

WASA DAILY

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Vaasas new Mobile Library

Dont miss this movie: "Aftersun"

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George Orwells 1984 and now

Achalasia

WASA DAILY



HERE WE ARE:

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26 pages

TODAY

George Orwell's "1984" and now

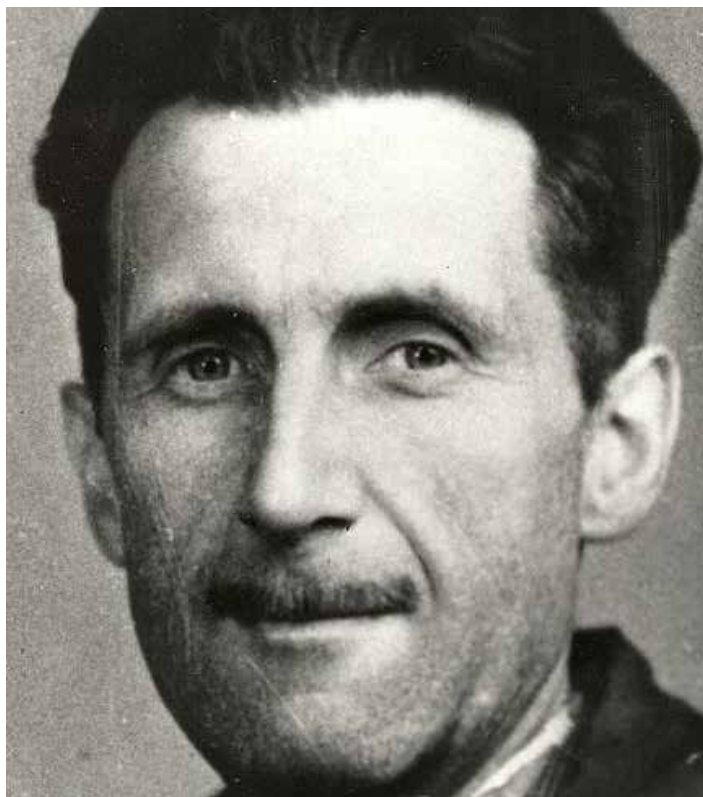
At a time when geopolitical landscapes are changing rapidly and alliances are being reshaped, George Orwell's dystopian novel "1984" becomes frighteningly topical. The book depicts a society where history is constantly being rewritten to fit the regime's current narrative, where the enemy is replaced and adapted to the political climate. This mechanism, in which the past is manipulated to serve the interests of the present, finds an eerie parallel in today's Russia. And to some extent also in the United States.

For decades, relations between Russia and the United States were marked by mistrust and animosity. The Cold War and its aftermath created a deep rift between the two nations, a rift that marked both political discourse and public opinion. The United States and the "collective West" were portrayed as Russia's antagonists, an image reinforced by ideological differences and geopolitical rivalries.

But now, in a time of changing power relations and new challenges, we see a potential change in this dynamic. Russia, after decades of confrontation, is signaling a willingness to rapprochement with the United States. This unexpected turn raises questions about the underlying motives and the long-term consequences. Is it a genuine quest for cooperation or a tactical maneuver to strengthen Russia's position in an uncertain world?

That the United States in the UN votes like North Korea and Russia, where the vote is about whether Russia attacked Ukraine 1022 or not – that can probably be difficult for many in the West and hopefully also in the United States to understand.

The parallels to "1984" are



George Orwell (1903 - 1950). Wikimedia Commons

striking. In Orwell's novel, the "enemy" is a changing construction, a tool for maintaining the regime's power. By constantly changing enemies, the party can divert attention from the real problems and create a sense of unity and loyalty. Similarly, Russia's sudden friendship with the United States can be seen as a way to adapt to a new reality, in which the former enemy can now become a potential partner.

But there are also important differences. Unlike the totalitarian society of "1984", we live in a world where information is more accessible and where there is a diversity of opinions. While state media plays an important role in shaping public opinion, there is also room for alternative voices and perspectives. This makes it more difficult to manipulate history and create a unified picture of reality.

Still, it's important to be aware of the risk of manipulation and propaganda. When political narratives change rapidly, it is important to be critical and

ry can be used to serve political purposes is essential for preserving our intellectual freedom and our ability to make informed decisions.

In a time of uncertainty and change, it is tempting to seek simple answers and clear enemies. But the reality is often more complex and multifaceted. By studying "1984" and reflecting on the parallels we see in today's world, we can develop a deeper understanding of the forces that shape our history and our future.

Finally, it's important to remember that history isn't predetermined. We all have a responsibility to contribute to a more informed and democratic debate, where different perspectives can meet and where the truth can be sought. By being aware of the risks of manipulation and propaganda, we can together build a better future, where history does not have to be constantly rewritten.

Photo Supplement

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Lars Sonck
1870-1956

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NEWS



MOBILE LIBRARY Vaasa's new mobile library Hilda charms with the layout chosen by the children's jury

The Vaasa City Library will get a new mobile library in the spring of 2025. The mobile library called Hilda will start operating at the end of March, and its official inauguration will be celebrated at the Vaasa Market Square on Saturday, 5 April.

