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TODAY

EDITORIAL

Does El Niño Have Consequences for Finland?



It starts with a few degrees of warming in the Pacific Ocean off Peru. It ends in your grocery bill in Helsinki.

Does El Niño affect Finland? The honest answer is: not in the way you think, but more than you think.

Meteorologically, Finland is far from the epicenter. The direct link is weak compared to Peru or Indonesia. What we tend to get is a nudge toward milder, wetter, more unpredictable winters. The World Meteorological Organization now warns the current event may peak in December 2026 as one of the strongest since 1950.

The real story for Finland is economic, not meteorological. Researchers at Aalto University in Finland found that large-scale climate oscillations like El Niño affect up to two-thirds of the world's cropland. When drought hits Brazil, floods drown Southeast Asia and fires burn Australia, global prices for wheat, coffee, cocoa and vegetable oils surge. For a country that imports fruit, feed and raw materials, that is imported

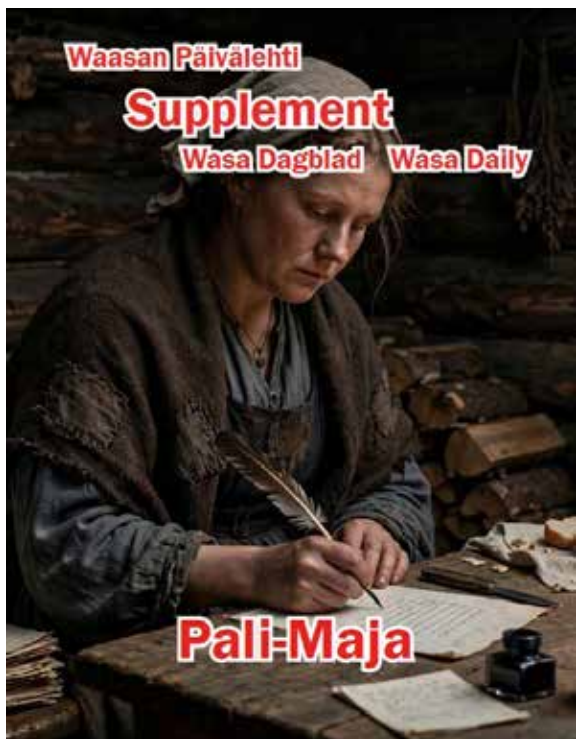
inflation.

The second channel is energy and industry. As the OECD noted in September, a stronger El Niño could raise winter temperatures in the northern hemisphere, reducing energy demand and easing European gas prices, as in 2023/2024. That sounds positive, but it also means 5-25% below-average solar irradiance over Scandinavia and Finland, and less predictable hydropower.

Here is the motivational part: Finland is better prepared than almost anyone. Unlike most European countries that operate on slim margins, Finland keeps a nine-month reserve of grain. That is strategic wisdom.

El Niño is not a distant curiosity. It is a global stress test that ripples through food security, supply chains and commodity markets. For Finland, the lesson is to turn our geographic distance into an advantage: invest in resilience, diversify trade, and build on our strength as a stable, prepared partner when the world becomes less stable.

Photo Supplement



LOCAL NEWS

WÄRTSILÄ

Finland's Wärtsilä to Build Major Battery Storage System in Aruba – Caribbean Island Targets Cleaner, More Reliable Power



A 35 MW battery installation will help Aruba make better use of wind and solar energy, strengthen grid stability and potentially reduce electricity supply costs.

The Caribbean island of Aruba is taking another step towards a cleaner and more reliable energy system. Finnish technology group Wärtsilä has signed an agreement with the island's energy provider, Water- en Energiebedrijf Aruba (WEB Aruba), to integrate and optimise its electricity generation and storage.

The project includes a 35-megawatt battery energy storage system with a capacity of 70 megawatt-hours. At full output, the installation could supply 35 megawatts of electricity for approximately two hours. The batteries will work alongside Aruba's existing wind and solar installations and engine-based power plants.

The reason for the investment is straightforward: renewable electricity production fluctuates with weather conditions, while households and businesses need a dependable supply around the clock. Battery storage can save surplus electricity for periods when demand rises or renewable generation falls. Combined with intelligent energy management, it can help

stabilise the grid and make greater use of renewable power.

Wärtsilä's contract covers engineering, procurement and construction, as well as an energy management system and battery maintenance services. Advanced forecasting and additional grid-control capabilities will help coordinate electricity generation and storage more efficiently.

WEB Aruba chief executive Alfredo Koolman says the agreement supports the company's strategy of cleaner electricity production and maximising the use of renewable energy. Wärtsilä's Risto Paldanius says the integrated solution is intended to improve supply reliability and reduce the cost of delivering electricity.

The order was recorded in the third quarter of 2026, with final handover scheduled for the second quarter of 2028.

The project is Wärtsilä's largest energy storage installation in the Caribbean to date, measured by both power output and storage capacity. It also builds on an established partnership: Wärtsilä has previously supplied engines and equipment for five power plant projects on Aruba, representing a combined installed capacity of 230 MW.

Source: Wärtsilä, press release, 13 October 2026.

ALMA

Climate Fears, Religious Violence and the Battle for Truth – Vaasa Lecture Series Tackles the Big Questions



From the rapidly warming Arctic to the dangers of misinformation, a new public lecture

WELLBEING AREAS

WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY

Emergency vehicles in the Wärtsilä area on Tuesday – a major accident exercise to be held in Vaasa

If more rescue vehicles and authorities than usual are seen in Vaskiluoto on Tuesday, the reason is a planned exercise and not an actual major accident.

On Tuesday, 20 October 2026, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Ostrobothnia Rescue Department will organise a major accident exercise in the area of Wärtsilä Finland Oy in Vaasa. In addition to Wärtsilä, other authorities will participate in the exercise.

The exercise will be held in the Wärtsilä area at Teollisuuskatu 1, Vaskiluoto, and its surroundings. Several emergency vehicles and representatives of various authorities may move in the area during the exercise.

The aim is to practice operations in a situation where an accident requires cooperation between several authorities and other actors. Major accident exercises are an important part of preparedness: in a real crisis, there is no time to waste, and different actors must know how to act together.

According to a press release from the Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia, the exercise does not pose a danger to bystanders.

The exercise may seem serious to an outsider, but its purpose is just the opposite: to ensure that a possible real emergency situation can be reacted to as efficiently as possible.

However, those moving in Vaskiluoto should follow the instructions of the authorities and allow those participating in the exercise to work in peace.

Source: Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia – major accident exercise 20.10.2026.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Fewer wellbeing services counties – and a bigger role for the state?



Finland's wellbeing services counties could face a major overhaul. The Ministry of Finance says the number of counties should be reduced significantly or their responsibilities reorganised to ensure that healthcare and other essential services can survive future pressures.

Finland's current system is facing a difficult combination of challenges: demographic change, growing demand for services and rising costs. The Ministry of Finance argues that the next government programme should include clear measures to prevent the counties from developing in increasingly different directions.

One of the proposed solutions is to significantly reduce the number of wellbeing services counties. Another would be to concentrate responsibility for certain tasks and strengthen cooperation between counties through legislation.

The most radical option would be to transfer responsibility for organising services to the state.

The Ministry also proposes concentrating responsibility for specialised healthcare without creating new administrative structures. At the same time, Finland's hospital network should be adjusted to reflect future population trends and changing healthcare needs.

Funding is another major concern. The overall financing system should be reformed more quickly, with greater predictability and stability. Alternatives to the current needs-based funding model should also be examined.

At the same time, every county should have stronger incentives to control the growth of spending.

The underlying message is clear: Finland needs a system that can deliver social and healthcare services and emergency services reliably across the country – even as the population and demand for care change.

The debate could become one of the major political battles of Finland's next government term.

Source: Ministry of Finance, Finland.

NEWS

series at Alma invites people to explore the difficult issues shaping our future.

How will climate change reshape our world? What happens when people lose confidence in what counts as reliable knowledge? And how can religion bring communities together while sometimes becoming a source of division and violence?

These are among the challenging questions addressed by Kuumottavia aiheita (Hot Topics), a new lecture series organised by Alma Adult Education Centre in Vaasa during the 2026–2027 academic year.

The programme explores issues that affect society and provoke strong opinions, including climate change, the risks of populist polarisation, media literacy, ethics and violence committed in the name of religion. Expert speakers will offer research-based information and different perspectives on complex contemporary problems.

Alma's principal, Sannasirkku Autio, says the public lectures are intended to deepen understanding and encourage discussion about issues that concern everyone.

