



VÄHÄKYRÖ

Reel of Memories in Vähäkyrö – Exhibition Celebrates Life and Work of Cultural Icon Väinö Alanen

A compelling new exhibition titled Muistojen nauha (Reel of Memories) opened on February 5 at the Olkkari gallery in the Vähäkyrö House.

The show chronicles the life and wide-ranging contribution of Väinö Alanen, a prominent local cultural figure

and driving force in youth association activities from the 1940s to 1997, through words, photographs, objects and video recordings.

The opening event features speeches and excerpts from Alanen's plays. The exhibition runs through May 1, 2026, and can be viewed during the service point's opening hours.

Organized by Alanen's children in cooperation with local community partners, Muistojen nauha invites visitors to explore a vivid portrait of cultural life in Vähäkyrö and celebrates the enduring impact of communal creativity and performance.

Source: Muistojen nauha Exhibition, City of Vaasa cultural events.

WÄRTSILÄ

Wärtsilä 31 Engines Power Next-Generation Heavy Transport Vessel for Allseas



Finnish marine technology group Wärtsilä has been selected to supply the propulsion engines for a new purpose-built semi-submersible heavy transport vessel (HTV) ordered by Switzerland-based offshore contractor Allseas Group. The announcement was made on 22 January 2026, with the contract secured in the fourth quarter of 2025.

The vessel — currently under construction at the Guangzhou Shipyard International (GSI) shipyard in China — will be powered by four Wärtsilä 31 engines.

These engines feature a modular design that reduces maintenance costs and enables a future transition to alternative sustainable fuels, an important consideration as the shipping industry seeks to lower its environmental footprint.

Each engine will be equipped with a Wärtsilä NOx Reducer to minimise nitrogen oxide emissions, contributing to cleaner operations once the vessel enters service. Delivery of the completed vessel is scheduled for the first quarter of 2028.

“This new HTV strengthens the flexibility of our fleet and how we deliver projects,” said Sytske de

Groot, Manager of Naval Architecture at Allseas. “We selected the Wärtsilä 31 for its efficiency, future-ready design and its ability to transition to low- and zero-carbon fuels.”

Wärtsilä has previously supplied engines and equipment for other Allseas vessels, including the purpose-built cargo barge Braveheart.

Reference: Wärtsilä press release (22 January 2026), Wärtsilä 31 engine selected for Allseas newbuild.

Image caption: Wärtsilä will supply the engines for Allseas' new semi-submersible Heavy Transport Vessel, built to deliver lower emissions and greater fuel

Photo of the Week:



Art collector Timo Miettinen talks about the artworks in Kuntsi's new exhibition

VAASA CENTRAL HOSPITAL

Smokers Aged 50–74 Urgently Needed for Lung Cancer Screening Pilot!

A groundbreaking lung cancer screening pilot study is recruiting participants in Finland — targeting current smokers aged 50 to 74 with a long smoking history. The project is led by Oulu University Hospital and the Cancer Society of Finland and conducted in several university

hospitals plus Vaasa Central Hospital.

Participants will undergo low-dose CT screening (LDCT) aimed at detecting lung cancer in its earliest stages, often before symptoms appear. In addition, the study offers support for quitting smoking, including through a mobile app and other cessation methods. The intervention spans roughly two years and includes two follow-up visits with a research nurse.

Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer mortality in Finland, and early detection significantly improves treatment outcomes. Long-term smokers who are still smoking are strongly encouraged to register and contribute to nationally important research. Interested individuals can sign up and find more information at keuhko.fi.

Source: STT release / Österbottens välfärdsområde.

TOPELIUS PRIZE

“We Must Be Better Than Machines” – Marianne Sundholm Wins Topelius Prize



Journalist Marianne Sundholm has been awarded the 2026 Topelius Prize, worth €7,500. The prize was presented at the Media Language Conference

in Turku on January 27.

In her acceptance speech, Sundholm stressed the importance of credibility in journalism in the age of artificial intelligence.

“Trust is everything. We must be able to summarize complex issues and write in a way that people want to read,” she said.

While acknowledging that AI can be useful, Sundholm insisted it can never replace human judgment. Journalists, she added, must enjoy “the joy of shaping language.”

Currently working at Hufvudstadsbladet, Sundholm is also known from her time at Swedish Yle as a political and climate reporter. The jury praised her ability to explain difficult topics with ordinary people in focus.

Source: Svenska folkskolans vänner, sfv.fi

TODAY

EDITORIAL

When Bureaucracy Becomes Dangerous: Patients Pay the Price



More than 100,000 people in Finland rely on apixaban to prevent life-threatening blood clots caused by atrial fibrillation. This is not a lifestyle drug. It is a medicine that keeps people alive.