Hilda's appearance is particularly significant, as children have been consulted in its design. The aim of the library was to create a fairytale-like atmosphere that reflects the sea, happiness and the joy of reading. Three local artists participated in the artist call: Terese Bast, Päivi Arenius and Lotta Strandman. The jury chose Terese Bast's design, which best met the set goals and was an interesting eye-catcher.

Children played a signi-

ficant role in choosing the layout as part of the City of Vaasa's child-friendly municipality model. Four classes from different schools and the children who participated in the "Children at Work" day were able to vote for their favorite. Bast's plan was everyone's favorite.

The name Hilda is a tribute to Hilda Hellman (1839–1901), who was a significant person in the development of library operations in Vaasa. Hellman significantly expanded the collection and lending activities of the Vaasa Public Library from 1875 onwards. She also worked as a teacher and librarian.

The new mobile library will serve the city's residents in a variety of ways. Hilda visits schools and daycare centres and serves residents on weekdays in the afternoons, evenings and Saturdays in various residential areas. The goal is to offer easily accessible library services to Vaasa residents of all ages and to spread the joy of reading to different parts of the city.

Previous mobile libraries

have been called Rölli, Matilda and Walter. The first two mobile libraries were anonymous. Hilda continues this tradition by offering versatile library services to the people of Vaasa.

PHOTO: The new mobile library Hilda. Artist: Terese Bast.

CULTURAL DEED Vaasa's Cultural Deed of the Year 2024 voting begins!

The nominees for the Vaasa Cultural Deed of the Year 2024 award have been announced! The jury has selected three wonderful candidates from among the residents' proposals, from which the public will be able to vote for their favourite during March.

The candidates are:

Wasa Sinfonietta: A 95-year-old amateur orchestra that delights both students and pensioners with its music. The orchestra cooperates

with other cultural operators in Vaasa and gives concerts actively, for example in assisted living facilities.

Vaasa Artists' Association: Moving to Kunsthalle Helsinki has brought art closer to the city's residents. In addition to exhibitions, the art lending service offers everyone the opportunity to acquire art at an affordable price.

Malviniemi Company: A contemporary dance group that produces dance performances annually and offers applied dance content for the elderly, for example. The group's dance film "In the Same Boat" has been successful in Finland and around the world.

Come and meet the candidates!

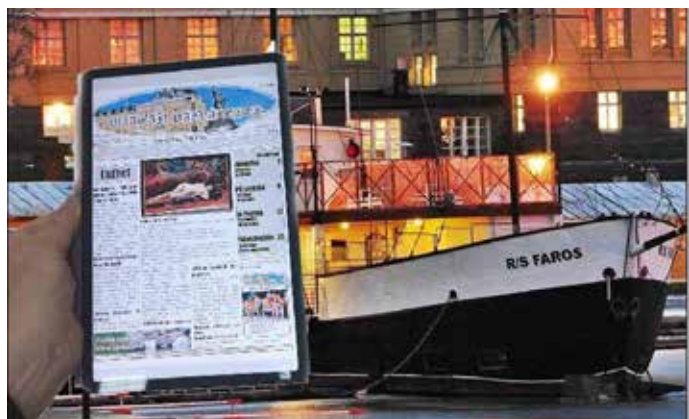
Everyone is welcome to meet the candidates at the Vaasa City Theatre's restaurant Kulma on 5 March at 6–7 pm. Coffee will be served at the event.

Vote for your favorite!

You can vote during March on the city's website. Go and cast your vote for the Vaasa Cultural Deed of the Year 2024!

NEWS

WITH A TABLET YOU CAN READ THIS PAPER ANYWHERE:



Like here near the Faros ship restaurant

UNEMPLOYMENT Unemployment is increasing in Ostrobothnia – but still below the national average

25.2.2025 | City of Vaasa
Unemployment is increasing in several municipalities in the Ostrobothnia employment area, but unemployment in the region is still lower than the national average. According to the latest statistics from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment of Ostrobothnia, the unemployment rate in the region was 7.4 per cent, while the average for the whole country was 12.0 per cent.

The number of unemployed increased especially in Vaasa, where the number of unemployed was over 500 higher than in the previous year (+19%). Unemployment decreased only in Malax (-12%), Vörå (-7%) and Korsnäs (-4%). The unemployment rate in the area was measured in Kaskinen (11.8%) and lowest in Mustasaari (4.0%).

The number of job vacancies is also decreasing. The

number of unfilled vacancies in the region amounted to 1,824 in January, which was 37 per cent fewer than a year ago.

With the reform of TE services, which entered into force at the beginning of the year, employment services were transferred from the central government to municipalities, and a separate employment area was established in Ostrobothnia. This means that employment services are now part of the basic services of municipalities.

TAXATION Tight taxation slows down economic growth – easing could increase public revenues

2/11/2025 | ETLA
According to a recent study by the Research Institute of the Finnish Economy (Etla), high marginal tax rates hinder Finland's economic growth and the sustainability of public finances. Heavy taxation, especially on high-productivity workers, slows down career development and intangible investment, which may weaken economic dynamism in the

long run.

The research report Talous takalukossa. According to the problem of Finland's high marginal taxes (Etla Report 158), the adverse effects of taxation are greater than previously estimated. If the tax level has exceeded the so-called tax level. At the top of the Laffer curve, tax cuts could even increase public revenues in the long run.

