

**WASA DAILY**

**Nr 8 Sunday, February 23, 2025**

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**Korsholm Music Festival**

**Vaasa Crown Granary**

**Coffee is good for Your health**

**To a private doctor for 28 €**

**What is Copilot?**

**January´s heat**

# WASA DAILY



**HERE WE ARE:**

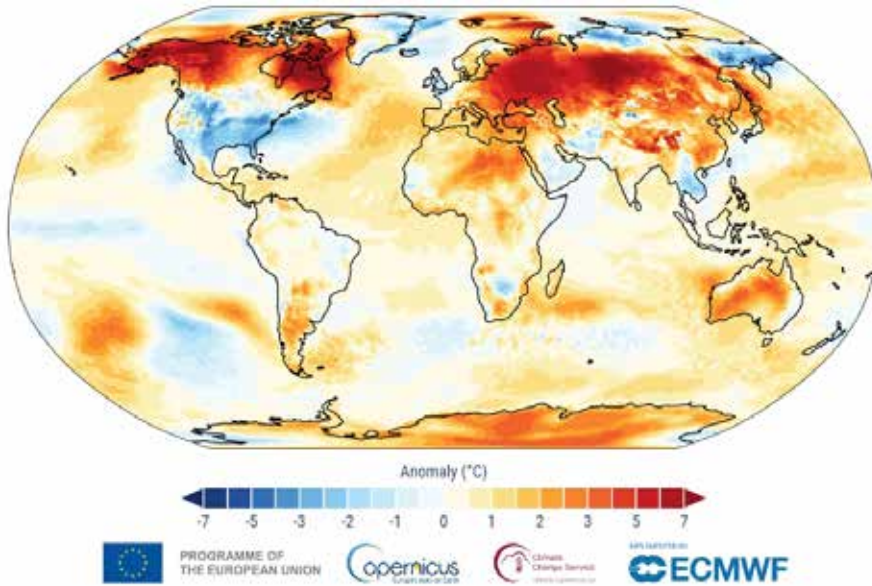
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**32 pages**



# TODAY

## January's Scorchers: Another Brick in the Wall



Surface air temperature anomaly for January 2025 relative to the January average for the period 1991-2020. Data source: ERA5. Credit: C3S/ECMWF.

Another January, another record broken. Copernicus, those climate watchers, they've crunched the numbers. January 2025? Hottest January. Ever. Globally, 13.23°C. Sounds like a number, right? It's not. It's a warning. A blaring siren you can't ignore, even if you try to bury your head in the sand.

La Niña's supposed to cool things down. That's the textbook. But the textbook's wrong. Or maybe the world's just ignoring the syllabus. We're not talking a tiny bump either. 0.79°C warmer than the recent average. 1.75°C above pre-industrial. Those aren't just numbers. They're degrees of trouble. Degrees closer to the edge.

Paris Agreement, remember that? 1.5°C. The line in the sand. We've

been dancing across it for months. Eighteen out of the last nineteen, to be precise. Like some kind of macabre limbo. How long before we fall?

Europe's burning too. Southern and Eastern parts, Western Russia - they're feeling the heat. Literally. Some pockets of the usual suspects - Iceland, UK, Ireland - they got a break. Cooler than average. But that just makes the rest of the world's fever seem even worse.

Canada, Alaska, Siberia - they're baking. South America, Africa, Australia, even Antarctica's feeling it. The cold spots? US, Eastern Russia, Arabian Peninsula, Southeast Asia. Small islands of sanity in a sea of rising temperatures.

This isn't some abstract prediction anymore. It's happening. Right now. The planet's

telling us something, and it's not polite. It's not subtle. It's a scream.

The scientists, they've been saying this for years. Decades. Global

warming. Climate change. We've heard the words. We've seen the charts. But numbers on a page are one thing. Sweat dripping down your face in January is another.

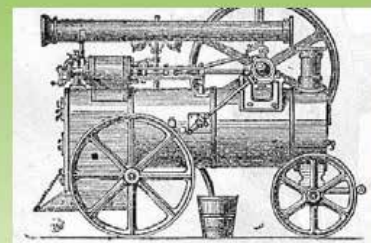
Copernicus says we need to monitor. We need to mitigate. Fine words. But what about action? What about change? We're not talking about recycling anymore. We're talking about survival.

This January's heat isn't just a record. It's a message. And if we don't listen, if we keep ignoring the signs, the next message won't be so polite. It'll be a reckoning. And that's a conversation nobody wants to have.

### Photo Supplement

Waasan Päivälehti  
**WASA DAILY**  
Wasa Dagblad

#### Photo Supplement



LOCOMOBIL.

**1870-luvun koneet  
Maskiner på 1870-talet  
Machines in the 1870s**

Photo Supplement - bpress.ovh

## NEWS



Wärtsilä announces the launch of the next-generation 46TS engine, which is designed for balancing renewable energy production and efficient baseload power generation. The engine will also be able to use sustainable fuels when they become available in the future. © Wärtsilä

## WÄRTSILÄ

### Wärtsilä's next-generation engine improves energy economy

**T**echnology company Wärtsilä has unveiled a next-generation 46TS engine designed to balance renewable energy production and provide efficient baseload power generation. The engine is also capable of running sustainable fuels, making it a more environmentally friendly option.

The Wärtsilä 46TS engine is a large and long-term development product. It is based on a number of power plant engines that have been proven to be reliable in the long term, such as the Wärtsilä 50 series. The W50 engines are one of the world's most successful power plant engines, with a total of 55 million engine hours since 2008.

Fluctuations in renewable energy production pose challenges to the balance of the electricity grid. The Wärtsilä 46TS engine is designed to meet this challenge by providing flexible and fast balancing power. Balancing power can reduce costs, emissions, and the need for land use, as stated in a recent report by Wärtsilä.

"The energy transition will not be possible with renewable energy alone – we need flexible and highly efficient engines to support wind and solar power when their production is low," comments Anders Lindberg, Executive Vice President, Energy at Wärtsilä. "The flexible 46TS engine meets this need and expands our existing technology offering in renewable balancing and cost-effective baseload power generation."

The Wärtsilä 46TS engine offers a number of significant benefits to power generations:

Significant leap in efficiency and performance: Efficiency of more than 51 percent saves fuel and reduces emissions. The result is excellent performance in extreme conditions and at high, thin air. Increased production capacity: A single 46TS engine is capable of generating 23.4 megawatts of power, which means that even a large power plant requires fewer engines.

More flexibility: Fast response to variable loads, even faster ramp-up (2 minutes), no minimum requirements for running or standing times.

Fast and cost-effective installation: The modular design makes installation work faster and easier, and the high-quality, factory-tested modules significantly reduce the total cost of installation.

Wärtsilä supports the maximum reliability and profitability of the W46TS engines with tailor-made, high-quality services. Wärtsilä's Lifecycle Services optimise the operation and performance of the engine, thereby improving the performance and competitiveness of the entire plant. The expert help and support of the service network is always close by, also through remote monitoring.

The Wärtsilä 46TS engine will go on sale in 2025. Last month, Wärtsilä announced its first order for 46TS engines from Caspian Offshore Industries (KCOI) of Kazakhstan. The engines will be used in KCOI's new 120-megawatt power plant.

This is the first hybrid power project of its kind in Kazakhstan in which the engine power plant will be combined with wind and solar power production.



Julkistustilaisuus 17.2.2025. Kuvassa kapellimestari Sauli Perälä, näyttelijä Sonja Halla-aho, tiedottaja Heidi Sippola, pukusuunnittelija Emilia Eriksson ja lavastaja Mika Haaranen. Kuva: Kaupungintatteri

## CITY THEATRE

### Vaasa City Theatre's autumn 2025 programme has been announced

Vaasa City Theatre's autumn 2025 programme has been announced. There will be music-filled performances when the Romeo stage will feature both the touching musical play *Piaf - I Don't Regret Anything* and the joyful musical comedy *Forever Young*.

The theme of the theatre's upcoming performance season is ecstasy. A versatile entity has been compiled around the theme, offering an opportunity to enjoy art and high-quality entertainment and to reflect on the significance of ecstasy in the present day.

#### *Piaf - I don't regret anything*

In September, the Romeo stage will be taken over by the musical play *Piaf*, written by the English Pam Gems. The work tells the unique life story of Édith Piaf, a singer who rose to world fame from the streets of Paris. The work, which combines fact and fiction, depicts the passionate artist in the moments of success and the fragile depths of his career.

The play is directed by Maiju Sallas, who last visited the Vaasa City Theatre in 2021 as the director of *Colorado Ave-*

nue. The conductor is Sauli Perälä and the choreographer is Antton Laine. The set design is by Mika Haaranen, the costumes are by Emilia Eriksson and the sound is by Jouni Tapio. The role of Édith Piaf is interpreted by Sonja Halla-aho.

#### *Forever young*

At the turn of October and November, Erik Gedeon's joyful musical comedy *Forever Young* will premiere. The work takes place in the 2080s, where the Vaasa City Theatre has been converted into a retirement home for actors. The 90-year-old actors, who live in a retirement home, reminisce about the past and share moments of joy and longing together. The fast-paced performance features beloved hits from recent decades.

The play is directed by Pentti Kotkaniemi and conducted by Sauli Perälä. The choreographer is Miika Alatupa. The set designer is Mika Haaranen and the costume designer is Emilia Eriksson. Toni Ikola, Timo Luoma, Oiva Nuojua, Sonja Halla-aho, Anna Lemmetti-Vieri, Sauli Perälä and Anni-Maija Koskinen will be seen on stage.



# NEWS

**WITH A TABLET YOU CAN READ THIS PAPER ANYWHERE:**



Like here on the bridge to Palosaari

## **KORSHOLM** **Korsholm Resident Budget 2025: €15,000 for Ideas**

The Municipality of Korsholm has launched its resident budget again, giving residents the opportunity to brainstorm how €15,000 will be used. Both permanent residents and those with holiday homes in the municipality can submit proposals between February 5th and March 2nd.

The municipality's goal is to gather ideas that promote the well-being and comfort of residents. Proposals can be anything, as long as they meet certain criteria:

Costs must not exceed €15,000. The municipality must own suitable land for implementation. Potential maintenance must be able to be resourced. After the proposals have been submitted, the municipality's officials will review them, make selections, and calculate the costs. Residents will then get to vote for their favorites between March 12th and April 6th. All permanent and holi-

day residents over the age of 13 are eligible to vote.

The final decision on the allocation of the resident budget will be made by the welfare committee on April 22nd. The proposals that receive the most votes will be implemented during 2025.

The Municipality of Korsholm hopes for active participation from residents and looks forward to receiving diverse and feasible ideas.

## **HOMELESS PEOPLE** **Vaasa has the second highest number of homeless people in relation to the population**

According to a recent report by the Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland (ARA), homelessness has increased in Finland. Vaasa has the second largest number of homeless people in relation to the population.

According to the ARA report, there were a total of 3,806 homeless people living alone in Finland in 2024, which is 377 more than in the previous year. The number of homeless people li-

ving alone increased for the first time since 2012. The number of long-term homeless people and 110 families were homeless for a long time.

Homelessness is concentrated in the largest cities. One-fifth of the homeless living alone lived in Helsinki. More than one-half of the homeless in Finland were in Helsinki, Espoo, Turku and Tampere. Relative to the population, the number of homeless persons was highest in Turku (2.3 homeless per 1,000 inhabitants), Vaasa (1.7) and Tampere (1.6).

Long-term homelessness decreased in most large cities, but in Tampere the number of long-term homeless more than doubled from the previous year.

The majority of homeless people lived temporarily with friends or relatives (63%, 2,378 persons). Their share grew from the previous year. The number of homeless people living outdoors, in stairwells or in first aid shelters also increased from the previous year (694 people, 230 more than in 2023).

10 per cent of the homeless stayed in dormitories and accommodation establishments and 9 per cent in institutions.

It is unclear whether the high level of homelessness in Vaasa is a statistical anomaly or a real problem. The issue should be investigated further to find solutions to reduce homelessness in Vaasa.

## **FIMLAB RELEASES** **Changes to the opening hours and operations of outpatient sampling at Fimlab's Oravainen, Korsholm and Vaasa Central Hospitals**

There will be changes in Fimlab's Oravainen, Korsholm and Vaasa Central Hospital units as follows:

The opening hours of the Oravainen laboratory will change from 24.2.2025. The new opening hours are Mon-Fri 7.30-14 (previously 7.30-14.30).