Until recently, generic versions made the treatment affordable. Three months of medication cost less than 40 euros. Access was broad, and patients could focus on their health rather than their finances.

Today, that security has vanished. Due to patent disputes, almost all generic alternatives have disappeared from the market. What remains is mainly the original brand, Eliquis – without reimbursement from the national insurance system.

The result is staggering. The same treatment now costs around 250 euros for three months. For pensioners and low-income patients, this is a severe financial burden. It forces people to choose between essential medicine and everyday necessities.

This situation is not inevitable.

Temporary reimbursement for Eliquis could be reinstated until competition returns. The solution is administratively possible. Yet bureaucracy moves slowly – far too slowly for those who are affected right now.

It is unacceptable that innocent patients are paying for regulatory rigidity and legal disputes between pharmaceutical companies. Such failures undermine trust in public healthcare and social security.

One message must be clear: no patient should stop their medication because of the price. Doing so can be dangerous. Anyone struggling with costs should contact their doctor and discuss alternative treatments. Options exist – but responsibility should not rest solely on the individual.

Healthcare systems exist to protect people, not to trap them in paperwork. When bureaucracy starts endangering lives, reform is no longer optional. It is urgent.

Source: Fimea, Kela, Finnish media reports on apixaban availability

NEWS

SCHOOLS

Finnish Government Party Proposes Full School Day Trial to Boost Well-Being and Activity



Finland's Swedish People's Party (RKP) has called for a regional trial of a kokonaiskoulupäivä – a full school day model combining formal lessons with meaningful after-school activities – as part of efforts to strengthen children's well-being and physical activity.

The proposal was announced by Education Minister and RKP chair Anders Adlercreutz at the EDUCA education fair in Helsinki.

Under the concept, stu-

dents would have access to structured recreational, creative or sports activities at school, with transport arranged accordingly. Supporters say this could promote community, reduce bullying, and ensure that pupils get more exercise during the school day. According to several recent studies, many Finnish children struggle to sustain concentration throughout a conventional school day and fall short of recommended physical activity levels.

"Children shouldn't be left sitting alone at home scrolling on their phones," Adlercreutz said, highlighting that current opportu-

nities such as after-school clubs vary greatly between municipalities. He emphasized that meaningful engagement with classmates in a familiar environment helps both well-being and learning outcomes.

The proposal aims to pilot regional implementations that can be evaluated for broader use in Finland's basic education system. EDUCA 2026 brought together thousands of educators and policymakers to discuss innovations and challenges in teaching.

Reference: STT/EDUCA press release, 24 January 2026.

SPEX

Thorax Spex Kalevala Comes to Vaasa – Expect an Epic Night!

On March 28, 2026 at 5 PM, the annual student spex Kalevala (in Swedish) will be staged at Kotirannan Työnväentalo in Vaasa, bringing Finland's national epic to life with comedy, music and theatrical twists

Produced by the Medicinarklubben Thorax r.f., this year's show reimagines the mythical tales of Kalevala through the irreverent student spex tradition – a mix of song, satire and storytelling. Tickets are priced at €22 for adults and €14 for students/children, with supporting tickets available to back the long-standing spex culture.

Source: Medicinarklubben Thorax r.f. spex info.

HEALTH

Rivaroxabaan– an alternative to Xarelto



Rivaroxaban, sold with the trade mark Xarelto, is an oral anticoagulant used to prevent and treat blood clots, such as atrial fibrillation, deep vein thrombosis, and pulmonary embolism. It works by blocking coagulation factor Xa.

For about a week, a generic product containing the same substance as Xarelto is available. As a result, Kela's Xarelto reimbursement has been cancelled. This makes a three-month treatment with Xarelto 200 euros more expensive than with generic Rivaroxaban. A three-month treatment with the latter costs less than 40 euros.

Rivaroxaban is an important drug for the prevention of blood clots in people suffering from atrial fibrillation.

Source: Wikipedia and Kela.

Photo Supplement



TURUN TUOMIOKIRKKO

Turku Cathedral to close doors – Historic landmark goes quiet for nearly tree years

Turku Cathedral, Finland's national shrine and one of the country's most treasured historical monuments, will be open to visitors only for the next few days before an extensive renovation begins

Consecrated in 14th century, the cathedral has served as a Catholic church and later as the main church of the Lutheran archdiocese for over seven centuries, becoming an iconic part of Turku's skyline.

