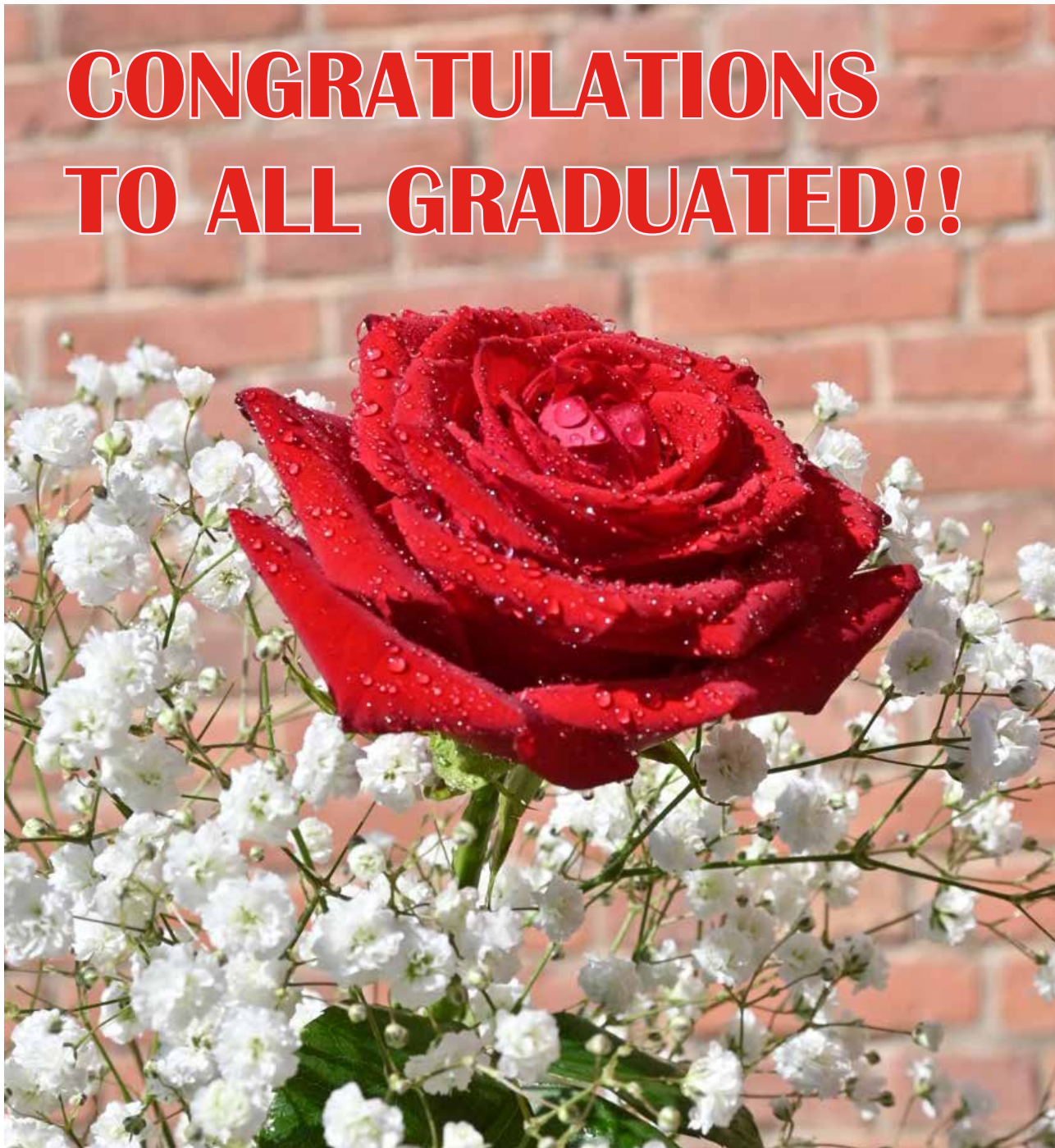


WASA DAILY

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL GRADUATED!!**



LOCAL NEWS

PARKING

Hospital parking areas closed temporarily – traffic congestion expected in Vaasa

Visitors heading to Vaasa Central Hospital should prepare for delays over the next two weeks as parking areas behind the hospital are temporarily closed due to a sports event.

The old gravel field at the end of Sanmarkinkatu will remain closed from May 26 to June 9, 2026. In addition, the parking area behind the baseball stadium will close on the afternoon of June 4 and reopen on the evening of June 7.

The wellbeing services county advises patients and visitors to allow extra travel time and, if possible, arrive by bus, bicycle or on foot. The hospital parking garage will continue operating normally.
Reference: Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County

