

Wasa Daily

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UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

Vaasa attracts – a record number of young people want to go to university in our coastal town



The University of Vaasa is attractive. In the joint application process in spring 2026, the University received as many as 12,343 applications – more than ever before. The increase from last year was an astonishing 15.5 percent. What is this phenomenon about?

According to experts, the answer lies in the transformation of the world of work. When artificial intelligence revolutionizes industries and society seeks stability in an uncertain world, young people vote with their feet – and head to Vaasa.

The most popular study

option was the Bachelor's Programme in Economics and Business Administration, which received nearly 4,800 applicants. In the master's programmes, business development attracted the most applicants: more than 740 applications were received for implementation in Seinäjoki alone.

The growth was particularly explosive in Finnish-language master's programmes, where the number of applications increased by more than 50 per cent. In autumn 2026, the university will also open three new programmes with topics that directly resemble a description of the jobs of the future: preparedness and resilience, artificial intelligence in accounting, and artificial intelligence and analytics.

"Students apply to us because they see an opportunity to grow into experts who can combine research-based thinking with concrete business collaboration," says Vice President Tanja Risikko.

But those who are without a study place need not be discouraged. This spring, a study voucher will be introduced that will allow a young person who has been left without a place to complete 30 credits at the Open University for free – and perhaps find their way to a bachelor's student through it.

Source: University of Vaasa press release 24.3.2026

Photo: The University of Vaasa has advertised buses in Helsinki

Image of the Week:



The swans have arrived.

MEDIA

On Monday, it bangs: The media elite breaks the silence – starts a unique collaboration



Swedish-Finland's most powerful media executives are joining forces. On Monday, at 12.03 p.m., they will have enough of lies and disinformation.

At a time when fake news flows freely on social media, four media houses are joining

forces in a historic collaboration. The media panel is the name of the initiative in which the editors-in-chief of Svenska Yle, Hufvudstadsbladet, Vasabladet and Turku Underrättelser sit down at the same table. "In today's and especially tomorrow's world, it's hardly obvious to everyone what journalism basically is," says HBL's

editor-in-chief Kalle Silfverberg.

Behind the initiative is Anna Forth, director of Svenska Yle. Every month, the panel dives into the crucial questions: Who really scrutinizes power? And how do you separate genuine journalism from all the noise?

The premiere is on March 30 on Yle Vega's program Slaget, but the podcast version will be spread across all media houses' platforms. The media panel will be heard on the radio on the last Monday of each month. The program will be broadcast in Swedish.

For Vasabladet's Niklas Nyberg, it is about a long-awaited discussion about a cornerstone of democracy. For Susanna Landor of Åbo Underrättelser, this is a blow to media pluralism.

Perhaps it is right now, when trust in the media is being put to the test, that this kind of openness is needed the most. Source: Yle, 27.3.2026

Photo: Susanna Landor, Editor-in-Chief of Åbo Underrättelser

VAASA

PANEL TO RESCUE VAASA'S MUSIC SCENE: "What happens to the venues?"

Vaasa. How do you save a city's live music? A panel debate will tackle the issue on April 9 at the main library at 6-8 PM – We need to talk about the future. The discussion covers local venues, cooperation, and events' cultural impact. Panellists include the culture director and local activists.

The event is free and open to everyone. If you care about music, don't miss it.

Source: STT Info / City of Vaasa



EU

MASSIVE EU DELEGATION ARRIVES IN FINLAND: "We must strengthen Europe"

Top EU politicians are heading to Finland. Anna-Maja Henriksson is bringing 23 colleagues to the country.

The visit has been planned for a year. – We have every reason to strengthen Europe, she says. Security and preparedness are on the agenda. There they will see the border with Russia.

The aim is to learn from Finland's expertise.

Source: STT Info / Swedish People's Party



TODAY

NEWS

EDITORIAL

Global climate: State of Emergency



The numbers are stark, and the message is unequivocal: Earth's climate system is entering uncharted territory. According to the World Meteorological Organization's latest State of the Global Climate report, the 11-year stretch from 2015 to 2025 now stands as the hottest period ever recorded.

Last year alone ranked as the second or third warmest globally, with temperatures reaching 1.43 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial average. These are not abstract statistics—they are the measurable reality of a planet in distress.

Yet what makes this report particularly sobering is not just the heat. The oceans, which have absorbed the equivalent of 18 times annual human energy use each year for two decades, continue to warm unabated. Arctic sea ice hovers at or near record lows, Antarctic ice extent shrinks, and glaciers melt without pause. Extreme weather—torrential rains, devastating cyclones, searing heatwaves—has become a relentless backdrop, disrupting economies and

lives across continents.

As UN Secretary-General António Guterres put it: "The State of the Global Climate is in a state of emergency. Planet Earth is being pushed beyond its limits." His words are not hyperbole; they are a diagnosis. When history repeats itself eleven times, he noted, it is no longer coincidence—it is a call to act.

The future is not a distant abstraction. It is being written now in every fraction of a degree of warming, every hectare of lost ice, every community upended by extreme weather. The tools to bend the curve exist: accelerated decarbonisation, scaled-up adaptation, and genuine international cooperation. What has been missing is the collective will to deploy them at the pace and scale required.

The emergency is here. The question is whether humanity will respond with the urgency that the moment demands. Delay is no longer a cost-free option—it is a choice to compound the crisis for generations to come.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Low Unemployment – But a Dark Trend is Lurking Beneath the Surface



Unemployment in Ostrobothnia's employment region remains one of the lowest in the country. In February, the rate stood at 7.8 percent, compared to the national average of 12.7 percent. At first glance, the picture looks promising for the region. However, behind the positive overall figures lies a worrying trend: long-term unemployment is surging.