The Korsholm laboratory will be closed until further notice from 28.2.2025 due to renovation of the facilities. We serve sampling customers at Fimlab's other sampling points in the Ostrobothnia region.

Vaasa Central Hospital's outpatient sampling opening hours will change as of 3.3.2025. The new opening hours are Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (previously 7 a.m.-3 p.m.).

The change in the opening hours of the Oravainen laboratory will harmonise the laboratory's service with other regional activities and service demand in the wellbeing services county. The change in the opening hours of outpatient sampling at the Central Hospital will strengthen the morning ward sampling rotations at the Central Hospital. The changes have been planned together with the wellbeing services county of Ostrobothnia over a long period of time, and they are not related to the change negotiations that ended in February.

## **KORSHOLM** **Children Become Climate Heroes in Korsholm**

Korsholm is investing in a sustainable future by turning its children into genuine climate heroes. In an innovative project funded by Svenska Folkskolans vänner and Svenska kulturfonden, the municipality has integrated a "sustainability path" directly into the curriculum. Now, students have the opportunity to actively shape the community's future climate strategy.

Schools have formed enthusiastic climate teams where both students and teachers collaborate to tackle key challenges. They explore ways to reduce food waste, improve was-

# NEWS

te sorting, and transform schoolyards into green sanctuaries with berry bushes and apple trees. "It's inspiring to see how children take responsibility for the environment with creativity and commitment," says Ulrica Taylor, educational planner in Korsholm.

A highlight of the project is the series of exciting hackathons in which over 350 children have participated. During these events, students develop innovative solutions to local sustainability challenges – from securing clean water for the future to enhancing recycling practices. One particularly fun idea was a disco where admission was paid with sorted waste, creatively combining fun with environmental awareness.

Additionally, the high school features a clothing exchange room where students can swap clothes they no longer need. Through inventive ideas and hands-on sustainability education, Korsholm shows that the road to a greener future is best paved by our young heroes.

## PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

### How would you make Vaasa happier with 15,000 euros?

Through Vaasa's participatory budgeting, the city has set aside 15,000 euros to implement residents' ideas - and your idea could be the next winner. Do you have a place in mind that needs improvement? Have you seen a great idea elsewhere that you would like to bring to Vaasa? Now is the time to tell us about it! You can submit suggestions until March 9.

Through participatory budgeting, wonderful projects have already been implemented in Vaasa, such as the open-air swimming area in the Inner Harbour, the cherry park in Onkilahti and toys for daycare centers. All of these have one thing in

common: they were born from residents' own ideas.



- Participatory budgeting has become established in Vaasa as a popular way to influence the development of the city. It gives residents the opportunity to participate in planning and decision-making, says Strategy and Service Area Manager Suvi Aho.

Here's how to participate:

- Submit your idea online by March 9th at [www.vaasa.fi/osallistuva-budjetointi](http://www.vaasa.fi/osallistuva-budjetointi) or on paper at the public service point at Kansalaisinfo (Teräksenkuja 1) and Vähänkyrö public service point (Vähänkyröntie 11).
- The best ideas will advance to the finals, and residents will be able to vote for the winner from April 17th to May 5th.
- The winner will be announced on May 19th, and its implementation will be followed on the city's social media channels

This is your chance to have an impact and make Vaasa an even better place to live! Even a small idea can grow into something big when it gets enough support. Submit your idea - and make Vaasa happier! Source: STTinfo/City of Vaasa

## KORSHOLM Korsholm Resident Budget 2025: €15,000 for Ideas

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will be used. Both permanent residents and those with holiday homes in the municipality can submit proposals between February 5th and March 2nd.

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## PRIVATE DOCTORS Early 2024 statistics reveal that the prices for private doctor visits increased by an average of 8 percent

**Early 2024 statistics reveal that the prices for private doctor visits increased by an average of 8 percent—more than double the 3.3 percent rise in the consumer price index (CPI). However, the price hikes were not uniform across specialties. In psychiatry, fees surged by 13 percent, whereas services provided by pediatricians and ophthalmologists saw increases of around 7 percent, according to a press release from KELA.**

Researchers explain that several factors contribute to this trend, including competitive dynamics, growing demand, and rising salaries for doctors. The recent increase in Kela reimbursements—marking the first such adjustment in over 16 years—may also have played a role. Notably, while patient co-payments decreased by 10 million euros, Kela's reimbursement costs increased by 32 million euros.

A graph depicting the period from 2020 to 2024 illustrates that private specialist fees have risen sharply, especially in early 2023 and 2024. This trend reflects not only the impact of inflation but also other underlying factors such as labor shortages and increasing personnel costs, which ultimately affect the pricing of private healthcare services. According to Kela research professor Hennamari Mikkola, although inflation is a significant driver, the overall price development is influenced by multiple cost pressures that must be considered when evaluating future trends.



# NEWS



## YOUNG ENTERPRISE

### Focus on Young Enterprise: Ten young companies from Ostrobothnia and Central Ostrobothnia make it to the finals

Eighty-one young enterprise-companies with nearly 200 young people from Ostrobothnia and Central Ostrobothnia participated in the regional Swedish-language event Dare to Be Enterprising in Vaasa on February 20, 2025. The event is part of a national competition where young people can showcase their business ideas and products. A jury of experts from the business community selected ten JA companies that will advance to the finals in Helsinki in April. Among the contestants, winners were also chosen in various categories, such as best business idea, best product and best service. Some of the winning JA companies are:

REcyCLed UF from Petalax high school, which manufactures beeswax cloths from recycled fabric.  
Lumi UF from Jakobstad Gymnasium, which builds

and sells bamboo ski poles.  
Evia UF from Tegengrenskolan in Vörå, who has created a bilingual recipe book for children.  
Fire & Taste UF from Vamia in Vaasa, which publishes a cookbook with recipes for trangia and open fire.  
The event aims to encourage young people to become entrepreneurs and give them tools to develop their business ideas.

Young people from the following educational institutions in Ostrobothnia and Central Ostrobothnia participated in the regional event and competition:

- Borgaregatans skola, Vaasa
- Högstadiet i Petalax, Malax
- Jakobstads gymnasium, Jakobstad
- Korsholms högstadium, Korsholm
- Kristinestads högstadieskola, Kristinestad
- Närpes högstadieskola, Närpes
- Tegengrenskolan, Vörå
- Vaasan lyson lukio, Vaasa
- Vamia, Vaasa
- Yrkesakademien i Österbotten, Närpes
- Zachariasskolan, Nykarleby



Left above: Evia UF won the award for best business idea – Vaasa's Dare to Be Enterprising 2025 event.  
Above: REcyCLed UF, Secondary School in Petalax, Malax.



Eld & Smak UF, Vamia, Vaasa.  
Photos: NYT



# NEWS

## LAKES AND RIVERS

# Unusually Warm Weather in Ostrobothnia – Water Levels on the Rise

The Ostrobothnian regions have experienced an unusually warm start to the year, which has significantly affected the area's waterways. Particularly the high temperatures at the end of January have caused water levels and flows in rivers and lakes to rise.

At the beginning of January, the water surfaces of the waterways were still close to the typical level for the time of year, but the warm weather period caused them to rise rapidly. In many places, the lake surfaces are now several tens of centimeters higher than normal. For example, Lake Lappajärvi and the Hirvijärvi reservoir are about 30 centimeters higher than the average.

The water levels in the regulated lakes have already begun to be lowered to make room for the spring meltwater. The amount



of snow in many places is less than the average for the time of year, and the warm weather has caused intermittent snowmelt and compaction of the snow.

There is also positive news: the nutrient content of the large rivers in January has been lower than in the autumn, and the oxygen situation has remained good. If the weather does not

get significantly colder, the ice cover of the lakes is likely to remain thin and short-lived, which in turn helps to keep the oxygen situation good. Groundwater levels have remained high thanks to the warm start to the year. The thin layer of snow and frost has allowed groundwater reserves to be replenished during the melting periods.

Overall, the situation in the Ostrobothnian waterways is exceptional, but mostly good. The warm weather has brought its own challenges and opportunities, and the condition of the waterways is being closely monitored.

Source: *Etelä-Pohjanmaan ELY-keskus*

## VAASA POHJANMAA-MAGAZINE

# The Vaasa Pohjanmaa-newspaper will be published for the first time on 26 February

The Vaasa region will get a new magazine when Vaasa Pohjanmaa is launched online on 26 February. The magazine is Vaasa Insider's latest project and focuses on providing readers with up-to-date information about what is happening in Vaasa and the Vaasa region.

The online Finnish language magazine is packed with news, politics, culture, sports and economics, with a special focus on upcoming events. The magazine is financed by subscriptions and advertising sales.

Vaasa Pohjanmaa is also published as a paper magazine, but it differs slightly from the original plan. The pilot magazine that was published in November gave a good picture of what a real magazine can look like. The pilot magazine was very well received by both

readers and advertisers.

"From the pilot issue, more than 30,000 magazines were printed, which were distributed free of charge in Vaasa, Laihia, and in a few places in Mustasaari. It turned out to be a very good concept, so we will continue with it," says Peter Stolpe, CEO and Editor-in-Chief of Vaasa Insider.

Originally, the magazine was supposed to be published once a week, but is now planned to be published four times a year. The circulation is about 30,000 copies and the magazine is distributed free of charge.

"The paper newspaper mainly serves as a shop window where we collect the most important news and articles in the region from our website," says Stolpe.

Anyone who has already subscribed to the paper magazine along with the online magazine



will be informed in the coming days if they want to subscribe to the online magazine only. This option is also cheaper, only 99 euros per year.

The first free paper magazine will be distributed already in connection with the launch of the online magazine in February.

## NEWS



## BALLET

## Blushing puts the young dancers of the Finnish National Ballet into the spotlight

The Youth Company of the Finnish National Ballet will also perform their showcase of contemporary dance works in London's Covent Garden.

The Finnish National Ballet's young dancers' evening in late February and early March at Almi Hall presents two compelling contemporary dance works and an excerpt from a classical ballet.

The evening will see the premiere of Marco Goecke's *Blushing*, the work that first brought the choreographer international acclaim. Originally created for Stuttgart Ballet in 2003, *Blushing* won first prize at the Prix Dom Pérignon Choreographic Competition.

Also on the programme is the return of *Fragments of Time*, choreographed by Julian Nicosia for the Youth Company in 2024. In addition, the young dancers will perform the *Pas d'action* from the classical ballet *La Bayadère*.

The Youth Company of the Finnish National Ballet consists of 14 dancers, over a third of whom are Finnish. The ensemble also includes dancers from the United Kingdom, France, Italy, the United States, Australia, and South Korea. As recent graduates, they perform not only in the Youth Company's own productions but also in the Main Stage productions of the Finnish National Ballet. Established in 2013, the Youth Company is supported by the Jane and

Aatos Erkko Foundation.

The Youth Company's performances at Almi Hall have been met with tremendous enthusiasm, selling out months in advance. This year, even an additional performance sold out within days in January. For the first time, the programme will be available as a free livestream on the Finnish National Opera and Ballet's Stage24 service on 1 March at 18:20. The broadcast is produced in collaboration with OperaVision and the EU Creative Europe programme.

In June, the Youth Company will once again travel to London's Covent Garden to take part in the Next Generation Festival, organised by The Royal Ballet & Opera. The festival brings together youth ensembles from leading ballet institutions around the world. The Youth Company's programme for the festival includes *Blushing*, *Fragments of Time*, and an excerpt from Reija Wäre's *Clique*, which premiered in 2022.

### Blushing – young dancers' evening

La Bayadère, Pas d'action  
Julian Nicosia: *Fragments of Time*  
Marco Goecke: *Blushing*  
Premiere 7 February 2025 at 18:30, Almi Hall  
Additional performances: 1 March 2025 at 14:30 and 18:30  
Livestream: 1 March 2025 at 18:20 on Stage24 ja OperaVision  
Next Generation Festival 2025  
Performances: 13-14 June 2025 at 19:15, Linbury Theatre, London  
Source: <https://oopperabaletti.fi/en/media/newsroom/>



## CROWN GRANARY

## Vaasa Crown Granary – A Protected Treasure from the Past

In Vaasa's verdant Lehmus Park near the Prison building stands a sturdy building of red brick, telling tales of Vaasa from centuries past.

This building is the Vaasa Crown Granary, recently protected by the South Ostrobothnia ELY Centre.

The history of the Crown Granary begins in 1867, when provincial architect C.A. Setterberg designed it to replace the old crown granary, which had survived the fire in Old Vaasa. The new granary was completed in 1872, and its style reflects Setterberg's favored restrained brick Gothic.