Starting 9 February 2026, the cathedral will close to the public and remain so until 2 December 2028. The renovation project will modernize the building's technical systems, improve accessibility, and update spaces while preserving its historical character. The timing is designed so that the cathedral reopens just ahead of Turku's 800th anniversary celebrations.



Throughout the renovation, no services, weddings, or events will take place inside the cathedral, and the Turku Cathedral Museum has already closed as of October 2025. Congregational activities will continue elsewhere within the Turku and Kaarina

parish union. Once completed, the cathedral will be more accessible and versatile, welcoming both worshippers and tourists back into its ancient walls.

Source: Turku Cathedral official website & Wikipedia.

UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

University of Vaasa Breaks Graduation Records – Big Boost for Finland's Skilled Workforce!

The University of Vaasa has smashed its own graduation record in 2025, producing an unprecedented number of highly educated graduates who are now ready to enter the job market. A total of 883 students earned a master's degree last year – a whopping 25 % increase compared to the previous year, according to the university's latest report.

Among them were 116 Master of Science in Technology degrees – an almost 80 % jump – and 592 Master of Science in Economics and Business Administration degrees, nearly 25 % more than in 2024.

University leaders say these numbers reflect both the school's growing popularity and the smooth progress of students through their studies. Vaasa has also been a magnet



for international students, whose share now accounts for about 13 % of graduates.

Rektor Minna Martikainen highlighted that strong ties with businesses – including partnerships with global companies – help students secure valuable training and job opportunities even before graduation.

The record haul of graduates is seen as a positive signal for Finland's talent pool at a time when demand for skilled professionals remains high.

Reference: University of Vaasa press release

Image: The University of Vaasa once again graduated with a record number of higher education degrees in 2025. Image: University of Vaasa. Image freely available.

LIBRARY

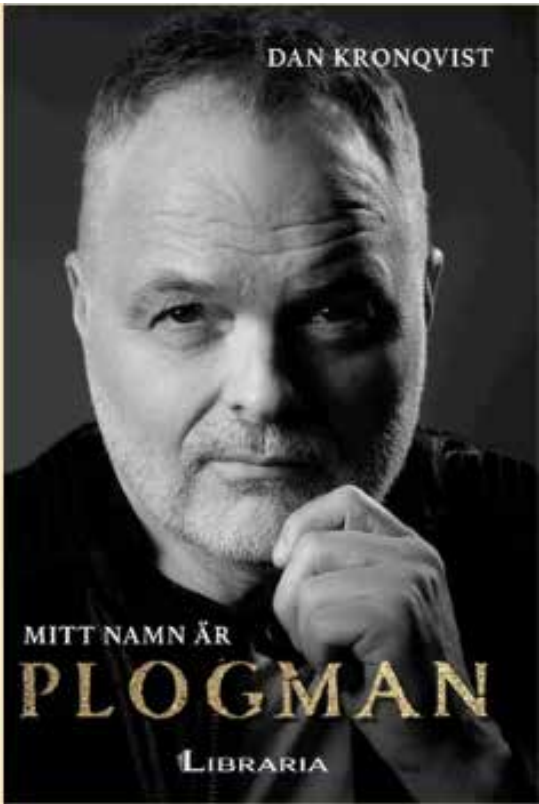
Spring Ignites at Vaasa City Library – Authors, Poetry Circles and Book Clubs Await

Vaasa City Library has unveiled its Spring 2026 cultural lineup, packed with author visits, poetry sessions, book clubs, and engaging literary events for all ages.

From January through May, the library becomes a vibrant hub for readers and culture lovers alike.

The season kicked off with crime novelist Joonas Keskitalo at the main library's Dramasal on January 27, followed by celebrated performer Charles Plogman sharing his memoirs on February 2. Spring also features appearances by authors Ann-Christin Antell and Sari Männikkö, exploring historical fiction and personal narratives.

Local poets Eija Aromaa, Eve Littow and Helena Sinervo will join poetry circles in the Matilda room, while book



clubs dive into monthly discussions spanning mystery to poetry.

Additional highlights include a silent book club at Lillkyro Library, trivia competitions during Helmi Weeks and a bilingual genealogy event in April.

Whether you're seeking deep literary conversation, creative sparks or simply a chance to celebrate reading, Vaasa City Library's spring events promise something for everyone. Source: Vaasa City Library/STT press release. IMAGE: Libraria

LIFE WORK

Finnish Scientist Honored for Life's Work Against Superbugs



Professor Pentti Huovinen from Turku has received the Nordic Medical Prize for his lifetime contribution to research on antibiotic resistance and gut microbiota.

The €20,000 award was presented at the Medical Days in Helsinki in January.

