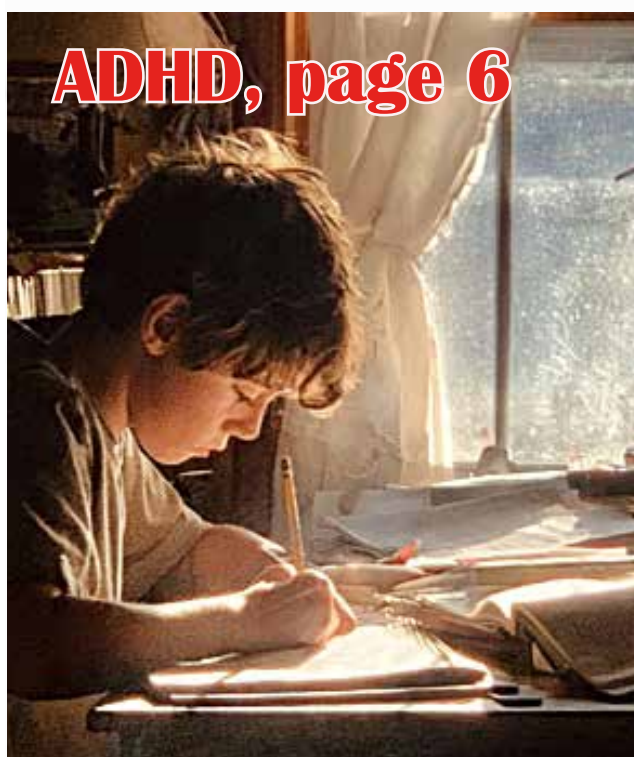


# WASA DAILY



**“Patient safety is built by people”**

Page 3



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**Marco Bjurström in Vaasa page 4**



## LOCAL NEWS

### VÖRÅ CONGREGATION

**After years in Vörå – parish priest Samuel Eriksson resigns**



A major change is coming to Vörå församling as parish priest Samuel Eriksson has announced his resignation after eight years of service.

In a heartfelt Facebook message published on Monday, May 18, Eriksson said the decision came after careful consideration and prayer. He explained that both personal and health-related reasons led to his resignation.

“It has become clear to me that I cannot continue the work with the inner wholeness the position requires,” he wrote.

Despite stepping down, Eriksson says he is already looking toward the future. He expects to begin new duties within church work this autumn, although the details have not yet been finalized.

During the notice period and until August 31, Hans Boije will serve as acting parish priest in Vörå. Eriksson expressed gratitude for the arrangement and said he hopes the congregation will find “a good and faithful shepherd” for the future.

He also hopes to deliver his farewell sermon later this autumn in the newly renovated Vörå church.

Source: Samuel Eriksson on Facebook

EDITORIAL

# The Future of Newspapers

For centuries, newspapers were the primary source of news, shaping public opinion and holding power to account.

The morning ritual of reading the daily paper was a cornerstone of informed citizenship. However, the rise of radio, television, and, most disruptively, the internet, has drastically altered the media landscape. Today, newspapers face declining circulation, shrinking advertising revenues, and fierce competition from digital platforms. Yet, despite these challenges, newspapers remain one of the most reliable sources of well-researched, fact-checked news and insightful commentary. The question now is: What can be done to secure the future of reliable newspapers?

## The Decline of Print and the Rise of Digital Disruption

The golden age of newspapers saw them as indispensable—delivering breaking news, investigative journalism, and in-depth analysis. However, the digital revolution has eroded their dominance. Social media platforms and 24-hour news channels provide instant updates, often prioritizing speed over accuracy. Free online news sources have conditioned readers to expect information without cost, making it difficult for traditional newspapers to sustain themselves through subscriptions alone.

Advertising, once the financial backbone of newspapers, has migrated to tech giants like Google and Facebook, which offer targeted ads at lower costs. As a result, many newspapers have downsized, merged, or shut down entirely, leaving "news deserts" in communities that no longer have local journalism.

## Why Newspapers Still Matter

Despite these challenges, newspapers remain vital for several reasons:

**Credibility & Accountability** – Unlike many online sources, reputable newspapers adhere to strict editorial standards, fact-checking, and ethical journalism. They provide context, verification, and accountability—qualities often missing in viral social media posts.

**Investigative Journalism** – Newspapers invest in long-form investigations that expose corruption, injustice, and systemic failures. Stories like Watergate or the Panama Papers demonstrate the irreplaceable

role of print journalism in democracy.

**In-Depth Analysis** – While digital platforms favor bite-sized news, newspapers offer thoughtful editorials, expert opinions, and comprehensive reporting that help readers understand complex issues.

## Strategies to Secure the Future of Newspapers

To survive and thrive in the digital age, newspapers must adapt without sacrificing their core values. Here are key strategies:

1. **Embrace Digital Transformation Without Abandoning Print**

Newspapers must fully integrate digital platforms while maintaining print for loyal readers. Many legacy papers, like The New York Times and The Washington Post, have successfully transitioned to digital-first models with strong paywalls. Offering exclusive digital content—such as podcasts, interactive graphics, and video reports—can attract younger audiences.

2. **Strengthen Subscription Models & Reader Revenue**

Reliance on advertising alone is no longer sustainable. Newspapers must convince readers that quality journalism is worth paying for. Strategies include:

Flexible subscription tiers (e.g., student discounts, premium memberships).

Membership perks (early access, exclusive events, ad-free browsing).

Community-supported journalism (donations, crowdfunding for specific investigations).

3. **Leverage AI & Technology Responsibly**

Artificial intelligence can streamline news production, personalize content, and detect misinformation. However, human oversight must remain central to maintain trust. AI can assist in data journalism, automate routine reporting (e.g., sports scores, financial updates), and enhance reader engagement through chatbots and tailored recommendations.

4. **Focus on Local Journalism**

Many struggling newspapers are local. Yet, local news is crucial for community engagement, government accountability, and grassroots issues. Solutions include:

Partnerships with nonprofits (e.g., ProPublica's local reporting collaborations). Hyperlocal digital editions targeted to government & philanthropic funding to sustain public-interest journalism.

5. **Combat Misinformation with Transparency**

In an era of "fake news," newspapers must double down on credibility. Fact-checking initiatives, transparent sourcing, and corrections policies can reinforce trust. Explaining the journalistic process—how stories are researched and verified—can differentiate newspapers from unreliable online sources.

6. **Diversify Revenue Streams**

Beyond ads and subscriptions, newspapers can explore:

Events & conferences (hosting debates, expert panels).

E-commerce & affiliate marketing (recommending books, tools).

Licensing content to schools, libraries, and other media outlets.

The future of newspapers is not about nostalgia for print but about preserving the values of reliable journalism in a digital world. While the medium may change, the mission remains the same: to inform, educate, and hold power accountable.

Readers must recognize that quality news is not free—supporting newspapers through subscriptions and memberships is an investment in democracy. Governments and tech companies should also play a role, whether through subsidies, tax incentives, or fairer revenue-sharing from platforms that profit from news content.

If newspapers adapt intelligently—combining digital innovation with unwavering journalistic integrity—they can not only survive but thrive. The alternative—a world dominated by unchecked misinformation and hollow clickbait—is too dangerous to accept.

## DRIVER'S LICENSES

# Drivers licence services changes in Vaasa - Ajovar- ma losing Vaasa region

A major change is coming for driver's license services in western Finland. Finnish Transport and Communications Agency Traficom has completed its tender process for road traffic examination and permit services for 2027–2029, and in Vaasa, Seinäjoki and Kokkola the services will move from Ajovar- ma to Citykatsastus starting in early 2027.

The decision has raised eyebrows because Citykatsastus is still a relatively small company, currently operating only five inspection stations in southern Finland. The company is now rapidly searching for new premises and recruiting staff across the country as it prepares for expansion. Exactly where the new service point in the Vaasa region will be located remains unclear.

The process is not fully settled yet. Ajovar- ma has filed a request for rectification, meaning final contracts cannot be signed before Midsummer.

Despite the uncertainty, Traficom says customers should not worry.

– The services customers need will remain well accessible throughout Finland, even as the service network is streamlined in a controlled manner, says Traficom department head Hanna Antila.