The building's facades are punctuated by lesenes, dividing the surfaces into equally sized sections. At the top runs a round-arched frieze, crowning the brick walls. Inside the thick brick structure lies a two-story timber frame, divided into five separate grain silos.

These silos are two stories high and could hold a total of approximately 3.3 million liters of grain. The small window openings with steel hatches in the facade provide little light, but they testify to the building's original purpose.

The Vaasa Crown Granary is part of the nationally valuable built cultural environment of the

city's waterfront. Together with the Court of Appeal, the former Water Court, and the Provincial Prison, it belongs to the same series of public buildings that dominate Vaasa's English-style park area by the sea.

Between 1820 and 1912, about 20 crown granaries and parish granaries were built in Finland.

However, the Vaasa Crown Granary is unique, as it is the only "city granary" with a brick facade, whose interiors have been largely preserved in their original condition.

The granary was used by the defense forces from 1926 to 1999, after which it was handed over to the city. The protection of the building is important, as it is part of Finland's architectural history and cultural heritage. The Crown Granary tells stories of the lives and work of past generations, and its preservation is a tribute to them.

The protection decision ensures that the Vaasa Crown Granary will be preserved as part of the city's cultural environment and that future generations can also experience this unique building. Source; Etelä-Pohjanmaan ELY-keskus,

*Inside the building Image Juhan Hallasmaa, Etelä-Pohjanmaan ELY-keskus.*



# NEWS



## MUSEUMS

### A magnificent collection of coins and medals on display at the Ostrobothnian Museum

**A diverse collection. The exhibition features coins from different eras, such as the Swedish and Russian periods, the period of autonomy and the period of the Republic of Finland.**

There are rarities, such as coins over a thousand years old, large copper coins or plooitus, and medals, the oldest of which dates back to 1631.

#### Mauritz Hallberg's legacy

State Councilor Mauritz Hallberg (1851-1924) was a passionate collector who, together with his son Ejnar Hallberg (1880-1974), supplemented the collection. The Hallberg estate donated the collection to the museum in 1956, and now the public has the opportunity to explore this unique treasure trove.

#### Lecture and publications

The exhibition designer, researcher Outi Järvinen, will give a lecture on the topic in

the museum auditorium on February 13 from 5-6 p.m. The lecture is open to everyone and free of charge. In addition, the museum has published a book about the medals from the Hallberg collection in 2021, and a two-part publication about the coins is coming out, the first part of which will be published in the spring.

#### Welcome to explore history!

The Ostrobothnia Museum offers a unique opportunity to dive into the world of bygone times with the help of its coin and medal collection. The renovated coin room is open during the museum's opening hours. Photo: Christoffer Björklund (Source: STInfo/City of Vaasa)

**They, who know a little more are They, who read Wasa Daily**



## CITY THEATRE

### Vaasa City Theatre Tackles Identity Crisis and Sexuality in New Play

**Vaasa City Theatre will premiere *Cock*, a play by Mike Bartlett, in February. The play explores themes of identity crisis, sexuality, and the difficulty of self-definition. Sini Pesonen, who previously directed *The Vanishing Land* at the theatre in 2022, returns to direct *Cock*.**

*Cock* tells the story of John, who has been in a long-term relationship with a man, but now finds himself attracted to a woman for the first time. Unable to make sense of his feelings, John calls on his boyfriend's father for help in making a decision. The play questions who gets to define what we want if we can't define it ourselves.

Director Sini Pesonen describes the play's text as "fine and intelligent." She hopes the production will be like John, who doesn't want to define himself. Oiva Nuojua, who plays the lead

role, says John's character is fascinating, but lacks connection with himself, which prevents him from connecting with others.

The cast includes Oiva Nuojua, Petteri Hautala, Sonja Halla-aho, and Jorma Tommila. The play is recommended for audiences over 15 and runs for approximately two and a half hours, including an intermission. The production is a collaboration with Vaasa Seta ry.

*Cock* premieres at the Vaasa City Theatre's Julia Stage on Thursday, February 20th. A pre-show discussion will be held at the Teatteriravintola Kulma on the preceding day.

*Cock* (2025). Oiva Nuojua and Petteri Hautala. Photo: Kasper Dalkarl



## HEALTH AND SOCIETY

### Over 65s Can Visit Private GPs for a €28 Health Center Fee This Fall

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (STM) has launched a consultation on a national freedom-of-choice trial that would allow people over 65 to visit private general practitioners for the same out-of-pocket fee as public healthcare visits.

The trial is part of the government's efforts to improve access to primary healthcare and reduce treatment queues. The consultation period for the proposal runs from February 11 to March 9, 2025.

**A Kela-Reimbursed Pilot Program**  
According to the STM's proposal, private GP visits for those over 65 would be reimbursed so that the patient's copayment is capped at the same rate as a public healthcare GP visit—approximately €28. The amount exceeding this copayment would be covered by Kela reimbursements to the service provider.

The trial is limited to three visits per calendar year, but in 2025, when it begins, participants will be eligible for reimbursement for two visits. The trial also includes common medical tests for this age group, such as blood tests, urine tests, ECGs, and chest X-rays. Kela will confirm the exact list of reimbursable tests later. Half of the costs for doctor-prescribed laboratory tests and sample collection will be reimbursed based on a set maximum price.

**Minister: Goal to Speed Up Access to GPs**  
Minister of Social Security Sanni Grahn-Laasonen justifies the trial by citing the aging population and the transition away from occupational healthcare.

"We have a growing number of people over 65 who have an increased need for healthcare services due to aging, but whose right to occupational healthcare has ended. The trial aims to improve access to primary healthcare services for retirees and increase their freedom of choice. The goal is to speed up ac-

cess to a doctor," Grahn-Laasonen says. Price Cap to Control Costs  
Private healthcare providers must sign an agreement with Kela to participate in the trial. Further obligations for service providers will be regulated by government decree. The trial includes a price cap, which sets maximum fees for visits and tests.

The aim of the price cap is to prevent cost increases and ensure that patient expenses remain reasonable. Patients may also pay less than €28 if a provider offers services at a lower rate. This allows for competition between service providers not only in terms of quality but also price.

**Kela Reimbursements as Part of Primary Healthcare Development**  
The government program outlines improvements to primary healthcare access and reductions in treatment queues through the development of Kela reimbursements. The trial aims to strengthen patient choice, improve service availability, and ease the burden on public healthcare.

The trial is expected to promote equal opportunities to utilize private healthcare, accelerate first contact with a GP without a separate assessment of care needs, and give patients a better opportunity to choose their doctor and healthcare facility. Patients can also visit the same doctor for multiple visits, ensuring continuity of care.

The government has allocated a total of €335 million for the development of Kela reimbursements between 2024 and 2027. The proposal is linked to the state's second supplementary budget proposal for 2025 and is intended to be processed alongside it.

The trial is scheduled to begin on September 1, 2025, and run until December 31, 2027.

## WHO

### THL's Mika Salminen in The Lancet: Protecting WHO is Also an Opportunity

The World Health Organization (WHO) faces a critical situation following the United States' withdrawal from the organization. THL Director Mika Salminen, along with leading European public health experts, has published an article in The Lancet, emphasizing that protecting the WHO also presents an opportunity for the European Union.

The US decision to withdraw from the WHO is regrettable in many ways, the authors state. The US has been a central player in the WHO, both as a founding member of the UN and as a significant funder, accounting for up to 20 percent of the organization's annual budget. Equally important is the US contribution of expertise, particularly through the CDC. These experts have significantly influenced the shaping of global health policy.

However, the authors point out that this strong dependence on US expertise has created a vulnerability for the WHO, which is now being realized. With the US withdrawal, both funding and expertise disappear, leaving a large void. This jeopardizes the WHO's ability to respond to health crises, from epidemics to natural disasters. WHO staff, particularly those working in regional and country offices, will be hardest hit by the cuts. Their resources are already scarce, and contracts are often short-term. The loss of US expertise will further strain staff, especially in low-income countries where the WHO often functions as a de facto health ministry, providing essential services such as vaccination programs and maternity care.

The WHO's annual budget, just over three billion dollars, is small on a global level. The authors compare it to, for example, the city of Helsinki's budget for social and health care. Helsinki



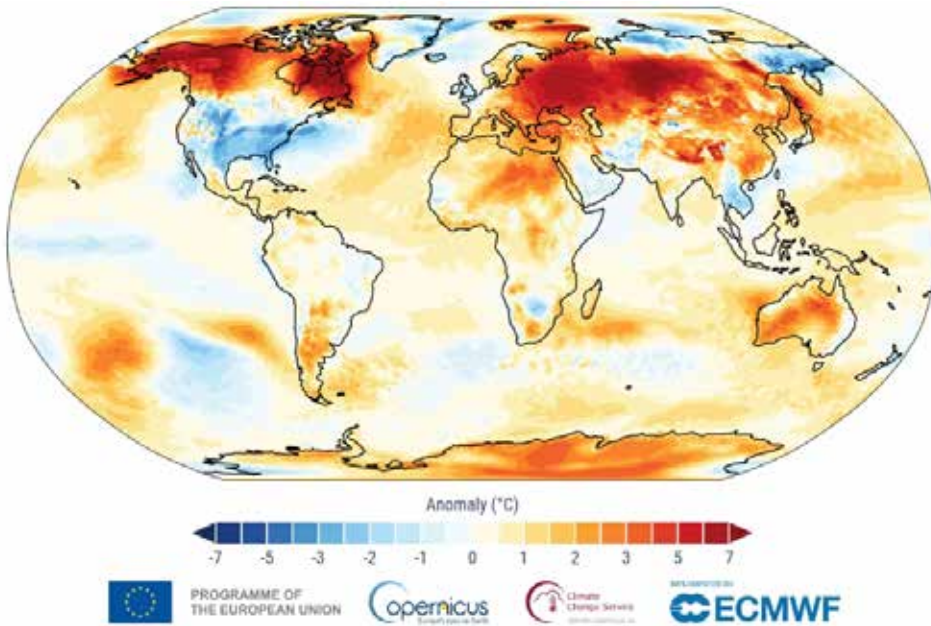
Who's logo on an Indonesian stamp. Wikimedia commons

is responsible for the health of 675,000 people, while the WHO has a global responsibility for 8 billion people - a ratio of more than one to 10,000 per capita. The European public health experts argue that the situation offers EU member states a crucial opportunity to take the lead, hopefully in cooperation with other OECD countries. By increasing their financial contributions and sending experts to the WHO, member states will not only stabilize the organization but also ensure that its values - which are aligned with democracy and human rights - continue to shape global health policy.

Furthermore, these countries could work to address the bureaucratic inefficiencies that have long plagued the WHO, including pushing for a greater proportion of resources to be shifted from headquarters to regional and country offices. Europe should also finally address the fact that the US has for too long funded a large portion of the WHO's activities in Europe. It is time for the EU to take responsibility for the challenges in its own region. The stakes are high: the future of global health depends on the WHO's ability to continue its vital work. The authors urge seizing this opportunity and ensuring that the WHO remains strong and functional in the years to come. It is, after all, a rather cheap insurance policy for us all.



# NEWS



Surface air temperature anomaly for January 2025 relative to the January average for the period 1991-2020. Data source: ERA5. Credit: C3S/ECMWF.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Copernicus: January 2025 the Hottest in History

**T**he year 2025 has begun with alarming climate records, as January was officially the hottest on record globally, according to new data from the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).

Despite the emergence of La Niña, which typically has a cooling effect on global temperatures, the average surface air temperature reached 13.23°C, significantly exceeding historical norms.

#### Global Temperature Spike

The data reveal that January 2025 was 0.79°C warmer than the 1991-2020 average and a staggering 1.75°C above pre-industrial levels. This marks the 18th time in the past 19 months that global average temperatures have surpassed the 1.5°C threshold outlined in the Paris Agreement as a critical limit for mitigating climate change impacts.

Moreover, the rolling 12-month period from February 2024 to January 2025 showed an average temperature 0.73°C above the

1991-2020 baseline, translating to a 1.61°C increase from pre-industrial levels. While the ERA5 dataset from C3S highlights this trend, variations among different climate monitoring systems could slightly alter this figure.

#### Regional Disparities in Temperature Anomalies

Europe experienced significant warming in January 2025, with an average temperature of 1.80°C—2.51°C above the 1991-2020 average. This made it the second warmest January in European history, only behind January 2020, which recorded an anomaly of 2.64°C. Southern and eastern Europe, including western Russia, saw the most pronounced temperature increases, while regions such as Iceland, the UK, Ireland, northern France, and northern Fennoscandia experienced cooler-than-average conditions.

