handling follows data protection regulations. The aim is to ensure a safe and pleasant environment for pupils, staff and other users of the school premises. Image: Upper school camera

HEALTH CARE

New Feature Lets Users Check Booked Health Appointments



Residents in Ostrobothnia can now view their upcoming healthcare appointments directly in the updated OVPH app

The new feature allows users to check the time and location of their booked visits and update their contact details with ease. The app is integrated into the region's patient information system, ensuring that appointment data appears automatically. More detailed changes—such as booking, modifying or cancelling times—continue to be handled through the national online health service. Laboratory appointments made via Fimlab are not yet visible in the app.

VAASA MUSEUMS

Vaasa Museums Seek Hidden Works for Upcoming Exhibition

Vaasa Museums are preparing an autumn exhibition on the Önningeby artists' colony and continue to gather information on the works of Elin Alfhild Nordlund (1861–1941) and Eva Topelius Acke (1855–1929).



The museum is searching for paintings, sketches, photographs and background details from both private and public collections. Nordlund and Topelius Acke, originally

from Ostrobothnia, were active around the turn of the 20th century and contributed significantly to Nordic art. The exhibition at Tikanoja Art Home aims to deepen understanding

of their careers and uncover lesser-known or previously unidentified works. Image: Elin Alfhild Nordlund: Främsnabba, Önningebymuseet.

Wasa Daily

Nearly everything You want to know, in eight pages

vpress.fi

SAVING WATER

A one-song shower – a small act that makes a big difference



Vaasa challenges its residents to do something that sounds ridiculously easy and surprisingly difficult at the same time: take a shower for just one song. No album, no playlist, no "still this chorus" stretching,

but a single song. Three minutes. As much as a lasting pop hit usually takes. And although the thought may make you smile, there is a serious and topical concern in the background: water and

energy consumption.

The City of Vaasa points out that each resident of Vaasa uses an average of 118 litres of water per day. When this is multiplied by the city's population, we end up with more than eight million litres of water per day. Most of this is not spent on laundry or cooking, but on showering.

The shower also consumes a lot of energy, as up to 60 percent of the shower water is warm. Heating it consumes about a third of the home's annual heating energy. When the shower lasts ten minutes, about 120 litres of water are consumed. A three-minute shower, on the other hand, only takes about 40 litres. The difference is huge – and you can feel it both in the environment and in your wallet.

Miksi juuri yksi biisi?

Kampanjan nerokkuus piilee yksinkertaisuudessa. Ajan mittaaminen kellolla on tylsää, mutta lempibiisin tahtiin peseytyminen on yllättävän hauskaa. Musiikki

rytmittää tekemistä ja auttaa pitämään suihkun kestoltaan napakkana. Samalla se tekee säästämisestä konkreettista: kun hana sulkeutuu ennen kertosaakeen toistoa, tietää tehneensä jotakin hyvää.

Vaasa ei ole yksin ajatuksensa kanssa. Useat energiayhtiöt ja ympäristötoimijat ovat viime vuosina korostaneet lyhyiden suihkujen merkitystä. Pienetkin muutokset – kuten veden turhan juoksutuksen välttäminen, suihkun sulkeminen saippuoinnin ajaksi ja vettä säästävien suihkupäiden käyttö – voivat vähentää kulutusta huomattavasti.

Pieni teko, suuri vaikutus

Yhden biisin suihku ei ole vain kampanja, vaan muistutus siitä, että arjen rutiineissa piilee valtava potentiaali. Kun jokainen vaasalainen lyhentää suihkuaan muutamalla minuutilla, vaikutus kertautuu. Vedenpuhdistus, veden lämmitys ja veden siirtäminen koteihin kuluttavat energiaa ja resursseja. Vaasassa tämä korostuu, koska hanavesi on pintavettä, joka vaatii enemmän puhdistusta. Joka-

inen lyhennetty suihku säästää siis paitsi vettä ja energiaa myös kaupungin infrastruktuuria.