Source: Traficom

## TAJGA-TICK

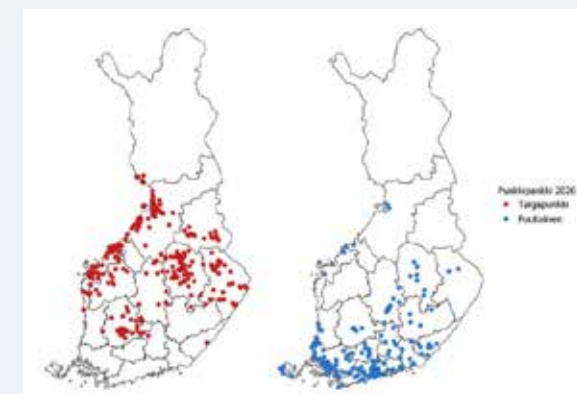
# Dangerous "Super Tick" Spreading Near Vaasa – Scientists Sound the Alarm

A more aggressive species of tick is now spreading rapidly in western Finland – and researchers say the Vaasa region has become one of the new hotspots.



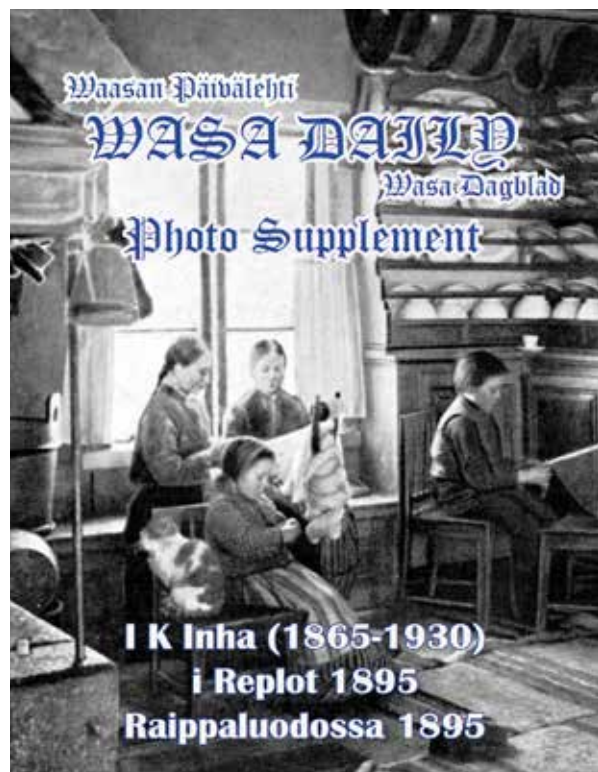
Siberian tick (*Ixodes persulcatus*) seen under a microscope. Photo: João Fonseca Lucas University of Turku

Scientists at the University of Turku report that the so-called taiga tick has appeared in unusually high numbers during this spring's nationwide tick collection campaign. The species is considered more dangerous than the common tick because it can carry serious diseases such as tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) and Lyme disease.



Finnish people have sent ticks to researchers from all over the country. The red dots represent the taiga ticks sent to the researchers, and their high numbers may indicate changes in the species' distribution. University of Turku

## Photo Supplement





## PATIENT SAFETY

# “Patient safety is built by people” – new research highlights the power of interaction

**Patient safety is not created by rules and checklists alone. According to new research perspectives by Riikka Lehesvuo connected to University of Vaasa, the real key to safe healthcare lies in communication, teamwork and trust between people.**

Healthcare professionals today work under growing pressure caused by staff shortages, heavy workloads and rapid digitalisation. Researchers argue that safe treatment depends largely on how doctors, nurses, patients and family members interact in demanding situations where written instructions cannot cover every possible scenario.

Traditionally, patient safety has focused on regulations, reporting systems and strict operational guidelines. But the new approach highlights something more human: a workplace culture where employees can openly discuss risks, mistakes and uncertainty without fear of blame.

The study also points out that healthcare technology is advancing rapidly. Automation, electronic systems and digital tools can improve efficiency and reduce errors, yet they may also introduce entirely new risks if communication inside healthcare teams breaks down.

Another major shift is the idea of learning from success, not only from failure. Instead of analysing accidents alone, healthcare organisations are encouraged to identify and strengthen practices that already work well in everyday care.

Researchers believe this approach could improve both working conditions and patient outcomes at a time when healthcare systems across Europe face increasing pressure.

The message is clear: even in a highly technological future, patient safety ultimately depends on people who know how to cooperate, communicate and support one another.

Source: University of Vaasa

PHOTO:

Riikka Lehesvuo's doctoral dissertation suggests that rules and guidelines for healthcare professionals alone are not enough to ensure patient safety. Photo: University of Vaasa. Image freely available.

Until recently, taiga ticks were mainly associated with eastern Finland and areas closer to Russia. But now researchers say the species appears to be moving westward at increasing speed.

The findings come from Finland's "Tick Bank" project, where citizens send ticks to researchers for identification and disease monitoring. According to the researchers, this year's collection season has started "with a bang," with particularly large numbers of taiga ticks already reported.

Experts believe the unusually mild winter may be one major reason. When the ground does not freeze properly, more ticks survive and spread into new environments.

People in the Vaasa area are now being urged to take extra precautions while hiking, gardening or spending time in forests and grassy coastal areas. Careful skin checks after outdoor activities remain the most effective protection.

Researchers also warn that Finland could be facing an exceptionally long tick season this year. Source: University of Turku

## MICKELSÖRARNA

### Summer adventure to Mickelsörarna – day cruises attract out to sea

This summer's day trips to Mickelsörarna in the Kvarken are now starting. The excursions will be held on 28 June and 26 July 2026 and will take visitors out to the unique archipelago environment outside Vörå.

The Mickelsör region is known for its dramatic nature, its old fishing villages and the UNESCO-protected Kvarken Archipelago World Heritage Site. During the day trips, visitors have the opportunity to experience nature trails, sea views and archipelago environments that are otherwise difficult to reach.

The trips are aimed at both locals and tourists and are expected to be popular during the height of summer. Interest in nature tourism and day trips in the Kvarken has increased sharply in recent years.

The organizers recommend advance registration as the number of places is limited.

Reference: Vörå municipality – <https://www.vora.fi/nyheter/aktuellt/gor-en-oforglomlig-dagsresa-till-mickelsorarna-28-626-7-2026>

## WELLBEING

### WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY

#### To the doctor in a couple of minutes? Chat appointments in medical care became a huge success

The medical care chat appointments launched by the Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia have proven to be a resounding success. Recent figures reveal that digital low-threshold services have significantly improved the availability of care in the region and reduced the health queues at traditional health centres.

Through the chat reception, the resident can contact a healthcare professional in just a few minutes without queuing for hours on the phone or in waiting rooms. Digital appointments can be used to take care of a large number of routine matters, such as prescription renewals, mild infections and assessments of the need for treatment. The popularity of the service has also been a positive

WASA DAILY

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**VAASA CITY THEATRE**

**“Even with summer coming, Christmas can’t wait”  
– Findus and Pettson bring holiday magic to Vaasa**



**Vaasan kaupunginteatteri is preparing for a season filled with warmth, mystery and courage as the 2026–2027 theatre year promises entertainment for all ages in Vaasa.**

One of the biggest highlights will arrive just before Christmas, when Pettson and Findus’ Christmas premieres on November 19, 2026, at the Julia Stage. Based on Sven Nordqvist’s beloved children’s books, the play tells a heartwarming story about friendship, holiday anticipation and the chaos of preparing for Christmas together.

Directed by theatre manager **Seppo Välinen** with scenography by **Toini Nissinen**, the production stars **Mari Hirvi, Timo Luoma, Mila Kangas** and the theatre’s newest ensemble member **Saara Östman**.

But the upcoming season will not focus only on family warmth. In spring 2027, audiences will also experience suspense when Agatha Christie’s legendary murder mystery *The Mousetrap* arrives in Vaasa. The classic detective story remains one of the world’s most famous stage thrillers.

The theatre will additionally launch its new Kapun kulma concert series and host several guest performances throughout the season. The overall theme for the year is courage — a message the theatre hopes will resonate both on stage and beyond it. With family-friendly productions, classic mysteries and live music, the theatre expects to attract audiences of all generations.

Source: Vaasan kaupunginteatteri

**VAASA CITY THEATRE**

**Kaija Koo musical and comedy chaos set to light up Vaasa theatre season**

**Vaasan kaupunginteatteri is preparing for a spectacular autumn 2026 with two major productions promising music, laughter and dramatic stage chaos.**

The biggest headline is the world premiere of *Tina-kenkätyttö* – a musical about the life of Kaija Koo. The new production will explore the life, struggles and rise of one of Finland’s most beloved pop stars. The musical will be directed by famous choreographer and television personality **Marco Bjurström**, adding even more excitement around the ambitious production.

At the same time, audiences can prepare for complete disaster — in the funniest possible way. The international comedy hit *The Play That Goes Wrong* premieres at the Romeo Stage in Vaasa on October 8, 2026. The fast-paced farce follows an amateur



absolutely everything collapses around them: sets fall apart, props fail and actors forget their lines.