Technology-driven sectors and intangible investments in particular suffer from high taxation, as it affects the attraction of talent and the mobility of the workforce. Finnvera's Chief Economist Mauri Kotamäki points out that high taxation may weaken Finland's ability to attract top experts.

Mikael Kirkko-Jaakkola, Chief Economist at the Finnish Taxpayers' Association, emphasises that reducing high marginal taxes could improve the incentives for experts to develop their professional skills and increase economic productivity.

In Finland, the highest marginal tax on wage earners, including consumption taxes, rose to 66.8 per cent in 2023.

VAASAN SÄHKÖ Vaasan Sähkö invests in solar energy and energy storage

Vaasan Sähkö has decided to acquire an additional share of an industrial-scale solar park to be built in Lapua. Upon completion, the company's share of production will amount to 35 per cent. The investment supports the company's goal of increasing the production of renewable energy and strengthening the sustainability of the ener-

gy system.

At the same time, Vaasan Sähkö is investing in energy storage. The company is participating in the investigation of an energy storage facility designed for Laihela by EPV Energy that utilises CO₂ battery technology. These types of storage can significantly improve the availability of renewable energy by smoothing out fluctuations in production.

The investments in solar energy and energy storage show that Vaasan Sähkö is in line with the times and strives to build more sustainable energy production. The role of solar energy in particular is increasing in Finland, and modern energy storage can solve the challenges of renewable production.

The decision is a step towards a more flexible and greener energy system. In the future, it can be expected that similar projects will become more common and help Finland become self-sufficient in energy.

VAASAN SÄHKÖ Vaasan Sähkö delivers strong results – new sales company brings transparency

26.2.2025 | Vaasan Sähkö
The Vaasan Sähkö Group achieved a significant improvement in profit in 2024. Net sales increased to EUR 218.2 million (EUR 198.7 million) and operating profit increased to EUR 44.5 million (EUR 13.6 million). A key factor behind the good result was a successful hedging strategy. In addition, the Group received an insurance compensation of EUR 11 million. The company's equity ratio increased to 51.9 per cent (49.0%).

NEWS

"The year 2024 was exceptionally good, which creates a solid foundation for the future," says CEO Stefan Damlin.

In the energy sector, the security of Finland's electrical infrastructure and the effects of climate change were emphasised. The average price of electricity in the wholesale market decreased to EUR 45.57 per megawatt hour (EUR 56.47 per MWh), but price fluctuations were record-high.

Vaasan Sähkö invests in the flexibility of the energy system and renewable energy. The company is participating in EPV Energy's project to build a gas-powered power plant in Tornio. It can be used to respond to price fluctuations and market disturbances.

The number of customers increased in the sales of both electricity and district heating. Vaasan Sähkö continues its investments in improving profitability and developing the energy system.

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 holiday 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 living 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.

MALAX Senior Fair in Malax

The Active Seniors project is organizing a fair for seniors at the Community Center, Köpingsvägen 18, on Wednesday, March 12th, from 1 to 3 PM. All possible associations, companies, and actors that provide services and services for the elderly in Malax are welcome to participate as exhibitors. Participation is free for exhibitors. Registration is no later than March 2, 2025.

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.



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
Yrkesakademin i Österbotten, Närpes
Zachariasskolan, Nykarleby



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 1980s, 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

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 was published for the first time on 26 February

The Vaasa region got 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 was 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 Goetze'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 Goetze: 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/>



ENERGY WEEK

Vaasa EnergyWeek 2025 offers a top event in the energy sector in the city

Vaasa's annual EnergyWeek will be held on 17-20 March 2025 and brings together experts, companies and decision-makers in the energy sector from all over the world. The event will focus on current themes such as renewable energy, energy storage, and clean gas.

Programs and themes

EnergyWeek's four-day programme offers a wide range of expert talks, exhibitions and networking opportunities.

Monday 17.3. – Energy and climate

Energy and climate seminar
Tonight's program: Sustainable energy in a new twist

Tuesday 18.3. – Wind and renewable energy
Exhibition on Wind and Renewable Energy
Matchmaking events
EnergyWeek evening at the Fontana Club

Wednesday 19.3. – Energy storage
Exhibition on energy storage
Matchmaking events
EnergyWeek evening at Ori-

ginal Sokos Hotel Royal
Thursday 20.3. – Clean gas energy
Clean Gas Energy Exhibition
Matchmaking events

Networking and innovation at the heart

EnergyWeek offers a unique opportunity to network with leading experts in the field and learn about the latest innovations. Topics on the agenda include digitalisation, circular economy, smart cities, energy regulation and business.

The event is organised in cooperation with Vaasa Region Development Ltd VA-SEK, Technology Centre Merinova, the Ostrobothnia Chamber of Commerce, Ostrobothnia Expo, the University of Vaasa and the Enterprise Europe Network. EnergyWeek is held at Vaasa City Hall, Senatinkatu 1. Participants are encouraged to register in advance on the city's website.

Here's a lot of additional information:
<https://www.energyweek.fi/>

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: STTinfo/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

TELEVISION

Don't miss this movie: "Aftersun"

The movie *Aftersun*, directed by Charlotte Wells in her feature film debut, is a deeply moving and subtly told story about memories, love, and the complex bond between a father and his daughter. The film is set during a sunny holiday in Turkey in the 1990s, where 11-year-old Sophie (Frankie Corio) and her young father Calum (Paul Mescal) spend time together. Through Sophie's adult gaze, portrayed through old video recordings, a story is woven that is as much a reflection on the past as a depiction of the moment.