For more than four decades, Huovinen has

studied how bacteria become resistant to medicines. His work has helped Finland reduce antibiotic use by nearly 40 percent and maintain one of the lowest resistance levels in Europe.

Antibiotic resistance means that bacteria no longer respond to standard treatments. As a result, common infections can become dangerous or even fatal. The World Health Organization considers this one of the biggest global health threats, causing millions of deaths every year.

Compared to many countries, Finland's situation is remarkably good. Responsible prescribing, informed patients, and long-term research have played a key role.

Huovinen is also known for popularizing science and mentoring young researchers.

Source: Finnish Medical Foundation, THL

VAASA POWER NETWORK

Vaasa Power Network to Invest €14M in Grid Upgrades Amid Growing Demand



Vaasan Sähköverkko has announced a significant €14 million investment in the local electricity grid to improve delivery reliability and future-proof infrastructure for rising power demands.

The funding includes provisions for the energy trans-

sition, allowing capacity expansion as needs grow.

The investment will support five major projects, including replacing overhead lines with underground cables, relocating lines closer to roads, and expanding grid automation for faster fault response and improved efficiency. In Mustasaari, nearly 40 kilometers of overhead lines in the

Söderudden and Paniken areas will be refurbished, enhancing resilience to weather and disruptions.

Grid modernization is seen as essential as electrification accelerates across industries and households, and utilities race to ensure stable, robust networks for the future. Source: Vaasan Sähköverkko via STT release.

ACTIVE TOWNS

Sotkamo Crowned Finland's Most Active Town – Kokkola in the Top Three!



In a surprise but widely cheered announcement at the Sports Gala, Sotkamo has been named Finland's Most Active Municipality for 2025. The iconic Uno Trophy was lifted high amid celebrations, with Kokkola and Pelkosenniemi rounding out the

top three.

Sotkamo's secret? A culture of movement woven into everyday life. Here, nature isn't just scenery – it's a fitness playground for residents of all ages. The local school curriculum mentions "nature" an astonishing 555 times, highlighting how deeply outdoor life is ingrained in the community.

Kokkola impressed judges too,

thanks to its accessible trail networks, engaging outdoor events and strong cooperation between clubs and citizens.

The competition aims to spotlight Finnish municipalities that truly get people moving. This year, Sotkamo takes that crown.

Source: Finnish Municipal Federation
Photo: Urheilugaala/ Janina Pitkänen

KUNTSI

Berlin Art Beats in Vaasa — Body Politics Open at Kuntsi Museum



Art collector Timo Miettinen, Exhibition Director Maaria Salo and curators Noora Lehtovuori, Janna Sirén and Managing Director Riina Kylätasku from the Vaasa Museums. Usko Gutheil's *Gymnastics* in the background.



Maaria Salo. Amoako Boafo *Body Politics* and Timo Miettinen

A striking new contemporary art exhibition has opened at the Kuntsi Museum of Modern Art, bringing international attention to Vaasa with Miettinen Collection: *Body Politics*. The show, which has previously toured in Germany and Helsinki, presents over 120 works by 52 artists that explore the human body, identity and social norms through art. This is really an exciting rare exhibition - please visit it!

At the heart of the exhibition is *Body Politics 3* by Ghanaian-born Amoako Boafo, a work that highlights questions of ethnicity, masculinity and societal structures through the artist's distinctive finger-painting technique. Around this centerpiece, visitors encounter photography, paintings, sculptures, videos and installations that address embodiment as both a personal and societal phenomenon.

The exhibition investigates how identity is shaped over a lifetime — from childhood experiences to social expectations and the influence of digital culture on body ideals.

Finnish photographers Elina Brotherus, Emma Sarpaniemi and Iiu Susiraja contribute playful and intimate self-portraits that reflect on the feminine body and its cultural codes. Works by queer art pioneers such as Tom of Finland (Touko Laaksonen) and Jürgen Klauke, alongside younger talents like



Paris Giachoustidis *Enigmatic Merlin*, 2025, kuva / foto / photo: Courtesy Miettinen Collection

Alexander Basil and Karim Boumjimar, enrich the exhibition's dialogue between past and present.

Part of an international series drawn from the private Miettinen Collection — a trove of around 1,500 works — this presentation has been curated specifically for Kuntsi. The

museum, named after collector Simo Kuntsi and situated by the sea in Vaasa's inner harbor, continues its tradition of bringing thought-provoking and world-class contemporary art to the region.

Source: Kuntsi Museum of Modern Art / Museums of Vaasa

META - A NEW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The AI-War Heats up: META AI Storms the North – is this the end for CHATGPT?