In just one year, the number of people who have been unemployed for at least a year

has increased by 24.3 percent in the region, which includes the cities and municipalities of Vaasa, Korsholm and Närpes. By the end of February, there were 1,629 long-term unemployed individuals in the area—319 more than the previous year. This rise mirrors the national trend, where long-term unemployment increased by 23.4 percent.

The differences between municipalities are stark. While Närpes has an unemployment rate of only 4.3 percent, Kaskinen is struggling with a rate of 12.2 percent. Vaasa, the regi-

on's hub, has seen a dramatic increase of 14 percent, meaning 422 more unemployed people compared to last year.

At the same time, the number of new job openings is shrinking. In February, 212 fewer vacancies were advertised than during the same period last year. The statistics paint a picture of a region that appears strong on the surface, but where a growing group of people risks falling into prolonged exclusion from the labor market.

Source: STT Info, City of Vaasa

TRAIN and COGNITION

Brain training on rails: Fast trains can save your cognitive health



Can the choice between train and car affect how quickly your brain ages? New research suggests that the answer is yes. Fast and smooth train connections are about much more than just saving minutes on the way to work – it can be a crucial factor for our brain health.

A study by the University of Helsinki has found a link between transport infrastructure and healthier aging in different

population groups. The study, published in the journal Social Science & Medicine by researcher Xu Zong, provides new evidence that using high-speed trains (HSR) can improve cognitive health and reduce social disparities as a person ages. As distances between cities shrink thanks to modern fast tracks, opportunities for social interaction and access to stimulating environments increase. For the elderly population, good acces-

sibility means that they can participate in community life, visit specialist care or attend cultural events without the stress of a complicated journey. The report points out that a well-functioning infrastructure acts as a protective factor against social isolation, which is one of the main risk factors for cognitive impairment. Instead of getting stuck in passivity or traffic jams, the train enables a more active life that keeps the brain stimulated. Investing in rail is therefore not only a question of transport or climate, but also a powerful investment in the public health of the future. Building faster tracks can simply be a way to keep the population more alert and clearer in the bud for longer.

Source: sttinfo.fi/tiedote/71897574/nopeat-junayhteydet-voivat-edistaa-ihmisen-kognitiivista-terveytta

Photo Supplement



NEWS

VAASA

World premiere in Vaasa: Turning the cycle path into a climate hero

Finland is now taking a pioneering step in the green transition, and all eyes are turning to Vaasa.



The city has just presented the results of a unique experiment that could change the way we build our cities in the future. By using biochar, they have succeeded in creating what is described as the world's first cycle path that actively binds carbon – a technical sensation that turns the asphalt into a carbon sink.

The secret behind the breakthrough lies in the material hidden under the pedals. Biochar is produced by heating organic matter, such as forest residues, in an oxygen-free environment. Instead of this material decaying and releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, the carbon is encapsulated in a stable form. When this biochar is then mixed into the construction of the cycle path, the greenhouse gases are locked into the ground for hundreds of years.

The current pilot project in Vaasa has proven to be a great success. The studies confirm that biochar works well as a building material in the base course of the road without negatively affecting stability or durability. This means that in the future, it will be possible to build infrastructure that not only facilitates environmentally friendly transport, but also serves as a tool to combat climate change.

The investment is a central part of Vaasa's ambitious plan to become completely carbon neutral. By integrating environmental technologies directly into the urban environment, the city is showing

that innovation and practical urban planning can go hand in hand. The success of the carbon-lowering cycle path is now expected to attract international interest, as the method has the potential to be scaled up and used in major road construction projects worldwide. Every new kilometre of road could thus help to lower the earth's fever.

Source: sttinfo.fi/vasa-harvardens-forsta-cykelvag-sombinder-kol-ett-lyckat-biokol-forsok

Image: On the outside, the cycle path looks ordinary, but under the ground there is a solution that combines climate work and urban planning in a new way. Photo: City of Vaasa

EASTER IN VAASA

Death meets light – unique requiem fills Vaasa Church on Good Friday



On Good Friday, when silence descends over Easter, the Trinity Church in Vaasa is filled with something unusual: a requiem that is not dark but comforting.

The Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra invites you to an Easter concert where Gabriel Fauré's famous Requiem is at the centre. The work, which is rarely performed in its entirety, is known for its gentle and bright view of death – a musical consolation on the

most serious day of Christian Easter.

Behind the conductor's desk is the orchestra's own chief conductor Anna-Maria Helsing. Together with the chamber choir Canticum Maris and two young soloists of the highest class, a moment of quiet beauty is promised. Soprano Wilhelmina Tómasdóttir has already attracted attention on large stages, and baritone Tomi Punkeeri promises a deep, warm sound.

Before the requiem, the audience hears Arvo Pärt's quiet Cantus and the famous Good Friday transformation from Wagner's Parsifal – music that brings to mind stillness and contemplation.

For those who want to experience the seriousness of Easter through music, there is the chance on Good Friday in Vaasa's most beautiful church room.

Source: City of Vaasa
Image: Wilhelmina Tómasdóttir. Photo: Vuokko Salo

KORSHOLM MUSIC FESTIVAL

World stars and transatlantic magic: Korsholm Music Festival 22-29.7.2026

When the summer sun is at its highest in July, Ostrobothnia is transformed into an international meeting place for music that spans the entire ocean..

The Korsholm Music Festival 2026 is approaching, and this year's programme promises an experience out of the ordinary. Under the theme "Across the Atlantic", musical ties are forged between Europe and America, in an initiative that celebrates openness and curiosity in an otherwise closed world.

Between 22 and 29 July, the region is filled with stardom when over a hundred artists take their place on the stages. Artistic director Jan-Erik Gustafsson has for his fourth year managed to attract major international names to the expanses of Ostrobothnia. The audience can look forward to virtuosos such as oboist Nicholas Daniel and violinist Alissa Margulis, as well as the acclaimed Stenhammar Quartet. A common thread running through the festival is the works of Korean-American composer Nicky Sohn, whose modern voice gives the festival a contemporary nerve.