The production is directed by actress and director **Sari Siikander**, who calls the play “a love letter to theatre told through catastrophe.” The cast includes Anna Lemmetti-Vieri, Ville Härkönen, Toni Ikola and several new theatre

courage — something the theatre says will be reflected both in its bold productions and emotional storytelling.

With a major musical, physical comedy and large-scale productions, Vaasa is preparing for a theatre season full of energy and surprises.

Source: Vaasan kaupunginteatteri

surprise to the management of the wellbeing services county. Thanks to the digital leap, access to care is now more equal for residents who live far from physical health centres.

Source: Wellbeing services county



**WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY**

**Ministry follows the results of Ostrobothnia Digital Clinic: Orientation for the future of health and social services in Finland as a whole**

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is now following the digital clinic experiment carried out in the wellbeing services county of Ostrobothnia with great interest. The practical experiences gained in the region and the data collected will play a key role in the Ministry’s assessment of the actual effectiveness of the national health and social services reforms.

The Ostrobothnia experiment has served as a national opening for how digital services can be smoothly integrated into public health care. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health will use the results of the project to assess how digital clinics affect the cost-effectiveness of care, the sufficiency of staff and patient satisfaction. The Ostrobothnia model may soon serve as a direct blueprint for other wellbeing services counties in Finland, which are struggling with the same pressure to save money and a shortage of doctors.

Source: Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

**THE WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY**

**Proposal approved: Childbirth to become free in Vaasa**

Vaasa is preparing a major boost for families: a proposal to make childbirth free of charge at Vaasa Central Hospital has advanced in the decision-making process, with the goal of launching the reform in August 2026.

Under the proposal, free childbirth services would be offered between August 1, 2026 and December 31, 2027. Officials say the move is intended to ease the financial burden faced by families welcoming a new baby. Currently, maternity ward care costs 71.50 euros per day, and families usually stay in hospital for two to three days.

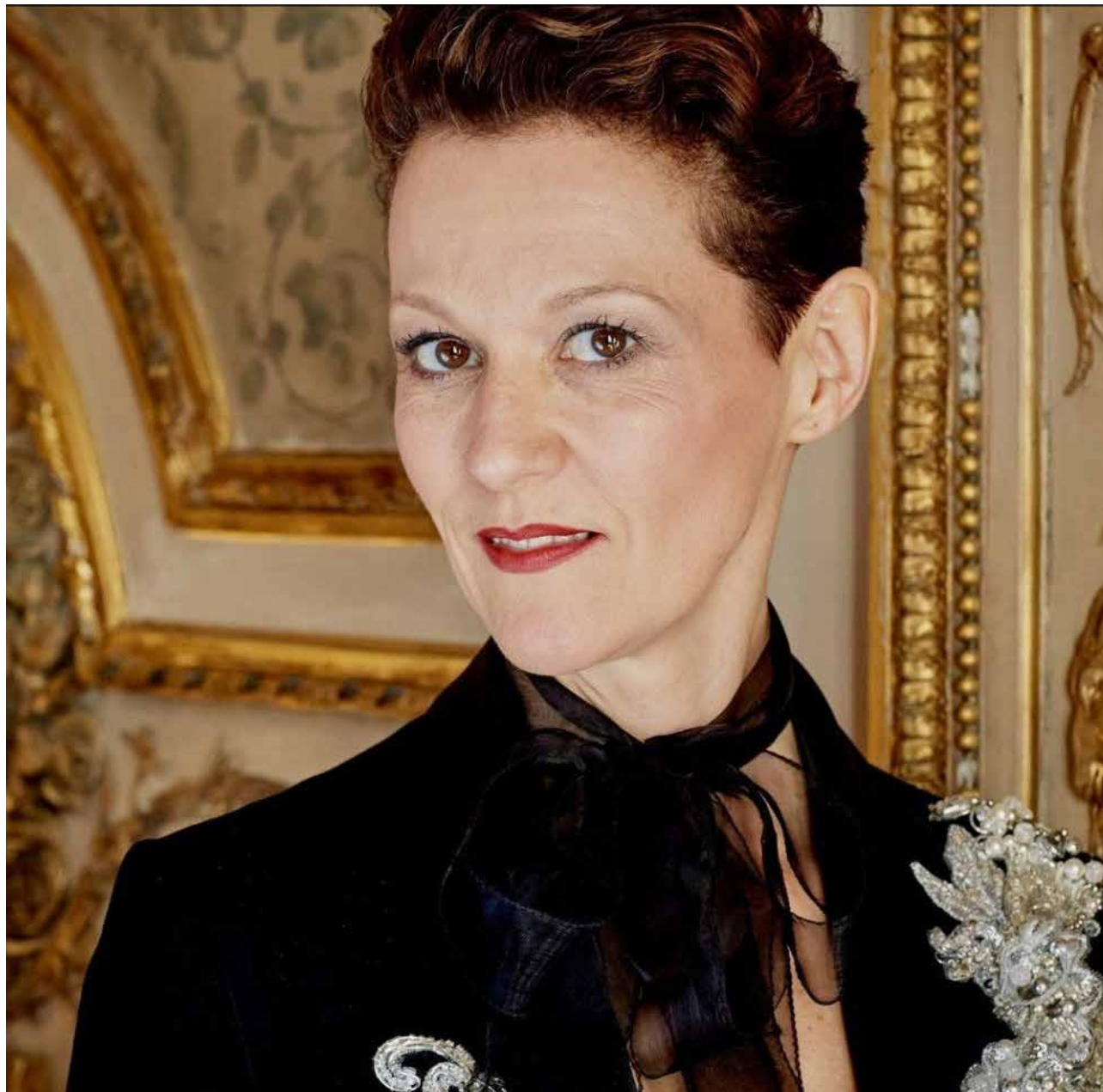
Around 1,500 babies are born annually in Ostrobothnia, but only about 1,000 are delivered at Vaasa Central Hospital. Authorities hope the free service will encourage more families to give birth locally instead of choosing hospitals in neighboring regions. The reform could also reduce millions of euros in outside-hospital costs for the wellbeing services county.

Families are also expected to benefit from upgraded maternity facilities later this year, including renovated rooms equipped with private bathrooms and showers.

# MUSIC

## CITY ORCHESTRA

### Vaasa City Orchestra's autumn: from Baroque to Piaf



**Vaasa City Orchestra has published the program for the autumn season 2026. The diverse concert season takes the audience from the solemn church halls of the Baroque to the great emotions of the Romantic era, further to the world of French chanson in the spirit of Édith Piaf and to the core of Finnish orchestral music.**

Highlights of the autumn season include several prominent soloists and conductors, historical instruments that are rarely heard, collaborative productions around Ostrobothnia and guest performances in other locations. During the season, entertainment stars Pepe Willberg and Tommi Läntinen will also perform with the orchestra. Chief conductor Anna-Maria Helsing will lead the season's major concerts, which will include romantic symphonies and grand orchestral works.

The season begins in July when the orchestra traditionally visits Strömsö and the Korsholm Music Festival with Antonín Dvořák's Ninth Symphony. Then we travel to Uusimaa to participate in the Crusell Week. There, works by Mozart, Crusell, Debussy and Ravel will be performed in a French-inspired program.

In August, baroque music takes center stage in Lillkyro Church, where, under the direction of Petteri Pitko, we will hear music by, among others, Monteverdi, Gabrieli, Bach and Handel on historical instruments such as harpsichord and viola da gamba. The August program also includes the traditional concert during the Night of Arts in the Rewell shopping center and the closing concert

of Jorma Panula's conducting course in Vaasa City Hall.

In September, the Vuorio Foundation concert, conducted by Anna-Maria Helsing, will feature Brahms' Double Concerto and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 3 in Vaasa City Hall, with Christel Lee and Jonathan Roozeman as soloists. The month culminates in the joint PIAF! concert with the Vaasa and Seinäjoki City Orchestras, which takes the audience to Paris through the songs of Édith Piaf.

In October, Beethoven will be performed, conducted by Olli Mustonen, as well as a chamber music concert where poetry and music are woven together. The same month will also celebrate Pepe Willberg's 80th birthday with a grand joint concert. At the end of October, singers from the Mirjam Helin Academy will perform in Vaasa City Hall.

In November, speech and music will be combined in collaboration with Vasa LittFest in a joint concert with Helena Åhman and Tommi Läntinen. At the RUSK Festival, the orchestra will perform in the concert Young & Immortal, conducted by Anna-Maria Helsing, together with the national youth symphony orchestra VIVO in the largest orchestral lineup of the season, with cellist Senja Rummukainen as soloist.

