

WASA DAILY

Nr 15 Sunday, April 13, 2025

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Malax wins award

Please remember to vote today!

Vaasa Secures €4.3 Million

Onkilahti Traffic Park opens on May 2

Finland Streamlines Reception System

Laughing gas epidemic

WASA DAILY



HERE WE ARE:

vpress.ovh

24 pages

TODAY

Trump's Actions as Newly Elected President Spark Catastrophe in Africa

It started with a stroke of a pen. A signature. An order. No more money. No more aid. The U.S. turned off the tap.

And then, like a cascade of falling dominoes, the collapse began.

Hospitals in Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique—places you've never thought about, places Trump probably couldn't find on a map—are now shutting their doors. HIV medications that kept hundreds of thousands alive are running out. The virus mutates. Grows stronger. Resistant. And viruses don't respect borders. They don't care about passports, politics, or MAGA hats. They travel. They kill. Not just here. Everywhere.

And it's not just HIV. Ebola waits in the jungle. Monkeypox lurks in the treetops. Diseases that could be contained with a fraction of the U.S. military budget now have free rein. To save money? To make America rich again?

But wait, it gets worse. The steep tariffs. Trade wars. African nations that depend on exports to the U.S. are watching their



economies shatter like glass under a boot. Farmers, factory workers, small business owners—all getting poorer. Famine follows. And famine is a slow, cruel killer. It takes the children first.

This isn't an accident. It's a choice.

Nobody can demand that the U.S. fund Africa forever. But cutting off aid overnight? Leaving millions without a safety net? That's not policy. That's sadism. It's like yanking the ventilator mid-surgery and saying "good luck."

And the world is watching. Europe. China. Russia. All staring, but nobody catches

the falling. Because it's just Africa, right? Just a few million anonymous Black bodies.

Trump's probably smiling right now. He kept a promise. Saved taxpayer money. His voters cheer.

But the virus mutates. The famine grows. And death is patient. It'll come knocking on many doors eventually.

What's a few million dead in Africa, as long as the president makes America rich again?

Image: NASA

Photo Supplement



Naiset suomalaisessa taitteessa
1800-luvulla
Kvinnor i finländsk konst på
1800-talet
Woman in Finnish art in the
19th century

Cover: Election coming

Photo Supplement - bpress.ovh

VAASA

Vaasa Secures €4.3 Million for Sustainable Urban Innovation – Leading Europe’s Green Transition



IN A MAJOR WIN for Finland’s energy capital, Vaasa has been awarded €4.3 million in EU funding to accelerate its sustainable urban development. The grant comes from the European Urban Initiative (EUI), a competitive program supporting groundbreaking solutions for Europe’s green future. Out of 110 applications, only 20 projects were selected—and Vaasa’s Nordic Energy Capital initiative stood out as a visionary blueprint for carbon-neutral cities.

Why This Matters: A Leap Toward Systemic Change

The €5.4 million project (80% funded by the EU) will develop integrated energy solutions, combining electricity and heating into a smart, efficient system. By creating a digital twin of Vaasa’s energy grid, the city will simulate and optimize industrial

heat pumps, excess heat recovery, and district heating—paving the way for Europe’s first fully circular energy district.

“This funding proves that our EnergyVaasa ecosystem is a frontrunner in clean transition,” says Suvi Aho, Vaasa’s Strategy Director and project leader. “We’re not just building tech—we’re reshaping how cities think about energy.”

The Key Innovations

Digital Twin of Vaasa’s Energy System

Simulates high-temperature heat pumps and industrial waste heat reuse.

Tests how to integrate renewable energy sources seamlessly.

Helps industries and households

cut costs and emissions.

Citizen-Powered Energy App

Residents will access real-time satellite and energy data to track efficiency.

An interactive tool will visualize heat loss in buildings and networks.

Encourages behavioral shifts toward smarter energy use.

Nordic Collaboration
Partners include University of Vaasa, Vaasan Sähkö, EPV Energy, Merinova, and 4H Finland, blending academia, industry, and grassroots engagement.

Beyond Money: Vaasa’s Rising Global Profile

The EU grant isn’t just about funds—it’s recognition. “This

boosts Finland’s reputation as a leader in sustainable urban innovation,” notes Mervi Hemminki from the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Vaasa’s model could scale across Europe, offering a template for cities aiming for carbon neutrality by 2030.

What’s Next?

2025–2026: Digital twin development and pilot testing.

2027: Rollout of public energy app.

2030: Full implementation, with potential EU-wide adoption.