First stop: an Arctic under pressure

The series opens with Kuumottava Arktis (The Burning Arctic) on Wednesday, 28 October 2026, from 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

The free lecture is open to everyone and will take place in the auditorium on the second floor of Alma Adult Education Centre, Kirkkopuistikko 15, Vaasa, Finland. The language of the lecture is Finnish.

The speaker, Johanna Ikävalko, directs the Centre for Geopolitics, Peace and Security at UiT The Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø.

She will examine why the Arctic is warming faster than the global average, how melting ice affects the wider world and what preparations may be needed. The discussion will also consider whether the green transition can slow climate change and what action remains possible.

February brings two more difficult debates

On 3 February 2027, Annastiina Kallius, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Helsinki, will explore what happens when shared ideas about reliable knowledge begin to crumble.

On 10 February, Aini Linjakumpu, professor at the University of Lapland, will discuss religious conflicts and how better understanding of religions can help replace fear with informed dialogue.

The series offers Vaasa residents a chance to look beyond headlines, question assumptions and gain a deeper understanding of the forces shaping modern society.

Source: City of Vaasa, press release, 14 October 2026.

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

NEWS

YLE

When the news takes the stage – Yle Live comes to Vaasa Bilingual shows i Vaasa on Nov 10



Föreställningna combines journalism and theater with sound, image, light and sound. Image: : Johanna Kannasmaa / Yle

What really makes a story news? Who decides what the public should hear about? And where is the line between a passionate football fan and a hooligan?

These are some of the questions Yle will explore when several of its young journalists and content creators leave the newsroom and step onto the stage this November.

The Yle Live tour will visit five Finnish cities as part of Yle's 100th-anniversary celebrations. The tour stops in Vaasa, Seinäjoki, Jyväskylä, Lahti and Lappeenranta, combining journalism with theatre, sound, images, lighting and live performance.

For Vaasa, the big day is 10 November, when Yle Live arrives at Ritz. There will be two performances, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., and the Vaasa show will be bilingual.

The programme is aimed particularly at young people aged 15 to 19, but the format is designed to be much more than a traditional news programme.

Among those appearing on stage are YleX's Aino "Aikku" Silkelä, Mikael Salmelainen from the Menny pahaks podcast, Pyry Vaismaa from Yle Mix, Jenni Matikainen from Yle Kioski, Charlotte "Challe" Lindberg from Yle Watt and Saku Manneh from Yle Galax. Yle's US correspondent Ilmari Reunamäki will also take part.

Each city will also have at least one journalist from Yle's regional newsroom

on stage.

The audience will get a behind-the-scenes look at journalism and the questions journalists face every day. Topics include the difference between a football fanatic and a hooligan, what a working day inside Donald Trump's White House might look like, and the fundamental question of who has the power to define what becomes news.

Radio will also be brought directly to the audience. YleX afternoon hosts Aikku and Mellu will take their radio studio on the road, allowing visitors to watch their live broadcast from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The daytime performances are being offered free of charge to local upper-secondary and vocational students. Evening performances are open to everyone, with tickets priced at 10 euros.

After Vaasa, the tour continues to Seinäjoki on 11 November, Jyväskylä on 12–13 November, Lahti on 16 November and Lappeenranta on 17–18 November.

The Lahti performance will be recorded and later shown on Yle Areena on 22 December, as well as on Yle TV2 during December.

For Vaasa, the combination of journalism and live entertainment offers a rare chance to see familiar media personalities outside the usual screen – and to discover how news is made from the inside.

Source: Yle, 5 October 2026.

**Vaasa, Ritz, 10 November: 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
The performance is bilingual.**

NEWS

UNIVERSITY

ÅBO AKADEMI

Åbo Akademi approves major education reform – a new era begins in 2027



The decision is made. Åbo Akademi University is moving ahead with a major education reform designed to give students a broader foundation before they specialise. At the same time, some existing subjects will face significant changes.

The University Board approved the outcome of the recent change negotiations at an extraordinary meeting on 6 October. The reform will introduce new broad-based bachelor's programmes from the 2027–2028 academic year.

The aim is to create a clearer and more coherent programme structure. Students will encounter several fields of knowledge early in their studies before choosing a more specific direction.

Åbo Akademi says the reform is intended to make its programmes more relevant and attractive, respond to future skills needs and improve the university's ability to maintain its broad educational responsibilities.

Musicology and Russian studies affected

The reform will also bring concrete changes.

Musicology will no longer be offered as a major subject at bachelor's level, although it will continue at master's level.

The university is also proposing to discontinue its programme in Russian Language and Literature. This part of the reform still requires consideration by Finland's Ministry of Education and Culture.

TIKANOJA

The Finnish artist who refused to play by the rules – Elin Danielson-Gambogi returns to the spotlight



She travelled alone across Europe, challenged expectations of women and painted everyday life with striking honesty. Now Elin Danielson-Gambogi is attracting renewed attention, with works on show in Vaasa and a major retrospective planned for Helsinki.

Elin Danielson-Gambogi (1861–1919) was an artist who preferred to live and work on her own terms. Recognised as one of the notable Finnish painters of her generation, she nevertheless remained less widely known than many of her contemporaries. Today, growing interest in her work is helping bring her remarkable story to a new audience.

Visitors to Tikanoja Art Museum in Vaasa can already discover some of her paintings in an exhibition devoted to the Önningeby artists' colony. In spring 2027, the focus will move to Helsinki, where the Ateneum Art Museum is planning an extensive retrospective covering her artistic career.

A woman ahead of her time

Danielson-Gambogi travelled alone around Europe and sought inspiration in the energy of its great cities. She enjoyed restaurants, oysters, cigarettes and late-night social gatherings – habits that stood in sharp contrast to the restrained behaviour expected of women in her era.

Her independent spirit could also create difficulties in her professional life. As a teacher, she was sometimes regarded as too bohemian and headstrong. Despite her artistic abilities, she was never appointed to lead the painting department at the art

school where she taught.

Her paintings likewise challenged conventions. Rather than restricting herself to subjects considered suitably refined for a woman artist, she depicted ordinary situations and intimate moments with directness and realism. Her approach could provoke both admiration and unease among contemporary viewers.

One of her best-known works, *After Breakfast*, demonstrates her interest in everyday life and its unpolished details. The paintings *Mother* (1893) and *Self-Portrait* (1900) are also expected to feature in the upcoming Ateneum exhibition.

A meeting place for artists on Åland

An important chapter in her career is connected with Önningeby, on the Åland Islands. Founded in 1886 on the initiative of painter Victor Westerholm, the colony is regarded as Finland's first artists' colony.

Westerholm invited fellow artists to his summer residence, Villa Tomtebo, to paint, exchange ideas and enjoy one another's company. Among those who travelled there during the colony's first summer were Fredrik and Nina Ahlstedt, Elin Danielson-Gambogi, Alexander Federley, Hanna Rönnerberg and the Swedish artist J.A.G. Acke.

The colony offered artists an opportunity to work together and draw inspiration from the Åland landscape. Its history now provides a link between Danielson-Gambogi's artistic legacy and the exhibition currently bringing her paintings to Vaasa.

More than 200 works coming to Ateneum

Renewed interest in the artist has also been encouraged by writer Salla Leponiemi's recent book about her life and work.

According to the announced exhibition details, Ateneum's retrospective will run from 9 April to 19 September 2027. More than 200 works are expected to be displayed, including paintings borrowed from private collections in Finland and Italy. Some have never previously been exhibited in Finland.

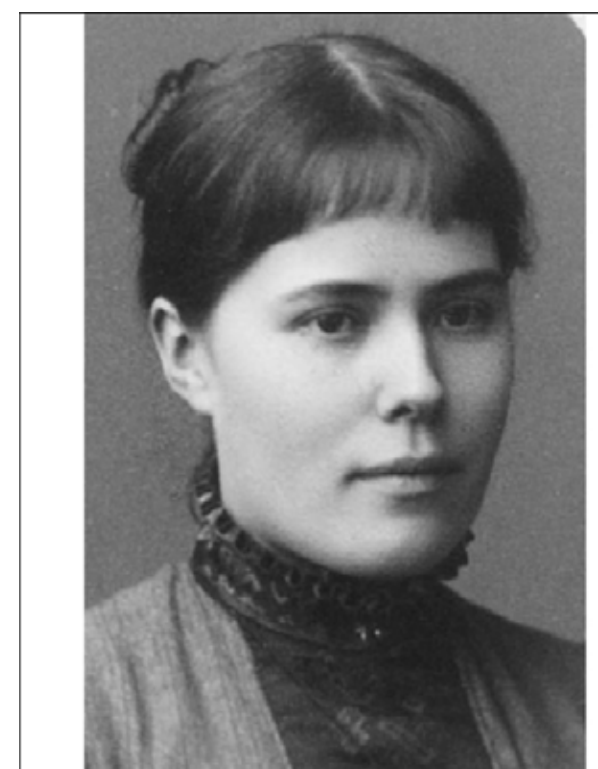
The exhibition will explore Danielson-Gambogi's experiences in Paris, Brittany, Åland and Italy. Works by fellow artists of her era, including Akseli Gallen-Kallela and Pekka Halonen, will provide additional context.