Spring is in the air, but on the tech front, a full-scale battle is raging. Mark Zuckerberg's latest weapon, Meta AI, is landing in the pockets of users across the globe with a bang. But is it making us smarter—or is it just a new way to vacuum up our personal data?

Everywhere You Already Are

While ChatGPT requires its own dedicated app and Google Gemini relies on the power of search, Meta AI strikes where we spend most of our time: Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp.

Powered by the cutting-edge Llama model, Meta AI isn't just another chat window. It's integrated directly into your social feeds. You can ask it to plan a grocery list for a weekend trip directly inside a WhatsApp family group, or have it analyze the fashion style of an Instagram post with a single command.

Why is Meta "Better"?

Meta's biggest trump card is seamlessness. You never have to switch apps to get an answer. Furthermore, the new Ray-Ban Meta smart glasses take the technology a step further: you can ask, "Hey Meta, what building am I looking at?" and the AI answers directly in your ear based on what the camera sees.

Meta AI's advantages over the "older" giants:

Integration: It lives inside the apps you already use daily.

Speed: The Llama architecture is famous for being lightning-fast and efficient.

Creativity: It is exceptionally sharp at generating images and editing content directly within social media platforms.

"This is the Swiss Army knife of the AI world. It's not just a tool; it's becoming a part of our social fabric," says one tech analyst.

Is it Truly the King of the Hill?

While Meta AI excels at everyday tasks, ChatGPT still holds its ground when it comes to deep academic research and complex coding. Meta is optimized for conversation and entertainment, whereas its competitors focus more on technical precision and heavy-duty logic.

However, the rollout has raised massive privacy concerns. Meta uses public posts from Facebook and Instagram to train its AI, which has put data protection authorities on high alert. While users have the right to object, doing so often requires digging through complex settings menus.

Convenience vs. Privacy: You Decide

Meta AI is undoubtedly the most "social" AI available today. It might not be the world's smartest professor, but it's that quick-witted friend who is always available in your group chat. Is it better? That depends entirely on whether you value convenience more than your personal data.