“Our local energy expertise and Finland’s space-tech advancements put us in a unique position,” says Aho. “We’re not just dreaming of a greener future—we’re building it.

Read more: [Vaasa.fi](https://vaasa.fi)

NEWS

YOU CAN READ THIS NEWSPAPER ANYWHERE



You can read this paper wherever You are. Like here in Korsnäs

ELECTION DAY

Voting on Election Day – Here's What You Need to Know



ON ELECTION DAY, polling stations open at 9:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM. However, an important rule to remember: voting cannot end until all voters who arrived before closing time have cast their ballots.

Each voter must vote at their assigned polling station. This information is sent to all eligible voters by mail on their voter notification card or is available through the Suomi.fi service.

Remember to bring valid photo ID and your voter notification card when going to vote.

Source: Finnish Election Commission

AI

The Bright and Dark Sides of AI – Free Public Lecture in Vaasa

THE ADULT EDUCATION CENTER Alma invites you to an engaging free lecture in Finnish titled "The Good – The Bad AI" on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. This event will explore artificial intelligence's multifaceted impact on society, examining its opportunities, risks, and ethical challenges.

Three Experts, Diverse Perspectives

The lecture features insights from three leading specialists:

Johannes Sumuvuori (CEO of Lingo & AI Expert)
"AI as a Partner – The Dance of Knowledge and Creativity"
Sumuvuori will discuss generative AI behavior and its integration into education.

Elise Raittila (Muova Design Center)



"AI Ethics – The Dark Side of Algorithms"

Raittila examines how AI can reinforce inequality and ways to mitigate harm.

Sanna Peltonen (Muova Design Center)
"Ostrobothnian Companies' AI Journey"

Peltonen presents findings from the AI2Business project on regi-

onal AI adoption.

Practical Tools & EU Project Insights

This event is part of Muova's CHARLIE project, which tackles algorithmic bias. Attendees will gain access to learning materials for businesses and individuals.

Event Details:

- Date: April 16, 2025 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
- Location: Adult Education Center Alma, Raastuvankatu 31, 3rd floor (Festive Hall)
- Language: Finnish
- Admission: Free

Ideal for:

- AI enthusiasts
- Business professionals
- Educators & trainers
- Anyone curious about tech's societal impact

"AI is transforming work, learning, and daily life. This lecture provides tools to understand its potential and challenges," say the organizers.

Read more: [Vaasa.fi](https://vaasa.fi)

NEWS

OPERA

Finnish National Opera and Ballet Unveils 2025–2026 Season: A Fusion of Classics and Innovation



THE FINNISH NATIONAL OPERA and Ballet’s 2025–2026 season promises a dynamic mix of contemporary operas, timeless ballet masterpieces, and bold street dance performances.

Opera Highlights: The season kicks off with fresh interpretations of classics, including a 1950s Italy-set *Giselle* and *Hansel and Gretel* in a new Finnish-language production. Spring brings *Morgonstjärnan* –

The *Morning Star*, based on Karl Ove Knausgård’s novel, along with *Festen*, an opera adaptation of Thomas Vinterberg’s cult film. A deeply intimate take on Duke Bluebeard’s *Castle* explores dementia’s emotional toll, while the season concludes with a double bill of *Luonnotar* and *Iolanta*, celebrating both Finnish and Russian operatic heritage.

Ballet and Dance: Romantic and contemporary ballet shine with *Giselle*, the return of *Cinderella*, and the explosive street dance-infused *Pulse*, blending classical and urban styles.

Don Quixote makes a long-awaited comeback, while *The Nutcracker* and the *Mouse King* delights holiday audiences once again.

Concerts and Special Events:

The FNO Orchestra, led by Chief Conductor Hannu Lintu, continues its Musiikkitalo concert series, highlighted by a gala for the Chorus of the FNO’s 80th anniversary.

A new collaboration with the Finnish Baroque Orchestra aims to expand Baroque opera productions in Finland.

Guest Performances and Young Talent: The Almi Hall will feature independent Finnish productions, including Saaristo-ooppera’s *Ihminen parhaan kykynsä mukaan*, a thought-provoking opera by Joel Järventausta.

The Finnish National Ballet’s youth company takes center stage with *Shining Through*, showcasing a mix of classical ballet and street dance.

MALAX

Malax Wins Award for Promoting Exercise and Wellbeing – “Joy of Movement for All Ages”

AT A TIME WHEN SEDENTARY lifestyles and loneliness are growing public health concerns, the municipality of Malax is leading the way. Now, their long-term and innovative work in promoting physical activity has been recognized with the Wellbeing Action Award from the Ostrobothnia Welfare Region—a tribute to initiatives that not only get people moving but also build community and combat isolation.