Beyond Europe, extreme warmth was recorded across northeastern and northwestern Canada, Alaska, and Siberia, as well as in parts of southern South America, Africa, Australia, and Antarctica. In contrast,

notable cold anomalies were observed in the United States, eastern Russia, the Arabian Peninsula, and Southeast Asia.

#### Climate Trends and Implications

The record-breaking temperatures of January 2025 reinforce the ongoing trend of global warming, which scientists have long warned about. The persistence of high global temperatures, despite the expected cooling effects of La Niña, highlights the intensifying influence of human-induced climate change.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service emphasizes that continued monitoring and mitigation efforts are essential to curb rising temperatures and minimize the most severe consequences of climate change. The new data further underline the urgency of international climate action to adhere to the goals of the Paris Agreement and limit global temperature rise to sustainable levels.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

### Timothy Snyder on Feb 14, 2025: Munich 1938 and Now:

**Timothy David Snyder** (born 1969)[2] is an American historian specializing in the history of Central and Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and the Holocaust. He is the Richard C. Levin Professor of History at Yale University and a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna



Photo Wikimedia Commons, Ot Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0"

Appeasing Russia, if it leads to Russian victory now or later, could very well create the conditions for a world war. A Russia that destroys Ukraine, in effect with American assistance, would be a very different country. Ukrainian resources, like Czechoslovakia resources in 1938, would make of the aggressor a much stronger power. This is an uncomfortable point, but one that must be considered. Ukraine has the best army in Europe, and the most battle-hardened one. It is the only country in the West to have fought a major war in this decade. It is innovating faster than others can copy. All of this, and the agriculture, and the minerals, and the ports, can be lost to Russia. And then, after a time of course, Europe faces a far more powerful country, one made for war, one whose leaders believe that war works."

Appeasement at Munich - by Timothy Snyder: <https://snyder.substack.com/p/appeasement-at-munich>

# NEWS



## UKRAINE

### Volodymyr Zelenskyy had phone calls with leaders of Denmark, South Africa, Finland, Canada, Norway and France

**U**krainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held phone calls with the presidents of South Africa, Finland and France, as well as the prime ministers of Denmark, Canada and Norway, expressing his gratitude for their support.

During his conversation with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke about continued deliveries of weapons and ammunition, as well as investments in domestic missile and drone production. He acknowledged Denmark's contribution to the security of Ukraine and Europe.

Security guarantees, arms and ammunition deliveries, and investments in the domestic defence industry were key themes in the discussion with Finnish President Alexander Stubb. The leaders have a shared vision that Ukraine, the United States and Europe should act together and be represented at the negotiating table together.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau discussed continued military aid, energy cooperation, sanctions against Russia's shadow fleet and energy sector, and the use of frozen Russian as-

sets. The Head of State stressed that Ukraine appreciates Canada's presidency of the G7 this year and counts on the country's leadership.

Bilateral relations and a shared vision of strong security guarantees were the central themes of Volodymyr Zelenskyy's talks with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre. Ukraine appreciates Norway's willingness to contribute to energy security.

During the conversation, the presidents of Ukraine and France talked about their contacts with other world leaders and coordinated positions, common plans and next steps. Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Emmanuel Macron also discussed in detail the view on security guarantees. The goal of both states is a just and lasting peace that is fully feasible. Volodymyr Zelenskyy stressed that the future security architecture must be strong enough to ensure that Russia can never attack anyone again.

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## ART

### Ateneum: 19th-century artists from Vaasa, Fanny Churberg and Alexandra Frosterus-Såltin, in the exhibition *Crossing Borders 2025*



*Fanny Churberg: Girls on the shore (1869). Finnish National Gallery / Ateneum Art Museum, gift from Arvid Sourander. Photo: Finnish*

**W**hen the Ateneum opens the doors to the *Crossing Borders* exhibition on 7 March 2025, visitors will be invited on a fascinating journey through time and space.

For the first time, the works of the brave women who, despite the limitations of their time, crossed geographical and social boundaries to create art are collected. Among the prominent names are two artists from Vaasa – the bold landscape painter Fanny Churberg and the skilled portrait and genre painter Alexandra Frosterus-Såltin.

During the 1800s, it was a matter of course for artists to travel abroad to educate themselves, and for female artists this meant a particular challenge. They could not study at the traditional art academies but were dependent on private teachers or schools that men had founded for women. The path to an artistic career required determination and sacrifice – and that is exactly what these women showed.

The exhibition highlights not only their artistic prowess, but also the pioneering role they played for future generations of female artists, including Helene Schjerfbeck and Ellen Thesleff. With paintings, drawings and sculptures by over 50 artists from the Nordic countries, the Baltic States, Germany and

Poland, *Crossing Borders* sheds new light on previously overlooked artistry and presents works that have never before been shown in Finland.

The Ateneum will continue its role as a pioneer in research on women artists. The exhibition, curated by Anne-Maria Pennonen, provides a new understanding of the importance of the German art scene alongside the French one, and draws attention to the networks that enabled the work of women artists. Among the international names in the exhibition are Jeanna Bauck, Elisabeth Jerichau-Baumann, Amalia Lindegren and Bertha Wegmann.

After its tour in Helsinki, the exhibition will take the plunge into the world – in autumn 2025, it will open at the Kunstpalaat in Düsseldorf, one of its partners. Among the lending institutions are also the Alte Nationalgalerie in Berlin, the National Museum in Stockholm, the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek in Copenhagen and the National Gallery of Denmark.

The exhibition is of great importance in terms of art history and is complemented by an extensive catalogue in Swedish, Finnish and English, with texts by international researchers. For anyone fascinated by art, history and the pioneering women who have shaped our visual culture, *The Crossing Borders* is an exhibition not to be missed.



# COUNTY and MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2025

## **2025 county elections and municipal elections**

Election day: Sunday 13 April 2025  
Advance voting in Finland: 2-8 April 2025  
Advance voting abroad: 2-5 April 2025

## **More than one-fifth of mainland municipalities will reduce the size of their councils for the period 2025-2029**

**The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities' latest report on the size of councils shows that more than a fifth of mainland municipalities will make changes to the size of councils in the coming period.**

The data are based on information provided by municipalities. A total of 61 municipalities will reduce the number of councillors, and Vaala is the only municipality to increase the size of the council. The changes show that municipalities are adapting to economic and demographic challenges.

"The changes in the number of councillors are a result of different needs and challenges in municipalities. In some municipalities, the reduction of the council is made as part of a balancing programme. Smaller councils are also considered to have the advantage of efficient decision-making and reducing costs, but at the same time we need to think about how to ensure diverse representation and the voice of small groups," says Research Director Marianne Pekola-Sjöblom.

Key points:

The total number of councillors will decrease: In the period 2025-2029, 8,586 councillors will be elected, which is 273 fewer (1.6%) than in the previous period.

In absolute numbers, the number of municipalities reducing their council size is highest among those with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants. (34 municipalities, or 26% of the size of municipalities)

Proportionally, the number of municipalities reducing their council size is highest among municipalities in the size range of 10,001-20,000 inhabitants. (13 municipalities, i.e. 31% of the municipalities in the size category)

The size of the council will shrink the most in Jämsä (-12 council seats).

In each county, there is at least one municipality that is reducing the number of councillors. The number of municipalities shrinking the size of councils is highest in the region of Central Finland (12 municipalities).

Jyväskylä is the largest municipality in terms of population that reduces the size of the council.

The average council size is decreasing: During the coming council period, municipalities will have an average of 29 councillors, compared to 30 in the current period.

In each county, there is at least one municipality that reduces the size of the council. In Central Finland, the change is greatest, as 12 municipalities are shrinking their councils.

The smallest and largest councils: The smallest council size, 13 members, will be in nine municipalities, while there are currently only two such small councils. Helsinki still has the largest council with 85 members.

During the next council term, the average number of inhabitants in municipalities will be 653 per councillor. The number varies between Luhanka's 47 residents and Helsinki's 8,042 residents per councillor. At the beginning of the 2021-2025 council term, municipalities had an average of 622 residents per councillor.

Municipal merger between Mäntyharju and Pertunmaa: The merger will reduce the number of council seats by 17.

Decision-maker survey: Divided opinions on changes in the size of the council

The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities' decision-maker survey 2024 shows differences of opinion on the changes in the size of the council.

The views of senior office holders and elected officials differ:

Of the senior office-holders, 67 per cent are in favour of a reduction in the size of the council, while the corresponding figure among elected representatives is 36 per cent.

The party background of elected representatives greatly influences the attitude to reducing the size of the council:

The National Coalition Party, the Finns Party and the Centre Party - which represent the major municipal parties - are most positive, although the views are clearly divided among the Centre Party's representatives.

The Liberal Party and the Christian Democrats, which represent the smallest municipal parties, are the ones who are most negative to a smaller council size than the current one.

In addition, at least half of the elected representatives representing the Greens or the Swedish People's Party, as well as the Social Democratic Party, are negative rather than positive to a reduction in the size of the council.

Understandably, the attitude of elected representatives is not only affected by the size of the municipality, but also by the size of the municipal council, the balance of power in the council and the number of seats in their own party.

Attitudes towards reducing the size of the council have become more positive since 2020. The positive attitude has grown most in municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants and municipalities with 10,000-20,001 inhabitants.

Source: Kommunförbundet, CC-BY 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/deed.fi> - Text translated to English.

# ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



**Alexander Lauréus**

4.1.1783, Turku

20.10.1823, Rooma, Italia

The Artist's Stepmother Mariana Juliana Lauréus and Her Two Sons, 1806



# EVENTS

## TIKANOJA THE ART EVENT OF THE YEAR!

Eero Järnefelts exhibition open.

## ÅBO SVENSKA TEATER

Katrina the Musical  
If you didn't have time to see this groundbreaking musical at Wasa Theatre, you can travel to Turku and see it there:

Performances:

19.2 at 18.30

21.2, at 18.30

22.2. at 2 pm

26.2. at 18.30

28.2 at 18.30

And then another 5 performances in March.

"The young Katrina is attracted by the love of moving from Ostrobothnia to Åland to become a sailor's wife. Despite being left alone, she manages time and time again with sheer force of will to step over and overcome every obstacle that fate throws in her way."

<https://abosvenskateater.fi/>

## TOMMY'S: TOGETHER AGAIN RITZ

5.3.2024 AT 19 - 21.30

Hans Martin, Nicklas Käldeström

<https://ritz.fi/events/>

## ATENEUM

When the Ateneum opens the doors to the *Crossing Borders* exhibition on 7 March 2025, visitors will be invited on a fascinating journey through time and space.

For the first time, the works of the brave women who, despite the limitations of their time, crossed geographical and social boundaries to create art are collected. Among the prominent names are two artists from Vaasa – the bold landscape painter Fanny Churberg and the skilled portrait and genre painter Alexandra Frosterus-Såltin.

## Vaasa-Vasa Baroque

Sat / Sat 22.3 at / kl. 16.00  
Music in Veturitalli

Symphonies for one violin – Sonatas and Letters by Stradella  
Symfonier för en violin – Stradellas sonater och brev  
Pirkanmaa Baroque & Aira Maria Lehtipuu

This concert is free of charge! Open house in Veturitalli all day, come and explore the Wärtsilä area.

<https://vaasabaroque.com/>

## VAASA humour FESTIVAL 2025

2-4.4.2025

Sov. Finland-Swedish cultural development

## The churches' sounding week:

During the Sounding Week of Churches, you can listen to almost all the choirs and orchestras of the Vaasa Evangelical Lutheran congregations. Admission to all concerts is free.



Miss Concordiae on Friday 28.3 at 7 pm in the Trinity Church. Sing the Joy, conducted by Sini Usmi.

Children's party on Saturday 29.3 at 3 pm in Vähäkyrö church. The parish's children's choirs.

Canticum Maris a cappella Sunday 30.3 at 7 pm in the Trinity Church. Conductor Tarja Viitanen.

The church choirs and cantors on Wednesday 2.4 at 7 pm in the Trinity Church.

The Merina Youth Choir on Thursday 3.4 at 7 pm in Brändö church. Conductor Tarja Viitanen.