"Oil painting" made by META

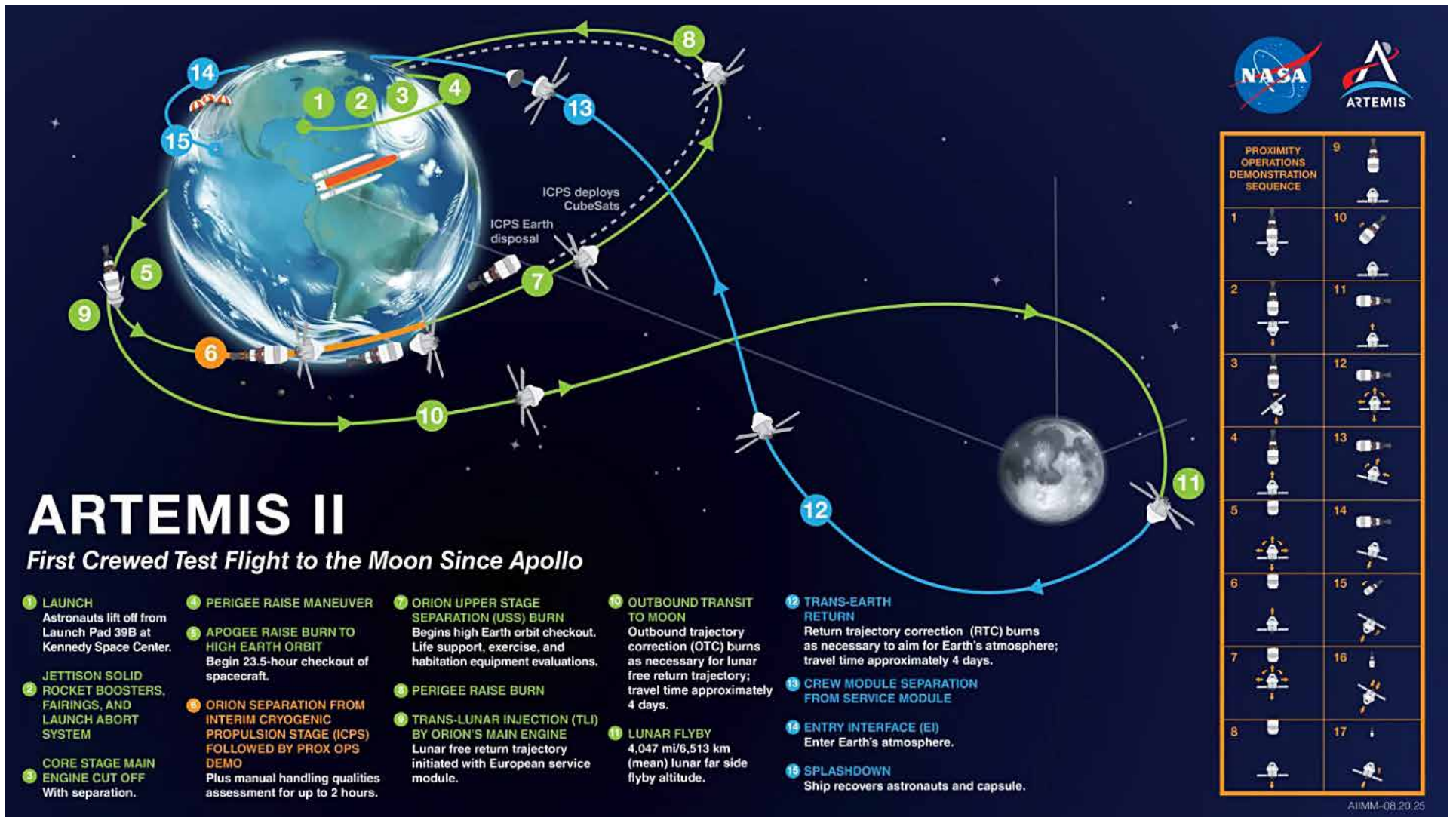
Above in albert Edelfelsts Style

To the left in Van Goghs style

SPACE TRAVEL

ARTEMIS II

NASA Nears Historic Artemis II Crew Mission to the Moon Launch between February 6 – 11?



NASA is making its final preparations for the Artemis II mission, a pivotal milestone in human spaceflight that will send astronauts around the Moon for the first time in more than 50 years.

The Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion spacecraft have been transported to Launch Complex 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, with liftoff targeted no earlier than February 6, 2026. This 10-day flight will not land on the lunar surface but will carry four astronauts on a deep-space journey, testing life support, navigation, communication systems and other critical hardware ahead of future surface missions.

The crew—Commander Reid Wiseman, Pilot Victor Glover, Mission Specialist Christina Koch, and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen—will fly farther from Earth than any humans since the Apollo missions of the

early 1970s. The rollout of the rocket follows extensive vehicle assembly and integrated testing, and the next key milestone is a “wet dress rehearsal” by early February to validate fueling and countdown procedures.

Artemis II is the first crewed flight of NASA's Artemis program, which aims to return humans sustainably to the Moon and prepare for eventual missions to Mars. Insights gained from this mission will directly inform the more complex Artemis III landing mission planned later in the decade near the Moon's south pole.

Experts describe the mission as a major step in lunar exploration, demonstrating systems and operations that will be essential for long-duration human presence beyond low Earth orbit.

Source: Final Steps Underway for NASA's First Crewed Artemis Moon Mission - NASA

Images: NASA

ARTEMIS II

Meet the Crew Poised for a Historic Lunar Orbit



NASA's Artemis II mission — the first crewed flight around the Moon in more than half a century — will carry a team of four experienced and pioneering astronauts on a 10-day journey into deep space. Scheduled for launch no earlier than February 2026, the mission will test life-support systems and operations aboard the

Orion spacecraft as part of NASA's broader plan to return humans to the lunar neighborhood.

Reid Wiseman, commander of Artemis II, brings extensive spaceflight experience to the mission. A U.S. Navy veteran and former chief of NASA's Astronaut Office, Wiseman previously served aboard the

International Space Station for 165 days in 2014 during Expedition 41, participating in hundreds of scientific experiments and spacewalks.

Victor Glover, selected as pilot, is also a seasoned space traveler. A former naval aviator and test pilot, he flew as the pilot of SpaceX's Crew-1 mission to the

International Space Station and contributed to Expedition 64 and 65 operations.

Christina Koch will serve as mission specialist. An engineer and explorer, Koch previously logged 328 consecutive days in space aboard the ISS during Expeditions 59, 60 and 61, setting a record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman and participating in historic all-female spacewalks.

Representing the Canadian Space Agency, Jeremy Hansen joins Artemis II as a second mission specialist and will be the first Canadian to travel beyond low Earth orbit. Hansen, a former fighter pilot selected as an astronaut in 2009, has broad mission operations experience and has worked in NASA's Mission Control Center in Houston.

Together, this diverse crew symbolizes a new chapter of lunar exploration and international cooperation in space.