The program is as broad as it is deep. Already at the opening concert in Mustasaari Church, the tone is set with Dvořák's beloved tunes from the New World. Highlights also include a grand celebratory concert where Vivaldi's timeless seasons meet Nordic choral poetry. For those looking for the unexpected, there are exciting encounters between pop and classical when local prides Vaasa's flora and fauna share the stage with the Artemis Wind Quintet.

But the International Music Festival is about more than just exclusive concerts; it is a popular festival characterized by accessibility and sustainability. With ten free concerts, free bus rides and even babysitting on select occasions, the boundaries of who can enjoy high-class culture are blurring. From innovative art projects created live to concerts in the motor museum, this year's festival is a warm invitation for everyone to discover the boundless power of music.

Photo: Mustasaari Music Festival



Stardom in the middle of lunch – how to experience the magic of summer music for free

As the summer sun scorches over the streets and squares of Vaasa, the Mustasaari Music Festival offers one of the most generous news of the season.

This year, the festival is investing heavily in making high-quality music accessible to just about everyone through a series of exclusive mini-concerts in the middle of the city – completely without ticket requirements.

The concept is as simple as it is ingenious: a half-hour musical break in the middle of everyday life. On six selected days in July, well-known meeting places are transformed into temporary concert halls where audiences can sit down, breathe out and enjoy world-class live music. It is an initiative that aims to blur the thresholds to classical music

and spread the festival atmosphere far beyond the traditional concert venues.

The program promises an exciting mix of artists. Here, the festival's international stars and local, young talents meet in an intimate format. It will be a unique opportunity to see the stars of tomorrow share the stage with established virtuosos in a relaxed and open environment.

The music festival will begin at the Rewell shopping centre, where the first three concerts will take place between 22 and 24 July. When the new week begins, the music experiences move on to Aveny Café from 27 to 29 July. All concerts start at 12.00, which makes them the perfect break in the shopping spree or as a silver lining on the lunch break.

At a time when culture can sometimes feel exclusive, the Korsholm Music Festival chooses to go in the opposite direction. By offering these musical gems in the middle of the summer crowd, you create a living meeting place where music can be at the center – open to everyone who passes by.

Source: Korsholm Music Festival's programme news for 2026.

Wasa Daily

Nearly everything You want to know, in eight pages

vpress.fi

NEWS

CLIMATE CHANGE

WMO: Earth's climate swings increasingly out of balance



The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has released its State of the Global Climate report for 2025, concluding that the Earth's climate system is showing increasing signs of instability.

According to the report, the 11-year period from 2015 to 2025 ranks as the warmest on record,

with 2025 itself being either the second or third hottest year ever measured. The global average temperature for the year reached approximately 1.43 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial baseline of 1850-1900.

The report documents widespread extreme weather events across the globe, including severe heatwaves, intense rainfall episodes, and powerful tro-

pical cyclones. These phenomena have led to significant societal and economic disruption, underlining the vulnerability of interconnected modern economies and infra-structure.

Key indicators of the Earth's system continue to show concerning trends. Ocean temperatures are rising, and the seas remain a major carbon dioxide sink, absorbing an amount of heat equivalent to

roughly 18 times the annual global human energy use each year over the past two decades. In the cryosphere, Arctic annual sea ice extent was at or near record low levels, while Antarctic sea ice extent was the third lowest documented. Glacier melt, the WMO notes, continued without interruption.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres charac-

terized the findings in stark terms, stating that the state of the global climate constitutes a "state of emergency" and that the planet is being pushed beyond its limits. He noted that with 11 consecutive record-breaking or near-record years, the pattern re-presents a clear call to action rather than a coincidence.

RUSSIA

From the regime's loyalists to critics – now in a mental hospital

The Russian lawyer and blogger Ilya Remeslo, who we told you about in the latest issue, is now in a mental hospital. During the Soviet era, this was apparently not an uncommon method of silencing critics of the regime..

Remeslo was previously known as one of the driving forces behind legal attacks on the opposition until he now demanded in a high-profile statement that Vladimir Putin be brought to justice as a war

criminal.

Ilya Remeslo, 42, has for over a decade served as a loyal voice for the Kremlin. As a lawyer and member of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation (2017-2023), he was a central figure in the legal proceedings against opposition leader Alexei Navalny, prompting regime-based commander Aпти Alaudinov to call him 'the main instigator of putting Navalny in prison'.

On March 18, 2026, Remeslo published a manifesto on social media that came as a shock to many. In the text, he called President Vladimir Putin "a war criminal and thief", demanded that the war in Ukraine should end and that Putin should be brought to justice. He also dismissed the legitimacy of the regime and declared that he could no longer "turn a blind eye

to what is happening in the country".

The reactions from the former power base were not to be expected. Propagandist Vladimir Solovyov dismissed Remeslo as a "collaborator in power" who had suffered a nervous breakdown, while war blogger Yulia Vityazeva described him as a "sullen and arrogant little person" who now stands alone.

As early as March 19, media outlets such as Fontanka and Meduza reported that Remeslo had been forcibly admitted to St. Petersburg's Psychiatric Clinic No. 3. The incident has drawn parallels to Soviet methods of silencing dissent and is described by independent Russian and international media as a dramatic turning point for a man who for years was one of the regime's most loyal voices.

RUSSIA

Official inflation 6%, real inflation 158%

At an economic deliberation this weekend, Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that annual inflation has now stabilized below 6 percent, something he described as a clear advantage. According to official statistics, the annual inflation rate is thus at a level that is lower than it has been for several years.

At the same time, a compilation from the Central Bureau of Statistics of Russia and the Central Bank shows that the cumulative price increase between 2014 and November 2025 amounts to 158

percent. This means that the general price level according to official calculations has more than doubled during the period.