This is a film you should watch from start to finish with thought. And it can be enjoyable to watch it twice.

One of the film's great strengths is its ability to capture the everyday with an almost poetic sensitivity. Wells uses faded colors, blurry video clips, and a slow pace to recreate the feeling of a memory – not just as it was, but as it feels in retrospect. This makes *"Aftersun"* a film that lives in the unspoken, where small gestures and quiet moments carry enormous emotional weight. The scenes by the pool, the clumsy dances and the serious conversations between father and daughter build up an intimate sense of closeness, but also a vague, nagging feeling that something is wrong beneath the surface.

Paul Mescal delivers an outstanding performance as Calum, a father who carries an inner weight he tries to hide from his daughter. His smile is warm,

but his gaze reveals a sadness that is never fully explained – and it is precisely this restraint that makes his portrait so heart-breaking. Frankie Corio, in his debut role, is a revelation as Sophie. Her natural appearance and chemistry with Mescal make their relationship believable and touching, and she balances the child's curiosity with an incipient awareness of life's complications.

Something that should be emphasized is how *"Aftersun"* avoids giving simple answers. The film is less about what happens and more about how it feels – both for Sophie at the time and for the adult Sophie who looks back. It is a study in melancholy and nostalgia, but also in the fragility of love. Some viewers may find the pace too slow or the lack of a clear dramatic arc frustrating, but for those willing to sink into its mood, the rewards are great.

The last scene of the film shows how the daughter leaves for her mother and the father wanders out into the void. The scene can be interpreted in many ways, but one interpretation is that this was the final happy week of his father's life, a week when he got to experience that his life had meaning and that he had someone who loved him.

The cinematography and music also deserve a mention. The shots, often shot with a handheld feel, enhance the film's personal tone, while the sparse soundtrack – including an emotional use of *"Under Pressure"* – hits just right in the film's most pivotal moments.

"Aftersun" is a small movie with a big heart. It manages to capture something universal about relationships and the passage of time without ever becoming sentimental or overly clear. It's a debut that marks Charlotte Wells as a name to keep an eye on, and a display of acting from Mescal and Corio that stays around long after the credits have finished. For those seeking a thought-provoking and emotional experience, this is a must.

The film is available on Yle Areena until 21.5.2025.

RUSSIA'S WAR

Russia's War: A Grim Three-Year Tally



Three years into the conflict, a stark reality emerges from the shadows of Russian opposition media. The narrative of a triumphant "special military operation" is fading, replaced by a sobering assessment of losses and failures.

Human Cost: The human toll is staggering, with estimates of Russian casualties reaching 250,000, a figure that dwarfs initial projections. The rate of loss is particularly alarming, with 37 soldiers killed per square kilometer of occupied territory in 2024 alone, far exceeding the 5.5 casualties per square kilometer experienced by the Red Army during World War II.

Naval Defeat: The Black Sea Fleet, once a symbol of Russian naval power, has been effectively crippled. Despite occupying Crimea, the fleet remains bottled up in Novorossiysk, unable to participate in the conflict. A fleet of Ukrainian drones, built from scratch in just three years, now dominates the Northern Black Sea, marking a stunning defeat for Russia.

NATO Expansion: The conflict has accelerated NATO expansion, with Sweden and Finland, both traditionally neutral, joining the alliance. This has significantly reduced the distance between NATO forces and Rus-

sia, with the Baltic Sea now effectively under NATO control. The proximity of NATO forces to St. Petersburg, now just 150 kilometers away, raises concerns about the vulnerability of Russia's strategic assets.

Technological Lag: Russia has fallen behind in the technology race, failing to adapt to modern warfare. Despite boasting a powerful military-industrial complex, the only significant advancements have been the acquisition of Iranian "Shaheds" and gliding bombs. Meanwhile, Ukraine has embraced the "drone revolution," producing its own drones and effectively countering Russian air power.

Financial Bleeding: The true cost of the war remains shrouded in secrecy. While \$300 billion in frozen EU assets represent a direct financial loss, the overall financial impact is unknown. The lack of transparency surrounding war spending fuels concerns about mismanagement and corruption.

The grim realities of the war, as painted by opposition media in Russia, raise serious questions about Russia's long-term strategy and its ability to achieve its objectives. The next chapter of this conflict promises to be even more challenging, with Russia facing mounting pressure on multiple fronts.

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.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Glaciers Vanishing at Alarming Rate: New Study Reveals Accelerating Ice Loss

A groundbreaking international study, involving a global team of scientists known as GlaMBIE, has revealed the alarming rate at which glaciers are melting worldwide. Published in the prestigious journal *Nature*, the research paints a stark picture of accelerating ice loss, with potentially significant consequences for sea levels, ecosystems, and water resources.

The study, which analyzed glacier mass changes from 2000 to 2023, found that glaciers globally lost a staggering 273 ± 16 gigatonnes of ice each year. To put that in perspective, one gigatonne is equivalent to a billion metric tons – imagine a billion cars! That's an unimaginable amount of ice disappearing annually.