Her story is about more than artistic achievement. It is also about the determination to pursue an independent life at a time when women who challenged convention could face resistance. More than a century after her death, Danielson-Gambogi is receiving fresh attention – and audiences have a new opportunity to discover what made her art distinctive.

In Vaasa: Tikanoja Art Museum, exhibition on the Önningeby artists' colony.

In Helsinki: Ateneum Art Museum, Kaivokatu 2, 9 April–19 September 2027.

References: Ateneum's announced exhibition information; historical information on the Önningeby artists' colony; Salla Leponiemi's book on Elin Danielson-Gambogi.



Elin Danielson-Gambogi (1861–1919)
Photograph of the Finnish painter Elin Danielson-Gambogi (1880)
Ateli Uno Rosendahl / Museiverket.
Public domain

SOFIA VIRTÄ

Justice Stuck in a Queue? Crime Victims Could Wait Years for Their Day in Court



Prosecutors face mounting workloads, pending cases are increasing and staff cuts are looming. Finland's Green Party leader Sofia Virtä warns that the justice system is under growing pressure.

Reporting a crime can take considerable courage. Waiting months or even years for the case to progress can make an already difficult experience much harder. Finland's Green Party is warning that planned cuts to the prosecution service could further undermine access to justice.

Party leader Sofia Virtä is calling on Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's government to abandon the cuts and secure long-term funding for the justice system.

Prosecution decisions are taking longer

According to the government's 2027 budget proposal, the average time for prosecutors to decide whether to bring charges is expected to reach 5.6 months. In 2025, the figure was 2.7 months.

Meanwhile, the number of pending cases is forecast to rise from around 28,000 to more than 45,000.

Virtä says the prospect of staff reductions makes the situation particularly worrying. She highlights victims of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual offences, for whom lengthy proceedings can prolong distress and uncertainty.

Hearings could be cancelled or postponed

Virtä says a prosecutor in southern Finland has contacted her with concerns that staffing could be reduced by as much as 17 per cent. According to that account, some scheduled court proceedings might have to be cancelled or transferred to colleagues whose calendars are already full in some cases until 2028.

Delays also affect the rights of suspects, who are entitled to have their cases handled without undue delay. Witnesses' memories may fade, and some offences could potentially become time-barred.

Can the system afford further cuts?

Virtä argues that prosecutors cannot be expected to absorb ever-increasing workloads without consequences for their well-being and the quality of their work.

She wants the government to reverse the planned cuts and provide adequate, sustained funding throughout the criminal justice process.

The wider issue is public confidence. Legal rights mean little if cases cannot be resolved within a reasonable time. Ensuring access to justice requires not only sound laws, but also enough qualified people to make the system work.
Source: Finland's Green Party (Vihreät – De Gröna), press release

CRISTOFFER INGO

Scratch Cards Could Return as Christmas Gifts – and the Winner Can Claim the Prize!



A familiar festive tradition may soon be back. Finland's government wants to make it possible to give scratch cards as presents again, allowing the recipient to collect any winnings personally.

A scratch card can be a small gift with a big surprise. But since mandatory player identification was introduced at the beginning of 2024, there has been an awkward catch: only the person who bought the card could claim its prize.

Now the government is proposing a change.

A gift that really belongs to the recipient

Under the proposed rules, someone receiving a scratch card as a present would be able to claim any winnings themselves. The Swedish People's Party of Finland (SFP) welcomes the initiative.

MP Cristoffer Ingo says the change makes sense, particularly for families where scratch cards are a traditional Christmas gift. If someone gives you a ticket, it seems only fair that you should be able to collect the prize if luck is on your side.

There is still an age limit

The proposal does not remove safeguards against underage gambling. Anyone claiming a prize must be at least 18 and prove their identity. However, the recipient would not need to register as a player. The person purchasing the scratch card would still have to be registered and identify themselves when buying it.

When could the change take effect?

The government proposes that the temporary amendment should enter into force as soon as possible and remain

valid until 30 June 2027. The same possibility would then continue under Finland's new Gambling Act, scheduled to take effect on 1 July 2027.

The proposal offers a practical solution to an unusual problem created by the identification rules. It could make scratch cards a convenient gift again, especially during the Christmas season.

There is one important detail: the change is a legislative proposal, so the new rules must complete the necessary approval process before recipients can rely on them.
Source: Swedish People's Party of Finland (SFP), press release

ANNA-MAJA HENRIKSSON

17 Million Islanders Want to Be Heard – Henriksson Takes Their Daily Struggles to Brussels



Ferries, reliable mobile networks and access to healthcare are essential services, not luxuries. Finnish MEP Anna-Maja Henriksson wants island communities to have a stronger voice in European decision-making.

How far away is the nearest health centre? For people living on islands, the answer depends not only on distance, but also on ferry timetables and whether connections are running.

That was one of the key messages from Anna-Maja Henriksson, a Finnish MEP representing the Swedish People's Party (SFP) and vice-president of the Renew Europe group. She raised the issue during a European Parliament debate on the EU's new island strategy in Strasbourg on 8 October.

Finland has around 500 inhabited islands without fixed connections

Approximately 17 million people in the EU live on islands. Finland alone has around 500 inhabited islands without a fixed connection to the mainland.

Henriksson argues that European legislation and policymaking must take these communities' special circumstances into greater account. Everyday life depends on practical essentials: ferries must operate, mobile networks must work, healthcare must be accessible, and local businesses must be able to operate throughout the year.

Island communities are part of Europe's security

Keeping islands inhabited is not simply a matter of convenience or quality of life. In an increasingly uncertain security environment, functioning communities and infrastructure also contribute to Finland's and Europe's preparedness.

When residents and businesses leave, maintaining local services and infrastructure can become increasingly difficult.

Her message is straightforward: distance cannot be measured in kilometres alone. Travel time and access to essential services matter just as much.

For someone waiting for a ferry, a nearby school, shop or doctor may still be difficult to reach. European policies need to recognise that reality if island communities are to remain viable places to live and work.

Source: Swedish People's Party of Finland (SFP), press release

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

TRUMP-PUTIN DIESEL DEAL

Trump-Putin Diesel Deal Sparks Outrage: Is Cheap Fuel Worth Helping Russia?

Russian diesel is set to reach global markets after a temporary easing of US sanctions. Trump promises relief from fuel-price pressures, but critics warn that the deal could bring fresh revenue to Moscow while its war against Ukraine continues.

US President Donald Trump announced a diesel arrangement with Russia in October, saying the move would help increase fuel supplies and ease high prices. The decision has triggered fierce criticism because it appears to conflict with Washington's previous efforts to restrict Russian energy revenues following the invasion of Ukraine.

A ban introduced after the invasion In 2022, the United States enacted the Ending Importation of Russian Oil Act, prohibiting imports of Russian energy products covered by the legislation. The measure was intended to reduce Moscow's income and respond to Russia's assault on Ukraine.

The new diesel arrangement raises questions about how the administration's temporary sanctions relief fits with that legal framework. The administration has announced a temporary easing of restrictions, while lawmakers and critics have questioned the decision's legality and its implications for sanctions policy.

Graham's sanctions proposal sends a different message

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham has championed legislation intended to increase pressure on countries that buy Russian oil and gas. The proposal has included the possibility of tariffs as high as 500 per cent on certain countries supporting Russia's energy trade.

There is an important distinction: Graham's proposal is not the same as a law already in force. The United States has, however, introduced separate tariff measures against countries purchasing Russian oil. The contrast between efforts to penalise buyers of Russian energy and the new diesel arrangement has intensified the political controversy.

Every energy dollar matters

Russia's oil and fuel exports generate revenue for a state conducting a full-scale war against Ukraine. One diesel deal alone will not determine how long the war lasts, but energy income helps sustain Russia's

economy and its ability to continue military operations.

The human cost remains devastating. Ukrainians continue to die as a result of Russia's invasion, while Russian soldiers also lose their lives in a war launched by their country's leadership.