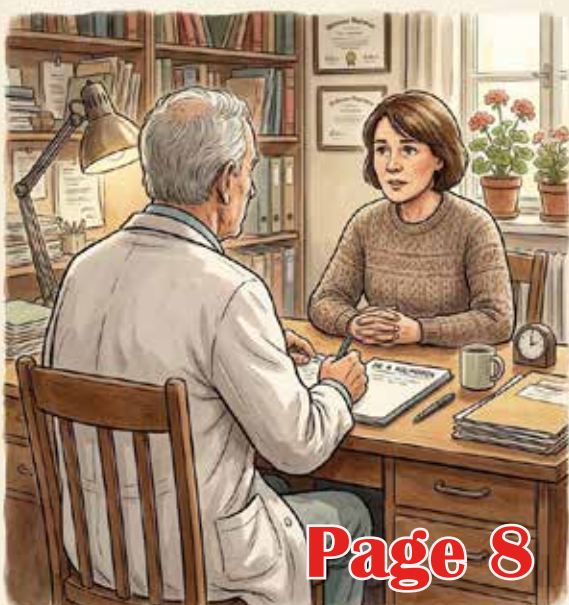
BIRDHOUSES

Tiny Builders, Big Mission – Vaasa Invites Families to Build Birdhouses



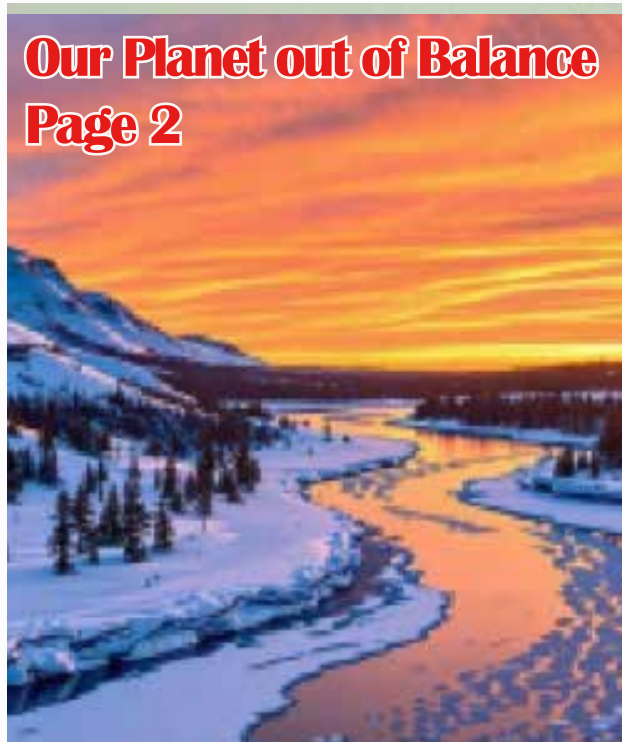
Families in Vaasa are being invited to help local birds in a hands-on community event full of creativity and nature. The City of Vaasa is organising a free birdhouse-building evening where children and parents can build nesting boxes together while learning about local birdlife.
The Pönttö ja pesä event for the whole family will be

THE DOCTOR ANSWERS



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**Our Planet out of Balance
Page 2**



EDITORIAL

The Planet Out of Balance

The latest report from the World Meteorological Organization is not merely another climate bulletin filled with graphs, percentages and technical jargon. It is, in effect, a warning siren from the scientific community: the Earth's climate system is moving further away from equilibrium than at any point in recorded human observation.

The phrase "out of balance" may sound abstract. It is not. It describes a planet that is absorbing far more energy than it can release back into space. That excess energy does not disappear. It accumulates—in the oceans, in the atmosphere, in melting glaciers and polar ice, and in rising sea levels. According to the WMO, the Earth's energy imbalance is now the highest in the sixty-five-year observational record.

This is the defining environmental reality of our era. For decades, climate change was discussed as a future risk, a distant possibility that would gradually emerge over the course of the twenty-first century. That framing is now obsolete. The crisis is not approaching; it is underway. The eleven years from 2015 to 2025 were the warmest ever recorded. The year 2025 itself ranked among the two or three hottest years in modern measurements, despite the cooling influence of La Niña conditions.

The implications are profound because climate systems are not linear. They are interconnected and self-reinforcing. When Arctic ice disappears, less sunlight is reflected back into space and more heat is absorbed by darker ocean surfaces. When oceans warm, they expand and raise sea levels while simultaneously weakening their ability to absorb carbon dioxide. When forests burn or dry out, they cease acting as carbon sinks and instead become carbon sources. Every disturbance intensifies the next.

The WMO report makes clear that the oceans are now carrying the overwhelming burden of this planetary imbalance. More than 90 percent of the excess heat trapped by greenhouse gases has gone into the oceans. For the past two decades, the oceans have absorbed energy equivalent to roughly eighteen times annual human energy consumption every single year.

That staggering statistic should permanently end the misconception that climate change is merely about warmer summer days. The oceans regulate weather systems, marine ecosystems, fisheries, rainfall patterns and storm intensity. A destabilized oce-



an means a destabilized civilization.

The warming seas are already reshaping the global map of risk. Tropical cyclones draw energy from hotter water. Marine heatwaves devastate coral reefs and fisheries. Rising sea levels threaten coastal megacities, ports and fertile delta regions upon which hundreds of millions depend. Saltwater intrusion contaminates freshwater reserves. Entire island nations face existential danger.

And the consequences will not vanish if emissions stopped tomorrow.

One of the most sobering aspects of the WMO assessment is its emphasis on time scales. The report warns that many of these changes will endure for "hundreds – and potentially thousands – of years." The climate crisis is no longer only about protecting future generations in some vague moral sense. It is about determining the physical conditions under which human societies will exist for centuries.

This is the uncomfortable truth that political systems still struggle to confront. Democracies think in election cycles. Financial markets think in quarterly returns. Social media thinks in minutes. Climate systems think in centuries.

As a result, the political response remains dangerously inadequate relative to the scale of the threat. Governments continue approving new fossil fuel infrastructure even while publicly acknowledging that existing commitments already exceed safe carbon budgets. Oil and gas companies continue reporting enormous profits while the scientific evidence becomes increasingly catastrophic. The contradiction is glaring: humanity understands the danger in unprecedented detail, yet behaves as though incremental adjustments will suffice.

They will not.

The WMO's findings also expose the widening gap between scientific reality and public psychology. Climate change is simultaneously everywhere and strangely normalized. Record heatwaves, floods, droughts and wildfires now occur with such frequency that societies increasingly absorb them as background noise. Disaster becomes routine. What once would have been considered extraordinary is recategorized as merely "the new normal."

This normalization may be one of the greatest dangers of all.

A civilization can adapt to hardship more easily than it can adapt to instability. The central threat posed by climate change is not simply higher temperatures but increasing volatility. Agriculture depends on predictable seasons. Infrastructure depends on historical weather assumptions. Insurance markets depend on calculable risk. Water systems depend on stable hydrological cycles. When the climate itself becomes erratic, the foundations of economic and political order begin to erode.

The WMO report repeatedly emphasizes cascading effects: food insecurity, displacement, health crises, biodiversity collapse and economic disruption inte-

racting simultaneously. Climate change is not a single issue among many. It is a force multiplier that intensifies nearly every existing vulnerability.

The human dimension is already unmistakable. Heat stress threatens workers across agriculture and construction. Mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue are expanding geographically. Extreme weather events are displacing millions. Vulnerable populations—particularly in poorer nations that contributed least to greenhouse gas emissions—bear disproportionate consequences.

This is not merely an environmental crisis. It is an issue of justice, governance, economics, security and public health.

Yet despair is neither intellectually serious nor politically useful.

The scientific warnings are severe precisely because there remains a narrowing window for meaningful action. Every fraction of a degree matters. Every delayed year worsens long-term consequences. But the inverse is also true: every avoided emission reduces future damage.

The technologies required for substantial mitigation already exist. Renewable energy has become dramatically cheaper. Electrification of transport is accelerating. Advances in energy storage, grid management and carbon-free industrial processes continue to emerge. What remains lacking is not scientific understanding or technological capacity but political will and societal urgency.

The climate crisis ultimately forces humanity into a confrontation with its own priorities. Modern economies have been built upon the assumption of endless extraction, endless consumption and endless growth powered by fossil fuels. The atmosphere, however, does not negotiate with ideology or profit margins. Physics imposes limits whether political systems acknowledge them or not.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres described the situation bluntly: "Every key climate indicator is flashing red." The language is dramatic because the evidence demands it.