In December, a Christmas concert will be held in Korsholm Church with works by Respighi, Mozart and Handel. The year ends with the week of Finnish music in Vaasa City Hall and the family concert "The Snowman" in the Alma Festival Hall of the Citizens' Institute. The Vaasa City Orchestra's autumn season 2026 offers experiences for both classical music lovers and new audience groups - with a bold mix of genres and utilizing the full spectrum of music.

KUVA: Valérie Gabail  
LÄHDE: Vaasan Kaupunginorkesteri

# NEWS

The decision is being seen as a strong signal of support for families at a time when Finland continues to struggle with declining birth rates.

Source: STT Info / Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County

## MUSIC

### KAOS FESTIVAL

#### The metal storm returns to Vaasa – Kaaos Festival gears up for a new invasion

After last year's success, Kaaos Festival is making a comeback in Vaasa – and the organizers promise even heavier names and a larger audience in the summer of 2026.

The festival will be held in Vaskiluoto on 24–25 July 2026 in the old Wasalandia area, which will be transformed into a massive festival area for hard rock and metal fans from all over the Nordic region. Last year's debut attracted audiences far beyond Ostrobothnia and brought Vaasa international attention in the metal scene.

Now the organizers are hoping for an even greater impact. The festival is marketed as one of the most intense metal experiences of the summer in Finland, with both international and Finnish bands on the program. Hotel bookings in Vaasa are already expected to increase ahead of the festival weekend.

Source: Kaaos Festival – <https://kaaosfestival.fi/>

## HEALTH

### CHRONIC PAIN

#### Why women suffer from pain longer than men – scientists uncover possible biological cause

For years, women with chronic pain have often been told their symptoms were linked to stress, anxiety or emotional sensitivity. Now, a new American study suggests the explanation may lie in the immune system itself.

Researchers at Michigan State University announced findings in February 2026 that could explain why women are more likely than men to develop long-lasting pain conditions.

The scientists discovered that specialized immune cells called monocytes help "switch off" pain by producing an anti-inflammatory signal known as IL-10. In men, these cells appeared significantly more active, partly because of testosterone. In women, the same mechanism was weaker, potentially allowing pain to persist longer.

"The difference in pain between men and women has a biological basis," said lead researcher Geoffroy Laumet when the study was released.

The research was published on February 20, 2026, in the journal Science Immunology. The team examined both laboratory mice and human patients recovering from injuries and accidents.

Chronic pain affects nearly one in four American adults. Researchers now hope the discovery could eventually lead to new non-opioid treatments – and force healthcare systems to take women's pain more seriously. Source: Michigan State University



## THL

### ADHD diagnoses continue to become more common among young people and girls catch up with boys. In Ostrobothnia, there are few diagnoses

**ADHD diagnoses among children and adolescents continue to grow rapidly in Finland, and there are no signs of slowing down. According to the latest data from the National Institute for Health and Welfare for 2024, the diagnosis was recorded in 12.5 per cent of boys aged 7-12 and 11.5 per cent of boys aged 13-17 years. .**

The figures are still lower for girls, but the growth has been clearly faster than for boys: 4.5 per cent of girls of primary school age and 7 per cent of girls aged 13-17 were diagnosed with ADHD. Gender differences have been narrowing steadily for ten years now.

Terhi AaltoSetälä, Chief Physician at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, says that diagnoses have increased continuously throughout the review period from 2015 to 2024 – and there is no change in sight. According to him, this development is a significant challenge for primary health care, where the diagnostics and treatment of ADHD are mainly carried out. Multi-professional

assessment requires time and resources, which are not always available in sufficient quantities.

At the same time, the use of ADHD medication has also increased, but in recent years, diagnoses have increased faster than the use of medication. Miika Vuori, Research Manager at Kela, considers this an interesting phenomenon and a possible sign of changes in treatment practices. In Finland, the use of medicines is already common compared to the other Nordic countries, especially among boys of primary school age. According to Vuori, it is important to monitor the development closely with the help of register data.

In the wellbeing services county of North Karelia, more than one in five boys aged 7-12 have received this diagnosis, i.e. 21.8%. The corresponding figure for girls is 10.2%.

In Ostrobothnia, the corresponding figures are 7.6% and 2.6%,

THL's statistics describe the so-called administrative prevalence – i.e. how many children and

young people have been diagnosed with ADHD in health care registers during the year. The data reflect the entity attached to primary health care, student welfare and specialised health care services, as well as how children and young people are referred to diagnostics.

Although the numbers are increasing, experts emphasize that the development also offers an opportunity: awareness of ADHD is increasing, and more and more children and young people are getting the support they need in time. At the same time, it challenges the service system to develop – and to ensure that every diagnosis is based on a careful assessment and leads to the right kind of support.

Source: THL

#### What is ADHD and why is it becoming more common?

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects attention, impulse control and executive functioning. A person with ADHD symptoms may be restless, easily distur-

bed, prone to forgetfulness or have trouble concentrating. However, not everyone has symptoms that manifest as hyperactivity – for many, they manifest themselves as distraction and difficulty managing everyday life, for example.

ADHD usually begins in childhood, but nowadays it is increasingly recognized in adults as well. The disorder is primarily caused by hereditary factors and differences in brain function. It's not about a lack of upbringing or poor discipline.

Many people feel that ADHD is "becoming more common" quickly. However, according to the researchers, it is not necessarily a question of there being more disturbances than before, but that they are better identified. Awareness of ADHD has increased in schools, working life and health care. Diagnostics have also improved, and the symptoms of girls and adults in particular can now be assessed more accurately than before.

At the same time, modern society can make ADHD symptoms more visible. The constant flood of stimuli, hurry, digital devices and work and study environments that require concentration put a strain on many people.

ADHD can be treated, for example, with guidance, everyday support, therapy and, if necessary, medication. With the right support, many people with ADHD symptoms do excellently in their studies, working life and relationships.

## CHURCHES

### KVEVLAX and SOLF

#### New priest heading to Ostrobothnia – Johan Myrskog approved for ordination



Domkapitlet i Borgå has approved theology graduate Johan Myrskog for ordination to the priesthood in the Diocese of Porvoo.

The ordination ceremony will take place on Sunday, June 7, 2026, at Borgå domkyrka. The event marks the official beginning of Myrskog's ministry within the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Following the ordination, he will serve as parish pastor in Kvevlax församling and Solfs församling until further notice.

The announcement comes during a period of several staffing changes within the Diocese of Porvoo, where new priests and church leaders are taking up positions across Finnish-Swedish congregations. Ordinations continue to be important ceremonial moments for both church communities and parish members.

Source: Domkapitlet i Borgå

PHOTO: The Church in Kvevlax

### SALPAUSSELKÄ CHURCH

#### Emotional farewell as church loses its sacred status in Lahti



A rare and emotional ceremony took place in Lahti on Ascension Day as Salpausselkä Church was officially stripped of its sacred status due to severe indoor air problems.

The deconsecration ceremony was held on Thursday, May 16, in Lahti and led by Bishop Mari Parkkinen. During the final hymn, crosses and sacred objects were carried out of the church while parishioners said goodbye to a building tied to baptisms, weddings and confirmations

NEWS

EU

# Ursula von der Leyen's statement on youth and social media

In her address in Copenhagen on May 12, Ursula von der Leyen highlighted a growing concern: the profound impact of social media on young people's mental health, safety, and democratic participation.

She stressed that digital platforms have become central to young people's lives, but that this shift has come with "new vulnerabilities that we cannot ignore." She warned that children and teenagers are increasingly exposed to harmful content, manipulative algorithms, and addictive design features that "shape their choices before they even know they are making them."

A key passage in her speech emphasizes responsibility: "We cannot allow a generation to grow up in a digital environment that profits from their anxiety, their attention, and their data." She argues that tech companies must be held accountable for the systems they design, not just the content they host. This includes algorithmic transparency, stricter age verification, and clear limits on targeted advertising to minors.

Von der Leyen also stresses the importance of digital literacy, calling it "a new civic skill" essential for navigating modern life. She urges EU member states to integrate critical digital education into school curricula so that young people can better understand how platforms influence their behaviour and worldview.

Another central theme is protecting democracy. She notes that disinformation spreads fastest among the youngest and most active social media users, making them particularly vulnerable to ma-



nipulation. Safeguarding youth online, she argues, is therefore also safeguarding Europe's democratic future.

**"We cannot allow a generation to grow up in a digital environment that profits from their anxiety, their attention, and their data."**

### Global context and comparisons

Her concerns mirror trends seen worldwide. In the United States, the Surgeon General has issued warnings about social media driven anxiety, depression, and body image issues among teens. Several states have proposed or passed laws restricting algorithmic feeds for minors. In South Korea and Japan, governments have introduced strict limits on data collection from children and have invested heavily in digital literacy programs. Australia has debated mandatory age verification for social platforms, citing rising cyberbullying and youth self harm.