Why is Ukraine being pressured? Trump has criticised Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and questioned his leadership. These remarks have fuelled concern that Washington is placing pressure on the country defending itself while giving insufficient weight to Russia's responsibility for starting the war.

Diplomacy is essential, and lower fuel prices would benefit consumers. But a lasting peace cannot be built simply by easing economic pressure on the aggressor while demanding concessions from the victim of the invasion.

The central question is not whether fuel supplies matter. They do. It is whether a short-term economic benefit justifies a policy that could strengthen Russia financially and weaken international pressure to end its war.

Sources: US Ending Importation of Russian Oil Act (2022); Senator Lindsey Graham's proposed Russia sanctions legislation.



CLIMATE CHANGE

COPERNICUS

Planet on a Hot Streak: September Was the Second-Warmest on Record!

Ocean temperatures hit new highs, European rivers ran dangerously low, and El Niño gathered strength. The warning signs are mounting – but humanity still has a say in what happens next.

September usually brings cooler days and the first hints of autumn across Europe. In 2026, however, the planet continued to run unusually hot. According to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service, September was the second-warmest September ever recorded worldwide. Global temperatures also remained above 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels for a second consecutive month.

The figures may sound abstract, but their consequences are anything but. Rising temperatures can affect food production, water supplies, ecosystems and the daily lives of millions of people.

Two months above 1.5°C

The global average surface air temperature reached 16.27°C in September. That was 0.82°C above the September average for 1991–2020.

Compared with the estimated pre-industrial average for 1850–1900, the temperature was 1.63°C higher.

Only September 2023 was warmer, exceeding September 2026 by 0.11°C.

There is an important distinction, however: two consecutive months above 1.5°C do not mean that the Paris Agreement's long-term temperature limit has formally been breached. That limit concerns sustained global warming, rather than individual months. Nevertheless, repeated readings at these levels underline the speed and scale of the changes taking place.

The oceans are breaking records

The oceans are also sending powerful signals. Average sea-surface temperature across the region between 60°S and 60°N reached 21.05°C, the highest September value in the dataset.

In the Niño 3.4 region of the tropical Pacific, a key area used to monitor El Niño, the monthly sea-surface temperature reached an extraordinary 29.70°C. This exceeded peak values recorded during the powerful El Niño events of 1982–1983, 1997–1998 and 2015–2016.

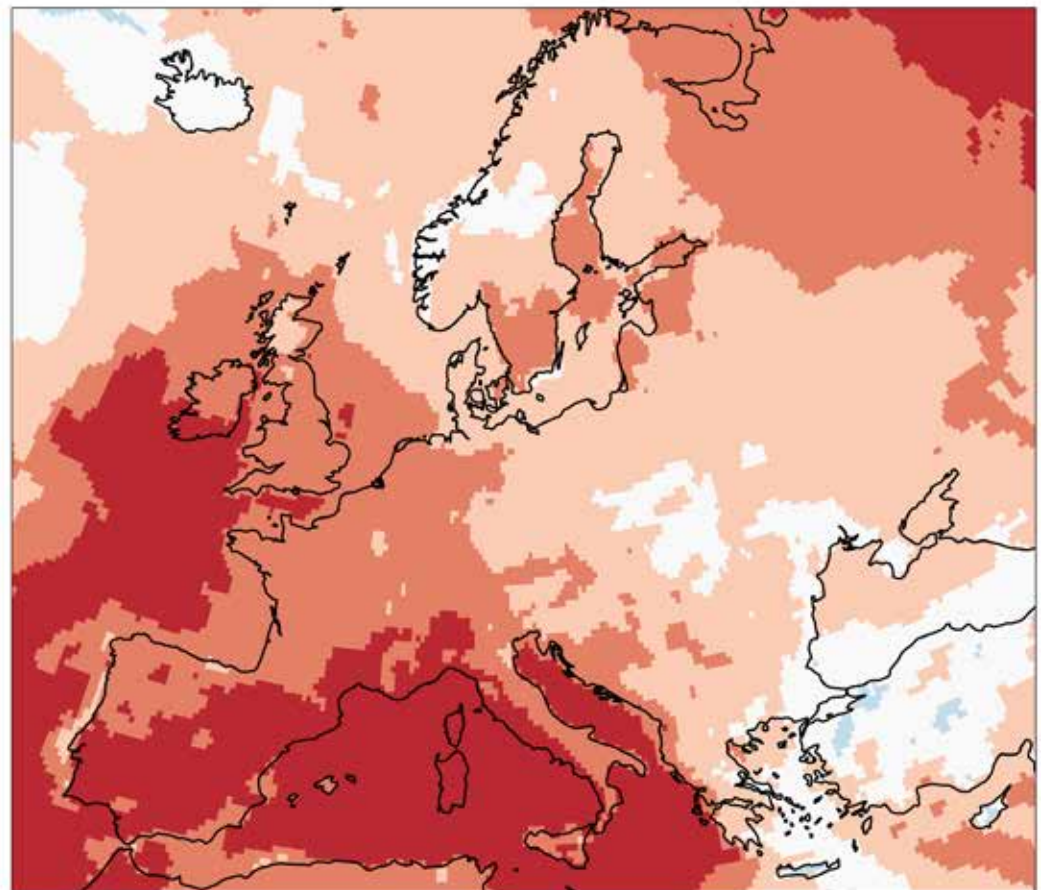
El Niño is a natural climate phenomenon involving unusually warm surface waters in the tropical Pacific. It can alter rainfall and temperature patterns around the world and temporarily amplify global warming. The current event is expected to strengthen further.

Europe swelters while rivers shrink

Europe recorded its third-warmest September.

Anomalies and extremes in surface air temperature for September 2026

Data: ERA5 (1979–2026) • Reference period: 1991–2020 • Credit: C3S/ECMWF



The extreme categories ('coolest' and 'warmest') are based on rankings for 1979–2026. The other categories are based on the percentiles of the distribution for the 1991–2020 reference period.



PROGRAMME OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



IMPLEMENTED BY



The average temperature over European land was 16.26°C, or 1.54°C above the 1991–2020 average.

Western Europe shared its September record with 2023, with temperatures 2.51°C above average.

Following an exceptionally dry summer, drought continued across large parts of western, central and eastern Europe. Sections of the Rhine, Danube, Vistula and Garonne–Dordogne river systems recorded their lowest September flows on record. The consequences included disruption to shipping, agriculture and water supplies.

Northern and northeastern Europe experienced wetter-than-average conditions in some areas. Late-month rainfall brought relief in places, but also contributed to flooding in parts of France and Spain.

A warming climate does not simply mean more heat and drought. It can also increase the risk of intense rainfall and damaging weather extremes.

Polar sea ice adds to the concern

In the Arctic, the summer minimum sea-ice extent ranked 14th lowest in the satellite record. Around Antarctica, the winter maximum was the third lowest recorded.

The future is still in our hands

Carlo Buontempo, director of the Copernicus Climate Change Service, stresses that people can still influence how far and for how long global temperatures exceed the Paris Agreement's long-term limit.

Cutting greenhouse-gas emissions, expanding cleaner energy, improving energy efficiency and preparing communities for extreme weather can all help.

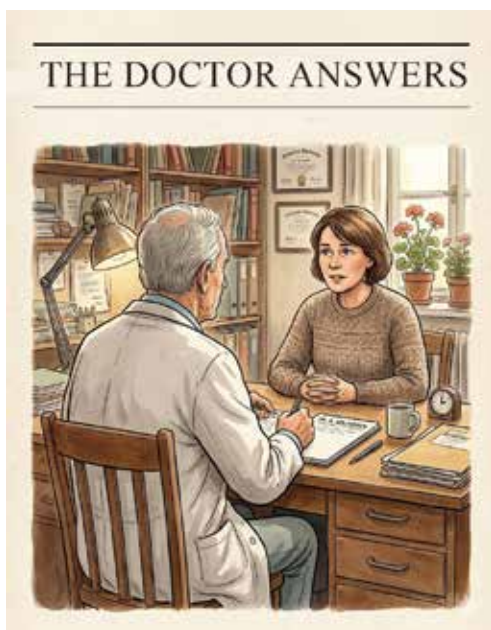
September's figures are a serious warning, not a declaration that the battle is lost. The planet is changing rapidly. The choices made today will help determine how difficult tomorrow becomes.

Source: Copernicus Climate Change Service, Copernicus: Second warmest September as global temperatures stay above 1.5°C, 12 October 2026. <https://climate.copernicus.eu/copernicus-second-warmest-september-global-temperatures-stay->

HEALTH

THE DOCTOR ANSWERS

Lung cancer can affect also those who have never smoked – why?