## Vaasa-Vasa Baroque

## Sun / Sö 27.4 at / kl. 17.00 City Hall Ballroom / Stadshuset's festivals

Handel and Roman in London – Handel möter Roman i London

Kajsa Dahlbäck, soprano / sopran  
Drottningholms barockensemble (SWE)

<https://vaasabaroque.com/>

## VAASA CHOIR FESTIVAL XXXI 22-24.5.2025

Vaasa Choir Festival is a significant international choral music event. The joyful and social closing celebration of the singing season is open to all choirs.

## ILMAJOKI MUSIC FESTIVAL

"BIG Wrath 1713-1721"

6.-15.6.2025

"This powerful and topical opera brings the years of hatred and the fates of our ancestors back to the banks of the Kyrönjoki River.

Big Wrath is a shaking and nourishing story about family ties, maternal love, perseverance, and the power of cooperation during a time, when Russia's brutal war of aggression against Finland burned Ostrobothnia to black soil."

[www.musiikkijuhlat.fi](http://www.musiikkijuhlat.fi)

## KASKINEN'S SUMMER OF MUSIC

9-12.7.25

A classical music festival in Finland's smallest town.

"The proximity of the sea, the history of the city of Kaskinen, bilingualism, the beautiful wooden house environment"

Artistic directors Anna-mari and Samuli Peltonen

## LOHTAJA CHURCH MUSIC FESTIVAL

22-27.7.25

Church music from thousand-year-old traditions

[www.kirkkomusiikkijuhlat.fi](http://www.kirkkomusiikkijuhlat.fi)

## NÄRPES THEATRE

"Maskinisterna (The Machinists)", a Swedish-language play about the Wickström Brothers and their engine factory, with a script and direction by Erik Kiviniemi.

World premiere 28.6.25 klo 19  
Other events:

1.-7. at 7 pm

3.7. at 7 pm

7.7. at 7 pm

8.7. klo 19

10.7 at 7 pm

13.7. at 5 pm

15.7. at 19

16.7. at 19

17.7. at 19

19.7. at 19

## KORSHOLM MUSIC FESTIVAL

23.7.-30.7.2025

"Korsholm Music Festival 2024 and Tove Teuvalla Opera are over and autumn is approaching. Now we are already working on the Summer 2025 Music Festival. However, we want to return to the warm days and festival atmosphere of July and August."

A greeting from festival director Viktor Nygård: "I am very much looking forward to working with the Korsholm Music Festival and I have many exciting ideas for how we can continue to develop the festival. I can already promise that next year it will be a fantastic festival with something for everyone."

Korsholm Music Festival will be held next summer 23.-30.7.2025.

## RITZ

25.7.25 at 7 pm

MARI PALO – TANGO

One of Finland's most sought-after sopranos dives into the world of tang.

Korsholm Music Festival

## VAASA CITY HALL

27.7.25

CONCERT ROYAL

Amélie goes to Belgrade with her friends

Korsholm Music Festival

## WASA FUTURE FESTIVAL

11-16.8.2025

The Wasa Future Festival 2026 is set to take place from 11th to 16th August.

# VAASA UNIVERSITY



**UNIVERSITY OF VAASA**

## University of Vaasa Turning Buildings into Flexible Energy Sources

**T**he University of Vaasa has received significant funding from Business Finland for a research and development project that will revolutionize how buildings use energy. The FlexiPower project is developing a "Building as a Battery" (BaaB) solution, which will allow existing building infrastructure to be used as flexible energy sources.

The project aims to create and commercialize a solution that enables buildings' heating and cooling systems to dynamically respond to the needs of the electricity grid. This innovation offers a cost-effective and scalable way to balance the grid

without large initial investments in batteries or other infrastructure projects.

"Among property owners, the project has been warmly received, primarily because no large initial investments are required," says Edi Sandblom from the University of Vaasa. "The markets are very uncertain, and therefore it is difficult to calculate the pay-back period for investments."

The BaaB solution can generate significant revenue for property owners. In addition, it supports them in reducing their carbon footprint and promoting responsible energy management and sustainable development.

The increasing use of renewable energy sources requires flexible solutions to balance the electricity system. The solutions offered by the FlexiPower project provide an innovative and efficient approach to this.

In the initial phase of the project, the focus will be on testing and validating the solution in real buildings in cooperation with partners. The goal is to study the suitability of the solution in several different markets, both in Finland and abroad. The project continues until spring 2026.

### **Why is this interesting news?**

New Perspective: Using buildings as energy sources is a new

and innovative approach to energy production and distribution. **Cost-Effectiveness:** The solution does not require large initial investments, making it attractive to property owners. **Sustainable Development:** The project supports the use of renewable energy sources and reduces the carbon footprint. **Economic Potential:** The BaaB solution can generate significant revenue for property owners. This news is interesting to many readers, such as property owners, energy sector players, researchers, and those interested in the environment. It provides information about a new and promising technology that can revolutionize energy use in buildings and promote sustainable development.

Source: University of Vaasa



# PRESS

## Kaskö Tidning's heir edited in Sundsvall

It started on Råhusgatan in Kaskinen. There was the editorial office of Kaskö Tidning, a paper deeply rooted in the soil of Ostrobothnia. Now its heir is edited in Sundsvall. How did this happen?

Kaskö Tidning, a local newspaper for Kaskinen, Närpes and Övermark, began to be published in 1914, more precisely on Wednesday 1 July 1914. The first issue was 6 pages, but then the usual format was probably 4 pages. The editorial office was located at Raastuvankatu 14 in Kaskinen and later moved to Aleksanterinkatu 45.

The newspaper's first editor-in-chief was Axel Cederberg, a lawyer and judge of appeal from Vaasa, who then served as president of the Court of Appeal until 1933. We do not know what contacts he had in Kaskinen that made him interested in founding a local newspaper. He was born in Vaasa, but perhaps he had relatives in Kaskinen, or a summer house.

The first issue of the newspaper contained a small notice on the sixth page, namely the news that the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, Frans Ferdinand, and his consort had been murdered in Sarajevo.

On June 28, the Austrian heir to the throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand,



The first page of the first issue of the Kaskö Tidning, published on 1 July 1914, and a short notice of the shootings in Sarajevo



Kaskö Tidnings heir "Sydin" is a local newspaper for Kaskinen, Kristinestad and Närpes. From being edited in Kaskinen, it moved to Närpes, then to Vaasa and now to Sundsvall.



*Dagens Nyheter's editor-in-chief Peter Wolodarski and Vasablade's editor-in-chief Niklas Nyberg at a press conference a year ago. On this occasion, the public was informed that the Coastal Ostrobothnian newspapers Vasabladet, Syd-Österbotten and Österbotyens Tidning would be sold to Sweden.*

together with his wife, the Archduchess of Hohenberg, arrived in Sarajevo, the news is told. They were received solemnly at the town hall. As they left the town hall, a bomb was thrown at the archduke's car, but he managed to fend it off before it exploded. However, the explosion injured two people from the entourage and several others. The perpetrator was arrested immediately. The journey continued, but suddenly two pistol shots were fired at the car. One shot hit the Archduke in the neck, and the other hit his wife in the stomach. The injured were taken to the town hall, where they died shortly afterwards.

Considering that this was the spark that ignited the

First World War, with all the consequences of which we are still suffering today, one could imagine that the news would have required space on the front page and a slightly larger headline. But newspapers didn't use any big headlines at that time. And Kaskö Tidning could not know how important this murder would be, and neither could anyone else.

The newspaper was published until 1961, after which it was published in three editions for a few years, one for Kaskinen, one for Närpes and one for Övermark. The small municipality of Övermark thus had its very own newspaper for a time. In 1968, the newspaper was named Närpes Tidning, and in 1980 it was merged

with Syd-Österbotten, a newspaper that continues to be published. It has the nickname "Sydin".

Sydin was then incorporated into a Vaasa-centric newspaper group, which also publishes Vasabladet and ÖT.. Gradually, the editing of Sydin was transferred to Vaasa.

In the spring of 2024, these newspapers were sold to a news group in Sweden, Bonnier News.

At that time, a year ago, many people lived in the belief and hope that the future of the Ostrobothnian newspapers would be secured without any major dramatic changes.

Now, a year later, something is happening that the

editorial office's chief shop steward Anna Sourander described as a shock by Vasabladet on February 6.

Bonnier News intends to initiate restructuring negotiations with the intention of reducing the workforce by nine people, which is more than 10%. At the same time, a transfer of the paper newspapers' editing work to Sundsvall is planned.

Kaskö Tidning and its heir Sydin have walked a long way, from Rådhusgatan in Kaskinen to Sundsvall in Sweden. This is a development that we should talk more about. Someone might ask whether it is right that a traditional local newspaper for Kaskinen and its surroundings is now edited abroad.



## YOUR HEALTH

# Coffee Without Sugar is Good for Your Health! Very Good!

**The January 2025 publication in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition of "Coffee Consumption, Additive Use, and Risk of Type 2 Diabetes—Results from 3 Large Prospective United States Cohort Studies" reinforces what many health-conscious individuals already suspect: black coffee is indeed a potent ally in the fight against type 2 diabetes (T2D).**

This large-scale study, drawing data from the Nurses' Health Study, Nurses' Health Study II, and the Health Professionals Follow-up Study, offers compelling evidence that the beneficial effects of coffee on T2D risk are significantly diminished when sugar or artificial sweeteners are added.

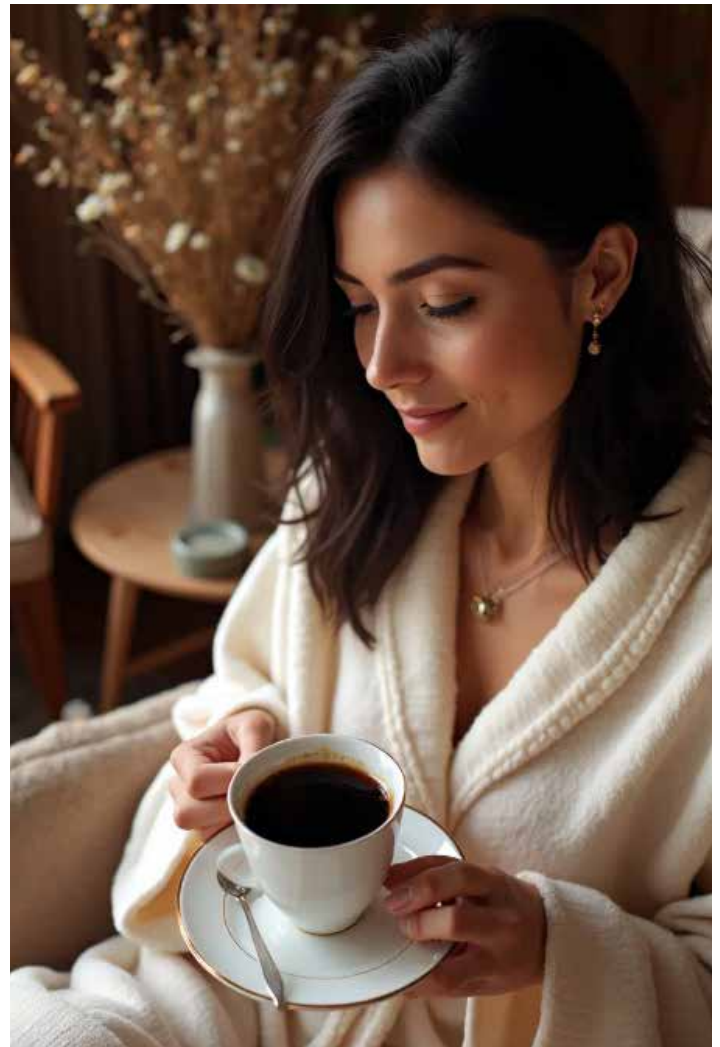
The research, conducted by a team from Harvard and other institutions, followed over 13,000 individuals for several decades, meticulously tracking their coffee consumption, additive use, and the incidence of T2D. The results were striking. For each additional cup of unsweetened coffee consumed daily, the risk of developing T2D decreased by a remarkable 10%. This protective effect held strong across the massive dataset, highlighting the robust nature of the association.

This isn't the first time coffee has been linked to positive health outcomes. Previous

research, including studies conducted in Finland, a nation known for its high coffee consumption, has suggested a similar inverse relationship between coffee intake and T2D risk. Finnish studies have explored various aspects of this connection, including the potential role of coffee's bioactive compounds, such as chlorogenic acids and caffeine, in improving insulin sensitivity and glucose metabolism. It is important to remember that while Finnish research, and indeed much of the global research on coffee, often points towards a protective effect against T2D, the current American study is unique in its focused investigation of the impact of common coffee additives.