Samalla kyse on asenteesta. Kun opimme suhtautumaan veteen arvokkaana luonnonvarana, opimme myös näkemään oman vaikutuksemme ympäristöön. Suihkussa ei tarvitse kiihrettiä hermostuneena, mutta turha lorottelu on helppo lopettaa. Kolme minuuttia riittää valian mainiosti – ja jos ei riitä, voi valita pidemmän kappaleen, kunhan pysyy kohtuudessa.

Pieni huumori auttaa muistamaan

On helppo kuvitella, kuinka vaasalaiset nyt valitsevat suihkubiisejä yhtä tarkasti kuin juhannuksen grillilistaa. "Tämä on liian lyhyt, tällä ei ehdi hiuksiin asti." "Tämä on liian pitkä, menee koko kampanjan idea." Ehkä joku jopa perustelee pitkän suihkun sillä, että kuunteli progea.

Mutta juuri tällainen hyväntuulinen ote tekee kampanjasta toimivan. Se ei syyllistä, vaan kannustaa. Se ei vaadi täydellisyyttä, vaan pieniä tekoja. Ja pienistä teoista syntyy iso muutos.

KUVA: META

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: EU high representative Kaija Kallas talking in Switzerland on March 5 about Russia and peace



"In the last 100 years, Russia has attacked at least 19 countries. I am not counting those in Africa.

So, 19 countries, some as many as three or four times, none of these countries has ever attacked Russia. So, in order to stop this cycle of wars, we really need to see what Russia is willing to concede.

They have very good negotiation tactics, which they have been very clear about. First, you demand something that has never been yours, and you demand, you require. Then you present ultimatums, use force, and then there will always be people in the West who will offer you something you did not have before.

And this is exactly the trap that we are walking into if we are considering what we are offering to Russia. In this war, there is one aggressor and one victim. If we offer something to Russia, actually, we are appeasing the dictator, and the appetite just grows and we will have more wars. We have done that before. We have seen the Minsk Agreements doing exactly that, and that's why, if we want to break the cycle of wars, we have to do it differently this time.

There was one historian who said that in order for a country to become better, it has to lose its last colonial war, and Russia is conducting its colonial war right now, let us make sure that is its last."

Photo: © European Union, 1998 –

VAASANB SÄHKÖ

Energy firm thrives as revenue dips – "Not a given in this market

Vaasan Sähkö's revenue fell 15% to €185 million, but operating profit remained strong at €32.4 million

CEO Stefan Damlin credits investments in flexible production and storage. Electricity sales even turned profitable for the first time in years amid fierce competition. The equity ratio rose to 56%. "Achieving a good result in a volatile market is not a given," Damlin states.

Source: Vaasan Sähkö



ART

YOUR HEALTH

EXHIBITION

Master of Magic Realism: Eero Nelimarkka's Major Return to Ateneum!

The Art Museum Ateneum presents a long-awaited retrospective of Eero Nelimarkka (1891–1977), running from March 13 to September 13, 2026.

This is the first extensive look at his life's work in over 40 years, charting his journey from a washer-woman's son in Vaasa to one of Finland's most cherished icons. While famous for his Ostrobothnian landscapes, this exhibition highlights his extraordinary psychological portraits and eerie, "magical realist" still lifes.

Having painted more self-portraits than perhaps any other Finnish artist, Nelimarkka invites viewers to see the world through his unique lens. Featuring rare loans from across the country, this exhibition is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rediscover a true Finnish master.

Source: Ateneum



Eero Nelimarkka: *From the Studio* (1940). Collection of the National Gallery / Ateneum Art Museum, Ahlström collection. Photo: National Gallery / Hannu Pakarinen.



Eero Nelimarkka: *Self-portrait* (1922). Collection of the National Gallery / Ateneum Art Museum. Photo: National Gallery / Hannu Pakarinen.



Eero Nelimarkka: *At the Door* (1918). HAM Helsinki Art Museum, Leonard and Katarina Bäcksbacka collection. Photo: HAM / Hanna Kukorelli.