Question: Pope Leo underwent surgery for lung cancer a few days ago. How is it that he, who has certainly never smoked, got this disease?

Answer: Pope Leo XIV has undergone surgery for lung cancer. According to the Vatican, the examinations showed that he has lung adenocarcinoma, a common form of lung cancer. A natural question is: How can you get lung cancer if you have never smoked?

Smoking is the biggest risk factor for lung cancer, but it is not the only one. The disease also occurs in people who have never smoked. In such cases, several factors can interact, and sometimes it is not possible to determine a single cause.

There are several types of lung cancer. They are mainly divided into two groups: non-small cell lung cancer and small cell lung cancer. The former group accounts for about 85 percent of cases. This includes adenocarcinoma, which often occurs in the outer parts of the lungs and is the most common type even among people who have never smoked. Small cell lung cancer is more strongly linked to smoking.

What other factors can come into play? Ra-

don in indoor air is also an important risk factor for non-smokers. Radon is an invisible, odourless radioactive gas that can penetrate from the ground. Passive smoking, air pollution and exposure to certain substances in the work environment, such as asbestos, can also increase the risk. Age and hereditary or acquired genetic changes can also play a role.

Sometimes cancer develops even though the person has no known risk factor. This does not mean that someone has done anything wrong – cancer can occur through changes in the genome of cells that we cannot fully explain.

Can lung cancer be prevented? The most important thing is not to smoke and to avoid passive smoking. The radon concentration in the apartment can be measured if necessary, and elevated levels can be corrected.

The Pope's illness reminds us that lung cancer is not just a smoker's disease. Early detection can improve treatment options, but there is not yet a general screening that is recommended for everyone. In case of prolonged cough, coughing up blood or new shortness of breath, you should contact your healthcare provider.

PLAGUE

Plague warning from Russia – US tells citizens to leave immediately



One of history's most feared diseases has suddenly returned to the headlines. The United States is telling its citizens currently in Russia to leave the country immediately amid reports of a suspected case of pneumonic plague. But how serious is the situation?

Plague is forever associated with the Black Death, the devastating pandemic that swept through Europe in the 14th century and killed millions. The disease is caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*. Historically, it was commonly transmitted through fleas carried by infected rodents. Today, plague is rare, and modern antibiotics can successfully treat it when therapy is started promptly.

The latest concern comes from Russia's Irkutsk region in Siberia. In a health alert issued on 6 October, the U.S. Embassy in Moscow said it was monitoring reports of a suspected case of pneumonic plague that had resulted in the death of an individual. The alert also referred to quarantine measures and hospital closures in Irkutsk.

There is an important distinction here: the U.S. alert describes a suspected case, not a confirmed plague outbreak.

Washington also says its ability to assist American citizens in Russia is limited, particularly outside Moscow.

The existing U.S. Level 4 "Do Not Travel" advisory for Russia remains in force. Americans already in Russia are told to leave immediately, while those planning to travel there are strongly advised not to go. The warning also reflects longstanding security concerns, including the risk of wrongful detention.

Pneumonic plague deserves particular attention because, unlike the flea-borne form, it can spread from person to person through respiratory droplets. Untreated, it can be extremely dangerous. But the medical world of 2026 is a very different place from the Europe of the Middle Ages: antibiotics can be highly effective when treatment begins quickly.

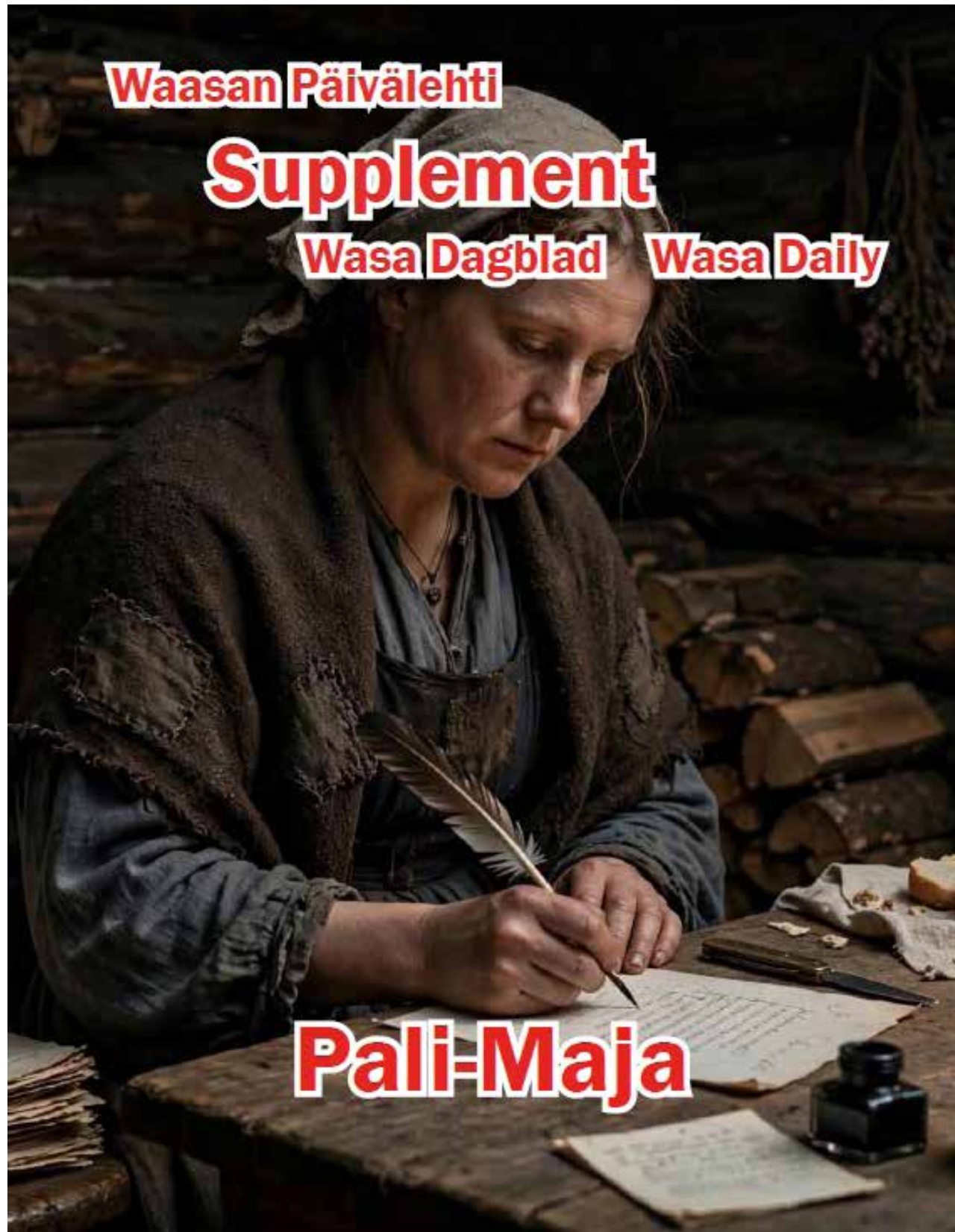
There are also reasons not to panic. The World Health Organization has assessed the risk outside Russia as very low. Russian authorities have said that testing of contacts of the deceased woman found no dangerous infectious pathogens and that monitoring had been completed.

Our comment: Based on the publicly available information, the instruction for Americans to leave Russia immediately appears somewhat excessive. However, there may be information behind the decision that is not available to the public. That makes it sensible to follow developments closely – while remembering that a suspected case of plague is not the same thing as a confirmed epidemic.

Sources: U.S. Embassy Moscow, 6 October

PALI-MAJA

Pali-Maja – A Remarkable Poet of Pörtom, Närpes and Ostrobothnia



Maria Johansdotter Berg (1784–1867), known by her pen name Pali-Maja, was one of Finland's earliest and most prolific female poets. Born in the village area of Pali in Pörtom, Ostrobothnia, she grew up in a gifted family where education, craftsmanship and creativity were highly valued.

Her literary talent emerged at an early age. At only eighteen, she worked as a travelling

schoolteacher, educating children in several villages around Närpes. At the same time, she began composing poems and songs. Her reputation spread quickly, and during a journey to Stockholm as a young woman she was reportedly described by fellow travellers as a “songbird”.

Despite her talent, Pali-Maja's life was marked by hardship. In 1814 she gave birth to a son outside marriage, an act considered both illegal and socially shameful at the time. She was fined and carried the burden of public disapproval

for the rest of her life. Later she married the blacksmith Matts Mattsson Berg and had four children. According to local accounts, her husband struggled with alcoholism, making their marriage difficult and unhappy.