Future historians may well look back on this period with astonishment. They may wonder how societies continued debating the reality or urgency of climate change even after the data became overwhelming. They may ask why governments moved so slowly while the scientific consensus grew more alarming year after year.

But history has not yet delivered its verdict.

The balance of the Earth's climate system is still, however precariously, within human influence. The question is whether humanity can act with the speed, seriousness and collective discipline required before instability becomes irreversible on a planetary scale.

The World Meteorological Organization is the United Nations System's authoritative voice on Weather, Climate and Water.

Photo; WMO, CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

Photo Supplement





VACCINATION STUDY

Dementia Prevention Vaccine Study Now Launching in Vaasa

Could a vaccine also help protect memory? That question is now being explored in Finland's nationwide FinDementia study, which has now expanded to Vaasa. The project has attracted growing attention because international research in recent years has suggested that shingles vaccination may reduce the risk of dementia.

As populations age, dementia and memory disorders are becoming increasingly common. Researchers worldwide are searching for new ways to prevent these diseases before symptoms appear. Now attention has turned to the herpes zoster vaccine — better known as the shingles vaccine.

Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox, the varicella-zoster virus. After chickenpox, the virus can remain dormant in the body for decades before reactivating later in life as painful shingles. Scientists suspect that this viral reactivation and the associated inflammation may also affect brain health.

Several international studies have reported lower dementia rates among vaccinated individuals compared with unvaccinated people. Some studies suggest around a 20 percent reduction in risk, while others have hinted at even stronger protective effects. Although the connection has not yet been definitively proven, the findings have been promising enough for Finland to launch the large-scale FinDementia study.

The aim is to determine whether shingles vaccination can genuinely help prevent dementia or delay its onset. If confirmed, the public health impact could be enormous.

In Vaasa, joining the study has been made easy. Appointments can be booked by phone or online, and the study is being conducted at Apteekki Kivihaka on Kiillette.

For many participants, the study may already be worthwhile because the vaccine provides proven protection against shingles itself — a disease that can cause severe pain and long-lasting nerve complications, especially in older adults. At the same time, participants contribute to research that could potentially benefit millions of people in the future.

Researchers stress that there are still no definitive answers. However, many experts consider the study extremely important because there are currently very few effective methods to prevent dementia.

Study location in Vaasa:
Apteekki Kivihaka, Kiillette 2, 65300 Vaasa
Phone bookings: +358 10 508 2363 (weekdays 9 am–3 pm)
Online bookings: Rokotepiste.fi

WASA DAILY
Nearly everything You need
to know on 12 pages
vpress.fi

held on Friday, June 5, 2026 from 5–7 pm in Hietalahti Park in front of the parking lot of the Brage Open Air Museum.

Materials and guidance will be provided, and participants can either take their birdhouses home or place them in nearby nature areas.

The city hopes the event will encourage more children to connect with nature through practical activities.

Interest in birds and outdoor life has grown strongly in recent years, and organisers believe the workshop could inspire a new generation of nature enthusiasts.

Expect sawdust, happy children and plenty of birdsong as Vaasa turns conservation into family fun.

Reference: City of Vaas

DRIVER'S LICENSES

Drivers licence services changes in Vaasa - Ajovarma 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 Ajovarma 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. Ajovarma 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

WASA TEATER

Theater salons transform into Ostrobothnia's trendiest after-work hub!



Get ready for an exciting cultural upgrade that won't cost you a single penny! Wasa Teater, in collaboration with the Swedish Literary Society of Ostrobothnia (SÖL), has officially unveiled a brand-new monthly event series called Litterärnst. Running from September 2026 to April 2027, the historic Ernst Salonger inside the theater will morph into the ultimate cozy meeting place for book and culture lovers alike.

VAASA CITY THEATRE

The theatre gathered a large audience – Vaasa City Theatre celebrates a strong season



Vaasa City Theatre can breathe a sigh of relief and rejoice in a successful year of performances. In the 2025–2026 season, the number of spectators and visitors increased compared to the previous year, and the theatre's performances attracted a total of about 36,500 spectators. At the same time, the number of visitors in the entire building rose to almost 44,000.

Audiences were particularly drawn to major productions, such as the musical Piaf, Aladdin and the Magic Lamp for the Whole Family, as well as the drama comedy The Truth. According to the theatre, the versatility of the programme was immediately visible to the audience: classics, musicals and new Finnish works were included.

Vaasa City Theatre says that the successful season is a sign that people are once again looking for strong cultural experiences and shared moments. Guest appearances and events also increased interest.

The Foundation rewarded outstanding theatre makers
At the end of the season ceremony on Wednesday 13.5. The Vaasa Finnish Theatre House and Support Foundation awarded scholarships to prominent theatre makers. The Foundation's Chairman Matti Autio and Secretary General Kari Haverinen awarded the award to actress Sonja Halla-aho, costume designer Emilia Eriksson and lighting designer Olli Haakana.

The Foundation will also support the theatre's activities during the upcoming performance season by contributing to the costs of

the musical Tin Shoe Girl and the farce The Play That Goes Wrong, among others.

"The Foundation's Board of Directors met in March after an interesting theatre tour and decided to grant the theatre a grant of 87,000 euros for artist engagement, management training and theatre advertising," says Matti Autio, Chairman of the Foundation.

"A big thank you to the Vaasan Suomalainen Teatteri Housing and Support Foundation for their significant support," says Seppo Välinen.

Diving into courage for the upcoming season

Next season's programme in-

cludes the premiere musical Tin Shoe Girl, the farce The Play That Goes Wrong, the play for the whole family Viiru and Pesonen's Christmas, the suspense play Mousetrap and many guest appearances.

"A warm thank you to all our spectators – theatre is born from the energy between the stage and the audience. As a bold theatre, we will offer a diverse programme next season and a new premiere musical for theatre lovers like a gem," says Seppo Välinen.

Source: Vaasa City Theatre

Ditch the boring lectures! These events are designed as relaxed, atmospheric After Work nights where you can enjoy casual chat with famous authors, meet new people, and grab a drink from the bistro. The grand premiere takes place on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 6:00 PM, featuring the award-winning Ulrika Hansson. Fan favorites like Axel Åhman and Matilda Gyllenberg are also locked in for the season. Entrance is completely free for everyone, but booking your free ticket online is highly recommended before they sell out!
Reference: Wasa Teater

LIFTI

Lifti's summer timetables come into force – ticket prices will be increased soon!