Quick Facts:

Eero Nelimarkka at Ateneum-
 Dates: March 13 – September 13, 2026
 Venue: Ateneum Art Museum, Helsinki
 Content: Paintings, drawings, and photographs covering his entire career
 Key Themes: Portraits, self-portraits, and magical realism
 Curator: Riitta Ojanperä (Finnish National Gallery)
 Historical Note: The first major comprehensive exhibition since 1982
 Source: Ateneum



Eero Nelimarkka: *Röda tofflor* (1917). Privat samling. Foto: Nationalgalleriet / Hannu Pakarinen.

BRAIN INJURY WEEK

Sudden brain damage can happen to anyone



Brain Injury Week reminds us that sudden brain damage can happen to anyone – regardless of age, life situation or state of health.

In Finland, approximately 36,000 people suffer an accidental brain injury every year, and approximately 25,000 people suffer from cerebrovascular disorders – such as stroke, cerebral haemorrhage or TIA attacks. In total, the aftermath of sudden brain damage affects as many as 200,000 Finns, and when family members are included, the impact extends to up to a million people.

Brain injury is not always visible to the outside world

Brain injuries and other sudden brain injuries are deceptive because their consequences are often not visible on the surface. Päivi Hakkarainen, Executive Director of the Finnish Brain Injury Association, emphasises that cognitive symptoms – such as abnormal fatigue, impaired initiative and short-term memory difficulties – can have the greatest impact on everyday life. Still, they are easily overlooked or misinterpreted.

This invisibility can also cause misunderstandings in those close to you. When a person looks the same as before, it can be difficult to understand their altered ability to function. That is why raising awareness is one of the most important goals of Brain Injury Week.

What causes sudden brain damage?

There are many reasons behind brain damage, some of which are surprising. About accidental brain injuries:

- 60% are caused by falls and falls

- 20% in traffic accidents
- 10% as a result of violence
- the rest in sports or leisure-time accidents

Cerebrovascular disorders can be caused by, for example, hypertension, heart disease or lifestyle factors. In addition, approximately 1,000 brain tumours and a few hundred cases of encephalitis are diagnosed in

Finland every year, an increasing number of which are related to the TBE virus spread by ticks.

Life changes – but support is available

Sudden brain damage can change the direction of life in an instant. Rehabilitation is often a long process that requires both physical and mental support. The Finnish Brain Injury Association and its regional associations offer information, peer support and events that help both sufferers and their loved ones find ways to cope.

During the Brain Injury Week, free lectures, webinars and encounters will be held around Finland on topics such as brain health, balance, coping methods in everyday life and experience stories. The events are open to everyone, and their purpose is to increase understanding and lower the threshold for seeking help.

Why is mindfulness so important?

Prevention of brain damage is possible – but only if the risks are identified. Fall prevention, traffic safety, reducing the use of intoxicants and the use of protective equipment are concrete ways to reduce injuries. At the same time, it is important that people know how to recognise the symptoms of cerebrovascular disorders in time, as rapid treatment can save lives and prevent permanent damage.

Awareness also helps reduce prejudice. When we understand that a brain injury is not a sign of weakness or laziness, but a neurological injury, we can treat those affected with respect and support their rehabilitation.

Brain Injury Week invites you to join

Brain Injury Week is a reminder that brain health belongs to all of us. Everyone can influence how well our brain is doing – and how well we can support those who have faced a sudden change through their own choices.

Source: Finnish Brain Injury Association
 Photo: META

AI

AI

Deepseek's Amazing Year: A Complete Intelligent Partner



What a year! If you thought you knew about Deepseek, think again. The past year has been one long rollercoaster of groundbreaking innovations that have transformed Deepseek from a promising AI to a complete intelligent lifestng är det naturligt att vilja veta vad allt detta kostar och vad man får helt gratis. Låt mig reda ut begreppen – för det finns en viktig skillnad mellan att chatta med Deepseek och att använda den som utvecklare via API.

From text magic to understanding reality

The single most exciting leap is Deepseek's journey towards becoming multimodal. Today, it's no longer just about writing prompts. With the latest version, you can now interact with the AI through image, voice, and text in a single seamless dance. Imagine photographing a wilted flower in your garden and asking "What's wrong?" – Deepseek analyzes the image, identifies the plant disease, and gives you real-time care advice. Or that you sit in the car and ditch a long and complex thought with voice recording, which Deepseek structures into a perfect email while you drive.