The current study's most significant contribution lies in its examination of how additives modify the coffee-T2D relationship. The researchers found that adding sugar, even just one teaspoon per cup on average, significantly weakened the protective effect of coffee.

The same held true for artificial sweeteners, with their impact mirroring that of sugar, albeit with slightly less statistical significance. Cream, thankfully, did not seem to interfere with the beneficial effects of coffee. This is crucial information for individuals seeking to manage their T2D risk, as it clearly demonstrates that the health benefits of coffee are maximized when consumed in its purest form.



The mechanisms by which sugar and artificial sweeteners negate coffee's protective effects are complex and likely involve multiple pathways. Sugar's direct impact on blood glucose levels is a clear factor. Artificial sweeteners, while not directly raising blood sugar, may still trigger metabolic responses that contribute to insulin resistance over time. These findings underscore the importance of considering not just what we drink, but how we modify it. A seemingly small addition of sugar or artificial

sweetener can effectively transform a health-promoting beverage into something that may actually increase the risk of T2D.

In conclusion, this study provides strong evidence that the adage "coffee without sugar is good for your health" is not just an old wives' tale, but a scientifically validated truth. For those looking to reap the full benefits of coffee in terms of T2D prevention, the message is clear: embrace the bold flavor of black coffee. Your body will thank you.

# MUSIC



*Korsholm Music Festival concert in the church in Vörå in 2022*

## KORSHOLM MUSIC FESTIVAL

# Korsholm Music Festival Builds Bridges

**Over one hundred artists from around the globe will gather at the end of July for a week filled with music and togetherness.**

This year, the Korsholm Music Festival celebrates its 43rd edition with an expansive and diverse program themed “Bridges” and subtitled “We Travel Together.” The festival will feature everything from classical music and tango to folk tunes, children’s concerts, and – for the very first time – Balkan music.

Among the participating artists are renowned names such as Elna Vähälä, Arvid Engegård, Aleksei Kiseliyov, and Mari Palo, as well as groups like Opus13, FRIGG, and Amélie goes to Belgrad. Artistic director Jan-Erik Gustafsson explains,

“A bridge is not merely a physical structure. It can also be a connection between different cultures, people, and generations. It symbolizes a path and a bond to something that might initially seem different.”

The festival also pays tribute to the legendary **Aulis Sallinen** – this year’s theme composer – whose pioneering work as the first internationally acclaimed Finnish opera composer put Finland on the global musical map.

“His music is not only cherished by the general public but also by musicians. It’s inspiring to work with his compositions – as it always has been,” Gustafsson adds with a smile.

Highlights of the festival include an opening con-

cert by the Helsinki-based Wegelius Chamber Strings, a weekend performance by the folk group FRIGG at Doo-Bop Club, and an innovative Sunday concert. In the Sunday program, classical music will merge with Balkan sounds: the performance will start with works by Shostakovich and Prokofiev, and then, after rearranging the seating, Amélie goes to Belgrad will take over the celebration hall in the town hall. To assist families, childcare services will also be provided.

The festival will culminate



with a magnificent performance by soprano Aurora Marthens, who, alongside the Vaasa City Orchestra, will interpret Sibelius' songs. Finally, Elgar's renowned Enigma Variations will be presented.

"I believe we have truly succeeded this year. The program and the artists form a uniquely cohesive whole, and I am convinced that we will deliver a high-caliber festival year," Gustafsson states proudly.

Designed with inclusivity in mind, the festival ticket this year includes public transportation, making the event even more accessible while promoting environmentally friendly choices.

"We want as many people as possible to experience the power of music," says festival coordinator Viktor Olaus Nygård. Moreover, the festival is investing in future talent with master classes for young musicians, offering five instructors and 40 available spots for students.

Korsholm Music Festival is all about building bridges—not only between different musical genres and cultures, but also across generations and among people. With its diverse and innovative approach, the festival promises to make the upcoming edition a truly special, high-quality shared journey where every participant finds their own connection to the magic of music.

**Korsholm Music Festival will be held on 22–30 July 2025**



*Jan-Erik Gustafsson, art director and Viktor Olaus Nygård, festival director*



# HEALTH

## The Hormones That Change Everything

**The man in the lab coat didn't look like a killer. But in a way, he was. He killed ideas. Old ones. Outdated ones. Replaced them with new truths. And the truth was this: GIP and GLP-1 weren't just hormones. They were game changers. Maybe the biggest in modern medicine.**

They came from the gut. Two little chemical messengers, whispering instructions to the body. Eat. Stop eating. Store energy. Burn fat. Keep the brain sharp. But for years, no one really cared about them. They were just another part of the body's complex biochemical orchestra. Background noise.

Then the scientists took another look. And what they found was nothing short of astonishing.

### The Power of GIP and GLP-1

GIP—Glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide. GLP-1—Glucagon-like peptide-1. Mouthfuls of a name. But inside the body, they worked with brutal efficiency. Released after eating, they triggered a cascade of effects. More insulin when needed. Less sugar in the blood. A quiet signal to the brain: You're full. Stop eating.

And then something even bigger. The drugs based on these hormones—first just GLP-1 analogs like semaglutide and liraglutide, then the dual-action drugs like tirzepatide—started showing results no one had expected. People with diabetes were losing weight. Not just a little. A lot. The kind of weight loss doctors used to think was impossible with medication.

### A New Era in Medicine

It was the kind of breakthrough that didn't just change the rules—it threw out the entire playbook. For decades, obesity had been treated as a lifestyle issue. Lack of willpower. Bad choices. But suddenly, it wasn't about that at all. It was biology. Chemistry. Something deep in the gut and brain that could be hacked, fine-tuned, controlled.



The drugs weren't just effective. They were spectacular. Clinical trials showed people losing 15, even 20 percent of their body weight. Diabetes under control. Risk of heart disease dropping. It was like flicking a switch in the metabolism.

### Beyond Weight Loss: The Unexpected Benefits

But the biggest surprise? It wasn't just about fat and sugar. These hormones had effects no one had predicted.

People taking the drugs started noticing something strange. Their cravings weren't just for food. Smokers found they didn't want cigarettes as much. Drinkers found their usual evening whiskey didn't taste as good. Some even reported that compulsive behaviors—gambling, shopping, binge eating—seemed to fade.

Then came the research. And the results were shocking. GLP-1 drugs didn't just control appetite. They affected dopamine. The brain's reward system. The same circuits that drove addiction.

Scientists ran the studies. Mice on GLP-1 drugs lost interest in cocaine. Rats stopped binge drinking. Human trials suggested the same thing: lower rates of substance abuse. A potential weapon against the opioid crisis. Against alcoholism.

### And it didn't stop there.

#### The Alzheimer's Connection

Another unexpected discovery. These drugs didn't just help with diabetes and weight loss. They seemed to protect the brain.

Alzheimer's was the great unsolved mystery. Billions of dollars spent. Dozens of failed drugs. A slow-motion catastrophe with no cure. But when researchers looked at people on GLP-1 drugs, they found something odd. Their risk of Alzheimer's was lower. Cognitive decline slowed.

Scientists had theories. Maybe it was better blood sugar control. Maybe it was reduced inflammation. Maybe it was something deeper—something about these gut hormones protecting neurons. Keeping the brain sharp.

The trials were already underway. If the results held up, it could be the biggest breakthrough in dementia research in decades.

### The Future: What's Next?

The revolution wasn't over. Scientists were already working on the next step. Triple agonists—drugs that mimicked not just GLP-1 and GIP, but also glucagon, another powerful metabolic hormone. Even greater weight loss. More metabolic control. More brain protection.

The old rules were gone. The lines between diabetes drugs, obesity treatment, and brain medicine had blurred. The future wasn't just about controlling disease. It was about rewriting human biology.

And all because of two little hormones, hidden in the gut. Whispering secrets. Changing everything.



## MARITIME MUSEUMS

# Vaasa Maritime Museum's Wasa King model is now on display in Tallinn



**The Vaasa Maritime Museum's valuable ship model of the ferry Wasa King is now part of the new exhibition "Estonia - the story of a ship" at the Estonian Maritime Museum in Tallinn. The exhibition, which is open 28.9.2024-30.3.2025, tells the story of the Estonia ferry, which is significant for Estonia's history, and its role in shipping on the Baltic Sea.**

The ship model Wasa King is an exact miniature copy of the ship, which in different eras was known by several names, such as Viking Sally, Silja Star and finally Estonia. The ship was built in 1980 at the Meyer Werft shipyard in Germany and its life cycle included several routes and changes of ownership. In 1991, the ship was renamed Wasa King and sailed from Vaasa to Umeå before being moved to the shipping company Estline and named Estonia.

The exhibition in Tallinn highlights the ship's role in Estonian history and its significance for Estonians. The cruise ship symbolizes the country's restoration, the achieve-

ment of Western values and international unity. The exhibition gives an insight into the ferry's history, from its construction to its tragic end on the night of September 28, 1994, when the Estonia sank in the Baltic Sea, taking 852 people with it.

The Vaasa Maritime Museum's Wasa King model is a significant part of the exhibition, as it presents the ship's original structure and interior in detail. The scale model helps the visitor to understand the ship's history and its changes during different eras. The model has aroused great interest among both Estonian and international visitors.

The exhibition does not focus on investigating the causes of the sinking, but focuses on honoring memory and the opportunity to reflect on the ship's history and significance. The presence of the Wasa King model adds more depth and authenticity to the exhibition, providing visitors with a valuable insight into the history of shipping in the Baltic Sea and the significance of Estonia for Estonia and its people.

The Wasa King will return to the Vaasa Maritime Museum before the end of May, so this fine model made in Germany can be admired here in Vaasa this summer.



*Helvi Riihimäki from the Vaasa Maritime Museum brought the Wasa King model to Tallinn. Tallinn images; Helvi Riihimäki*

### The Estonia tragedy

30 years ago, on 28 September 1994, a tragic accident occurred when M/S Estonia, which sailed between Tallinn and Helsinki, sank. On board were about 1,000 passengers and crew. The sinking took place in stormy weather conditions and lasted only about 30 minutes. The accident claimed the lives of 852 people, making it one of the worst maritime accidents in history. The accident attracted a great deal of international attention and led to significant changes in maritime safety. The event is still remembered by many and still affects maritime traffic in the region.





## ASTRONOMY

# New Images Show the Bullseye Galaxy with Nine Rings



**A breathtaking new image captured by the Hubble Space Telescope's Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) reveals the collisional ring galaxy LEDA 1313424, nicknamed the "Bullseye," in unprecedented detail.**

The image, released on February 4, 2025, showcases the galaxy's remarkable structure, featuring not just one, but what appears to be nine distinct rings, a phenomenon that has intrigued and excited astronomers both intrigued and excited.

The Bullseye galaxy, located at an immense distance from Earth, presents a captivating spectacle. Its unique ring structure is believed to be the result of a collision with a smaller, unseen galaxy. This cosmic crash has sent ripples of gas and dust outwards, creating the stunning rings we observe today. While other ring galaxies have been observed, the sheer number of rings in LEDA 1313424 makes it a truly exceptional object.

The newly released image provides a fascinating glimpse into the scale and complexity of this galactic marvel. The image includes a scale bar, allowing viewers to appreciate the vast distances involved. Marked in light-years, the scale bar indicates the distance light travels in one Earth year - a staggering 5.88 trillion miles or 9.46 trillion kilometers. The scale bar also includes measurements in arcminutes, a unit used to measure angles in the sky. For context, the full Moon has an angular diameter of about 30 arcminutes.

The image's compass arrows help orient the viewer, indicating north and east in the celestial sphere. It's important to note that these celestial directions appear flipped compared to directions on a terrestrial map, due to the difference in perspective.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the image is the vibrant color palette. The image translates visible and infrared wavelengths of light, captured by Hubble's ACS

and Mid-Infrared Instrument (MIRI), into colors visible to the human eye. A color key explains which filters were used to capture specific wavelengths, allowing astronomers to analyze the composition and distribution of material within the galaxy. The resulting image is a stunning tapestry of colors, revealing the intricate details of the Bullseye's structure.

The research team, led by Imad Pasha and Pieter van Dokkum of Yale University, along with contributions from NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA), are still working to fully understand the dynamics of this complex system. The multiple rings suggest a series of interactions or perhaps a more complex collision history than previously thought. The analysis of the light captured by the different filters will provide crucial information about the star formation rates, the distribution of dust and gas, and the overall evolution of the galaxy.