The difference between the annual figure and the long-term price trend is partly explained by methodological factors. The official inflation calculation is based on a commodity basket that does not always reflect households' actual consumption patterns. Regional price differences and so-called "shrinkflation" – where the price remains unchanged but the volume decreases – also contribute to the fact that the perception of inflation often differs from the official statistics.

KORS HOLM

The 70s party that gets the pensioners dancing

Time to get out your party shoes! After the crowd's demands, the senior disco returns to Smedsby. On April 30, Seniorpunkten will be filled with swinging songs by ABBA and Elvis, karaoke for the brave and cooling non-alcoholic drinks in the intermission. The event is free of charge and no registration is required. Don't miss the chance to dance away one afternoon – the doors open at 13.00.

Reference: korsholm.fi, 27.3.2026

MALAX

Read five hours – win prizes: Malax challenges in competition

Now the joy of reading will spread like wildfire. Throughout April, all Malax residents are challenged to participate in a reading campaign – and it pays off. Anyone who reads for 30 minutes at a time and fills in a reading card can win a gift card. The main prize of 40 euros goes to a bookstore. To qualify, at least 30 hours of reading are required, but smaller prizes are also raffled off. Read your way – book, newspaper or audiobook.

Reference: malax.fi, 27.3.2026

VAASA

Vaasa's stroke of luck: 9.6 million in surplus – the population is growing

The city is moving like a train! According to the latest financial statements for 2025, the surplus landed at a whopping 9.6 million euros – well over budget. The explanation: higher than expected dividends and falling interest rates. At the same time, Vaasa is growing with over 900 new residents. Mayor Tomas Häyry points to strong internal financing and control over costs, despite the challenges of impairment losses in social welfare and health care.

Reference: City of Vaasa

VAASA

Forbidden: The sand must not be blown away – then there will be a fine

Now it's over! To avoid dust chaos in spring cleaning, the City of Vaasa has imposed a strict ban: leaf blowers must not be used to blow away gravel and street dust. The method lifts dangerous dust into the air and deteriorates air quality. Anyone who violates the rules risks a fine. Instead, property owners are urged to sweep mechanically or use suction equipment to keep the dust under control.

Reference: City of Vaasa



MEDIA

Nordic classics land in Finland: Aller launches new magazine

HELSINKI. The classic magazine Femina is coming to Finland! Aller Media will launch a Swedish-language version in the spring, with Sanna Wallenius (formerly Eeva, Me Naiset) as editor-in-chief. The magazine will offer a mix of society, economy, fashion and health – both in print and digital. The background is the successful Nordic model, where Femina is already a heavyweight in Sweden and Denmark.

Reference: Aller Media Finland

SCIENCE

Johan Gadolin – Finland’s forgotten science giant who gave the name to an element



The only one in the world who gave a name to nature’s elements – and he came from Finland

When we talk about great Finnish scientists, we often mention names such as Artturi Ilmari Virtanen, who received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1945, or Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld, who became famous during his exploration of the Northeast Passage. But there is one name that should stand above them in Finnish pride, a name that unfortunately is all too often forgotten: Johan Gadolin.

Johan Gadolin (1760–1852) occupies a unique position in the history of science. He is the only person in the world named after a natural element – gadolinium, and the chemical name Gd is number 64 in the periodic table. No other scientist before the discovery of transuranium elements shared this honor.

This fact is enough for Johan Gadolin to become a well-known name in Finland, his portrait should adorn every chemistry laboratory in the country, and every schoolchild should know his achievements. But history has not been as generous to Gadolin. Today, there are hardly any traces left in his hometown of Turku, and his laboratory – where he made his groundbreaking discoveries – now serves as a daycare centre.

As Professor M Hupa from Åbo Akademi University said in 2020: “If Turku were a city in the United States, there would be huge signs on the way there that read ‘Welcome to Johan Gadolin’s hometown’, but in Turku and Finland they have not been very successful.”

It’s time to change that. It is time for us Finns to learn who Johan Gadolin was – and to be proud of him.

A respected family of scientists

Johan Gadolin was born on 5 June 1760 in Turku into one of the most prolific scientific and clerical families in 18th-century Finland. Her father, Jakob Gadolin, was a bishop of Turku and a professor of physics and theology, and today’s Elisabet Browallia came from an educated family. Unlike his father, who had financial difficulties, Johan was able to start his career in secure circumstances.

Even as a child, Johan showed great mathematical talent and was encouraged by his father. At the age of fifteen, he began studying mathematics at the Royal Academy of Turku (now Åbo Akademi University). But mathematics, despite its talent, turned out to be too la-

borious. Professor Pehr Adrian Gadd’s research in chemistry – especially chemistry experiments and their applications – suited the young Gadolin much better.

That was a turning point. Johan Gadolin had found his calling.

Studied with the giants of the time

In 1779, at the age of 19, Gadolin moved to Uppsala University, where he studied under Torbern Bergman, one of Europe’s foremost chemists. Bergman became his mentor and Johan Gadolin developed into Bergman’s foremost pupil. In 1781, Gadolin presented his comprehensive treatise “De analysi ferri” – on the analytical definition of iron. A year later, he defended his master’s degree with the mathematical work “De problemate catenario”.

When Bergman died of tuberculosis in 1784, the new professorship of chemistry in Uppsala was vacant. Gadolin, who according to contemporary testimonies was Bergman’s best student, was placed in the second suggestion room – a bitter disappointment. This was repeated when a lecturer was to be filled at Åbo Akademi University. But fate had other plans. In the spring of 1785 he was appointed Extraordinary Lecturer in Turku and a few months later Extraordinary Professor.

Equipped with the king’s letter of recommendation, Gadolin set out on a two-year study trip through Europe in the spring of 1786. He visited Germany’s two leading chemists, Lorenz von Crell and Johann Friedrich Gmelin, as well as other scientists. This trip shaped his scientific outlook and gave him contacts that would prove invaluable.