And under the hood? Something revolutionary has happened there. Deepseek has introduced DeepSeek Sparse Attention (DSA), a new attention mechanism that's as ingenious as it is effective. Instead of drowning in information, DSA has learned to sift. It identifies the most relevant parts of a gigantic document at lightning speed and focuses all its power there. The result is a doubling of speed, a drastic reduction in memory usage – and above all: API prices have been halved. It's a victory for all of us who want to use AI without it costing a fortune.

The Secret Superpower: The Quiz Master and Mind Reader

There are ways to use Deepseek that few people know about, beyond the usual "write an email" commands.

Did you know that you can use Deepseek as your personal interactive flashcard master? Upload a 500-page textbook (with the new context zone of 128,000 tokens, that's no problem). Then ask Deepseek: "Create 50 multiple-choice questions based on chapter 3, and then act as examiner. Give me one question at a time, correct my answers, and explain why I was wrong." You've just created a personable, patient professor who is ready when you are.

Another hidden gem is the "mind reading mode". By enabling Reasoning Mode (think mode), you can tell Deepseek to "think out loud". Say you have a recurring conflict at work. You can ask Deepseek not only to give you advice, but to reason step-by-step about the underlying psychological patterns that may exist in the situation. Not only do you get an answer, you get a map of how Deepseek arrived at the answer, giving you a deeper insight and allowing you to question and hone its reasoning. It's like lifting the bonnet in the middle of driving.

For regular users: Completely free

If you, like me, love testing AI tools, I have good news: Deepseek is completely free for regular users. There is no premium version, no subscription, and you don't even need to create an account to start chatting. Deepseek has really taken up on its promise of free AI access for the public.

The only thing you might encounter is temporary limitations if you make extremely many requests in a short period of time – that's just to keep the service stable for everyone. For normal use, you won't notice any of this.

META - A NEW AI

AI competition is intensifying. Images made by META AI, which can be freely used by anyone.

This is what the Battle of Napue in Isokyrö might have looked like in 1714



UKRAINE PRESIDENT

The First Lady Met with the Newly Appointed Head of the UNICEF Office in Ukraine, Anne-Claire Dufay Demoulin

6.3.2026

First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska met with the newly appointed Head of the UNICEF Office in Ukraine, Anne-Claire Dufay Demoulin.

The President's wife thanked the former Head of the Fund's Office in Ukraine, Munir Mammadzade, and UNICEF for their reliable cooperation. Olena Zelenska expressed hope that this engagement will continue at the same level.

The First Lady noted that Ukraine and UNICEF are implementing many humanitarian initiatives together.

These include, in particular, the School Nutrition Reform. Together with UNICEF, the

national reform portal "Znaimo" was created, as well as the online course "Basics of Healthy Eating for Grades 1-4," and communication campaigns: "What Matters Is Inside" and "Choose True, Not Fake," along with the interactive project 'Hralmo'.

"We see how public attitudes toward healthy eating are gradually changing – toward more conscious consumption," Olena Zelenska emphasized.

The All-Ukrainian mental health program "How Are You?" is also being implemented. With UNICEF's support, communication campaigns have been created, the large-scale research "Mind Frames" has been conducted to better understand the psychological state of Ukrainians, the national standard for the social service "Resilience" has been developed, and the mhGAP

program for family doctors has been scaled up.

Cooperation is also underway within the framework of the National Strategy for Creating a Barrier-Free Environment, in particular through support for national communication campaigns on social change and the creation of a network of barrier-free ambassadors in various regions of Ukraine.

UNICEF also provides expert support to the Summit of First Ladies and Gentlemen and cooperates with the Olena Zelenska Foundation. Thanks to this partnership, large foster families receive support through the "From House to Home" project.

"We are grateful to UNICEF for continuing our cooperation in creating a better present and a safe future for Ukrainian children," Olena Zelenska concluded.