This experience inspired some of her most remarkable poetry. Pali-Maja is often regarded as one of the first Finnish poets to describe the destructive effects of alcohol on families. Her verses portray poverty, domestic suffering and emotional pain with unusual honesty and compassion. Through these poems she gave voice to women and children affected by addiction, long before such topics were commonly discussed in literature.

Her works covered a wide range of themes, including religion, love, nature, marriage, death and local events. She also wrote about the devastating Great Fire of Vaasa in 1852, offering comfort to those who had lost their homes. Many of her poems reveal a deep religious faith combined with a keen observation of everyday life.

Although widely respected, poetry brought her little economic security. After her husband's death she lived in poverty, relying on local charity and staying in a small room attached to her son-in-law's smithy. According to tradition, she was once forced to burn some of her manuscripts during a harsh winter simply to keep warm. As a result, a large portion of her literary work was lost forever.

Around fifty poems have survived, and they were collected and published in 1882 under the title *Folkdikter af Maria Berg eller Pali-Maja*. Today she is regarded as an important figure in Finland-Swedish folk literature and the cultural history of Ostrobothnia. A memorial stone erected in Pörtom in 1970 honours her legacy. Her story remains a powerful example of artistic talent, resilience and determination in an era when women rarely had the opportunity to preserve or publish their work.

INTERESTING STORY



HEALTH

It Pays to Be Happy and Well-being: You Don't Get Dementia

As life expectancy increases and the global population ages, we are faced with an undeniable challenge: how to reduce the growing burden of neurodegenerative diseases like dementia.

Dementia, with Alzheimer's disease as its most common form, has been on the rise for decades. An estimated 139 million people worldwide are projected to be living with dementia by 2050. Alarmingly, over 10 million new cases are diagnosed each year—roughly one every three seconds.

However, new research provides hope and offers a refreshing perspective: well-being may hold the key to preventing, or at least mitigating, the risk of dementia. While most public health strategies focus on biomedical interventions, emerging evidence suggests that promoting mental well-being and fostering positive emotions could serve as powerful tools in dementia prevention.

A Decade of Research Linking Well-Being to Brain Health

A landmark study conducted by researchers from the Well-being and Emotion across the Lifespan Lab (WELLab) at Washington University in St. Louis, and highlighted in the 2024 World Happiness Report, shows a strong correlation between well-being and a reduced risk of dementia. This interdisciplinary research, spanning over a decade, makes a compelling case for the protective effects of well-being on the brain.

The study's findings are based on data collected from older adults in Chicago and Illinois, starting in 1997. Participants underwent annual evaluations of their cognitive abilities and provided self-assessments

of their emotional states and overall well-being. The researchers found that individuals who consistently reported higher levels of well-being were less likely to develop memory and thinking impairments, even when they had the biological markers associated with Alzheimer's disease.

While the exact mechanisms behind this link remain unclear, the results strongly suggest that maintaining high levels of well-being throughout life could help delay or even prevent the onset of dementia.

Well-Being: A Buffer Against Dementia?

The research also touches on a broader question: why is there a connection between well-being and brain health? According to Dr. Emily Willroth, Director of WELLab and one of the study's lead researchers, there are several factors that might explain this relationship.

"People who report higher well-being are more likely to engage in activities known to promote brain health, such as regular physical exercise, social interaction, and mental stimulation," says Dr. Willroth. These activities have long been associated with a reduced risk of cognitive decline, but the study goes a step further by suggesting that well-being may also act as a buffer against the harmful effects of stress, a known contributor to neurodegenerative diseases.

Dr. Kyrsten Costlow Hill, another co-author of the study, explains that stress can damage the

brain's critical systems responsible for maintaining cognitive function. Higher levels of well-being, on the other hand, may provide the resilience needed to withstand or counteract this damage.

What Does Well-Being Look Like for Those Already Living with Dementia?

While well-being is now recognized as a potential preventative measure, it also plays a crucial role in improving the lives of those already living with dementia. The WELLab team emphasizes that well-being interventions can enhance autonomy, competence, and relatedness, even in advanced stages of dementia.

Simple activities such as physical exercise, spending time outdoors, and engaging in social activities have shown significant benefits for individuals with dementia. These interventions not only improve mood and cognitive function but also increase life satisfaction. Moreover, methods like reminiscence therapy, where individuals are encouraged to reflect on past memories, can foster emotional stability and enhance overall well-being.

Aging in place—remaining in one's home rather than relocating to an institution—has been shown to be particularly effective in boosting the well-being of older adults with dementia. By using home adaptations, assistive technologies, and maintaining social connections, individuals can experience greater satisfaction with life. Dementia villages, which provide a safe yet familiar environment, have also emerged as a model for maintaining dignity and quality of life for those affected by the disease.

The Path Forward: Acting on What We Know

Despite the promising findings, Dr. Willroth stresses that there is no "miracle cure" for dementia. However, the evidence points toward actionable steps that can be taken today to reduce the risk of this devastating condition. Public health initiatives should prioritize well-being as a cornerstone of dementia prevention. As the global population ages, the demand for strategies that not only treat but also prevent neurodegenerative diseases will continue to rise.

Incorporating well-being into daily routines is not just a matter of living a happier life; it may also be the key to preserving cognitive function well into old age. Physical activity, social interaction, mindfulness practices, and positive emotional engagement are all accessible and effective means of improving both mental health and brain health.

As the research suggests, investing in well-being pays dividends far beyond happiness—it may hold the key to unlocking a future with fewer cases of dementia. While we cannot completely eliminate the risk of developing neurodegenerative diseases, the steps we take today toward fostering mental and emotional well-being may reduce the likelihood of dementia for millions.

In a world where dementia remains one of the most pressing public health challenges, we must act now. Prioritizing well-being, both in our personal lives and through public health policies, can lead to healthier aging and, ultimately, a reduced burden of dementia on individuals, families, and society. After all, the cost of ignoring well-being is far too high—for our minds, our bodies, and our collective future.

THE CONTENT OF OUR MAGAZINE IS PRODUCED RESPONSIBLY.
WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE JOURNALIST GUIDELINES.
<https://jsn.fi/en/journalists-guidelines/>

EVENTS

TODAY

SUNDAY WALK TODAY

Vaasa Walks Together – The Feel-Good Sunday Sensation Is Back!

Lace up, Vaasa! This Sunday, Oct 11th, 10:00-13:00, the beloved Sunday Walk returns at Kauppatori, by the statue. Join the 10km community stroll through the city's best autumn spots – you set the pace, no one walks alone, and a shorter route is always okay. Afterwards, enjoy a cozy coffee together, self-paid. It's free, friendly and open to all. Same time also on Oct 11, 18, 25 and Nov 1.

Source: Event Sunnuntaikävely, organizer Vaasan Kävelyklubi ry, Huovinkuja 9 D 2, Vaasa.

OCTOBER

CELEBRATION IN THE CITY HALL

Celebration of Seniors Set to Light Up Vaasa City Hall on Oct 16



Music, laughter and community spirit will take centre stage when the Senior Celebration arrives at Vaasa City Hall on Friday, 16 October 2026, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The free event is designed for Vaasa's senior residents and will feature group singing, live music, dancing, theatre performances and a ceremonial speech. A special highlight of the afternoon will be the presentation of an award recognising outstanding work to promote the wellbeing of older people. Complimentary coffee will also be served. The event is organised by the Vaasa Council for Older People and local pensioners' associations with support from the City of Vaasa's wellbeing and cultural services.

Source: Ostrobothnia Events Calendar / Vaasa Council for Older People

HELSINKI BOOK FAIR 22-25.10.2026

Words take centre stage at Helsinki Book Fair



Language will be in the spotlight when Helsinki Book Fair returns this autumn. From 22–25 October 2026, Helsinki Expo and Convention Centre will host authors, books and discussions, with almost 1,000 programme events planned.

The 2026 theme is Kieli / Språk / Language, exploring the power and development of language, the future of Finnish, multilingual literature, translation and world literature. Language minorities will also have a stronger voice.

The Nordic region's largest literary event attracted more than 100,000 visitors in 2025, setting a new attendance record.

Time: 22–25 October 2026. Thu–Sat 10am–8pm, Sun 10am–6pm.
Location: Helsinki Expo and Convention Centre.
Source: Messukeskus / Helsinki Book Fair

RITZ

Krista and Mark celebrate Finland-Swedish life at the Ritz on 29 and 30.10.26

Krista Siegfriids and Mark Levengood bring the show "How Lovely the Song Sounds" to the Ritz stage. The performances are on Thursday 29 October and Friday 30 October 2026 at 7 pm. Tickets 49,90 euros.