New winds are blowing in Lifti, the public transport system in the Vaasa region, when the summer timetables come into force on Monday 1 June. At the same time, passengers should be prepared for a lighter budget: bus ticket prices will increase this summer. With the summer schedules, shifts will be adapted to the needs of the summer season, which means changes in familiar routines. If you want to save money, now is the time to check your travel habits and take advantage of the current prices while you can. Check the new timetables on time so you don't stop at the stop wondering!
Source: vaasa.fi

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 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

HEALTHCARE CHAT

Faster help at your fingertips – but face-to-face doctor visits are here to stay!

Getting medical help just got a whole lot easier, smoother, and faster! Digital healthcare chat

UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

Historic jackpot for the University of Vaasa – Step to the world's elite!



The University of Vaasa is celebrating a historic milestone that will raise higher education in Ostrobothnia directly to the international heavyweights. In May 2026, the university was awarded the exceptionally respected, international EQUIS quality accreditation (EFMD Quality Improvement System). This is a rock-solid recognition globally, given to only a fraction of all business schools and business schools in the world.

This prestigious accreditation is not just a decoration on the wall, but serves as a direct guarantee that teaching, research and international networking of-

ferred in Vaasa meet the strictest global quality standards. For the university's management and staff, the recognition is the culmination of a long-term effort that will permanently change the institution's position in the global market.

Accreditation is expected to act as an effective magnet in the future. With this, Vaasa will be able to attract even more top researchers, foreign degree students and globally respected partners. For the region's business community and companies, this means that in the future, Ostrobothnia will train even stronger experts at the international level directly to support local and national growth goals. The historic quality label strengthens Finland's position as a leading country in higher education.

Source: University of Vaasa

UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

Will human labor end? Doctoral dissertation reveals the truth about the threat posed by artificial intelligence

The lightning-fast rise of generative AI, or creative AI, has recently raised dark clouds and sheer fear in the job market. Many employees are worried that a robot or an algorithm will take away their job. But Zhe Zhu's latest doctoral dissertation, which is being reviewed at the University of Vaasa, comforts Finns and gives a surprising result: artificial intelligence will not take away your work – as long as you learn to trust it.

The study shows that a person's own attitude to new technology plays a key role. When employees learn to see AI as a useful, everyday companion and assistant instead of a scary threat, it won't replace humans. On the contrary, properly adopted AI can signi-

ficantly increase work engagement and help build more sustainable, meaningful, and agile careers.

In other words, it is about traditional human work changing, not its disappearance. Artificial intelligence can perform routine tasks, but human creativity, empathy, and strategic thinking retain their place. According to the study, organizations must now invest in building trust in new technologies in the workplace. In the future, employees who bravely embrace artificial intelligence as their tool and let it take care of the most tedious work phases will succeed.

Source: University of Vaasa

VAASAN SÄHKÖ

Freezing temperatures took a toll on the wallet: Vaasan Sähkö's turnover exploded in growth

The exceptionally cold and chilly beginning of 2026 has been felt by the Finns' legs and cores, but it has also left a clear imprint on energy companies' financial figures. Vaasan Sähkö Group has published its interim report for January–March, and the numbers are frightening: the cold significantly increased energy consumption in the region and catapulted the company's finances into a strong upward spiral.

The Group's net sales in the first quarter exploded to as much as EUR 90.5 million, compared to EUR 61.0 million in the corresponding period last year. The company's operating profit also jumped sharply, rising to EUR 17.4 million from EUR 7.2 million previously.

Vaasan Sähkö's operating profit margin thus rose to as much as 19.2 percent.

For consumers, the freezing temperatures of winter meant high electricity bills and increased energy consumption, which is directly reflected in the energy company's coffers. At the same time, Vaasan Sähkö has taken care of its future, as its equity strengthened to 57.6 per cent and the company made gross investments of EUR 4.6 million in the first half of the year alone. Although the weather has become warmer with spring, the cold weather at the beginning of the year did its job in the energy market.

Source: Vaasan Sähkö

services have proven to be a massive hit in improving accessibility for patients. A fresh study by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) done in Ostrobothnia reveals that online chat options have drastically lowered the barrier to contacting health centers. It is a major win for anyone looking for quick advice or a prescription renewal without the dread of long phone queues. For those worried that real-life doctor visits might vanish in the digital wave, THL brings comforting news: medical chats have not significantly reduced traditional, in-person appointments. Instead of replacing the human touch, these digital clinics act as a fantastic safety net that catches previously unmet healthcare needs. Digital when convenient, but physical when necessary—the future of healthcare is officially here, offering patients the best of both worlds!

Reference: THL

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.

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



ÅBO AKADEMI

Finland Could Become a Global Leader in Green Materials – Åbo Akademi Receives Major Research Funding

What will the materials of the future look like in a world trying to move away from fossil-based products? That question is now at the heart of a major international research initiative in which Åbo Akademi University has received more than EUR 3 million to develop sustainable materials for the future..

This is far more than a small laboratory project. It is part of a large international collaboration bringing together researchers and companies from around the world to accelerate the transition to a sustainable bioeconomy. The project is led by the University of Tennessee in the United States and includes partners from Canada, Japan, South Korea and the United Kingdom. Finnish participants include Åbo Akademi University, the University of Turku, Aalto University and major industrial companies such as Stora Enso, Mirka and Nokian Tyres.

At the centre of the research is an idea that could reshape entire industries: could future plastics, coatings and industrial materials be produced from forest industry side streams, bark, sawdust and other renewable biological resources instead of oil-based raw materials?

Åbo Akademi already has internationally recognised expertise in biomaterials and polymer chemistry. The new funding allows

researchers to develop advanced sustainable materials for packaging, adhesives, paints, additive manufacturing and future industrial technologies.

Researchers emphasise that the project is not only about environmental sustainability but also about economic opportunity. Finland's vast forest resources and strong industrial infrastructure could give the country a leading role in the global transition toward renewable materials. New innovations could create jobs, exports and entirely new industrial sectors.

Another important aspect of the project is the development of materials compatible with next-generation manufacturing technologies such as 3D printing and advanced industrial processing. The goal is to create materials that are not only environmentally friendly but also commercially viable and technologically competitive.

The research programme will continue until at least 2029, and expectations are high. Many experts believe projects like this could help determine what the future European economy and industry will look like in the coming decades.

At the same time, the investment demonstrates that Finnish scientific research continues to play at the highest international level.

Source: Åbo Akademi University

ÅBO AKADEMI

A study explores how public opinion shifts when geopolitical threats suddenly feel closer and more real.