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ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Fanny Churberg

12.12.1845, Vaasa

10.5.1892, Helsinki

A Clearing, Uusimaa Landscape; Burnt Clearing, Landscape from Uusimaa, 1872

Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum

Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Yehia Eweis

George Orwell

1984

20

He drew his breath and went on writing:

I went with her through the doorway and across a backyard into a basement kitchen. There was a bed against the wall, and a lamp on the table, turned down very low. She----

His teeth were set on edge. He would have liked to spit. Simultaneously with the woman in the basement kitchen he thought of Katharine, his wife. Winston was married--had been married, at any rate; probably he still was married, so far as he knew his wife was not dead. He seemed to breathe again the warm stuffy odour of the basement kitchen, an odour compounded of bugs and dirty clothes and villainous cheap scent, but nevertheless alluring, because no woman of the Party ever used scent, or could be imagined as doing so. Only the proles used scent. In his mind the smell of it was inextricably mixed up with fornication.

When he had gone with that woman it had been his first lapse in two years or thereabouts. Consorting with prostitutes was forbidden, of course, but it was one of those rules that you could occasionally nerve yourself to break. It was dangerous, but it was not a life-and-death matter. To be caught with a prostitute might mean five years in a forced-labour camp; not more, if you had committed no other offence. And it was easy enough, provided that you could avoid being caught in the act. The poorer quarters swarmed with women who were ready to sell themselves. Some could even be purchased for a bottle of gin, which the proles were not supposed to drink. Tacitly the Party was even inclined to encourage prostitution, as an outlet for instincts which could not be altogether suppressed. Mere debauchery

did not matter very much, so long as it was furtive and joyless and only involved the women of a submerged and despised class. The unforgivable

crime was promiscuity between Party members. But--though this was one

of the crimes that the accused in the great purges invariably confessed to--it was difficult to imagine any such thing actually happening.

The aim of the Party was not merely to prevent men and women from forming

loyalties which it might not be able to control. Its real, undeclared purpose was to remove all pleasure from the sexual act. Not love so much

as eroticism was the enemy, inside marriage as well as outside it. All marriages between Party members had to be approved by a committee appointed for the purpose, and--though the principle was never clearly stated--permission was always refused if the couple concerned gave the impression of being physically attracted to one another. The only recognized purpose of marriage was to beget children for the service of the Party. Sexual intercourse was to be looked on as a slightly disgusting minor operation, like having an enema. This again was never put into plain words, but in an indirect way it was rubbed into every Party member from childhood onwards. There were even organizations such as the Junior Anti-Sex League, which advocated complete celibacy for both sexes. All children were to be begotten by artificial insemination (ARTSEM, it was called in Newspeak) and brought up in public institutions. This, Winston was aware, was not meant altogether seriously, but somehow it fitted in with the general ideology of the Party. The Party was trying to kill the sex instinct, or, if it could not be killed, then to distort it and dirty it. He did not know why this was so, but it seemed natural that it should be so. And as far as the women were concerned, the Party's efforts were largely successful.

He thought again of Katharine. It must be nine, ten--nearly eleven years since they had parted. It was curious how seldom he thought of her. For



days at a time he was capable of forgetting that he had ever been married. They had only been together for about fifteen months. The Party did not permit divorce, but it rather encouraged separation in cases where there were no children.

Katharine was a tall, fair-haired girl, very straight, with splendid movements. She had a bold, aquiline face, a face that one might have called noble until one discovered that there was as nearly as possible nothing behind it. Very early in her married life he had decided--though perhaps it was only that he knew her more intimately than he knew most people--that she had without exception the most stupid, vulgar, empty mind that he had ever encountered. She had not a thought in her head that was not a slogan, and there was no imbecility, absolutely none that she was not capable of swallowing if the Party handed it out to her. 'The human sound-track' he nicknamed her in his own mind. Yet he could have endured living with her if it had not been for just one thing--sex.