The Bullseye galaxy serves as

a natural laboratory for studying galactic collisions and their impact on galaxy evolution. These collisions, though destructive, are also a powerful engine for star formation, triggering the birth of new stars from the compressed gas and dust. By studying objects like LEDA 1313424, astronomers can gain valuable insights into the processes that shape galaxies throughout the universe.

The release of this image not only provides a visual feast but also fuels scientific curiosity. Further observations and analysis will be crucial to unraveling the mysteries of the Bullseye galaxy and understanding the complex interplay of forces that have created this remarkable cosmic spectacle.

The sheer number of rings, the vibrant colours, and the immense scale of this galaxy make it a prime target for future research, promising to reveal even more about the dynamic and ever-evolving universe we inhabit.

# HOSPITAL HISTORY



## HOSPITAL HISTORY

# Muurame's Parantalola Is Now a Pile of Sand. But the Marjatta Statue Stands Still.

**In Muurame, near Jyväskylä, a dramatic change has taken place over the winter: the once-iconic Kinkomaa Hospital has been completely demolished, leaving behind a parantalola now covered by a thick layer of sand.**

Yet, in the hospital park, the Marjatta bronze sculpture—created by Kauko Räsänen in 1991—still stands proudly, its future still undecided.

### A Glimpse into Kinkomaan Hospital's Storied Past

Kinkomaan Hospital, located in the village of Kinkomaan in Muurame municipality, was built in the 1930s as the central

tuberculosis sanatorium for the Central Finland Tuberculosis District. During the 1920s, Central Finland was notorious as one of the worst regions in Finland for tuberculosis and other pulmonary diseases. The decision over the sanatorium's location was fiercely contested between Laukaa and Muurame, with Muurame ultimately winning when the owner of the Salonen estate offered the land at a reduced price. The proximity to Lake Päijänne and the surrounding pine forests—with their clean, invigorating air and natural ozone—was believed to have a curative effect on lung ailments.

Architectural plans for the sanatorium were solicited from several notable figures, including Alvar Aalto, W.G. Palmqvist, and the brothers Jussi and Toivo Paatela. The design by the Paatela brothers was chosen, and the first three-story main building was completed in 1930. Later, in 1938–39, the building

was expanded by adding two extra floors under the guidance of Jussi Paatela. The main building, representing a stylistic transition from classicism to functionalism, soon became a landmark. Over the decades, it served multiple roles: first as a tuberculosis sanatorium (1930–1971), then as a war hospital for wounded lung patients during World War II (1939–1944), and later as a general hospital until 2008. At its peak, Kinkomaan Hospital was Muurame's largest employer and a cornerstone of the local community.

### Demolition and a New Chapter

Over the past winter, the large Kinkomaan Hospital building has been completely demolished. A demolition permit for the main building is valid until the fall of 2026, and preliminary plans indicate that the demolition process will begin in late 2024. Although the hospital structure is now

gone—leaving the area, once a vibrant parantalola, covered in a layer of sand—the historical memory of the place endures.

### The Enduring Marjatta Statue

Amid these sweeping changes, the Marjatta bronze sculpture in the hospital's front yard remains a steadfast symbol. Created in 1991 by Kauko Räsänen, the sculpture has long been cherished as an emblem of local culture and tradition. It links Muurame's turbulent past with its hopeful future, reminding residents that the hospital was once not only a place of healing but also a central part of the community's identity.

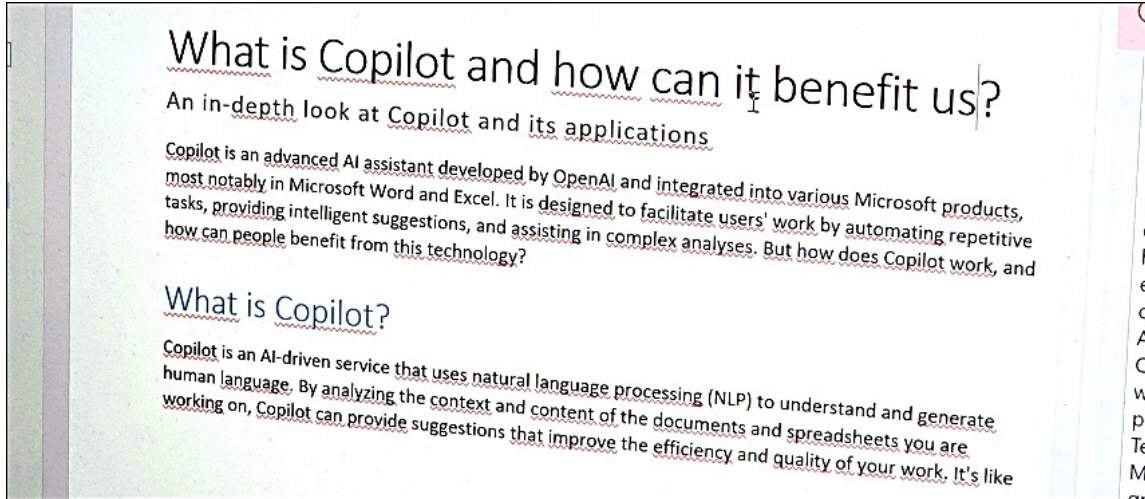
Many locals view the statue as a valuable cultural landmark that continues to stand as a testament to the village's resilience—even as the surrounding landscape transforms into a sandy terrain.



# AI

## What is Copilot and how can it benefit us?

### An in-depth look at Copilot and its applications



**Copilot is an advanced AI assistant developed by OpenAI and integrated into various Microsoft products, most notably in Microsoft Word and Excel. It is designed to facilitate users' work by automating repetitive tasks, providing intelligent suggestions, and assisting in complex analyses. But how does Copilot work, and how can people benefit from this technology?**

#### What is Copilot?

Copilot is an AI-driven service that uses natural language processing (NLP) to understand and generate human language. By analyzing the context and content of the documents and spreadsheets you are working on, Copilot can provide suggestions that improve the efficiency and quality of your work. It's like having a colleague who can help with everything from writing and editing text to creating and analyzing data.

#### Applications of Copilot

Copilot can be used in many different ways to improve workflow and productivity. Here are some examples:

- Text editing and writing assistance: In Microsoft Word, Copilot can suggest grammar and stylistic improvements, help formulate ideas, and create content based on short instructions.
- Data analysis: In Microsoft Excel, Copilot can automate calculations, create complex formulas, and analyze large data sets to find patterns and provide insightful recommendations.
- Document summarization: Copilot can summarize long texts and documents, saving time and making it easier to quickly get an overview of important information.
- Meeting notes: Copilot can automatically generate meeting notes and action items, ensuring that nothing important is missed during meetings.
- Language translation: Copilot can help translate text between different languages, facilitating international communication and collaboration.

Comparison with ChatGPT

ChatGPT, also developed by OpenAI, is another advanced language model used to generate text and converse with users. But how does ChatGPT differ from Copilot?

- Use case: While Copilot is integrated into specific applications like Word and Excel to improve workflow, ChatGPT is a more general language model that can be used for a variety of tasks, including conversation.

- Integration: Copilot is deeply integrated into the Microsoft ecosystem, making it a powerful assistant for office work. Conversely, ChatGPT can be integrated into various platforms and applications via APIs, making it more flexible.

- Functionality: Both models use NLP and machine learning to generate text, but Copilot is more focused on assisting with specific office tasks, while ChatGPT has a broader usage horizon. Can Copilot draw pictures and diagrams?

Currently, Copilot is mainly focused on text and data-related tasks. This means it cannot directly create pictures or diagrams. However,

it can help structure data in a way that makes it easier to create visual representations in tools like Excel. Copilot can suggest how data should be analyzed and what type of chart would be most appropriate, but the actual creation of the chart is done by the user.

#### Future prospects and potential

The technology behind Copilot is constantly evolving, and there is potential for it to handle even more tasks in the future. With continued advancements in AI and machine learning, we can expect Copilot to become even more integrated into various workflows and capable of assisting with an even broader set of tasks.

Copilot represents a significant step forward in using AI to enhance productivity and efficiency in the workplace. By automating routine tasks and providing intelligent suggestions, Copilot can free up time and resources, allowing people to focus on more creative and strategic aspects of their work.

\* AI

## DeepSeek: China's AI Revolution – Who Benefits Most?



**As artificial intelligence (AI) develops at breakneck speed, the world has seen a range of new technologies take shape, and players around the world are competing to be at the forefront.**

Among these is DeepSeek – an innovative AI platform recently launched from China. What makes DeepSeek unique, and how is it different from previous AI models?

### What is DeepSeek?

DeepSeek is an advanced AI platform designed to improve machine learning, natural language understanding, and cognitive computing. Created by some of the top scientists and engineers in the field, the platform aims to push the boundaries of what's possible with AI today. DeepSeek requires identification of the user but is free to use.

### Some of DeepSeek's most prominent features include:

**Improved language understanding:** The platform can interpret human language on a deeper level and understand context, tone, and intent. This makes the interaction more natural.

**Multi-modal capability:** It seamlessly combines data from text, image, and audio and enables comprehensive analysis.

**Self-learning algorithms:** DeepSeek has the ability to evolve on its own through new data, minimizing the need for continuous human intervention.

**Fast, real-time processing:** This makes the platform particularly attractive for use cases such as customer service and real-time analytics.

### How is DeepSeek different from older AI models?

DeepSeek marks a major step forward compared to previous AI solutions in several respects:

**Complexity and depth:** Previous AI models were

often based on predefined algorithms and lacked the flexibility to adapt to new information. DeepSeek uses deep learning to analyze data in a more advanced way.

**Multimodal data integration:** While older models focused on single data types (such as text or image), DeepSeek combines multiple data types, making it useful in many more situations.

**Ease of use:** DeepSeek is designed with the end user in mind, which means that the interfaces are customizable and can be tailored to different needs.

**Ethics and transparency:** In contrast to older models, DeepSeek has been built with a clear framework for fairness, accountability, and openness.

### Who can benefit most from DeepSeek?

DeepSeek has the potential to revolutionize a range of industries. Companies that handle large amounts of data, such as in healthcare, finance,

or customer service, can benefit greatly from its ability to analyze data quickly and accurately. At the same time, it is a tool that can also help researchers, policymakers, and even individuals in their daily work – especially when it comes to understanding complex information or making quick decisions.

### Does DeepSeek understand Swedish and Finnish?

One interesting area where DeepSeek is being tested is its language capabilities. The platform can handle voice-based interaction, which means users can have conversations with it as they would a human. But how does it work in our Nordic languages?

**English:** DeepSeek has made some progress here. Users have reported that it sometimes works well in English, although results may vary depending on context and the complexity of the queries.

**Finnish:** For Finnish, however, the response has been weaker. Many users have noticed that the AI often "falls apart" when confronted with the complex Finnish language, leading to confu-

sed answers.

DeepSeek's success on the global AI landscape is due to its continued ability to learn and adapt to different languages and cultural contexts. Perhaps one day we will be able to converse freely in Swedish and Finnish with this technology – but so far there is potential for development.

With its combination of advanced learning technologies, multimodal integration, and ethical frameworks, DeepSeek sets a new standard for what AI can accomplish. For companies, researchers, and innovators looking for next-generation AI solutions, this is a name to keep an eye on. But it's also a reminder of how far AI still has to go – not least when it comes to mastering our own Nordic languages.

It is also interesting that DeepSeek has been able to be realized at minimal costs in this context. The Chinese are intelligent!

There are those who are concerned about whether information from DeepSeek could be handed over to the Chinese authorities, and from that point of view, ChatGPT is safer to use at least for the time being.



# AI

## AI-Generated Podcasts: A New Era of Audio Content with NotebookLM

## 20 Everyday Abbreviations You Need to Know (and Maybe a Few You Don't)



In the rapidly evolving landscape of digital media, artificial intelligence continues to push boundaries, reshaping industries and redefining creative processes. One of the most groundbreaking developments is Google's NotebookLM, an advanced language model with the potential to revolutionize the podcasting world. With its ability to generate human-quality audio content, NotebookLM is paving the way for a new era of AI-driven storytelling, education, and entertainment.

### The Emergence of AI-Generated Podcasts

As the podcasting industry continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, content creators and media companies are always on the lookout for innovative tools to streamline production and enhance creativity. NotebookLM, initially celebrated for its ability to generate high-quality written content, has now ventured into the realm of audio. This cutting-edge

technology is capable of producing podcasts that are nearly indistinguishable from those created by human hosts, opening up exciting possibilities for the future of digital content.