Researcher Albert Weckman's doctoral thesis shows that perceptions of threat played a central role in Finland's rapid change in attitudes toward NATO. For years, Finnish opinion on NATO membership had been cautious and divided, but after the outbreak of war in Ukraine, support increased rapidly.

The research also found that willingness to defend the country is closely linked to what people feel they have to protect. Individuals with homes, summer cottages or other property were more likely to express strong defence willingness during periods of insecurity. At the same time, a strong sense of belonging to Europe appeared to in-

crease support for helping NATO allies under attack.

According to Weckman, security policy is shaped not only by governments and military leaders but also by ordinary citizens' emotions, experiences and sense of identity. In democratic societies, public opinion can strongly influence what kinds of security decisions become politically possible.

The study offers a striking picture of how quickly national attitudes can shift when the international situation changes. It also highlights how many Finns increasingly view security as a shared European responsibility.

Source: Åbo Akademi University

MUSIC

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.

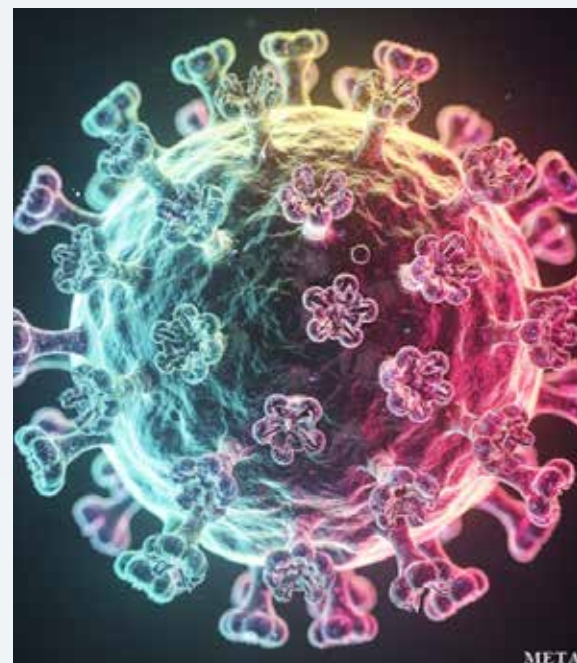
Now the organizers are hoping for an even greater impact. The festival is marketed as one of the most intense metal experiences of the summer in Finland, with both international and Finnish bands on the program. Hotel bookings in Vaasa are already expected to increase ahead of the festival weekend.

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

HEALTH

HANTAVIRUS

BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF: The risk of this dreaded virus in Europe is very low!



The National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) reassures citizens with the latest news. The risk to the European population from the much-discussed hantavirus has been estimated to be very low. Although news from around the world can sometimes increase fears about the spread of various diseases, experts say that there is no reason for widespread concern in this direction. Of course, the virus situation and its possible changes are constantly being monitored closely, but right now, Europeans can continue their everyday lives with peace of mind without fear of an epidemic. But let's take care of basic hygiene, as always!

Source: thl.fi

CHURCHES

KVEVLAX and SOLF

New priest heading to Ostrobothnia

NEWS

PRESS FREEDOM

Freedom of the press in Russia Of course it exists! But only on Telegram!

In the Telegram channels, an outspoken dramatic debate is taking place where those responsible for the attack on Ukraine really get to hear what they are made of.

How safe it is for ordinary Russians to read these texts, we do not know. At least they can't convey any of what they've read.

Here are some quotes from typical texts in recent weeks:

"But the figure of 110 thousand in itself is a nightmare. These people died for nothing. This is a whole regional center that Russia lost in 4 years solely because of the stupidity, incompetence and obsession of an old man, who himself will soon lie in the grave. And he drags hundreds of thousands of his citizens with him. Killing his country's future."

"A sign of Putin's time is children's obituaries on social networks. Born under Putin, raised under Putin, killed under Putin because of Putin. And the 70-year-old cannibals, out of their minds, cling to life and power. And children must die in order for them to rule and live on."

"It is no longer possible to continue this mass slaughter when, strategically, nothing will change." A break is needed." Military blogger Maxim Kalashnikov recorded an interview with a Russian officer on the front line in the Kursk region. The officer stated that the only correct decision now is to simply stop the war, because what is happening is a mind-



less grinding of people without reason."

"The price of potatoes has almost tripled in one year. Because of the shortage, Russia is forced to import potatoes from Pakistan and Egypt. There is no time for potatoes now, we urgently need to conquer more ruins.

Director of SVR Naryshkin said that Russia has already achieved practically all of SVO's goals. Yes, yes, it turns out that the real goals of the "SVO" were the destruction of half of the Donbas, the murder of thousands of residents of Mariupol, Bakhmut, Severodoneck and Avdiievka, the death of hundreds of thousands of Russian citizens, and the pumping of Ukraine with Western planes and missiles. This disgrace will eventually

be declared a "victory in the Northern Military District." And the most important thing is that the Z-nerds will swallow all this and enthusiastically retell each other how Putin has outplayed everyone again."

"G***** whines that in 3 years the people have understood why the mad grandfather started the war and destroyed hundreds of thousands of lives. They say that neither children nor teachers can understand and repeat the message of the nonsense that propagandists feed them."

"At the end of the third year of the war, weak-minded Z-bloggers began to guess that no one benefited from it, and almost all Russian business just lost. Now it may come to the point that the

elite will simply remove Putin from power for these arts, just as they once forced Khrushchev to leave the Soviet Union.

"Only one thing is unclear. Why do the Z-patriots themselves continue to support this bloody idiocy if they themselves admit that all sectors of the Russian economy are only in the red."

Z blogger M***** said that the Russian military is registering masses of missing people as deserters and reporting that they left its unit without permission (SOCH) in order to underestimate the level of losses and not pay compensation. Yes, Putin's army has no bottom. Any nasty thing they can do to their own soldiers, they will surely do."

NEWS

- 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.

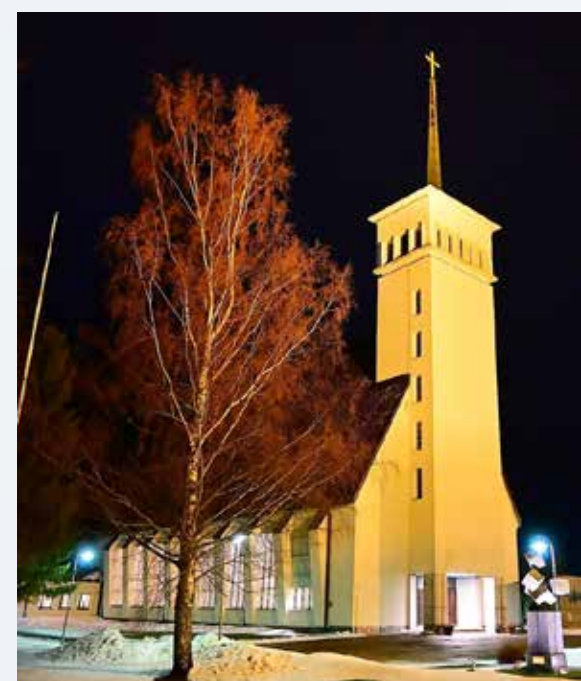
Following the ordination, he will serve as parish pastor in Kvevlax församling and Solfs församling until further notice.