Across these regions,

the pattern is similar: governments are moving from voluntary guidelines to enforceable regulation, re-

cognising that the commercial incentives of major platforms often conflict with the wellbeing of young users.

EU has established a 'Special Panel of experts on Child Safety Online' to give advise. Without pre-empting the panel's findings, von der Leyen believe we must consider a social media delay. Depending on the results, EU could come with a legal proposal this summer. We are witnessing the lightning speed at which technology is advancing - and how it penetrates every corner of childhood and adolescence.

And the discussions about a minimum age for social media can no longer be ignored - as you all know here in this room. Almost all EU Member States call for an assessment on the need for it. At the moment, Denmark wants to introduce one, nine other Member States too. The European Parliament has come to the same conclusion. The question is not whether young people should have access to social media, the question is whether social media should have access to young people. Von der Leyen's message fits squarely into this global shift: protecting youth online is no longer optional - it is a democratic, social, and public health imperative.

**Source:** Keynote address by President von der Leyen at the European Summit on Artificial Intelligence and Children, Copenhagen, May 12, 2026

NEWS

spanning decades.

The Lahti parish council is expected to decide on demolition on May 20. Church officials say repairing the building would cost more than constructing a new one.

Source: Lahti ongregations

## TEUVA, KURIKKA and VAASA Church doors open wider - same-sex couples allowed to marry in Teuva churches

A major decision in Finland's church debate has now been made in western Finland. Lapuan hiippakunta has ruled that church facilities in Teuva may also be used for same-sex weddings and marriage blessings.



The cathedral chapter approved the decision by a 5-2 vote following a proposal from Bishop Matti Salomäki. The issue had become controversial after disagreements emerged within the local parish over how church premises should be used.

Normally, individual parishes decide such matters independently. However, when a parish priest and church council disagree, the case is transferred to the cathedral chapter for a final ruling. A similar dispute was previously settled in Kurikka, where church facilities were also opened to same-sex wedding ceremonies.

The debate has spread to Vaasa as well. Teijo Peltola, parish priest of the Finnish-speaking congregation in Vaasa, recently told Yle that the church's pastoral guidelines had caused confusion in many parishes. He has opposed allowing church premises to be used for same-sex weddings. Despite that, the cathedral chapter ruled that Vaasa's church facilities may also be used for such ceremonies in the future.

Many see the decision as another step toward a more inclusive church, although the issue continues to divide opinions across Finland.

Source: Diocese of Lapua

## FINLAND

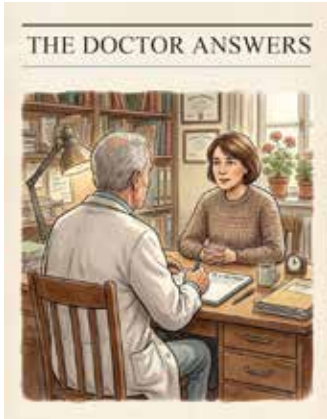
### ALERT Alert: Fake government messages surge - scammers exploit Suomi.fi

A sharp rise in digital scams is now hitting Finland,

# HEALTH

## THE DOCTOR ANSWERS

### Sudden amnesia



**What kind of illness can it be when an elderly person suddenly becomes confused, disoriented for a few hours, asks the same thing over and over again – and then becomes himself again and completely normal?**

When memory suddenly disappears – this is transient global amnesia

Suddenly not remembering where you are, what happened during the day or why you are in a certain place can be frightening both for the affected person and for relatives. A rare but usually harmless condition behind such symptoms is transient global amnesia, abbreviated TGA.

Transient global amnesia involves a temporary disturbance in memory function. The person suddenly becomes disoriented and is unable to store new memories for a limited time. It is common for the same questions to be repeated over and over again, for example: "What has happened?" or "Where are we?". However, other brain functions function normally. The person recognizes family members, can speak and move normally, and does not lose consciousness. For example, they can drive a car, although this is definitely not recommended.

The condition mainly affects people over 50 years of age. Exactly why it occurs is not known for sure, but TGA can sometimes be triggered by strong stress, intense physical exertion, cold water, emotional sensations or sudden pain.

A typical attack lasts from an hour to a day, but in most people the symptoms pass within six to eight hours. When memory returns, there

is often a gap around the event itself.

Although TGA itself is usually benign, it is very important to always seek emergency care the first time symptoms appear. Memory loss can also be due to serious conditions such as stroke, epilepsy, cerebral haemorrhage or lack of oxygen in the brain. At hospitals, examinations are therefore carried out to rule out dangerous causes. The doctor can check neurological functions and, if necessary, perform brain imaging, such as an MRI or CT scan.

There is no specific treatment for transient global amnesia because the condition usually resolves on its own. The most important thing is observation, security and rest while the symptoms are ongoing. The prognosis is usually very good, and most people recover completely without permanent damage.

Research also shows that TGA does not appear to increase the risk of dementia or stroke in most patients. However, the experience can be psychologically stressful because the sudden memory loss is often experienced as dramatic.

Doctors recommend that you always call the emergency number or go to the emergency department if a person suddenly experiences memory loss, confusion or other neurological symptoms. At that stage, you can't know if the attack will quickly recur. Many serious diseases, such as cerebral haemorrhage or blood clots in the brain, can start with the same symptoms. It is better to examine once too many than once too little when the brain suddenly changes.

with fraudsters impersonating official services to trick victims.

According to a new report, scam messages using the name of Suomi.fi have surged dramatically in recent weeks. The goal is to lure users into clicking links and entering banking credentials or personal data.

Messages often appear to come from trusted authorities, referencing tax decisions or official documents to create urgency.

Scams are also circulating under the name of Kela, directing users to fake login pages.

Experts stress one key rule: never log in via links in messages—always access services directly through official websites.

Source: STT Info / Finnish Telemarketing Association

### CHILD BENEFITS

#### Major shake-up planned for child benefits – equal payments proposed for every child

Finland could be heading for one of the biggest child benefit reforms in years. Government-appointed experts are proposing that every underage child would qualify for the same flat-rate child benefit, regardless of how many children are in the family.

The proposal was published by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (STM) in Helsinki on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 9:03 a.m. The report also suggests extending child benefits to 17-year-olds.

Under the proposal, current extra payments for large families would disappear and be replaced by an equal child-specific allowance. Supporters say the reform would simplify the system and improve equality between children and parents.

But the plan is already sparking debate. Critics warn that some low-income families could lose financial support unless other welfare benefits or tax measures are adjusted.

The government insists the goal is not to cut spending on families, but to modernize Finland's child benefit system and adapt it to today's diverse family structures.

Source: STM

### DRUG DEATHS

#### Finland moves to widen access to overdose antidote – bid to stop rising drug deaths

Finland is preparing major new measures to combat drug-related deaths. On May 7, 2026, at 3:41 p.m. in Helsinki, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (STM) launched a public consultation on legal changes that would expand access to naloxone, a medicine used to reverse opioid overdoses.

Under the proposal, naloxone could be distributed anonymously and free of charge through low-threshold addiction services and outreach clinics aimed at high-risk groups. At present, obtaining the drug usually requires a personal prescription, something officials say has discouraged many people from seeking it.

Naloxone, often administered as a nasal spray, can rapidly restore breathing during a potentially fatal overdose. Finnish authorities hope easier access will help reduce the country's stubbornly high number of drug deaths.

A non-prescription nasal spray version of naloxone is also expected to arrive in Finnish pharmacies during 2026, potentially making the life-saving medication more widely available than ever before.

Source: STM

### HANTAVIRUS

#### Deadly Andes virus sparks alarm – Finland tightens infectious disease rules

# NEWS



Finland is moving swiftly after the dramatic spread of the rare Andes hantavirus linked to a cruise ship outbreak in the Atlantic. The Finnish government has now added diseases caused by the Andes virus to the country's list of generally hazardous communicable diseases, allowing authorities to impose stricter measures such as quarantine and isolation.

The decision follows an international health scare aboard a Dutch-flagged cruise ship where several passengers fell seriously ill. At least three people have died, while others developed severe respiratory symptoms. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are closely monitoring the situation.

Finland has also been indirectly affected. According to the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), two Finland-based travellers may have been exposed to the virus during a flight from Johannesburg to Amsterdam on April 25. No confirmed infections have been reported in Finland so far.

Unlike most hantaviruses, the Andes virus is considered capable of limited person-to-person transmission.