Even more concerning, the rate of ice loss has dramatically increased. The study shows a $36 \pm 10\%$ jump in ice melt between the first half of the study period (2000-2011) and the second half (2012-2023). This acceleration underscores the intensifying impact of climate change. It's like a snowball rolling downhill, gathering speed and size as it goes.

The researchers also calculated the overall ice loss since 2000. Globally, glaciers have shed about 5% of their total ice mass. While this might seem like a small percentage, the regional variations are much more alarming, ranging from a 2% loss in some areas to a catastrophic 39% loss in others. This regional disparity highlights the uneven impact of climate change, with some areas far more vulnerable than others.



One of the most significant findings is the sheer scale of glacier melt compared to the ice sheets. The study reveals that glacier mass loss is about 18% greater than the loss from the Greenland Ice Sheet and more than double the loss from the Antarctic Ice Sheet. This emphasizes the critical role glaciers play in contributing to sea-level rise.

This study is a testament to the power of collaborative science. The GlaMBIE team brought together a wealth of data from various sources, including on-the-ground measurements and satellite observations. By combining and analyzing this data, they were able to create the most comprehensive and accurate assessment of global glacier mass change to date.

While the global average ice loss aligns with previous estimates, the study uncovered significant regional variations, highlighting the limitations of earlier research. These new findings provide a crucial baseline for understanding the discrepancies between different observation methods and for improving climate models. This

improved understanding is essential for making more accurate predictions about future sea-level rise and its consequences.

This research is a wake-up call. The accelerating rate of glacier melt is a clear and undeniable sign of a warming planet. The implications are profound, threatening coastal communities, disrupting ecosystems, and impacting freshwater availability for millions. We need to act decisively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. The time for complacency is over. The melting glaciers are telling us a story, and we need to listen. This study, while sobering, provides the crucial data we need to understand the problem and work towards solutions. It's a reminder that science, collaboration, and a sense of urgency are our best tools for tackling this global challenge.

Source: The GlaMBIE Team. Community estimate of global glacier mass changes from 2000 to 2023. *Nature* (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-08545-z>

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NEWS



UKRAINE

The Unlucky Working Visit of the President of Ukraine to the U.S. on February 28



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ATENEUM

Ateneum exhibition revolutionises the perception of women artists of the 19th century

On 7 March 2025, the Ateneum Art Museum will open its doors to the exhibition "Breaking Boundaries – Travelling Women Artists of the 18th Century", which provides a unique perspective on the lives and work of women artists during this period. The exhibition highlights forgotten artists and their networks and presents works that have never been shown in Finland before.

In the 19th century, women artists had to travel abroad, especially to Germany, in order to receive a high-quality education. Travel was slow and dangerous, and women had to adhere to strict social norms. The exhibition presents works by more than 50 female artists who broke the boundaries of their time. They created careers for themselves at a time when

women did not have the right to vote and were expected to choose between family and career.

The exhibition features works by Fanny Churberg, Alexandra Frosterus-Sältin and Helene Schjerfbeck, among others. In addition, drawings by Finland's first female scientific illustrator, Hilda Olson, will be on display.

"Breaking the Boundaries" is a continuation of the Ateneum's work as a pioneer in research on women artists. The exhibition highlights Germany's importance as a country of art and provides a new perspective on the art history of the 19th century. The exhibition is open until 24.8.2025.

18.2.2025 Ateneum, Press release

PHOTO: Maria Martinau: The Girl (undated). Finnish National Gallery / Ateneum Art Museum. Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Hannu Aaltonen.

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

The Swedish People's Party in Ostrobothnia appoints its last candidates in the county elections

28.2.2025 Swedish People's Party (SFP) | Press Release

The Swedish People's Party constituency in Ostrobothnia will nominate its last candidates in the regional elections in Ostrobothnia and Central Ostrobothnia on 28 February. The Swedish People's Party presents a complete list of Ostrobothnia's candidates, i.e. 73 candidates.

"It is both reassuring and very positive that so many people have shown interest in contributing to our welfare, which shows that the will to take responsibility for the common good is strong. I am proud and grateful that we can present such excellent alternatives to the voters of both Ostrobothnia and Central Ostrobothnia. Now it is the voters' turn to find their own candidate," says Samuel Broman, district chairman.

Candidates in the Swedish People's Party's welfare by-elections

Walter Söder, Vaasa
Bruno Köhler, Vaasa
Jan-Erik Möuts, Vaasa
Tomas Bäck, Korsholm
Patrik Björkman, Korsholm
Camilla Roslund-Nordling, Pedersöre
Amra Basic, Närpes
Tommy Holm, Malex
Mikael Perjus, Kristinestad
Ida Wikman, Kaskinen
Jens Antus, Vörå
Monica Asplund, Korsholm
Ann-Britt Backkull, Vörå
Eva-Stina Berg, Malax
Ove Bergman, Vörå
Jan Bonn, Vaasa
Johanna Borg, Närpes
Rainer Bystedt, Vörå
Mira Bäck, Vaasa
Christina Bodbacka, Kruunupyy
Hanna Bonn, Malex
Roger Eriksson, Luoto
Lisbeth Fagerström, Vaasa
Jan-Anders Fagerhed, Larsmo
Greger Forsblom, Pedersöre
Marja Forsén, Närpes
Åsa-Britt Forth-Snellman, Korsholm
Steven Frostdahl, Nykarleby
Ulla Grönvall-Streng, Jakobstad
Mikael Gädda, Korsholm
Annica Haldin, Jakobstad
Simon Hellbom, Vaasa
Faruk Hodzic, Korsnäs
Johanna Holmäng, Pedersöre
Jenni Ingo, Korsholm
Mikaela Jansson, Pedersöre
Sven Jerkku, Närpes