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

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

HEALTH

THE DOCTOR ANSWERS Shingles Vaccine Protect the Brain?



A study is starting in Finland where people are given the shingles vaccine and the risk of dementia is monitored to see if it decreases. Participation in this study will also be possible for us Ostrobothnians. Would it be worth taking part in this study?

For most people, herpes zoster — better known as shingles — is associated with a painful rash. But researchers are increasingly asking a much bigger question: could preventing shingles also help protect the brain against dementia?

That possibility is now being investigated in Finland, where a new study is examining whether vaccination against herpes zoster might reduce the risk of developing dementia later in life. The project reflects growing international scientific interest in the surprising connection between viral infections, inflammation, and neurodegenerative disease.

Herpes zoster is caused by the varicella-zoster virus, the same virus that causes chickenpox. After a person recovers from chickenpox, the virus does not disappear. Instead, it remains dormant in nerve cells, sometimes for decades. As immunity weakens with age, the virus can reactivate and cause shingles — often a painful blistering rash that follows nerve pathways. In some cases, the pain can persist for months or years, a condition known as postherpetic neuralgia.

The virus spreads mainly through direct contact with fluid from shingles blisters, while chickenpox itself spreads more easily through the air. Shingles is especially common among people over 50 years of age.

Vaccination against herpes zoster is already strongly recommended because it substantially reduces the

risk of shingles and its complications. But recent research suggests the benefits may extend far beyond skin and nerves.

Several large studies from the United Kingdom, the United States, and Wales have reported that people who received shingles vaccines later developed dementia less frequently than unvaccinated individuals.

The numbers are striking. Some studies have found around a 20 percent reduction in dementia risk, while others involving the newer recombinant vaccine Shingrix have suggested reductions as high as 30–50 percent. One large Welsh “natural experiment” found that vaccinated individuals were 20 percent less likely to develop dementia over seven years.

Scientists still do not know exactly why this effect may occur. One theory is that preventing reactivation of the virus reduces chronic inflammation in the nervous system. Another possibility is that vaccines stimulate the immune system in ways that indirectly protect the brain. Researchers emphasize that the evidence is promising but not yet definitive; randomized clinical trials are still needed.

Nevertheless, participating in a Finnish study of this kind appears highly worthwhile. Even if the vaccine’s protective effect against dementia ultimately proves smaller than hoped, participants still receive strong protection against shingles itself — a disease that can be extremely painful and debilitating in older adults.

In other words, the possible upside is enormous, while the known benefits are already well established. For many older adults, that alone may be reason enough to roll up their sleeve. However, this is just an advise. The decision to participate in the study must be made by yourself.

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, 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

NEWS

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

YOUNG DRIVERS

NIGHT STOP: 17-year-olds lose their right to drive at midnight – the law has just changed!

Attention parents, there has been a drastic change in young people’s driving! As of today, Friday, May 29, 2026, underage drivers will no longer be allowed to sit behind the wheel of a passenger car at night. The new law stipulates that the right to drive a car for 17-year-olds is not valid between 00:00 and 05:00 – regardless of whether they have a driver’s license in their pocket or not. This absolute ban on night driving applies retroactively to all 17-year-olds, including those who had already obtained a driver’s license before today’s changes in the law. The police are monitoring the new rule closely, so young people should completely reschedule their weekend activities and leave the car parked before midnight!

Reference: Traficom

MANDATORY BADGE

Mandatory badge on the car for young drivers – are you ready?

The rule of rumba for young drivers will continue in the autumn, when the special award for underage drivers will become mandatory. The use of the badge in vehicles is mandatory for all underage drivers of passenger cars as of October 1, 2026. According to Traficom’s Director General Antila, the authority will provide more detailed information on acquisitions, prices and other procedures for the young driver’s badge closer to the hour. At the same time, there will be information about other changes that will come into force in the autumn. In October, a young car can be recognized from afar in traffic, so you should keep an eye out to find the sign on the glass in time!

Reference: Traficom

HOUSING BECOMES CHEAPER

Prices of old dwellings in housing companies fell sharply in April!

Buyers and sellers of homes were inundated with cold facts. According to Statistics Finland’s latest figures, prices of old dwellings in housing corporations fell significantly in April 2026 and fell by as much as 4.3 per cent from the previous year. The slowdown in home sales and the decline in prices indicate that the market is now a buyer’s market, but times are challenging for sellers. The downward trend in prices raises questions about whether the bottom has been reached or whether the decline will continue for a long time. If you dream of having your own home, it could be the chance of a lifetime to make uncompro-mising discoveries!

Reference: Statistics Finland

NEWS

COTTAGE FEVER

Here are the most sought-after summer places in the 2020s – Vaasa was in 17th place!



The holiday home hysteria around Finns will not abate, and the most sought-after holiday home municipalities of the 2020s have been determined. The perennial favourites Kuusamo and Kuopio are on pace at the top of the statistics, and Rovaniemi is also growing in popularity among holiday home residents. Ostrobothnia is particularly happy news: Vaasa has stormed up to 17th place on the list! At the same time, the city of Vaasa wants to invest in the convenience of everyday life and is currently collecting strict opinions and development ideas from its residents on the conditions of cycling. Whether you're a summer visitor or a local cyclist, now is the right time to make a difference in your surroundings!
Reference: Etuovi.com

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 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

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

EVENTS

TODAY

SUNDAY WALK

Sunday walk brings people together in Vaasa – relaxed pace, shared coffee and summer atmosphere

A community Sunday walk takes over central Vaasa again today as locals gather for a relaxed five-kilometre stroll through the city. The walk begins at 10:30 a.m. from Hovioikeudenpuistikko 15a, near the Market Square statue.

Organisers say the event is about togetherness rather than performance: walkers set the pace themselves, shorter distances are possible and “no one is left behind.” After the walk, participants can continue the social afternoon with an optional coffee break at their own expense. The free event is organised by Vaasan Marssi and Vaasan Kävelyklubi.