Source: STM

# POLITICS

### PARLIAMENT

#### Dream of a home of one's own closer than ever – New ASP rules bet on young people



The path of young people and first-time homebuyers to their own home is becoming much easier. The Government has confirmed updated ASP rules, which aim to better respond to the challenges of today's housing market and improve young people's opportunities to buy a home.

Buying your own home is an important part of life's security. These changes will make the system clearer and better meet today's needs," says Swedish People's Party MP Christoffer Ingo. The reform will, among other things, raise the

# NEWS

maximum amounts of ASP loans and bring much-needed flexibility to saving periods. The governing party, the Swedish People's Party, emphasises that changes are vital in the current economic situation, where interest rates and the cost of living have hit young adults in particular. The updated system makes saving more profitable and lowers the threshold for buying a first-time home also outside growth centres. The new rules will enter into force immediately and are expected to give a boost to the housing market, which has been frozen for a long time.

Source: Swedish People's Party

## PARLIAMENT

### A new source of income for forest owners: The nature value market will revolutionise forest management

A completely new way is opening up for Finnish forest owners to reap income from domestic green gold. A new nature value market is currently being worked on in Finland, which will make it possible to obtain economic benefits directly from the protection of biodiversity and active nature management.

Member of Parliament Anders Norrback (Swedish People's Party) emphasises that a market based on voluntary participation creates a situation in which both the environment and the forest owner win. In the future, it will be possible to earn money from more than just wood sales. The new system encourages people to leave valuable natural sites uncut or to restore degraded habitats for compensation. According to Norrback, the nature value market brings much-needed perseverance and new traffic to rural areas, while Finland's climate goals and the prevention of biodiversity loss take a leap forward.

Source: Swedish People's Party

## PARLIAMENT

### Minister thundered: Impoverishment of the third sector must be stopped immediately

Organisations, sports clubs and volunteers deserve much greater appreciation and, above all, long-term financial support. This is reminded by Minister of Sports Sandra Bergqvist (Swedish People's Party), who expresses concern about the future of the so-called third sector in Finland. Bergqvist emphasises that the work done by the third sector is an irreplaceable part of the Finnish welfare society. Organisations and local clubs bear a great deal of responsibility for preventing the social exclusion of young people, activating the elderly and supporting them during the crisis phase, among other things. However, the government's drastically tightened financial frameworks and threats of cuts create constant uncertainty for operators. According to the minister, the Government must ensure that the operating conditions for volunteering are not scrapped, as filling the gaps created by organisations with public funds would be many times more expensive for society.

Source: Swedish People's Party

## RUSSIA

### RUSSIA

#### Putin's comments about Finland

During the press conference on May 9, Putin said: "Why did Finland join NATO? With us Were there any territorial disputes with Finland? No, everything was decided a long time ago, nothing was needed, and the Finnish leadership was well aware of this. What did they do to NATO?"

Comment: Of course, Putin knows perfectly well

why Finland and the people of Finland wanted to join NATO. But he doesn't say that.

### RUSSIA

#### Moscow is locked down ahead of Victory Day – Putin is protected "like never before"

Security around Vladimir Putin is being tightened sharply ahead of Russia's big Victory Day celebration on May 9 in Moscow. According to information from sources within the Federal Protection Service (FSO), exceptional security measures are awaiting around the president during the military parade on Red Square. Sources describe the situation as serious and urge the public to be vigilant in central Moscow during the festivities. At the same time, the extensive internet and communication interruptions that have already been noticed in the capital are defended.

According to the information, the measures are both about protection against drone and missile attacks and about fear of threats from internal enemies. The communication restrictions are also seen as a test of how a major national lockdown would work in practice.

Victory Day on 9 May is one of Russia's most important political and military symbolic events and is held annually on Red Square in Moscow. Reference: Telegram

### RUSSIA

#### Moscow tests digital lockdown – internet blockades could become permanent tool

The extensive internet and communication disruptions in Moscow are now described as a success by Russian government sources. According to information from Telegram channels, the blockades are being used as part of the protection of President Vladimir Putin ahead of Victory Day on May 9.

At the same time, the measures are said to serve as a dress rehearsal for future major communications controls in Russia. The authorities are said to be satisfied with how the restrictions worked during the first tests. Residents of Moscow and the Moscow region have reported problems with mobile networks, internet connections and digital services during the week. Critics believe that the measures show how quickly the state can limit the flow of information in a crisis situation.

The Victory Day celebration on Red Square is expected to bring together both military and political elites under the strictest possible security surveillance.

Reference: Telegram

### RUSSIA

#### Alarm about growing pharmaceutical crisis in Russia – cancer patients risk being left without treatment

Russia is facing a serious shortage of medicines that is now hitting cancer patients directly. Russian human rights representatives and patient organizations are warning about this after growing reports of empty pharmacy shelves around the country. The situation is particularly difficult for important cancer drugs such as methotrexate and etoposide. According to data from the President's Council on Human Rights, complaints have increased sharply in several regions.

Experts warn that the consequences could

be dramatic in the longer term. According to sources, the lack of treatment risks leading to more serious cancer cases within four to five years.

The problems do not only apply to cancer drugs. Vaccines and other important medicines are also reported to be difficult to obtain. At the same time, reduced funding and financial problems are pointed out as causes of the growing crisis.

Russian pharmaceutical manufacturers are not considered to be able to fully cover the need.

Reference: Telegram

### RUSSIA

#### Information: New wave of mobilization could start as early as this summer

According to several sources, the Russian Ministry of Defense is preparing a new wave of mobilizations that could begin as early as June or July. The information comes from Telegram channels with reference to sources within the ministry.

At the same time, a possible partial demobilization is also being discussed for some soldiers who have served for a long time on the front line in Ukraine. No official announcements from the Kremlin have yet been made, but the information has already raised strong concerns among many Russian families.

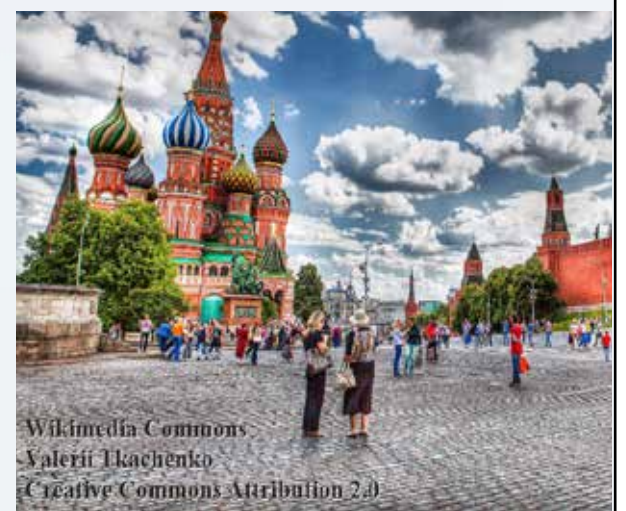
Russia carried out its first major mobilization in the autumn of 2022, which led to widespread criticism and a large exodus of military-capable men from the country.

The continued pressure on the Russian army and the protracted fighting are now said to be the reason why new conscriptions are being considered.

Reference: Telegram

### RUSSIA

#### "Pray for Putin 15 times a day" – new information about unrest in the Kremlin



Unusual calls are now being spread within the Russian Orthodox Church. According to information from Telegram sources close to the church leadership, Russians are urged to pray for President Vladimir Putin between ten and fifteen times a day.

According to the sources, the background is a growing concern about the situation in Russia and about the president's security. The message is said to have been conveyed through people close to Patriarch Kirill.

The wording "the situation is difficult" is said to have been used internally according to the information.

## TODAY

### CHEERLEADERS

#### Glitter, acrobatics and full speed ahead – cheer stars take over Vaasa in this spring's big show

There will be hope, pyramids and explosive energy when West Coast Vikings Cheerleaders gather the entire association for their big spring show in Vaasa on Sunday 24 May 2026. The event will be held at Variska Unified School at Vanhan Vaasan katu 20, and according to the organisers, the stands are expected to fill up quickly.

All of the association's 18 teams will take to the stage during the three-hour show, which starts at 15.00. The doors open as early as 2.30 p.m. and the audience is promised fast-paced numbers, advanced lifts and impressive choreographies from some of the region's most committed cheerleaders. West Coast Vikings Cheerleaders is one of the larger cheerleading clubs in Ostrobothnia and gathers over 300 active athletes of different ages and levels. The association is a member of the Finnish Cheerleading Federation and its activities have grown significantly in recent years.

Tickets cost €15 for adults and €10 for children under ten years old. Children under two years old can enter for free if they are seated in your arms. The pre-sale ends on May 23 at 12 noon – and the organizers are already warning that tickets often sell out in advance.