Gunilla Jusslin, Vörå
Cannon Captain, Luoto
Kaj Kärr, Kristinestad
Anton Lind, Vaasa
Hans-Erik Lindgren, Kruunupyy
Eva Lindqvist, Pedersöre
Yngve Lithén, Korsholm
Jan-Anders Lundenius, Kaskinen
Ramieza Mahdi, Vaasa
Marita Mattfolk, Vörå
Minna Nygård, Korsholm
Steve Nyholm, Nykarleby
Kenneth Nylund, Nykarleby
Kaj Nyman, Jakobstad
Maria Palm, Nykarleby
Pauliina Peltorinne-Cederström, Nykarleby
Jessica Påvall, Luoto
Camilla Ribacka, Korsnäs
Joacim Sandbacka, Kruunupyy
Anne Salovaara-Kero, Vaasa
Kristian Schrey, Vasa
Johanna Smeds, Korsholm
Ann-Sofie Smeds-Nylund, Närpes
Sari Somppi, Vaasa
Åsa Stenbacka, Korsholm
Maria Storgård, Vaasa
Carina Storhannus, Kristinestad
Eva-Maria Strömsholm, Vaasa
Rolf Sund, Korsholm
Marcus Suojoki, Pietarsaari
Maria Tokou, Kruunupyy
Mia West, Malex
Ingrid Wester, Jakobstad
Kim Yli-Pelkola, Pietarsaari
Anton Åkerman, Närpes
Erica Åminne, Kruunupyy

ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Alexander Lauréus
4.1.1783, Turku
20.10.1823, Rooma, Italia
Man Drinking Wine, 1822

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 Käldström

<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

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

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.

NEWS

MOON

The First Cellular Phone System on the Moon, by Finnish Nokia: A Giant Leap for Lunar Communication



The lunar landscape is about to witness a technological milestone, a moment that will forever alter how we perceive communication beyond Earth. As Intuitive Machines' IM-2 mission, carrying a suite of NASA experiments, prepares for its March 6th landing in Mons Mouton, it also carries a pioneering piece of Finnish innovation: Nokia's Lunar Surface Communications System (LSCS), the first cellular phone system designed for the Moon.

This isn't just a symbolic gesture; it's a critical step towards establishing a sustainable human presence on the Moon and beyond. Funded through NASA's Tipping Point initiative, Nokia's LSCS is a 4G/LTE communication system, a testament to the company's long-standing expertise in mobile technology. It's designed to facilitate seamless communication between the Intuitive Machines lander, a Lunar Outpost rover, and the Micro Nova hopper, demonstrating the feasibility of cellular connectivity in the harsh lunar environment.

Imagine a future where ast-

ronauts on the Moon can effortlessly transmit high-definition video, send and receive command-and-control messages, and share vital sensor and telemetry data, all through a reliable cellular network. This is the promise of Nokia's LSCS. It's not just about making phone calls; it's about building the foundation for a robust communication infrastructure that will support future lunar missions, scientific research, and even potential lunar settlements.

The challenges of establishing a cellular network on the Moon are immense. The lunar environment is characterized by extreme temperature variations, radiation, and the absence of an atmosphere. Nokia's LSCS has been engineered to withstand these challenges, showcasing the company's commitment to developing rugged and reliable technology for space exploration. The system's ultra-compact design is also crucial, minimizing the payload weight and maximizing efficiency for lunar missions.

This initiative is a significant leap for Finland, solidifying its position as a leader in space

technology. Nokia's involvement in the Artemis campaign is a testament to the country's growing expertise in this field. It's a source of national pride and a demonstration of Finnish ingenuity on the global stage.

This is more than just a technological demonstration; it's a visionary step towards the future of space exploration. The ability to establish reliable communication networks on the Moon is crucial for enabling long-term human presence and scientific research. It's like laying the groundwork for a lunar city, ensuring that astronauts can stay connected and share data in real-time.

The fact that a Finnish company is leading this effort is particularly noteworthy. Nokia's long history of innovation in mobile technology is now being applied to the challenges of space exploration. This project highlights the importance of public-private partnerships in driving technological advancements.

However, this is just the beginning. The next step will be to evolve this 4G/LTE sys-

tem into a more robust and scalable network, potentially incorporating 5G or even future generations of cellular technology. The ultimate goal is to create a seamless communication infrastructure that can support a wide range of lunar activities.

This project also raises important questions about the future of space exploration. As we venture further into the cosmos, we need to consider the ethical and environmental implications of our actions. It's crucial that we develop sustainable technologies and practices that minimize our impact on the lunar environment.

Ultimately, Nokia's LSCS is a symbol of human ambition and our relentless pursuit of knowledge. It's a reminder that even the most ambitious dreams can become a reality with innovation, collaboration, and a spirit of exploration. The Moon is calling, and Nokia is helping us answer.