UKRAINE PRESIDENT
The President Commemorated the Heroes of Kruty at Askold’s Grave in Kyiv



COPYRIGHT: The Presidential Office of Ukraine. All materials featured on this site are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International. The use of any materials posted on the website is permitted provided you link to www.president.gov.ua regardless of full or partial use of materials.

STATEMENT FROM THE PARENTS OF ALEX PRETTI, MICHAEL AND SUSAN PRETTI

"We are heartbroken but also very angry.

"Alex was a kindhearted soul who cared deeply for his family and friends and also the American veterans whom he cared for as an ICU nurse at the Minneapolis VA hospital. Alex wanted to make a difference in this world. Unfortunately he will not be with us to see his impact.

"I do not throw around the hero term lightly. However his last thought and act was to protect a woman. The sickening lies told about our son by the administration are reprehensible and disgusting. Alex is clearly not holding a gun when attacked by Trump's murdering and cowardly ICE thugs. He has his phone in his right hand and his empty left hand is raised above his head while trying to protect the woman ICE just pushed down all while being pepper sprayed.

"Please get the truth out about our son. He was a good man. Thank you."

ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Albert Edelfelt
Flower girl 1884
Finlands Nationalgalleris samling / Konstnuseet Ateneum

George Orwell
1984
15

Everyone kept asking you for razor blades. Actually he had two unused ones which he was hoarding up. There had been a famine of them for months past. At any given moment there was some necessary article which the Party shops were unable to supply. Sometimes it was buttons, sometimes it was darning wool, sometimes it was shoelaces; at present it was razor blades. You could only get hold of them, if at all, by scrounging more or less furtively on the 'free' market.

'I've been using the same blade for six weeks,' he added untruthfully.

The queue gave another jerk forward. As they halted he turned and faced Syme again. Each of them took a greasy metal tray from a pile at the end of the counter.

'Did you go and see the prisoners hanged yesterday?' said Syme.

'I was working,' said Winston indifferently. 'I shall see it on the flicks, I suppose.'

'A very inadequate substitute,' said Syme.

His mocking eyes roved over Winston's face. 'I know you,' the eyes seemed to say, 'I see through you. I know very well why you didn't go to see those prisoners hanged.' In an intellectual way, Syme was venomously orthodox. He would talk with a disagreeable gloating satisfaction of helicopter raids on enemy villages, and trials and confessions of thought-criminals, the executions in the cellars of the Ministry of Love. Talking to him was largely a matter of getting him away from such subjects and entangling him, if possible, in the technicalities of Newspeak, on which he was authoritative and interesting. Winston turned his head a little aside to avoid the scrutiny of the large dark eyes.

'It was a good hanging,' said Syme reminiscently. 'I think it spoils it when they tie their feet together. I like to see them kicking. And above all, at the end, the tongue sticking right out, and blue--a quite bright blue. That's the detail that appeals to me.'

'Nex', please!' yelled the white-aproned prole with the ladle.

Winston and Syme pushed their trays beneath the grille. On to each was dumped swiftly the regulation lunch--a metal pannikin of pinkish-grey stew, a hunk of bread, a cube of cheese, a mug of milkless Victory Coffee, and one saccharine tablet.

'There's a table over there, under that telescreen,' said Syme. 'Let's pick up a gin on the way.'

The gin was served out to them in handleless china mugs. They threaded their way across the crowded room and unpacked their trays on to the metal-topped table, on one corner of which someone had left a pool of stew, a filthy liquid mess that had the appearance of vomit. Winston took up his mug of gin, paused for an instant to collect his nerve, and gulped the oily-tasting stuff down. When he had winked the tears out of his eyes he suddenly discovered that he was hungry. He began swallowing spoonfuls of the stew, which, in among its general sloppiness, had cubes of spongy pinkish stuff which was probably a preparation of meat. Neither of them spoke again till they had emptied their pannikins. From the table at Winston's left, a little behind his back, someone was talking rapidly and continuously, a harsh gabble almost like the quacking of a duck, which pierced the general uproar of the room.

'How is the Dictionary getting on?' said Winston, raising his voice to overcome the noise.



'Slowly,' said Syme. 'I'm on the adjectives. It's fascinating.'

He had brightened up immediately at the mention of Newspeak. He pushed his pannikin aside, took up his hunk of bread in one delicate hand and his cheese in the other, and leaned across the table so as to be able to speak without shouting.

'The Eleventh Edition is the definitive edition,' he said. 'We're getting the language into its final shape--the shape it's going to have when nobody speaks anything else. When we've finished with it, people like you will have to learn it all over again. You think, I dare say, that our chief job is inventing new words. But not a bit of it! We're destroying words--scores of them, hundreds of them, every day. We're cutting the language down to the bone. The Eleventh Edition won't contain a single word that will become obsolete before the year 2050.'