The discovery that changed everything

In 1792, what would make Johan Gadolin immortal in the history of science happened. In 1787, the amateur geologist and lieutenant Carl Axel Arrhenius had found a strange black, heavy mineral in a quarry in Ytterby on Resarön in the Stockholm archipelago. What this heavy stone – which was called “tungsten” – actually consisted of remained a mystery.

Until it came to Johan Gadolin.

With the precision and systematics that characterized his work, Gadolin analyzed the mineral chemically. After extensive experiments, he determined that about 38 percent of the sample was a previously unknown “earth type” – an oxide that was later named yttria (yttrium oxide). His results were published in 1794 in an article that would revolutionize chemistry.

This was the discovery of yttrium – the first known rare earth element. For the first time, someone had identified an entirely new group of elements that would prove to be of enormous importance to both science and technology.

Gadolin’s discovery was the start of the rare earth metals’ history of discovery – a story that would last for 150 years. During this period, no less than 17 rare earth elements were discovered, and four of them – yttrium, ytterbium, terbium and erbium – got their names from the small village of Ytterby where it all began.

As early as 1800, the black mineral from Ytterby was named gadolinite – an honour for the discoverer. But the greatest tribute came in 1880, when the famous Swiss chemist Jean Charles Galissard de Marignac isolated a new element from gadolinite and named it gadolinium after Johan Gadolin himself.

A versatile scientist

But Johan Gadolin was far more than the discoverer of yttrium. He was one of the most versatile and prolific chemists of his time, and his contributions to science spanned many fields.

Pioneer of modern chemistry: Although Gadolin never visited France, he became a proponent of Antoine Lavoisier’s revolutionary theory of combustion. His textbook “Introduction to Chemistry” (1798) was the first chemistry book in the Nordic countries to question the old phlogiston theory and discuss the role of oxygen in combustion in a modern way. This was groundbreaking – Gadolin helped introduce modern chemistry to the Nordic countries.

Thermochemistry: Gadolin studied the relationship between heat and chemical changes, especially the ability of different substances to absorb heat (specific heat) and the absorption of heat in phase changes (latent heat). His work in this field was extremely precise and is the basis of modern thermochemistry.

Oxidation states: As early as 1788, Gadolin showed that the same element can occur in several oxidation states. He studied tin and showed that it can occur as Sn(II) and Sn(IV), and vividly described the disproportionation reaction: $2 \text{Sn(II)} \rightarrow \text{Sn(0)} + \text{Sn(IV)}$. This was fundamentally important for the understanding of chemical bonding.

Mineral classification: In 1825, Gadolin published “Systema fossilium” – a system of mineral classification based on chemical principles. The introduction summarized Gadolin’s theories, and the text presented mineral species in a systematic order that was revolutionary for its time.

Technological innovations: Gadolin is also known for publishing one of the earliest examples of counter-current capacitors. In 1791, he improved a capacitor design that he had developed by using the “counter-current principle” – a technique that is still used today in chemical engineering.

Analytical chemistry: His studies of various alloys, such as the Chinese alloy pak tong (also known as alpaca or German silver) in 1810 and 1827, demonstrated his breadth and precision as an analytical chemist.

The Pioneer of Laboratory Teaching

Johan Gadolin was not only a prominent researcher – he was also an educational pioneer. He became a full professor of chemistry at the Royal Academy in Turku in 1797, after the death of Pehr Adrian Gadd, and held this position until his retirement in 1822.

What made Gadolin particularly remarkable as a teacher was that he was one of the first chemists to give laboratory exercises to students. At the time, chemistry laboratories were often the private domain of professors. But Gadolin opened his own private laboratory to students and actually allowed them to perform experiments – something that was revolutionary for the time.

This educational philosophy—that students learn

chemistry by doing chemistry, not just reading about it—was way ahead of its time and laid the foundation for modern chemistry teaching.

Socially engaged

Johan Gadolin was not an isolated academic in his ivory tower. He was genuinely interested in social development, economics and industry. He was instrumental in the founding of the Finnish Rural Economy Society – an organisation that worked to improve agriculture and the economy in Finland.

In 1802 he published an essay with the telling title "Which handicrafts and manufactures are the most affordable for our Finnish cities?" – an example of how he linked his scientific expertise to practical social issues. Gadolin saw science not as an end in itself, but as a tool to improve people's lives and the prosperity of society.

He also served as rector of Åbo Akademi University on two occasions, which testifies to his administrative ability and respect for, among others.

International recognition

Johan Gadolin's reputation quickly spread internationally. In 1790 he was elected to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm – a great honour for a 30-year-old. His chemical studies were published in German in the prestigious journal "Crell's Chemische Annalen für die Freunde der Naturlehre" and read by chemists all over Europe.

When the famous Johann Friedrich Gmelin died, the University of Göttingen – one of Europe's foremost universities – named Johan Gadolin as holder of the professorship in chemistry after Gmelin. This was a huge honour and recognition of Gadolin's international standing. But to the happiness of Åbo Akademi University and Finland, Gadolin declined. He stayed in his homeland.

For his scientific contributions, Gadolin was knighted and registered under number 245 in the Finnish House of Nobility. He was also awarded the Order of Saint Vladimir and the Order of Saint Anna – high honours from the Russian Empire.

A long life

Johan Gadolin married Hedvig Tihleman for the first time at the age of 35, with whom he had nine children. After her death, he remarried at the age of 59 to Ebba Palander.

In 1822, at the age of 62, Gadolin retired – this was the mandatory retirement age at the time. He moved to Mynämäki (Virmo) where he lived on a country estate for another 30 years. There he lived a quiet life surrounded by his books (his library contained 3,400 titles and is still preserved in the Åbo Akademi University library), his family and his research.

Johan Gadolin died on August 15, 1852 in Virmo, 92 years old. At his grave a memorial was erected made of stone from Ytterby quarry – the place where it all began. The symbolism could not be clearer: from the small quarry in Sweden to eternity, united by science.