HEALTH

When food doesn't go down: Achalasia

Achalasia is a rare disease of the oesophagus that makes eating painful and difficult. It's like a gate that doesn't open: the sphincter in the lower part of the oesophagus doesn't relax properly, preventing food from reaching the stomach. This can lead to a wide range of symptoms and have a significant impact on quality of life. There are different treatments, and although treatment cannot cure the disease, the symptoms can usually be calmed down.



Thomas Willis (1671-1675)

This is not a new disease. The English physician Thomas Willis (1621-75) wrote an account of this disease in 1674 and he treated the disease by dilating the esophagus with a whale bone.

Rare, but not unknown

Achalasia is a relatively rare disease, but it is not unknown. Among 150,000 thousand people (i.e. in the wellbeing services county of Ostrobothnia, for example), an average of one person falls ill with this disease every year. It occurs in people of all ages, but most commonly it breaks out between the ages of 30 and 60. The cause of the disease is not fully understood, but researchers suspect that it is an autoimmune disease in which the body's own

immune system attacks nerve cells in the oesophagus. A viral infection can potentially act as a trigger.

The nerve fibers that cause the upper gastric port to open no longer work, so the gastric port remains closed. Genetic factors can also play a role.

If a person has been in South America, it should be taken into account that they may have Chagas disease, a parasitic disease that causes the same symptoms as achalasia.

Symptoms vary

The symptoms of achalasia can vary from person to person. When a patient visits a doctor in the early stages of the disease, it is often assumed that it is acid reflux disease and medication is given for it.

The most common symptoms include:

Difficulty swallowing: Food, especially solid food, doesn't seem to go down, and it feels like food is "stuck" in the oesophagus. Hiccups may occur.

Chest pain: Esophageal cramps can cause pain behind the sternum.

Regurgitation: Food or liquid may rise back into the mouth, even hours after eating.

Weight loss: Eating can be so difficult that it leads to weight loss.

Cough and lung infection: Getting food back up can cause coughing and even lung infections if food gets into the respiratory tract.

When food does not freely enter the stomach, it accumulates in the oesophagus, which gradually expands.

Diagnosis requires examinations

Diagnosing achalasia can be challenging, as the symptoms can be similar to those of other diseases of the oesophagus. To reach a diagnosis, a number of examinations are usually required, such as:

Oesophageal endoscopy (gastroscopy): The oesophagus is scanned through a flexible



Enlarged esophagus on X-ray

tube, which allows changes in the mucous membrane to be seen and biopsies to be taken, if necessary.

Manometry is the most important examination. It measures the function and pressure of the muscles of the oesophagus. In achalasia, manometry reveals typical changes, such as inrelaxation of the sphincter and the absence of esophageal contractile movements. Nowadays, the examination is usually done as precision manometry, where the catheter has sensors at centimeter intervals,

X-ray: An X-ray of the esophagus can help detect dilation of the esophagus and slowing the passage of food.

There are several treatments

There is no cure for achalasia, but the symptoms can be alleviated and the quality of life can be improved with various treatments. Treatment methods include:

Medication: Medications can help relax the esophageal sphincter. Medication, such as nitro

and calcium blockers, relieves symptoms and is used while waiting for treatment or in situations where other treatment is not possible for some reason.

Botulinum injections are also used for this purpose, the problem with them is the short duration of the effect, after six months of the injections, only one in two is asymptomatic.

Pneumatic dilation: The esophageal sphincter is dilated with the help of a balloon. Usually, 2-3 extensions are needed to get a good result.

Surgery: In surgery, the oesophageal sphincter is weakened to allow food to pass through better.

POEM procedure: A newer, endoscopic assisted procedure in which the oesophageal sphincter is weakened. Surgical robots are now used in surgery, which have improved surgical results and reduced complications.

Percutaneous endoscopic myotomy (POEM) is a new treatment method in which the procedure is performed through a gastroscop,

The prognosis is usually good

The prognosis for achalasia is usually good, as long as the disease is diagnosed and treated in time. With the help of treatments, the symptoms can usually be well controlled and patients can live a normal life, and the disease usually does not affect life expectancy when treated. However, it is important to remember that achalasia is a chronic condition that requires regular monitoring and sometimes repeated treatments.

VAASA UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

University of Vaasa Turning Buildings into Flexible Energy Sources

The 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

YOUR HEALTH

Coffee Protects Against Alzheimer's – But Without Sugar!

For years, coffee has been touted as more than just a morning pick-me-up. Studies have hinted at its potential to protect against neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Now, a large, long-term study has provided compelling evidence, confirming the link and, crucially, revealing a vital caveat: the protective effect only applies to unsweetened and caffeinated coffee.

The research, published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, followed over 200,000 participants in the UK Biobank for a median of nine years. Researchers meticulously tracked their coffee consumption, categorizing it by type: sugar-sweetened, artificially sweetened, unsweetened, caffeinated, and decaffeinated. They then analyzed the incidence of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD), Parkinson's disease (PD), and mortality related to these conditions.

The results were striking. Individuals who consumed the highest amount of unsweetened, caffeinated coffee (at least three cups a day) showed a significantly reduced risk of both ADRD and PD compared to those who didn't drink coffee. Specifically, they had a 25% lower risk of ADRD and a 29% lower risk of PD. This protective effect extended even to reducing the risk of death from neurodegenerative causes, although this

finding was not statistically significant.