The show is Finlandssvensk fest on stage: Lucia crowns, crayfish parties, dialects, songs, laughter and maybe a little tear in the corner of your eye. The duo celebrates their roots, nostalgia and everything that Finland-Swedes living abroad miss. The evening will be a warm-hearted and humorous experience, where mosquitoes are not needed, but schnapps can be part of the thing. Reference information: netticket.fi.

NOVEMBER

YLE

Yle Live comes to Vaasa on Nov 10

Yle's lively new stage show arrives at Ritz in Vaasa on 10 November. The bilingual event combines journalism, humour, music, theatre and behind-the-scenes stories from the world of news. The show is especially aimed at 15–19-year-olds. Performances take place at 1 pm and 7 pm. Evening tickets cost €10.

LITTFEST

VAASA LITERATURE FESTIVAL LITTFEST 12-14.11.2026

The literature festival that will be held in November, 12–14.11.2026, will once again bring together well-known writers in Vaasa. LittFest will be attended by Monika Fagerholm, Kjell Westö, Kirsti Manninen (Enni Mustonen), Axel Åhman, Emmi Itäranta, Jessikka Aro and Tuomas Enbuske. In the autumn, book circles are also promised before the festival.

VAASA CITY THEATRE

Vierailu: Elämälle kiitos! Marion Rung 80v Juhlakiertue Nov 13 at 19

VAASABAROQUE

BLÄNDAD AV DÖD OCH KÄRLEK 13-15.11.2026

When the Baroque dances tango – strong emotions on stage
Italian early baroque meets Argentine tango and contemporary dance in the choreographic total work Dazzled by Death and Love. Vaasa Baroque and Carl Knif Company will perform the performance in Helsinki on 13–14 November and in Vaasa on Sunday 15 November at 17:00 at the Ritz.

Choreography and direction by Carl Knif, musical design by Kajsa Dahlbäck. On stage are singers Kajsa Dahlbäck and Erica Back, musicians with violin, bandoneón, lute, viola da gamba and harpsichord, and dancers Jonna Aaltonen, Carl Knif and Terhi Vaimala. Music by Claudio Monteverdi, Barbara Strozzi and Astor Piazzolla interacts with the bodies' expressions of existence, passion and transience.
pe / Fri 13.11 klo / 19.00 Tanssin talo, Helsinki / Dance House, Helsinki (Liput / tickets: tanssintalo.fi)

Sat / Sat 14.11 klo / 15.00 Tanssin talo, Helsinki / Dance House, Helsinki (Liput / tickets: tanssintalo.fi)

Su / Sun 15.11 klo / kl. 17.00 @ Ritz, Vaasa / Vaasa

The performance lasts about 70 minutes and is followed by an artist discussion. Tickets for the Vasa performance via netticket.fi/vaasa-baroque-syksy-host-26, to Helsinki via tanssintalo.fi.

Source: vaasabaroque.com

WASA TEATER

"Snöfall"-premiere on November 14, 2026



The magic of Christmas returns to

Vaasa. A lonely child, a mysterious letter and a world where the elves need help. When the Christmas favourite "Snowfall" returns to Wasa Theatre, a colourful family show awaits – but behind the glitter there is also a story about something very human. It starts with a wish.

Photo: Wasa Teater

VAASA CITY THEATRE

Viirun ja Pesosen joulu



Viirus and Pesonen's Christmas

From 19.11.2026, Julia Stage will feature Viiru and Pesonen's Christmas. The show, directed by Seppo Välinen, brings the beloved characters to a shared experience for the whole family.

Premisere on Nov 19, 2026

RITZ

ABBA frenzy takes over the Ritz with the Dancing Queen show 21.11.26

The ABBA Dancing Queen tribute show brings the legendary band's hits to the Ritz stage. Shows seen in previous performances (e.g. 13.12.2025) have offered brilliant singers, dancers and circus acts. The performance will feature Mamma Mia, Dancing Queen, Fernando, Waterloo and many others. The glamorous costume, choreography and strong interpretations draw the audience into the Abba frenzy. This is closer to the original live experience than many other tributes. If you are interested in disco pop and the glitter of the 70s, the Ritz hall offers a suitable setting. Check the current dates at the ticket office. References: ritz.fi

400TH ANNIVERSARY

Three 400th anniversaries celebrated with Nordic Baroque splendor 25 – 28.11.2026

Vasa Baroque, Pirkanmaan Baroque and Drottningholm's Baroque Ensemble join forces to celebrate three 400th anniversaries: Vörrå Church, Queen Kristina and the House of Nobility in Stockholm. The concert series is called Jubileum

The programme offers music from the Stockholm court, from Queen Kristina's time in Rome and local Ostrobothnian music. Stockholm, Tampere and Ostrobothnian musicians play together in a festive Nordic collaboration. The concert lasts about 75 minutes.

ke / Wed 25.11 klo / 18.00 Riddarhuset, Stockholm (Liput / Tickets: Drottningholm Baroque Ensemble)

Thu 26.11 klo 19.00 Raatihuone, Tampere / Tampere (Liput / Tickets: Pirkanmaan baroque)

pe / Fri 27.11 klo / 19.00 / Kristiinankaupungin kirkko / Kristinestad church

UKRAINE PRESIDENT

The President Discusses How to Protect Ukraine from Russia’s Strikes on Civilian Infrastructure with the Prime Minister of Finland



16 October 2026

In Brussels, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with Prime Minister of Finland Petteri Orpo.

The leaders discussed how to protect Ukraine against Russia’s brutal strikes on civilian infrastructure.

“Overnight and throughout today, Russia launched new strikes on our energy facilities. Parts of the Volyn region and Kyiv are still without power after yesterday

evening’s attack,” Volodymyr Zelenskyy noted.

The President stressed that Ukraine constantly needs the means to shoot down missiles and drones to protect people’s lives and critical infrastructure. New decisions to support Ukraine will come as early as this month. The Head of State noted that Finland has always helped us, and that this is greatly appreciated.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Petteri Orpo also discussed Ukraine’s

need for shelters. Our country established the Shelter Coalition together with Finland, and now this work needs to be accelerated. The Head of State emphasized that every Ukrainian city and community must have proper shelters and thanked Finland for its readiness to support this effort.

Read more:
<https://www.president.gov.ua/en>

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ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Albert Edelfelt
21.7.1854, Kiialan kartano, Porvoon mlk
18.8.1905, Haikko, Porvoon mlk
Sketch for the Portrait of Zacharias Topelius, 1888
Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum
Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Jenni Nurminen

George Orwell

1984

Part 49

Both of them knew—in a way, it was never out of their minds that what was now happening could not last long. There were times when the fact of impending death seemed as palpable as the bed they lay on, and they would cling together with a sort of despairing sensuality, like a damned soul grasping at his last morsel of pleasure when the clock is within five minutes of striking. But there were also times when they had the illusion not only of safety but of permanence. So long as they were actually in this room, they both felt, no harm could come to them. Getting there was difficult and dangerous, but the room itself was sanctuary. It was as when Winston had gazed into the heart of the paperweight, with the feeling that it would be possible to get inside that glassy world, and that once inside it time could be arrested. Often they gave themselves up to daydreams of escape. Their luck would hold indefinitely, and they would carry on their intrigue, just like this, for the remainder of their natural lives. Or Katharine would die, and by subtle manoeuvrings Winston and Julia would succeed in getting married. Or they would commit suicide together. Or they would disappear, alter themselves out of recognition, learn to speak with proletarian accents, get jobs in a factory and live out their lives undetected in a back-street. It was all nonsense, as they both knew. In reality there was no escape. Even the one plan that was practicable, suicide, they had no intention of carrying out. To hang on from day to day and from week to week, spinning out a present that had no future, seemed an unconquerable instinct, just as one’s lungs will always draw the next breath so long as there is air available.