For many participants, the spring show is one of the biggest highlights of the year – an opportunity to show off months of hard training in front of family, friends and audiences. Source: West Coast Vikings Cheerleaders

## JUNE

### LAIHIAN NUORISOLIITTO

#### Haavelaiva - kaappaus kesäyössä - näytelmä

1. ja 2.6.2026 klo 19:00 - 21:00  
Tampereentie 603, 66450 Jakkula  
Hyvän mielen komedia täynnä musiikkia.  
<https://www.jakkula.net/nuorisoliitto>

### EVENING MUSIC

#### 50 years of free evening music in Vaasa – stars take over Vaasa Church



June – 14 August 2026  
– Every Wednesday at 7.30 pm, completely free. The evening music at the Trinity Church has been a summer classic for 50 years. And This year it is being celebrated in earnest.

The organ has its place, of course – it is, after all, one of the finest churches in Finland. But the singing, violin, piano, clarinet and cello also shine. The artists? Well-known Finnish musicians and international guest performers.

High-quality, free and open to all. So simple, so good.  
Bring a friend and enjoy the bright June evenings until mid-August.  
Source: Bothnia Classic

### BOTHNIA BEER FEST

#### Beer Festival Buzz Hits Vaasa – Bothnia Beer Fest Set for June Weekend

Craft beer lovers are expected to flock to Vaasa when Bothnia Beer Fest takes place on June 5–6, 2026 at Bock's Corner Brewery.

The festival will bring together breweries from across Finland and the Nordic region for a weekend filled with specialty beers, live music and food. Visitors will be able to sample everything from classic lagers to trendy IPAs and dark stouts produced by independent breweries.

Organizers say the event aims to celebrate the rapidly growing craft beer culture in Finland while creating a relaxed summer festival atmosphere for both enthusiasts and casual visitors.

In addition to beer tastings, the programme includes food vendors, entertainment and opportunities to meet brewers directly. Interest in locally produced beverages has surged in recent years, and organizers hope the event will become a major annual attraction in Ostrobothnia.  
Source: Bock's Corner Brewery

### ILMAJOKI-OPERA

#### 50th anniversary celebration in Ilmajoki: "The Great Injustice" turns into an opera as the year of hatred takes the stage



ILMAJOKI (5–14 June 2026)  
When the Ilmajoki Music Festival turns 50, it does so with a bang. For the first time, the festival will present "The Great Injustice" – a brand new, in-house produced opera about the horrors of hatred and the fate of our ancestors in Kyröjoki along. Behind the work is a dream team: librettist Anneli Kanto, director Tuomas Parkkinen and conductor Eero Lehtimäki. The festival has offered opera celebrations in the traditional landscapes of Southern Ostrobothnia since its founding in 1975. Now the bar is being raised considerably. Tickets are expected to sell out like hot stones in the sunshine. If you don't get there now, you'll have to wait for the next half century.  
Source: <https://www.musiikkijuhlat.fi/denstoraofreden.html>

### LISÄÄ LÖYLYÄ

#### Ten years of rock and sauna spirit

Lisää Löylyä Rock Festival is celebrating its tenth anniversary with a bang. This time the party will move to Vaskiluoto – right where Wasalandia used to be. On stage: Sonata Arctica, Rhapsody of Fire and much more. Two days of hard rock, sweat and joy. Two-day early bird tickets are on sale for 119 euros. Sauna? Maybe not, but a steamy atmosphere is guaranteed!

• When: 12–13 June 2026  
• Where: Vasklot, Vaasa (formerly Wasalandia)

### ÅMINNE FOLKPARK

#### Early Summer Party - Sofie Svensson Dom där and Dom Första

Saturday 13.6.2026 at 21:00  
An unforgettable evening in Åminne Folkpark.  
Tickets: <http://www.netticket.fi/>

### STUNDARS

#### Step Back in Time – Stundars Kicks Off the 2026 Summer Season!



History comes alive as Stundars Museum and Cultural Centre in Solf, Korsholm, officially opens its 2026 summer season. On Monday, June 22, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, visitors are invited to explore a vibrant museum village filled with traditional crafts and historical charm. The opening day promises a packed program featuring skilled artisans, friendly farm animals, and an authentic look at rural life from the past. Whether you are looking for a peaceful stroll in a beautiful setting or an educational family outing, Stundars offers a unique glimpse into the soul of Ostrobothnia. Enjoy local treats at the café and soak in the atmosphere of this beloved cultural treasure. Don't miss this festive start to the summer!

Referens: Stundars.fi

## JULY

### DRÖMMEN

#### Dreams come true at Yliopistopuisto

A magical day awaits when the Drömmen festival takes over Vaasa Yliopistopuisto. It's all about community, good music and a wonderful summer atmosphere. The exact list of performers is still a secret, but the organizers promise "everything you love, and a little more". Pack a picnic blanket, bring your friends and get ready for an afternoon and evening that feels like one

long burst of happiness.

• When: Saturday, July 4, 2026, 4 p.m.  
• Where: Vaasa University Park, Universitetsstranden 7

### BIG DAY FESTIVAL JULY 10-11.7.2026

#### Alan Walker heading to Vaasa – Big Day Festival promises huge summer crowds

Big Day Festival 2026 is preparing for one of the biggest music weekends of the summer as international stars and Nordic favorites arrive in Vaasa this July.

The festival takes place on July 10–11, 2026, at the seaside university area in Vaasa, Universitetsstranden 7. Major acts include Alan Walker, Miriam Bryant and Mirella, alongside several Finnish and Scandinavian artists.

Organizers describe Big Day as one of Finland's largest bilingual festivals, attracting thousands of visitors every year with live music, food areas and summer atmosphere by the sea. The festival is open to all ages, while separate 18+ and VIP sections will also be available.

Ticket sales are already underway, and more artist announcements are expected before the festival weekend arrives.  
Source: Big Day Festival

### KORSHOLM MUSIC FESTIVAL

#### Korsholm Music Festival turns 40+ – stars take over the clear nights of the west coast

#### 22–31 July 2026

Warm summer evenings. Clear nights. And top-notch music. Since 1983, Korsholm Music Festival has been a chamber music festival unlike any other. The founder, cellist Seppo Kimanen, would be proud. Since 2023, cellist Jan-Erik Gustafsson has led the festival, which attracts the cream of Finnish and international art musicians. Experience the unique surroundings of the west coast as dusk falls. Bring a picnic basket – and a handkerchief. It can be so beautiful that it hurts.  
Source: Bothnia Classic

### KAAOS FESTIVAL

#### The metal storm returns to Vaasa – Kaaos Festival gears up for a new invasion

After last year's success, Kaaos Festival is making a comeback in Vaasa – and the organizers promise even heavier names and a larger audience in the summer of 2026. The festival will be held in Vaskiluoto on 24–25 July 2026 in the old Wasalandia area, which will be transformed into a massive festival area for hard rock and metal fans from all over the Nordic region. Last year's debut attracted audiences far beyond Ostrobothnia and brought Vaasa international attention in the metal scene. Now the organizers are hoping for an even greater impact. The festival is marketed as one of the most intense metal experiences of the summer in Finland, with both international and Finnish bands on the program.

# UKRAINE PRESIDENT

## Today Saw Our Successful Long-Range Sanction against Russia – A Distance of 1,700 Kilometers from Our State Border



Dear Ukrainians!

**Briefly about this day. First, I congratulated our Marines. Right here in the Mariinskyi Palace, I presented state awards to our warriors. Today is Ukrainian Marine Corps Day. Thank you, warriors! We are all proud of our Marine Corps!**

I also thank the Security Service of Ukraine – today saw our successful long-range sanction against Russia – a distance of 1,700 kilometers from

our Ukraine's state border, and a precise hit in the Perm region. A Russian military-industrial enterprise that supports the operation of other Russian military production facilities and the manufacturing of explosives, as well as components for aviation equipment and drones. It is very important that Ukrainian sanctions successfully reach such targets and prove effective at such a range.

Also, I thank the Armed Forces of Ukraine – they continue to deliver justified responses against Russia's oil industry facilities. Today, it was Novorossiysk, an oil terminal and transshipment facility.

And it is only right that Russia is losing oil export revenues. It was precisely oil and gas that made Russia so arrogant that it now allows itself to wage war in the modern world and continue to threaten all others.

All forms of sanctions against Russia and its accomplices must continue to function, and every easing of sanctions also weakens global security and delays peace. We are currently working with our European partners on new sanctions packages, and I am grateful to our partners for taking Ukrainian proposals into account.