He bit hungrily into his bread and swallowed a couple of mouthfuls, then continued speaking, with a sort of pedant's passion. His thin dark face had become animated, his eyes had lost their mocking expression and grown almost dreamy.

'It's a beautiful thing, the destruction of words. Of course the great wastage is in the verbs and adjectives, but there are hundreds of nouns that can be got rid of as well. It isn't only the synonyms; there are also the antonyms. After all, what justification is there for a word which is simply the opposite of some other word? A word contains its opposite in itself. Take "good", for instance. If you have a word like "good", what need is there for a word like "bad"? "Ungood" will do just as well--better, because it's an exact opposite, which the other is not. Or again, if you want a stronger version of "good", what sense is there in having a whole string of vague useless words like "excellent" and "splendid" and all the rest of them? "Plusgood" covers the meaning, or "doubleplusgood" if you want something stronger still. Of course we use those forms already, but in the final version of Newspeak there'll be nothing else. In the end the whole notion of goodness and badness will be covered by only six words--in reality, only one word. Don't you see the beauty of that, Winston? It was B.B.'s idea originally, of course,' he added as an afterthought.

A sort of vapid eagerness flitted across Winston's face at the mention of Big Brother. Nevertheless Syme immediately detected a certain lack of enthusiasm.

HUMOUR ONE HUND-RED YEARS AGO

LUNDBERG

— Do you know Lundberg? — Yes, of course! I know him so well that I don't know him anymore.

NOT HOME

Mrs.: Here comes Mrs. Pettersson, tell her I'm not home.
Maid: Good, madam.
Mrs.: Well, what did she say?
Maid: Thank God.

FISHING LUCK

— Well, what did you do this summer?
— We've been fishing, you know. And when we fish, we always have on liter 96% with us, and for every fish we take a sip, ; and if we get a lot of fish, we go home and take another liter

TWO STREET LAMPS

On the streets of Kemi city, there are two lamps on the same pole.
— Why do you have to be two?
— Well, you see, one must illuminate the other.

APPENDIX

— That doctor must have sent a rudely large bill. But it will probably be the last time he gets to operate on my appendix.

COMMUNISM

— If you had two houses, would you give one to me?
— Yes.
— If you had two horses, would you give one to me?
- Of course!
— You have a liter of alcohol at home. Give me half a liter!
— You crazy, human! Never!

IN THE BEST FAMILIES

"You see, Mrs. Eriksson, the best family is a family in which there was no such thing as occurred even in the best families."

Difficult to choose maid

— Dear friend, you speak of the difficult maidservant question, yes, I am very unhappy. If I take an old and ugly one, my husband is never at home and if I take a young and beautiful one, I dare not go out myself

To complain to a newspaper

The editor: — And this joke you say must be new? My grandmother already told me that when she was a little girl.

CHILD MAIDEN

— My miss, how can you read your novel when the child screams so terribly.
The nanny: — Bad, my lord, and since you're also bothering me, I cannot read at all.

IN COURT

— Mr. Judge, my husband called me "you old cow", and then he threw me out. I request that he be punished.
— Good, Mrs. H. We judge him to take you in again.

IN CUSTOMS

Band dealer Pettersson comes from abroad and is offended by the customs officer's thoroughness during the inspection. When asked: — Have you now shown everything, tape dealer Pettersson replies angrily.
— No, you have not yet been able to see the vocal cords.

Astronomic picture of the week:



The star cluster Westerlund 2 in the Milky Way galaxy, with an estimated age of about one or two million years.

The brilliant tapestry of young stars flaring to life resemble a glittering fireworks display in the 25th anniversary NASA Hubble Space Telescope image to commemorate a quarter century of exploring the solar system and beyond since its launch on April 24, 1990.

"Hubble has completely transformed our view of the universe," said John Grunsfeld, astronaut and associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate. "This vista of starry fireworks and glowing gas is a fitting image for our celebration of 25 years of amazing Hubble science."

Credit_ NASA, ESA, the Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA), A. Nota (ESA/STScI), and the Westerlund 2 Science Team
Public Domain

BLOG WRITERS

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

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, Koulukatu 37 B 7, 65100 Vaasa, tel. +358-40-5462455. Helsinki editorial office: Wasa Daily, Toinen linja 9 B 36, 00530 Helsinki. Phone +358-40-5462455. Email: wasadagblad@gmail.com

FROM OUR READERS

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

ADVERTISE

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

WASA DAILY

wasadagblad@gmail.com