Sometimes, too, they talked of engaging in active rebellion against the Party, but with no notion of how to take the first step. Even if the fabulous Brotherhood was a reality, there still remained the difficulty of finding one’s way into it. He told her of the strange intimacy that existed, or seemed to exist, between himself and O’Brien, and of the

impulse he sometimes felt, simply to walk into O’Brien’s presence, announce that he was the enemy of the Party, and demand his help. Curiously enough, this did not strike her as an impossibly rash thing to do. She was used to judging people by their faces, and it seemed natural to her that Winston should believe O’Brien to be trustworthy on the strength of a single flash of the eyes. Moreover she took it for granted that everyone, or nearly everyone, secretly hated the Party and would break the rules if he thought it safe to do so. But she refused to believe that widespread, organized opposition existed or could exist. The tales about Goldstein and his underground army, she said, were simply a lot of rubbish which the Party had invented for its own purposes and which you had to pretend to believe in. Times beyond number, at Party rallies and spontaneous demonstrations, she had shouted at the top of her voice for the execution of people whose names she had never heard and in whose supposed crimes she had not the faintest belief. When public trials were happening she had taken her place in the detachments from the Youth League who surrounded the courts from morning to night, chanting at intervals ‘Death to the traitors!’ During the Two Minutes Hate she always excelled all others in shouting insults at Goldstein. Yet she had only the dimmest idea of who Goldstein was and what doctrines he was supposed to represent. She had grown up since the Revolution and was too young to remember the ideological battles of the fifties and sixties. Such a thing as an independent political movement was outside her imagination: and in any case the Party was invincible. It would always exist, and it would always be the same. You could only rebel against it by secret disobedience or, at most, by isolated acts of violence such as killing somebody or blowing something up.

In some ways she was far more acute than Winston, and far less susceptible to Party propaganda. Once when he happened in some connexion to mention the war against Eurasia, she startled him by saying casually that in her



opinion the war was not happening. The rocket bombs which fell daily on London were probably fired by the Government of Oceania itself, ‘just to keep people frightened’. This was an idea that had literally never occurred to him. She also stirred a sort of envy in him by telling him that during the Two Minutes Hate her great difficulty was to avoid bursting out laughing. But she only questioned the teachings of the Party when they in some way touched upon her own life. Often she was ready to accept the official mythology, simply because the difference between truth and falsehood did not seem important to her. She believed, for instance, having learnt it at school, that the Party had invented aeroplanes. (In his own schooldays, Winston remembered, in the late fifties, it was only the helicopter that the Party claimed to have invented; a dozen years later, when Julia was at school, it was already claiming the aeroplane; one generation more, and it would be claiming the steam engine.) And when he told her that aeroplanes had been in existence before he was born and long before the Revolution, the fact struck her as totally uninteresting. After all, what did it matter who had invented aeroplanes? It was rather more of a shock to him when he discovered from some chance remark that she did not remember that Oceania, four years ago, had been at war with Eastasia and at peace with Eurasia. It was true that she regarded the whole war as a sham: but apparently she had not even noticed that the name of the enemy had changed. ‘I thought we’d always been at war with Eurasia,’ she said vaguely. It frightened him a little. The invention of aeroplanes dated from long before her birth, but the switchover in the war had happened only four years ago, well after she was grown up. He argued with her about it for perhaps a quarter of an hour. In the end he succeeded in forcing her memory back until she did dimly recall that at one time Eastasia and not Eurasia had been the enemy. But the issue still struck her as unimportant. ‘Who cares?’ she said impatiently. ‘It’s always one bloody war after another, and one knows the news is all lies anyway.’

Sometimes he talked to her of the Records Department and the impudent forgeries that he committed there. Such things did not appear to horrify her. She did not feel the abyss opening beneath her feet at the thought of lies becoming truths. He told her the story of Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford and the momentous slip of paper which he had once held between his fingers. It did not make much impression on her. At first, indeed, she failed to grasp the point of the story.

‘Were they friends of yours?’ she said.

‘No, I never knew them. They were Inner Party members.’

HUMOUR ONE HUND- RED YEARS AGO



"Well, what do you think of this painting canvas?"

"Well, it's fine, I guess. I just can't really see it with all the paint you've smeared on it."



Olle: "Mom, didn't dad say we needed to save?"

Mom: "Yes, my boy."

Ollie: "What do you think, mother, if we saved on castor oil."

Astronomic picture of the week:



Ghostly Stellar Tendrils of the Vela Supernova Remnant

This colorful web of wispy gas filaments is the Vela Supernova Remnant, an expanding nebula of cosmic debris left over from a massive star that exploded about 11,000 years ago. This image was taken with the Department of Energy-fabricated Dark Energy Camera (DECam), mounted on the US National Science Foundation's Víctor M. Blanco 4-meter Telescope at Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in Chile, a Program of NSF NOIRLab.

Credit: CTIO/NOIRLab/DOE/NSF/AURA Image Processing: T.A. Rector (University of Alaska Anchorage/NSF NOIRLab), M. Zamani & D. de Martin (NSF NOIRLab) Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

BLOG WRITERS

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

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

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

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

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

WASA DAILY

A modern newspaper with a layout with features of the press of the 1870s. Back then, newspapers had only 4-8 pages. Lots of text, but no images at all, so there's a lot to read on a few pages. Our paper is one of the very few newspapers in English serving English-speaking inhabitants in the Osthrobotnia 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, Toimen linja 9 B 36, 00530 Helsinki. Phone +358-40-5462455. Email: wasadagblad@gmail.com

FROM OUR READERS

We very much welcome submissions from our readers. Comments, stories, memories, debate, news from home. Probably this will be the most important part of this spring paper. But space is limited, so please write as short as possible! So please send posts to: wasadagblad@gmail.com

ADVERTISE

Being among the first to advertise in this historic and hyper-modern daily may have some PR value. Send ads to wasadagblad@gmail.com

WASA DAILY

wasadagblad@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR A ROOM

Landlady: And what's more, the morning sun shines into this room. Prospective tenant: Well, that's no problem. I see there's a roller blind here.

LOOKING FOR A ROOM

Prospective tenant: But the walls here are so thin that you can hear what's being said in the next apartment. Landlady: Yes, but you know, sir... very interesting people live there.

LOOKING FOR A ROOM

Landlady: And our house is just a stone's throw from the railway station. Prospective tenant: That doesn't matter to me. I never go around throwing stones at railway stations.

A MOROCCAN TALE

An Arab was eating bread, cheese, and roasted meat. A cat came up beside him, mewing. The man tossed it a piece of bread. The cat sniffed it but didn't eat it. The man tossed it a piece of cheese. The cat didn't eat that either; it just sniffed it. Then the man tossed it a small coin and said: — Go buy whatever you want.



HOROSCOPE FOR OCTOBER 2026

What's in the Stars for You This Month?

Aries (March 21 - April 19): You're feeling bold, Aries! But before you start rearranging your furniture or challenging your boss to a dance-off, remember: moderation is key. Use your energy wisely (maybe just redecorate one room).

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): This month, comfort is calling your name. Whether it's extra blankets or extra snacks, lean into your cozy instincts. Just don't let Netflix ask, "Are you still watching?" more than three times in a row.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): You'll be juggling social plans like a circus performer, but careful, Gemini—drop too many balls, and you might end up at two dinner parties on the same night. Pro tip: Bring snacks to both!

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): The mood swings are strong, but so is your ability to turn a crisis into a dramatic monologue. Channel your inner soap opera star and add some flair to your daily life. Who says grocery shopping can't be theatrical?

Leo (July 23 - August 22): As the star of your own show, you're ready for the spotlight. Just make sure you let others shine too—unless, of course, it's karaoke night. Then by all means, belt it out like you're headlining Madison Square Garden.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Lists, lists, and more lists. But here's the twist: not everything needs to be planned. Surprise yourself this October by doing something spontaneous. Don't worry, you can still make a checklist about it afterward.

Libra (September 23 - October 22): October is all about balance, Libra, but you already knew that. Just remember, balance means a little bit of cake and kale. Enjoy your treats without feeling guilty—life's all about those sweet and savory moments!

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): You're mysterious, Scorpio, and this month your secretive side is working overtime. Whether it's keeping Halloween costume ideas under wraps or dodging awkward conversations, your poker face is flawless.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): Adventure awaits! But maybe skip the bungee jumping and stick to exploring new coffee shops. Your sense of humor will be your best compass this month, so laugh it off when you end up in a cafe with no Wi-Fi.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): You're climbing that mountain of success, but October reminds you to take a break. Celebrate the little victories—like finally organizing your sock drawer. Yes, that counts!

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): Your quirky ideas are in full bloom this month. Maybe it's time to finally start that weird hobby you've been thinking about—macramé plant holders, anyone? The sky's the limit for your creativity!

Pisces (February 19 - March 20): Your dreamy side is on overdrive, Pisces. Just don't get too lost in your fantasies, or you might accidentally miss that important Zoom meeting. Maybe set a few extra reminders (and make sure they're not all daydreams!).

Happy October, everyone—may your stars be aligned and your socks always have matches!