Gadolinium – the legacy that lives on

In 1880, almost three decades after Gadolin's death, Swiss chemist Jean Charles Galissard de Marignac isolated a new element from the mineral gadolinite. As a tribute to Johan Gadolin, he gave it the name gadolinium.

Gadolinium is a silvery-white metallic element that belongs to the group of rare earth elements. With atomic number 64 and the chemical designation G, it is today one of the most important elements in modern medicine and technology.

In modern medicine: Gadolinium compounds are used as contrast agents in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). When patients undergo MRI scans, gadolinium-based contrast agents are often injected, which dramatically improve the quality of the image and make it possible to detect diseases that would otherwise be invisible. Millions of people every year around the world owe Johan Gadolin to the fact that their diseases could be detected in time.

In technology: Gadolinium is used in the manufacture of CDs and computer memory. The element has unique magnetic properties that make it invaluable in data storage and electronics. It is also used in nuclear reactors as a neutron absorber and in the production of X-ray tubes and lasers.

In industry: Gadolinium is used in alloys to improve workability and resistance to oxidation and corrosion at high temperatures.

Every time a doctor arranges an MRI scan with contrast medium, every time someone plays a CD or uses advanced electronics – Johan Gadolin's legacy is present, even if few people know about it.

The Great Fire and the Lost History

In 1827, Turku was hit by the Great Fire – a disaster that destroyed most of the city. Johan Gadolin's laboratory and many of Åbo Akademi University's historic buildings were destroyed or badly damaged. With the fire, much of the physical history of Gadolin's business also disappeared.

After the fire, the university moved to Helsinki and became the University of Helsinki. Åbo Akademi University, which was to be resurrected later as a Swedish-speaking university, had lost much of its material connection to Gadolin.

Today, what was once Gadolin's laboratory serves as a daycare center. In 2020, the City of Turku decided to sell the building to the kindergarten company Mukulax, which meant that the dream of creating a Gadolin museum in the building was shattered. Professor Mikko Hupa at Åbo Akademi University called this a "missed opportunity".

The main building of the Faculty of Engineering of Åbo Akademi University was named Gadolinia after Johan Gadolin – a fitting monument. But the house was later demolished, and although the name remains on the wall of the new Astra building, it is a faint reminder of what once was.

Why have we forgotten him?

It is a paradox that Johan Gadolin, who achieved so much and whose name is borne by an element, is so little known in his own homeland. There are several reasons for this.

The timing: Gadolin's heyday was during the late 1700s and early 1800s. His greatest discovery, yttrium, was made in 1794 – over 230 years ago. Many generations have passed since then, and history has a tendency to forget even its greatest heroes if they are not constantly kept alive.

Gadolinium's late naming: The element gadolinium was first named after Gadolin in 1880, almost 30 years after his death. By that time the memory of him had already faded somewhat, and the connection between the man and the element never became as strong in the public consciousness as it should have been.

History of Finland: Gadolin's life took place during the Swedish era (until 1809) and the early Russian era. Finland, as an independent nation with its own identity and history, is still in the process of rediscovering and valuing its heritage from these periods.

The lack of a Nobel Prize: If the Nobel Prize had existed in Gadolin's time, he would undoubtedly have received one, probably in chemistry. But since the prize was not established until 1901, he is not included in the prestigious list of Nobel Prize winners that Finland so proudly lists.

As Professor Hupa, Finland and Turku have not been good at marketing: Gadolin's greatness. In other countries, he would have been a national hero with museums, memorials and a constant presence in school books.

A man we should celebrate

It is time to change this. Johan Gadolin deserves his place among Finland's greatest scientists – not only as one of the greatest, but perhaps as the greatest, given his unique place in the history of science.

We Finns should be enormously proud of Johan Gadolin. He:

Is the only person in the world who is named after a naturally occurring element

Discovered a whole new group of elements (rare earth elements)

Be a pioneer in modern chemistry in the Nordic countries

Revolutionized chemistry education by introducing laboratory exercises to students

Be internationally recognized and respected by the greatest scientists of the time

Contributed to the development of society by linking science to practical applications

Lived a long, productive life and continued to contribute to science until old age

If the Nobel Prize had existed in the 1790s, Johan Gadolin would of course have received one. His discovery of yttrium and the opening of the world of rare earth metals were of that calibre.



Gadolin's legacy today

Johan Gadolin lives on in many ways, even if his name is not widely known:

In medicine: Every day, gadolinium-based contrast agents save lives by making early detection of tumors, cardiovascular diseases, and neurological conditions.

In technology: Gadolinium is a key component of modern electronics and data storage.

In education: The principle of practical laboratory teaching pioneered by Gadolin is now the standard in the world.

In science: The discovery of rare earth metals opened up completely new fields of research and technological possibilities.

In culture: The name Gadolin lives on through Gadolinia (although the building is gone), through the gadolinite mineral, and through gadolinium in the periodic table.

A vision for the future

It is not too late to make Johan Gadolin the national hero he deserves to be. Finland needs:

A Gadolin Museum: Turku, as his hometown, should have a museum dedicated to his life and works. It doesn't have to be huge, but it should exist.

Gadolin in schools: Every Finnish child should learn about Johan Gadolin and his discoveries. He should be as famous as Väinämöinen or Mannerheim.

Gadolin Prize: Finland should establish a Johan Gadolin Prize for outstanding scientific contributions in chemistry.

Gadolin Day: June 5, Johan Gadolin's birthday, could be celebrated as a day of science and discovery in Finland.

Visibility in Turku: Statues, signs, streets – Turku should be filled with reminders of its greatest scientist.

Johan Gadolin (1760–1852) was a Finnish science giant whose contributions influenced the world in a way that few other Finns have. He is the only one in the world who got his name from a naturally occurring element. His discovery of yttrium opened the door to a whole new world of elements. His educational innovations changed the way chemistry is taught. His scientific precision and creativity were a model for generations of scientists.