However, the study also revealed a crucial detail: this protective effect vanished when sugar, either natural or artificial, was added to the coffee. Neither sugar-sweetened nor artificially sweetened coffee showed any significant association with a reduced risk of neurodegenerative diseases. Similarly, decaffeinated coffee offered no protective benefits.

This distinction is key. While previous studies have suggested a link between coffee and reduced dementia risk, they often failed to differentiate between various coffee types. This new research clarifies the picture, emphasizing that the benefits are specifically tied to the combination of caffeine and the absence of sweeteners.

Why does this matter?

Alzheimer's and Parkinson's are devastating neurodegenerative diseases affecting millions worldwide. Finding ways to reduce the risk of these conditions is a major public health priority. This study offers a simple, accessible lifestyle modification that could potentially make a significant difference.

What's the science behind it?

While the exact mechanisms are still being investigated, several theories exist. Caffeine, a known stimulant, has been shown to have neuroprotective properties. It can block adenosine receptors in the brain, which are involved in slowing down nerve activity and promoting sleep. By blocking these receptors, caffeine may help to protect brain cells from damage.

Furthermore, coffee beans contain a variety of other compounds, including antioxidants, which can help to protect cells from damage caused by free



radicals. These antioxidants may also play a role in the neuroprotective effects of coffee. However, the addition of sugar might counteract these beneficial effects through various mechanisms, such as promoting inflammation or impacting insulin sensitivity. Further research is needed to fully understand the complex interplay between coffee, caffeine, sugar, and the brain.

What should you do?

If you enjoy coffee and are concerned about your risk of neurodegenerative diseases, this study suggests that switching to unsweetened, caffeinated coffee could be a beneficial choice. Aiming for at least three cups

a day appears to offer the most significant protection. However, it's essential to consult with your doctor before making any significant changes to your diet, especially if you have underlying health conditions.

This new research provides strong evidence that unsweetened, caffeinated coffee can play a role in protecting against Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. While more research is needed to fully understand the mechanisms involved, this study offers a valuable insight into the potential benefits of this popular beverage – as long as you skip the sugar.

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

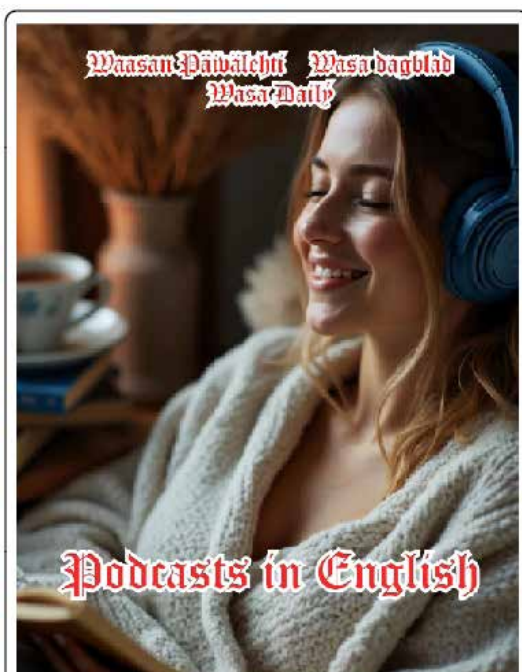
The Estonia tragedy

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.

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)



**Podcast in English:
Russian disinformation**
<https://vpress.ovh/podcasts.htm>

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 Osthrobotnia region

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

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

The magazine is available online for free.

Editor-in-chief Hans Björknäs.

Readers' writings are welcome!

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

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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 not 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!



HUMOUR ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

FROM A SMALL CHILDREN'S SCHOOL IN VYBORG

The children had been given the task of drawing figures that would illustrate what the children intended to be when they grew up. Thus one boy had designed a sailing ship, so he wanted to be a sailor, another an automobile, he was to be a driver, etc.

Little Elsa had not drawn at all. When the teacher asked why she had not made any drawings, the girl replied "I'm going to get married, but I don't know how it's drawn."

IN PRISON

Prison Director: What, you're here again! I thought your last visit here would have improved you? Prisoner: It did, sir, but I want to be even better.

THEFT ON THE WAY

Movie actress: I beg you to write in your newspaper about the theft of my jewels! Reporter: When did it take place? Film actor: Next Monday.

EXPENSIVE DRESS

Wife: I want a new dress. Doctor-man: Oh yes, then I have to look through my patient list, maybe someone still has their appendix.

TO COUNT CORRECTLY. AND WRONG.

Teacher: Why do you always add wrong? Student: I don't know. Teacher: Is someone helping you? Student: Yes, my dad. Teacher: What is he then? Student: Waiter.

TRYING TO LOSE WEIGHT

"I told you that you would say no the second time you were offered cake.

"I did, but they invited me three times and then I didn't know what to do.

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.

The astronomic picture of the week:



Nasa blue marble.jpg

A composite image of the Western hemisphere of the Earth.

NASA/ GSFC/ NOAA/ USGS

Public domain

Nasa blue marble.jpg | Copy

[[File:Nasa blue marble.jpg|Nasa_blue_marble]] | Copy

2000

3,000 x 3,075

image/jpeg

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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Being among the first to advertise in this historic and hyper-modern daily may have some PR value.

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