As soon as he touched her she seemed to wince and stiffen. To embrace her was like embracing a jointed wooden image. And what was strange was that even when she was clasping him against her he had the feeling that she was simultaneously pushing him away with all her strength. The rigidity of her muscles managed to convey that impression. She would lie there with shut eyes, neither resisting nor co-operating but SUBMITTING. It was extraordinarily embarrassing, and, after a while, horrible. But even then he could have borne living with her if it had been agreed that they should remain celibate. But curiously enough it was Katharine who refused this. They must, she said, produce a child if they could. So the performance continued to happen, once a week quite regularly, whenever it was not impossible. She even used to remind him of it in the morning, as something which had to be done that evening and which must not be forgotten. She had two names for it. One was 'making a baby', and the other was 'our duty to the Party' (yes, she had actually used that phrase). Quite soon he grew to have a feeling of positive dread when the appointed day came round. But luckily no child appeared, and in the end she agreed to give up trying, and soon afterwards they parted.

Winston sighed inaudibly. He picked up his pen again and wrote:

HUMOUR ONE HUND- RED YEARS AGO

THE WEATHER GAME.

The Sensitive Lady:
— I always feel it when it rains, in my legs and back.
The sensitive gentleman:

— I also feel all the changes in the weather. The other night I woke up to the barometer falling’
— They’re not possible!
— Well, you see, it fell to the floor.

WIDOW

The teacher asked: — can one of you explain to me what “widow” means.. — A widow, answered little Anna, is a wife who lived with her husband for so long that he died.

SWIMMING COMPETITION.

Little Karl was with his mother at a swimming competition. Now follows - said the mother - 100 meter breaststroke for ladies.
Little Karl: — Mother — is it forbidden to use the arms?

EINSTEIN

— Has the lady read Einstein’s theory of relativity?
— Well, yes, I’ll wait until it comes out as a film.

SEEN WITH YOUR OWN FEET

— I have a good friend who usually says that you never know anything about anything until you have seen with your own feet where the shoe pinches.

FROM A SMALL CHILDREN’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.

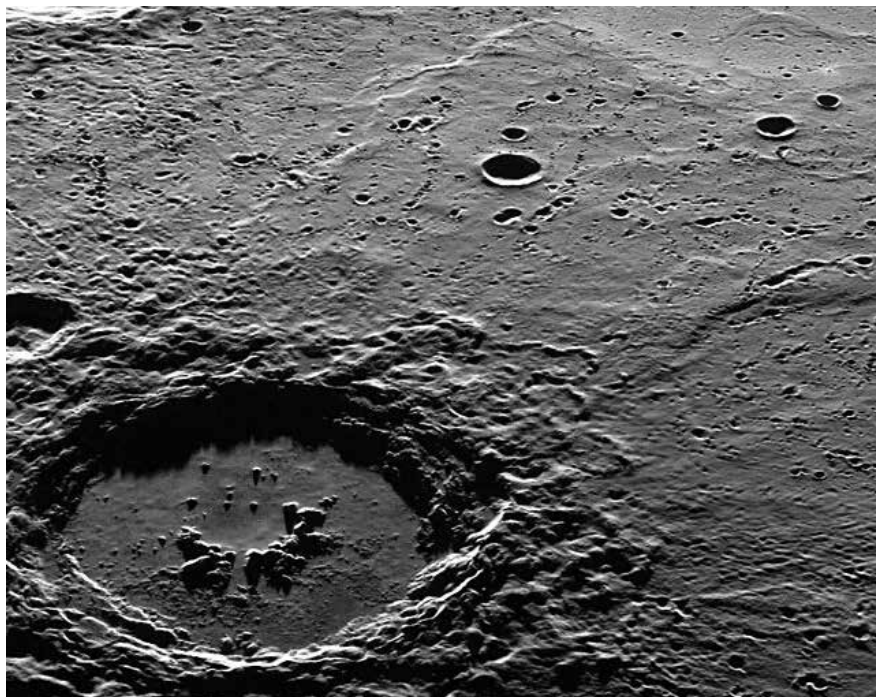
EXPENSIVE DRESS

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?

Astronomic picture of the week:



Crater Hokusai, planet Mercury

This dramatic image features Hokusai in the foreground, famous for its extensive set of rays, some of which extend for over a thousand kilometers across Mercury's surface. The extensive, bright rays indicate that Hokusai is one of the youngest large craters on Mercury.

NASA/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Carnegie Institution of Washington
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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

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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!!