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 Fin-

land'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 Gustafs-son 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.

Hotel bookings in Vaasa are already expected to increase ahead of the festival weekend.
Source: Kaaos Festival – <https://kaaosfestival.fi/>

UUSIKAUPUNKI

Crusell Week blows in with French elegance. The Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra participates

Uusikaupunki will be transformed into the capital of music from 27 July to 2 August 2026 when Crusell Week takes over the city's squares, churches and auditoriums. The festival opens with Avajaispuhallus on the square (27.7 at 12 noon), and the week offers everything from the children's concert Freija to the grand Grand Concert Festif in the New Church (30.7 at 6 pm) with the Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra and Helena Juntunen as soloist. The evenings end with lantern concerts and French tunes under the stars. Source: crusell.fi/konsertit-2026

UKRAINE PRESIDENT

We Have Intel Indicating That Russia Is Preparing a New Massive Attack – Address by the President



25.4.2026
May 29, 2026
Dear Ukrainians!

There are several important points today. First, we have intel indicating that Russia is preparing a new massive attack. Please pay attention to air raid alerts and stay safe. Our services act fast and are fully prepared. The Air Force and other defenders of our skies will be working around the clock, as always. Air defense and the continued need to help Ukraine

protect its skies are our key priorities.

I am grateful to every partner, every leader, and every country that is ready to help and that implements our arrangements in full. The PURL initiative must work. This concerns both the United States and Europe. We are pooling funds from our European partners and other friends to purchase missiles, including for Patriot systems. Sufficient supplies depend on America, and we hope that Ukraine

will be heard.

There was a report today from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Andrii Sybiha – all our diplomatic representatives must stay focused. We need results. In fact, every day we are in communication with partners who can support us. Yesterday, there were truly good decisions with Sweden. Today, there is a decision from Japan, including on PURL. We are preparing further decisions in Europe so that we have our own Euro-

pean antiballistic capabilities. Important meetings and negotiations on this are planned in the coming weeks.

I also just spoke with the President of Romania. A Russian drone struck a residential building in Romania overnight. People were injured. We wish them a speedy recovery. We agreed with President Nicușor that Ukraine will support Romania in

this situation – and that our teams, our military, and our specialists will work to strengthen the protection of the skies. By supporting each other now, we are strengthening our shared positions. This is very important.

I also held a long meeting with the military – Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Oleksandr Syrskyi and Chief of the General

Staff Andrii Hnatov. We are defending actively, and importantly, we continue to achieve our objectives, above all targeting Russian logistics and the Russian oil sector. Everything that makes it harder for Russia to wage war helps bring peace closer. We remember what we need. We are defending Ukraine!

Glory to Ukraine!

ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Alexandra Frosterus-Såltin

6.12.1837, Ingå

29.2.1916, Vaasa

Young Woman, 1858

Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum

Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Hannu Aaltonen

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George Orwell 1984 Part 29

He was standing outside the junk-shop where he had bought the diary.

A twinge of fear went through him. It had been a sufficiently rash act to buy the book in the beginning, and he had sworn never to come near the place again. And yet the instant that he allowed his thoughts to wander, his feet had brought him back here of their own accord. It was precisely against suicidal impulses of this kind that he had hoped to guard himself by opening the diary. At the same time he noticed that although it was nearly twenty-one hours the shop was still open. With the feeling that he would be less conspicuous inside than hanging about on the pavement, he stepped through the doorway. If questioned, he could plausibly say that he was trying to buy razor blades.

The proprietor had just lighted a hanging oil lamp which gave off an unclean but friendly smell. He was a man of perhaps sixty, frail and bowed, with a long, benevolent nose, and mild eyes distorted by thick spectacles. His hair was almost white, but his eyebrows were bushy and still black. His spectacles, his gentle, fussy movements, and the fact that he was wearing an aged jacket of black velvet, gave him a vague air of intellectuality, as though he had been some kind of literary man, or perhaps a musician. His voice was soft, as though faded, and his accent less debased than that of the majority of proles.

'I recognized you on the pavement,' he said immediately. 'You're the gentleman that bought the young lady's keepsake album. That was a beautiful bit of paper, that was. Cream-laid, it used to be called. There's been no paper like that made for--oh, I dare say fifty years.' He peered at Winston over the top of his spectacles. 'Is there anything special I can do for you? Or did you just want to look round?'

'I was passing,' said Winston vaguely. 'I just looked in. I don't want anything in particular.'

'It's just as well,' said the other, 'because I don't suppose I could have satisfied you.' He made an apologetic gesture with his softpalmed hand.

'You see how it is; an empty shop, you might say. Between you and me, the antique trade's just about finished. No demand any longer, and no stock either. Furniture, china, glass it's all been broken up by degrees. And of course the metal stuff's mostly been melted down. I haven't seen a brass candlestick in years.'

The tiny interior of the shop was in fact uncomfortably full, but there

was almost nothing in it of the slightest value. The floorspace was very restricted, because all round the walls were stacked innumerable dusty picture-frames. In the window there were trays of nuts and bolts, worn-out chisels, penknives with broken blades, tarnished watches that did not even pretend to be in going order, and other miscellaneous rubbish. Only on a small table in the corner was there a litter of odds and ends--lacquered snuffboxes, agate brooches, and the like--which looked as though they might include something interesting. As Winston wandered towards the table his eye was caught by a round, smooth thing that gleamed softly in the lamplight, and he picked it up.

It was a heavy lump of glass, curved on one side, flat on the other, making almost a hemisphere. There was a peculiar softness, as of rainwater, in both the colour and the texture of the glass. At the heart of it, magnified by the curved surface, there was a strange, pink, convoluted object that recalled a rose or a sea anemone.

'What is it?' said Winston, fascinated.

'That's coral, that is,' said the old man. 'It must have come from the Indian Ocean. They used to kind of embed it in the glass. That wasn't made less than a hundred years ago. More, by the look of it.'



'It's a beautiful thing,' said Winston.

'It is a beautiful thing,' said the other appreciatively. 'But there's not many that'd say so nowadays.' He coughed. 'Now, if it so happened that you wanted to buy it, that'd cost you four dollars. I can remember when a thing like that would have fetched eight pounds, and eight pounds was--well, I can't work it out, but it was a lot of money. But who cares about genuine antiques nowadays--even the few that's left?'