The appeal of NotebookLM-generated podcasts lies in several key features that set them apart from traditional podcasts:

**Natural-Sounding Voice:** NotebookLM can produce audio content with a voice that mimics the natural cadence and tone of human speech. This makes it difficult for listeners to discern that the podcast is AI-generated, offering a seamless listening experience.

**Diverse Range of Topics:** Whether it's breaking news, current events, or light-hearted storytelling, NotebookLM can tackle a wide array of subjects. Its versatility makes it an ideal tool for content creators looking to explore different genres without the constraints of time and labor-intensive production.



Abbreviations are everywhere these days. From texting acronyms to technical jargon, those handy 3-letter (and sometimes longer) combos can be confusing if you're not in the know. But fear not, fellow abbreviation adventurer! This article will equip you with the knowledge to decipher 20 of the most common abbreviations you'll encounter in everyday life.

1. **LOL:** Laughing Out Loud (This one might already be a classic for many!)
2. **BRB:** Be Right Back (Perfect for a quick bathroom break during a chat)
3. **OMG:** Oh My God (Expresses surprise or strong emotion)
4. **IMHO:** In My Humble Opinion (A way to preface your opinion politely)
5. **\*\* ASAP:\*\*** As Soon As Possible (Lights a fire under someone... nicely)
6. **FYI:** For Your Information (A heads-up for someone)
7. **ETA:** Estimated Time of Arrival (Lets you know when to expect someone)
8. **RSVP:** Please Reply (Formal request for a response to an

- invitation)
9. **PDF:** Portable Document Format (A common file format for documents)
10. **JPG:** Joint Photographic Experts Group (A popular image file format)
11. **GIF:** Graphics Interchange Format (Another image format, known for animations)
12. **TIFF:** Tagged Image File Format (Used for high-quality images)
13. **WWW:** World Wide Web (The foundation of the internet we know)
14. **HTTP:** Hypertext Transfer Protocol (The language webpages use to talk)
15. **GPS:** Global Positioning System (Helps you navigate the world)
16. **ATM:** Automated Teller Machine (Your friendly neighborhood cash dispenser)
17. **DIY:** Do It Yourself (For the handy folks out there)
18. **VIP:** Very Important Person (Someone who gets special treatment)
19. **TBA:** To Be Announced (Stay tuned for more information)
20. **TBD:** To Be Determined (We're still figuring things out)

This is just a taste of the abbreviation world, but with these 20 under your belt, you'll be well on your way to deciphering the everyday lingo, from casual texts to technical documents. So, the next time you see an abbreviation that leaves you scratching your head, remember this list and keep on exploring the wonderful world of shorthand communication!

### Wasa Daily

A modern newspaper with a layout with features of the press of the 1870s. Back then, newspapers had only 4-8 pages. Lots of text, but no images at all, so there's a lot to read on a few pages. Our paper is one of the very few newspapers in English serving English-speaking inhabitants in the Ostrobotnia region

The magazine contains quotations from old daily newspapers taken from the National Archives (digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi). GPT3, Gemini, Aria and Monica do some of the routine editing work, such as translation, corrector reading, and short notice writing. All texts have been checked by journalists and the editorial staff is responsible for all the content of the texts.

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

The magazine is available online for free.

Editor-in-chief Hans Björknäs.

Readers' writings are welcome!

The magazine is locally owned and will remain so. For ever!

Editorial office: Wasa Daily, Koulukatu 37 B 7, 65100 Vaasa, tel. +358-40-5462455.

Helsinki editorial office: Wasa Daily, Toinen linja 9 B 36, 00530 Helsinki. Phone +358-40-5462455.

Email: [wasadagblad@gmail.com](mailto:wasadagblad@gmail.com)





## HOROSCOPE FOR MARCH 2025

### Fabulous March Horoscope

**Aries** (March 21–April 19)

Spring energy is rushing through your veins! Unfortunately, you keep forgetting your umbrella everywhere. No worries — you're not made of sugar (probably).

**Taurus** (April 20–May 20)

The slushy remains of winter make you grumpy, but you pretend to be fine. Curl up on the couch, drink a liter of tea, and refuse to acknowledge that March is technically a spring month.

**Gemini** (May 21–June 20)

Your brain is overflowing with ideas and plans! Too bad you'll only follow through with one. But hey, thinking about doing something is practically the same as doing it, right?

**Cancer** (June 21–July 22)

You're feeling extra emotional and nostalgic. Try not to call your ex or cry over old weather

forecasts. Spring is coming — promise!

**Leo** (July 23–August 22)

The sun is finally peeking out, and you can return to your natural habitat — the center of attention. Just remember, wearing sunglasses doesn't make March a summer month.

**Virgo** (August 23–September 22)

You're already spring-cleaning, but spring doesn't seem to be cleaning up for you. Breathe deeply and accept that dust bunnies, like old friends, always come back.

**Libra** (September 23–October 22)

Do you know what you want? No. But that's okay, because you just accidentally mixed up three different coffee orders at the café. Let the adventure begin!

**Scorpio** (October 23–November 21)

You are mysterious and irresistible — except when you're struggling to put on your winter boots in a hurry. Let spring arrive at its own pace, like a really good thriller.

**Sagittarius** (November 22–December 21)

March brings big opportunities! Or maybe just more slush. But your attitude is everything, so keep your shoes dry and your spirits high.

**Capricorn** (December 22–January 19)

You have a plan for spring. The universe has another. Flexibility is the key to success — and to losing your temper when the bus is late.

**Aquarius** (January 20–February 18)

Your creative mind is inventing a new spring fashion trend. Too bad it involves sandals and wool socks. Maybe not yet, but we admire your vision!

**Pisces** (February 19–March 20)

Birthdays and spring vibes turn you into a hopeless romantic. Just make sure you don't wander straight into a snowdrift while gazing at the sunshine. Dream big — but watch where you're going!





# NEWS 100 YEARS AGO



# The Evening Courier

Sunday, February 23, 1925

This is a fictional daily newspaper that contains completely authentic news from exactly 100 years ago with the aim of giving the reader an idea of what everyday life

## Rough attack in "Pravda"

Viborg nyheter 23.2.1925

### State rifle cartridge factory in Lapua.

### Engineer U. R. Tikkanen appointed Managers.

According to Iltalehti's experience, Helsinki-based engineer Urho Robert Tikkanen has been appointed director of the Lapua cartridge factory. As a recipient of a government grant in the United States, Ing. Tikkanen is particularly familiar with the methods of mass production, and in other respects, according to experts, he has thoroughly prepared for his new position. The new director will start in his position on 1 March.

### Trade relations between Finland and Russia

### Rough attack in "Pravda".

MOSCOW, July 24, 2019 (Reuters) - Kremlin 2. In today's "Pravda" there is an article on trade relations between Finland and Russia, which harshly criticizes the fact that Finland, referring to the foot-and-mouth disease in Russia, is making it difficult to export grain and feed and preventing

their transit to Karelia.

The authorities of the Union of Soviet States have shown that the accusations are unfounded. However, the Finns, apparently for other purposes, do not allow grain to be imported from Russia into their country, but enjoy all the benefits of trade without giving anything in return. Free passage from Lake Ladoga to the Gulf of Finland is important for Finland.

Their paper and milk production benefits from Russia. That is why the economic relations between the two countries should be reviewed, and there can be no question of concluding a trade agreement. Normal conditions will only arise when the principle of preferential treatment is implemented in Finland.

If Finland does not want to do so, the Russian authorities will draw their own conclusions.

### Drinking and fraternal quarrels.

A terrible bloodshed took place in the village of Luodon, Luvia, on Monday evening. On the night in question, brothers Lauri and Wainö Tommila, who were sitting and crowding each other, got into an argument, which developed from a wrestling match into a fight, during which Lauri T. took out his knife and inflicted 8 knife blows on different parts of his body.

The wounded young man, a 23-year-old young man who had just completed his military service, was immediately brought to Pori, where he was tied up. Despite the severe blood loss, Han's condition is not life-threatening.

### A major burglary in Rovaniemi.

Confiscated gold and silver items worth more than 100,000 mks.

H. M. Komulainen's store in Rovaniemi was broken into on Monday evening. The thieves opened the doors with their own keys and confiscated gold watches, gold rings and silverware worth more than a hundred thousand marks, according to "Kaleva".

### A sad accident.

One day, when Jooseppi Sällinen, a farmer from Kivinebbi, was driving a load of bread, the load fell on a hill and ended up in a ditch. At this point, Sällinen ended up between the load and the fence and his head was completely crushed. Death followed immediately.

### The rabies epidemic in Vyborg County.

New municipalities declared for rabies-infected people.

By means of a decree issued on Tuesday, the County Governor of the county has, at

the request of the National Board of Medicine, declared Räisälä, Kirvus, Rautjärvi, Parikkala, Simpele, Kruunuvuori, Hiitola, Kaukola, Vuoksda, Valkjärvi, Rautus. Metsäpirtti, Sakkola and Pyhäjärvi municipalities and the municipality of Käkiisaari for rabies infected people until further notice.

Protection law also in Latvia The activities of the communists are banned.

RIGA, July 25, 2019 (IANS) The Sher 2. (FNB) The Latvian Parliament has approved a protective law which, like the corresponding law in Estonia, prohibits the activities of communist organizations.

### In death for his toes

A young man in London named John Thompson has shot himself a bullet to the forehead. The reason for this was that he had problems with his toes, which circumstance prevented him from playing football. It is truly a strange time we live in

### The Russian injuries.

### A compensation issue waiting for solution.

After the outbreak of the World War in the summer of 1914, the Russian authorities began extensive fortification work in various parts of Fin-

land and thus carried out "strategic forest clear-cuttings". This clear-cutting was carried out so mercilessly that tens of thousands of hectares of forest land were completely clear-cut and now stand without seed trees and partly without safe regrowth. The forest owners have thereby incurred very considerable losses, which have been all the more noticeable in the numerous cases where the owner has lost the opportunity to obtain his wood from his own land. The interventions also affect extensive areas of cultivated land and pastureland, which have been rendered unusable by fortifications with dense barbed wire fences, protective embankments, trenches and quay mats. Fences of both wood and stone have been destroyed. Dwelling houses and other buildings have also suffered to a great extent the devastation.

### The government gives dinner

for President Ståhlberg. Until yesterday evening, the government had invited the outgoing president and his family to dinner at the Ministerial Hotel. The dinner was also attended by the ministers' wives and the president's adjutant, Colonel Aejmelaeus-Äimä.

# HUMOUR ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

## 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.

## WHERE THE CHILDREN COME FROM

There was a group of three flamboyantly dressed very little girls, with barks and ribbons and precious toys and neighbor dolls, and near them was playing on the sand a poor little girl of about the same age, scantily clad and with a home-made primitive doll in her arms. The three fine children discussed the interesting question of where they came from, which proved a highly interesting topic for toddler speculation.

— I come from a rose, mother said, uttered one of the little living dolls.

— And me again, interjected No. 2, I must have come from a head of cabbage.

"I, yes I was picked up by a stork," said number three. Whereupon she, who had come out of a rose, scornfully and proudly turned to the poor little scantily clad girl child, and said nobly:

— And you, there, where did you come from?

— Alas, answered little Cinderella, we are so poor, so terribly poor back home, that mother and father have to make their children themselves.

## IN CUSTOMS

Band dealer Petterson comes from abroad and is offended by the customs officer's thoroughness during the inspection. When asked: — Have you now shown everything, tape dealer Petterson rep-

lies angrily.

— No, you have not yet been able to see the vocal cords.

## Wedding

Old witty master Grundman was invited to a wedding and asked as an old family friend to say a few words to the bride, young, beautiful and blushing:

— To me, who has followed the fates of Lisa and her parents for the last 19 years, it seems that she inherited her wisdom from her father. The he did not know what to say, received a flashing look from his wife, regained his composure and ability to speak, and said:

— Because look, her mother still has hers left.

## Stradivarius

— Your violin is descended from the famous Stradivarius, father? - Yes.

— And the strings are made of intestines? — Yes.

— Are they Uncle Stradivarius' intestines then?

## The astronomic picture of the week:



Thick Ice in the Gulf of Bothnia 2010-03-05 lrg.jpg

The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on NASA's Terra satellite captured this true-color image of part of the Gulf of Bothnia on March 5, 2010. A thin black line delineates the coastline, much of which is lined by ice, particularly in the area around Sundsvall. Ice—largely broken into pieces of varying sizes—fills most of the gulf. A translucent veil of clouds partially hides the eastern half of the water body.

NASA

Public domain

## Next week:



## From our readers

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

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