We Finns have ancestors in our country that we can and should be proud of. Johan Gadolin is definitely one of them – perhaps the foremost of them all in science.

The next time you see the symbol "Gd" in the periodic table, remember: it stands for gadolinium, named after a Finnish scientist who changed the world. Remember Johan Gadolin.

We must not forget him. We will celebrate him.

UKRAINE PRESIDENT

First Lady's Texas Tour: Books, Audio Guides, and a Historic Meeting with the Ex-president Bush and his Wife

DALLAS. Ukraine's First Lady Olena Zelenska has turned a diplomatic visit to Texas into a cultural bridge.

In Dallas, she opened a new "Ukrainian Bookshelf" at the city's public library, giving American readers access to Ukrainian literature and history. She also launched a Ukrainian-language audio guide at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum,

where the Holodomor-genocide is featured among its exhibitions.

But the visit wasn't just about culture. Zelenska met with top American philanthropists to discuss aid for Ukrainians, highlighting her foundation's work building shelters in schools and homes for foster families. The highlight? A meeting with former President George W. Bush and Laura Bush. Zelenska thanked them

for their long-standing support, recalling Bush's historic 2008 stance on Ukraine's right to choose its own future.

From books to humanitarian aid, the First Lady's message was clear: Ukraine's fight is also a fight for freedom and security.

Reference: Office of the President of Ukraine, March 27, 2026



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ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



David Klöcker Ehrenstrahl
1628, Hampuri
1698, Tukholma
Diana at rest
Finnish National Gallery Collection / Sinebrychoff Art Museum, O. W. Klinckowström
Fine Arts Collection
Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Henri Tuomi

George Orwell

1984

23

He reached down and scratched his ankle again. Day and night the telescreens bruised your ears with statistics proving that people today had more food, more clothes, better houses, better recreations--that they lived longer, worked shorter hours, were bigger, healthier, stronger, happier, more intelligent, better educated, than the people of fifty years ago. Not a word of it could ever be proved or disproved. The Party claimed, for example, that today 40 per cent of adult proles were literate: before the Revolution, it was said, the number had only been 15 per cent. The Party claimed that the infant mortality rate was now only 160 per thousand, whereas before the Revolution it had been 300--and so it went on. It was like a single equation with two unknowns. It might very well be that literally every word in the history books, even the things that one accepted without question, was pure fantasy. For all he knew there might never have been any such law as the *JUS PRIMAE NOCTIS*, or any such creature as a capitalist, or any such garment as a top hat.

Everything faded into mist. The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became truth. Just once in his life he had possessed--AFTER the event: that was what counted--concrete, unmistakable evidence of an act of falsification. He had held it between his fingers for as long as thirty seconds. In 1973, it must have been--at any rate, it was at about the time when he and Katharine had parted. But the really relevant date was seven or eight years earlier.

The story really began in the middle sixties, the period of the great purges in which the original leaders of the Revolution were wiped out once and for all. By 1970 none of them was left, except Big Brother himself. All the rest had by that time been exposed as traitors and counter-revolutionaries. Goldstein had fled and was hiding no one knew

where, and of the others, a few had simply disappeared, while the majority had been executed after spectacular public trials at which they made confession of their crimes. Among the last survivors were three men named

Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford. It must have been in 1965 that these three

had been arrested. As often happened, they had vanished for a year or more,

so that one did not know whether they were alive or dead, and then had suddenly been brought forth to incriminate themselves in the usual way.

They had confessed to intelligence with the enemy (at that date, too, the

enemy was Eurasia), embezzlement of public funds, the murder of various trusted Party members, intrigues against the leadership of Big Brother which had started long before the Revolution happened, and acts of sabotage causing the death of hundreds of thousands of people. After confessing to these things they had been pardoned, reinstated in the Party, and given posts which were in fact sinecures but which sounded important. All three had written long, abject articles in 'The Times', analysing the reasons for their defection and promising to make amends.

Some time after their release Winston had actually seen all three of them in the Chestnut Tree Cafe. He remembered the sort of terrified fascination with which he had watched them out of the corner of his eye. They were men far older than himself, relics of the ancient world, almost the last great figures left over from the heroic days of the Party. The glamour of the underground struggle and the civil war still faintly clung to them. He had the feeling, though already at that time facts and dates were growing blurry, that he had known their names years earlier than he had known that of Big Brother. But also they were outlaws, enemies, untouchables, doomed with absolute certainty to extinction within a year or two. No one who had once fallen into the hands of the Thought Police ever escaped in the end. They were corpses waiting to be sent back to the grave.

There was no one at any of the tables nearest to them. It was not wise



even to be seen in the neighbourhood of such people. They were sitting in silence before glasses of the gin flavoured with cloves which was the speciality of the cafe. Of the three, it was Rutherford whose appearance had most impressed Winston. Rutherford had once been a famous caricaturist, whose brutal cartoons had helped to inflame popular opinion before and during the Revolution. Even now, at long intervals, his cartoons were appearing in *The Times*. They were simply an imitation of his earlier manner, and curiously lifeless and unconvincing. Always they were a rehashing of the ancient themes--slum tenements, starving children, street battles, capitalists in top hats--even on the barricades the capitalists still seemed to cling to their top hats an endless, hopeless effort to get back into the past. He was a monstrous man, with a mane of greasy grey hair, his face pouched and seamed, with thick negroid lips. At one time he must have been immensely strong; now his great body was sagging, sloping, bulging, falling away in every direction. He seemed to be breaking up before one's eyes, like a mountain crumbling.