Winston immediately paid over the four dollars and slid the coveted thing into his pocket. What appealed to him about it was not so much its beauty as the air it seemed to possess of belonging to an age quite different from the present one. The soft, rainwatery glass was not like any glass that he had ever seen. The thing was doubly attractive because of its apparent uselessness, though he could guess that it must once have been intended as a paperweight. It was very heavy in his pocket, but fortunately it did not make much of a bulge. It was a queer thing, even a compromising thing, for a Party member to have in his possession. Anything old, and for that matter anything beautiful, was always vaguely suspect. The old man had grown noticeably more cheerful after receiving the four dollars. Winston realized that he would have accepted three or even two.

'There's another room upstairs that you might care to take a look at,' he said. 'There's not much in it. Just a few pieces. We'll do with a light if we're going upstairs.'

He lit another lamp, and, with bowed back, led the way slowly up the steep and worn stairs and along a tiny passage, into a room which did not give on the street but looked out on a cobbled yard and a forest of chimney-pots. Winston noticed that the furniture was still arranged as though the room were meant to be lived in. There was a strip of carpet on the floor, a picture or two on the walls, and a deep, slatternly arm-chair drawn up to the fireplace. An old-fashioned glass clock with a twelve-hour face was ticking away on the mantelpiece. Under the window, and occupying nearly a quarter of the room, was an enormous bed with the mattress still on it.

'We lived here till my wife died,' said the old man half apologetically. 'I'm selling the furniture off by little and little. Now that's a beautiful mahogany bed, or at least it would be if you could get the bugs out of it. But I dare say you'd find it a little bit cumbersome.'

HUMOUR ONE HUND-RED YEARS AGO

CARAMEL

Lill-Jan has received one large caramel, which he immediately puts in his mouth. Immediately afterwards, he cancels his best scream, because his mouth is closed, the caramel is gone. "What's wrong with Lill-Jan," asks mother. — Kajamel-len, boohää, hää häää! . . . — Have you lost the caramel? — Yes. — And mother and all the aunts start looking for it. — Where did you drop it then... — Buhää, hää — in the stomach.

MARRIED 6 DAYS

— Now we've been married for 6 days, and you don't love me anymore. — But dear Cecilia, of course I love you, but God the Father also rested on the seventh day.

FREE TELEGRAM

Mac Carty from Aberdeen is visiting the U.S.A. One day he has to send a telegram to a relative. When he asks about the price at the telegraph office, he is told that the sender's name costs nothing. — Magnificent, says the scout. I am descended from an Indian chief and my name is Iwillarriveto-morow.

ON THE BEACH

Him: A week ago you had no idea that you would now be sitting on the beach with a man you didn't know at all. Her: Well, I probably did. Him: But dear little friend, you didn't know me then. She: No, but I knew myself

WOMEN'S CLOTHING

Nothing dresses a woman better than nothing.

NERVOUS LADY

An anxious, nervous woman, accompanied by her husband, approached the station inspector at a small outlying railway station and asked: "Has the quarter-past train leaving already?" »Yes, ten minutes ago,« was the reply. "When does the four-and-twenty train come?" »It takes quite a while.« »And before dross there are no trains at all?« »No.« »And not any passenger trains?« »No.« »Some freight train then?« »No, no trains at all.« "Is it absolutely safe?" »Yes, absolutely sure!« "Then, John, can we cross the track."

Mrs. BROWN

The pastor's wife is visiting Mrs. Brown and tells, among other things:
- I just received a letter that my son received a scholarship.
- I am really very happy. I understand your feelings so well. I used to feel exactly the same way, when our pig won first prize at the farm meeting.

HE NOTICED THE ERROR.

In a grammar lesson, the teacher wrote a deliberately incorrect sentence on the board, asking the students to tell him where the error was. The sentence was as follows:
"The horse and cows goes in at the gate."
The manly little boy immediately raised his hand.
"Well, tell me what is wrong with it," the teacher said. The boy:
"The women should go in first."

Astronomic picture of the week:



This dazzling region of newly-forming stars in the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC) was captured by the Multi Unit Spectroscopic Explorer instrument on ESO's Very Large Telescope. The relatively small amount of dust in the LMC and MUSE's acute vision allowed intricate details of the region to be picked out in visible light. Credit: ESO, A McLeod et al. Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

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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



HOROSCOPE FOR JUNE 2026

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

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

You're ready to conquer the world – just remember to put on real pants first. June brings you adventure (or at least a new brand of toothpaste). Romance is on the horizon, possibly involving someone who thinks your sweaty gym look is "natural and compelling."

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

You crave stability, snacks, and soft blankets – and not necessarily in that order. In June, you may feel a strong urge to impulse-buy a cactus. Do it. Financially, you're fine as long as you don't walk past any store that sells vintage mugs.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

This month your mouth works faster than your brain. Great for party banter, less great for job interviews. Love is playful and possibly confusing. Is it flirting, or just a shared obsession with crosswords? Time will tell. Or not.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Home is where your heart – and probably your laundry – is. In June, feelings run deep. You may cry at an

ad for breakfast cereal. That's okay. Your emotional radar is strong; use it to sniff out both love and passive-aggressive neighbors.

Leo (July 23 – August 22)

June puts you center stage, even if the audience is just your cat. You radiate charm. Someone falls for you this month – possibly a barista who accidentally writes your name right. Fortune favors the bold, so dare to try karaoke again.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

You've got lists for your lists, and that's great – until you accidentally alphabetize your sock drawer. This month urges you to loosen up. Take a walk without counting steps. Eat a cookie without Googling the ingredients. You might enjoy the chaos.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Balance is your thing, but June throws in a few wobbly surprises. You'll face a dilemma involving brunch and loyalty to your favorite café. Love could blossom – or at least send you a weird emoji. Watch for signs. Or just interpret all signs creatively.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Mysterious? Always. Brooding? Maybe. Overthinking a five-word text? Definitely. June turns up the heat, romantically and otherwise. Let people in – not everyone wants to steal your secrets. Some just want to know your Wi-Fi password.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

You're itching to travel – even if it's just to the fancy supermarket across town. A spontaneous decision this month could lead to greatness. Or minor confusion. Either way, exciting! Love may come from a foreign land. Or a friend-of-a-friend's dog walker.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

You work hard, dream big, and sometimes forget to blink. This month, remember: even empires need coffee breaks. Someone sees your potential – probably someone in HR. Love's possible if you stop trying to impress people with Excel spreadsheets.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

You're five steps ahead, which explains why no one knows what you're talking about. In June, weird is your superpower. Embrace it. Someone special may finally "get" you. Or at least pretend convincingly. That counts.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

You're dreaming of far-off lands and deep conversations with your houseplants. June is rich in imagination, slightly short on practicality. That's okay. Channel your magic into a new hobby – interpretive dance, perhaps? The universe approves.



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

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