Today, I signed a new

Ukrainian sanctions package that we must ensure is extended to other jurisdictions as well. These sanctions target the occupiers – more than one hundred Russian military personnel involved in missile and drone strikes against our country and our people. There is also a package targeting vessels used by Russia to transport cargo for the war – weapons, ammunition, and military equipment. We are also preparing new sanctions decisions – both

long-range and legal.

And one more thing. We are actively engaged in diplomatic work with our partners in the European Union to bring Ukraine's membership in the EU closer. Ukraine is fighting for its life, for its independence, and for the Europe that has lived in peace the longest, that protects people, life and culture, and that, thanks to this protection, plays a truly global role.

There can be no com-

plete European project without Ukraine, and Ukraine's place in the European Union must also be complete – full and equal. It is important to open the clusters. It is important to make meaningful progress in the negotiations. It is important to work at one hundred percent for security and for our people. I thank everyone who stands with us, with Ukraine!

**Glory to Ukraine!**

### ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Louis Jean François Lagrenée vanhempi / den äldre / the Elder

21.1.1725, Paris 19.6.1805, Paris

Pygmalion och hans staty, Pygmalion and his statue Pygmalion och hans staty1777

Suomen kansallisgalleria - Finlands Nationalgalleri

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## George Orwell 1984 Part 28

Every capitalist went about with a gang of lackeys who----'

The old man brightened again.

'Lackeys!' he said. 'Now there's a word I ain't 'eard since ever so long. Lackeys! That reg'lar takes me back, that does. I recollect--oh, donkey's years ago--I used to sometimes go to 'Yde Park of a Sunday afternoon to 'ear the blokes making speeches. Salvation Army, Roman Catholics, Jews, Indians--all sorts there was. And there was one bloke--well, I couldn't give you 'is name, but a real powerful speaker 'e was. 'E didn't 'alf give it 'em! "Lackeys!" 'e says, "lackeys of the bourgeoisie! Flunkies of the ruling class!" Parasites--that was another of them. And 'yenas--'e definitely called 'em 'yenas. Of course 'e was referring to the Labour Party, you understand.'

Winston had the feeling that they were talking at cross-purposes.

'What I really wanted to know was this,' he said. 'Do you feel that you have more freedom now than you had in those days? Are you treated more like a human being? In the old days, the rich people, the people at the top----'

'The 'Ouse of Lords,' put in the old man reminiscently.

'The House of Lords, if you like. What I am asking is, were these people able to treat you as an inferior, simply because they were rich and you were poor? Is it a fact, for instance, that you had to call them "Sir" and take off your cap when you passed them?'

The old man appeared to think deeply. He drank off about a quarter of his beer before answering.

'Yes,' he said. 'They liked you to touch your cap to 'em. It showed respect, like. I didn't agree with it, myself, but I done it often enough. Had to, as you might say.'

'And was it usual--I'm only quoting what I've read in history books--was it usual for these people and their servants to push you off the pavement into the gutter?'

'One of 'em pushed me once,' said the old man. 'I recollect it as if it was yesterday. It was Boat Race night--terribly rowdy they used to get on

Boat Race night--and I bumps into a young bloke on Shaftesbury Avenue. Quite a gent, 'e was--dress shirt, top 'at, black overcoat. 'E was kind of zig-zagging across the pavement, and I bumps into 'im accidental-like. 'E says, "Why can't you look where you're going?" 'e says. I say, "Ju think you've bought the bleeding pavement?" 'E says, "I'll twist your bloody 'ead off if you get fresh with me." I says, "You're drunk. I'll give you in charge in 'alf a minute," I says. An' if you'll believe me, 'e puts 'is 'and on my chest and gives me a shove as pretty near sent me under the wheels of a bus. Well, I was young in them days, and I was going to 'ave fetched 'im one, only----'

A sense of helplessness took hold of Winston. The old man's memory was nothing but a rubbish-heap of details. One could question him all day without getting any real information. The party histories might still be true, after a fashion: they might even be completely true. He made a last attempt.

'Perhaps I have not made myself clear,' he said. 'What I'm trying to say is this. You have been alive a very long time; you lived half your life before the Revolution. In 1925, for instance, you were already grown up. Would you say from what you can remember, that life in 1925 was better than it is now, or worse? If you could choose, would you prefer to live then or now?'



The old man looked meditatively at the darts board. He finished up his beer, more slowly than before. When he spoke it was with a tolerant philosophical air, as though the beer had mellowed him.

'I know what you expect me to say,' he said. 'You expect me to say as I'd sooner be young again. Most people'd say they'd sooner be young, if you arst 'em. You got your 'ealth and strength when you're young. When you get to my time of life you ain't never well. I suffer something wicked from my feet, and my bladder's jest terrible. Six and seven times a night it 'as me out of bed. On the other 'and, there's great advantages in being a old man. You ain't got the same worries. No truck with women, and that's a great thing. I ain't 'ad a woman for near on thirty year, if you'd credit it. Nor wanted to, what's more.'

Winston sat back against the window-sill. It was no use going on. He was about to buy some more beer when the old man suddenly got up and shuffled rapidly into the stinking urinal at the side of the room. The extra half-litre was already working on him. Winston sat for a minute or two gazing at his empty glass, and hardly noticed when his feet carried him out into the street again. Within twenty years at the most, he reflected, the huge and simple question, 'Was life better before the Revolution than it is now?' would have ceased once and for all to be answerable. But in effect it was unanswerable even now, since the few scattered survivors from the ancient world were incapable of comparing one age with another. They remembered a million useless things, a quarrel with a workmate, a hunt for a lost bicycle pump, the expression on a long-dead sister's face, the swirls of dust on a windy morning seventy years ago: but all the relevant facts were outside the range of their vision. They were like the ant, which can see small objects but not large ones. And when memory failed and written records were falsified--when that happened, the claim of the Party to have improved the conditions of human life had got to be accepted, because there did not exist, and never again could exist, any standard against which it could be tested.

At this moment his train of thought stopped abruptly. He halted and looked up. He was in a narrow street, with a few dark little shops, interspersed among dwelling-houses. Immediately above his head there hung three discoloured metal balls which looked as if they had once been gilded. He seemed to know the place. Of course! He was standing outside the junk-shop where he had bought the diary.

## 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:



The OmegaCAM imager on ESO’s VLT Survey Telescope has captured this glittering view of the stellar nursery called Sharpless 29. Many astronomical phenomena can be seen in this giant image, including cosmic dust and gas clouds that reflect, absorb, and re-emit the light of hot young stars within the nebula.

Credit: ESO

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## BLOG WRITERS

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

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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](http://digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi)). GPT3, Gemini, Aria and Monica do some of the routine editing work, such as translation, corrector reading, and short notice writing. All texts have been checked by journalists and the editorial staff is responsible for all the content of the texts.

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

Editor-in-chief Hans Björknäs. Readers’ writings are welcome! The magazine is locally owned and will remain so. For ever!

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## 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](mailto:wasadagblad@gmail.com)

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## HOROSCOPE FOR MAY 2026

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

**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)**  
May begins with a burst of energy! Unfortunately, you misplaced it. Try checking under the couch or in the fridge. Love is knocking – open the door, but peek through the peephole first.

**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)**  
Happy birthday season! Celebrate with cake, presents, and maybe one extra glass of bubbly. Finances look stable – until you pass a flea market.

**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)**  
You’ve got answers to everything, but no one’s asked the questions yet. Careful with the puns – not everyone enjoys being called a “pre-coffee morning zombie.”

**Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)**  
You’re feeling emotional. That’s okay – especially when you see a cute dog in the rain. Your career is moving forward... slowly, like a snail on a sightseeing tour.

**Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)**  
May is your catwalk! But remember: not every sidewalk is a stage. Love is blossoming – so is the balcony weed. Choose which one to water.

**Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)**  
You’re planning everything to perfection. May says: “Good luck with that!” The stars suggest letting go a little – or at least trying spontaneous Taco Tuesday.

**Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)**  
You’re weighing your options. May might trap you in a decision loop – especially at the ice cream counter. Love is nearby, possibly hiding behind a bookshelf.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)**  
You attract secrets and drama. Perfect – May has

plenty of both, with bonus cliffhangers. Tip: always have extra coffee at home.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)**  
Wanderlust is real! Even if your biggest trip is to the grocery store. May wants you to try something new – maybe salsa dancing. Or at least hot sauce.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)**  
You’re working hard. May whispers: “Take it easy.” A picnic in the park might give you more insight than three PowerPoint decks.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)**  
You’re ahead of your time. May is still in pajamas. Meet halfway – maybe shorts with a blazer? Innovation is coming... once you find your charging cable.

**Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)**  
Your head’s in the clouds. May offers sunshine, rain, and sudden existential questions while waiting in line at the post office. Trust your gut – but also check the weather forecast.