It was the lonely hour of fifteen. Winston could not now remember how he had come to be in the cafe at such a time. The place was almost empty. A tinny music was trickling from the telescreens. The three men sat in their corner almost motionless, never speaking. Uncommanded, the waiter brought fresh glasses of gin. There was a chessboard on the table beside them, with the pieces set out but no game started. And then, for perhaps half a minute in all, something happened to the telescreens. The tune that they were playing changed, and the tone of the music changed too. There came into it--but it was something hard to describe. It was a peculiar, cracked, braying, jeering note: in his mind Winston called it a yellow note. And then a voice from the telescreen was singing:

Under the spreading chestnut tree
 I sold you and you sold me:
 There lie they, and here lie we
 Under the spreading chestnut tree.

The three men never stirred. But when Winston glanced again at Rutherford's ruinous face, he saw that his eyes were full of tears. And for the first time he noticed, with a kind of inward shudder, and yet not knowing AT WHAT he shuddered, that both Aaronson and Rutherford had broken noses.

HUMOUR ONE HUND-RED YEARS AGO

DANGEROUS

A.: »Is dyeing the hair as dangerous as the doctors say?»
 B.: »Yes, it is even more dangerous! One my old uncle once tried to dye his hair and less than in three months he was married to a widow with 7 children.

DEEP PARTICIPATION

The mother is at an art exhibition with her children. Kalle: Mother, what does that picture show? Mother: Persecution of Christians in Rome. There is an arena, and tigers pounce on the Christians, to tear them to pieces. Kalle: Oh, mother, Look at that tiger cub in the corner of the picture, which is completely without a Christian.

FROM A SMALL CHILDREN'S SCHOOL IN VYBORG

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.

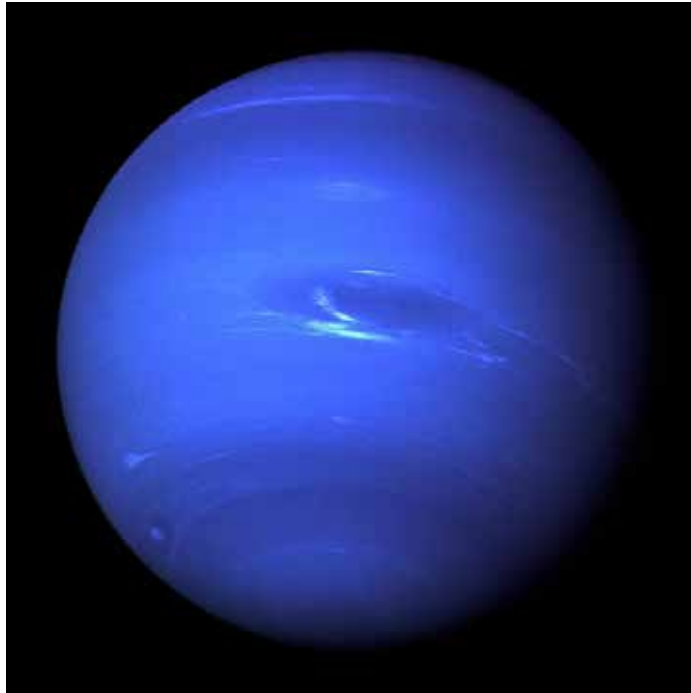
TO COUNT CORRECTLY. AND WRONG.

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.

THE FAIRY TALE OF THE FORTY ROBBERS.

A father was reading the newspaper when his seven-year-old son came and said:
 Dad, tell me the tale of the "forty robbers!"
 The father, who had just been reading revelations about the oilfield raids and other atrocities committed by the rulers, looked at his son for a moment, then shook his head and said; No, you can wait until you are older. You are still too young to understand the politics of this country.

Astronomic picture of the week:



Neptune

This enhanced-color picture of Neptune was produced from the last whole planet images taken through the green and orange filters on the Voyager 2 narrow angle camera. The images were taken at a range of 4.4 million miles from the planet, 4 days and 20 hours before closest approach in August 1989. The picture shows the Great Dark Spot and its companion bright smudge; on the west limb the fast moving bright feature called Scooter and the little dark spot are visible. These clouds were seen to persist for as long as Voyager's cameras could resolve them. North of these, a bright cloud band similar to the south polar streak may be seen.

Credit: NASA
 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.

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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

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HOROSCOPE FOR APRIL 2026

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

- ☐ Aries (March 21 – April 19)
You're full of energy and initiative, but don't pick a fight with the coffee machine – it always wins.
- ☐ Taurus (April 20 – May 20)
Your patience will be tested this April. Maybe it's time to accept that sighing loudly won't make the checkout line move faster.
- ☐ Gemini (May 21 – June 20)
You have a thousand ideas and zero time to execute them. Try finishing one thing before jumping to the next – or just embrace the chaos!
- ☐ Cancer (June 21 – July 22)
April might be an emotional month, but remember: no one expects you to save the

world... just to deal with your own stuff.

- ☐ Leo (July 23 – August 22)
You love being the center of attention, but maybe let someone else tell the joke at the coffee break – just once.
- ☐ Virgo (August 23 – September 22)
You have a plan, a backup plan, and a backup plan for the backup plan. Breathe – the worst that could happen is... well, not much, really.
- ☐ Libra (September 23 – October 22)
Decisions are tough. If you're spending over an hour choosing what to eat, maybe that's a sign you should just cook something yourself. Or not.
- ☐ Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)
Your magnetism is at its peak. Use it wisely – or you'll once again find yourself at a party you don't know how to leave.
- ☐ Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Your adventurous spirit is soaring, but maybe start small? Like taking a different route to work before booking a one-way ticket to Mongolia.

- ☐ Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)
Your hard work is finally paying off! Soon, you can reward yourself with something big – like an overpriced coffee, guilt-free.
- ☐ Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)
Your ideas are brilliant, but not everyone is ready for them yet. Maybe wait a bit before suggesting that all meetings should be replaced by memes.
- ☐ Pisces (February 19 – March 20)
You're daydreaming more than ever. That's adorable – as long as you remember to get off at the right bus stop.
- ☐ The stars whisper – but you do whatever you want anyway!