“We Got It Right”

The award was presented at the How’s Ostrobothnia Doing? seminar, where Malax was praised for its comprehensive approach to health and fitness.

– It feels fantastic to receive this recognition. We have incredibly dedicated staff who spread

the joy of movement to all age groups, says a proud Municipal Director Jenny Malmsten.

Wellbeing Director Ann-Christine Holtti adds:
– When you start something new, it’s always exciting to see the results—and now we know we’ve been on the right track.

Movement for Everyone—From Toddlers to Seniors
Malax has developed a unique model ensuring that all residents, regardless of age or physical ability, have opportunities to stay active. Key initiatives include:

- Tailored Exercise Groups – Specially designed for those who struggle with regular fitness classes.
- Exercise Advisors – Two

for seniors and one for children/youth, offering both individual and group sessions. Around 150 seniors participate weekly.

- Movement Coaches in Preschools – Children develop healthy habits early, with access to cargo bikes for added mobility.
- School PTs and “Active Schools” – Students in need receive support through school health services.
- Annual Fitness Campaign – “Fit for Life” encourages adults to stay active.

“Prevents Loneliness and Strengthens Community”

The award jury, including sector directors Pia-Maria Sjöström, Erkki Penttinen, and Heidi Kotanen, highlighted Malax’s strong collaboration with various stakeholders—including the

welfare region itself.

– Their work doesn’t just increase mobility; it also creates social connections and reduces loneliness, says Sjöström.

An Investment in the Future
Malax has invested in movement projects for ten years, and the long-term benefits are now evident. From sports club funding to specialized staff, health and community are clear priorities.

– This isn’t just an award—it’s confirmation that we’re moving in the right direction, concludes Malmsten.

Want to Learn More?
Visit the municipality of Malax’s website or follow their inspiring work on social media.

NEWS

LIBRARY

Bookworms Unite! Vaasa Libraries See Massive Surge in Borrowing, Kids and Teens Lead the Charge!



Get ready to clear some shelf space! Libraries in Vaasa are experiencing a significant boom in borrowing, with a particularly impressive surge in digital resources and a remarkable enthusiasm for reading among children and young adults.

New data released today reveals that the City of Vaasa Library saw a substantial increase in overall loans throughout 2024. The library system, which includes seven branches across the city and a mobile library, acquired a whopping 20,029 new items last year – a 16 percent jump compared to 2023.

But the real story lies in how these resources are being used. The total number of loans across Vasa’s libraries reached an impressive 1,018,979 in 2024, marking a 14 percent increase year-on-year. Leading this charge is the phenomenal growth in the use of e-resources, including e-books, music, magazines, and image recordings. These digital treasures were borrowed a staggering 61,175 times, an astonishing 112 percent in-

crease from the previous year!

”The strong growth in the use of electronic resources clearly indicates the breakthrough of audiobooks and the keen interest of our customers in using e-book and e-magazine services,” explains Sanna Bondas, Director of Culture and Library Services. ”Vaasa also joined the national e-library last year, which brought a significant change to our digital offerings.”

The number of active borrowers relative to the city’s population has also seen a positive trend. Over a third (35.3%) of Vaasa’s residents utilized library services through borrowing in the past year, an 8.2 percent increase from the year before. On average, each resident borrowed nearly 15 items throughout the year, a 12.6 percent rise compared to 2023.

”I am particularly delighted that the borrowing of children’s and young adults’ materials has increased (+15%). For adults, the growth is also a healthy seven percent. We are also seeing the greatest demand for materials in other languages, with an increase of almost 22 percent,” Bondas continues.

While borrowing figures soar, the number of physical library visits per resident saw a slight dip of 2.5 percent, averaging 6.36 visits per resident. ”Library visits have increased at the main library, but the situation at the branch libraries has varied. The decrease is not large, but it certainly prompts us to consider the accessibility, offerings, and role of libraries throughout the city,” Bondas notes.

Despite this slight shift in physical visits, Vaasa’s libraries remain vibrant community hubs, actively organizing 208 events throughout the year, which attracted a total of 16,293 participants. Furthermore, the library’s ”digital helper” provided invaluable assistance to customers with digital challenges and device usage on 4,054 occasions.

It’s clear that Vasa’s libraries are thriving, offering a wide range of materials in both traditional and digital formats, and fostering a strong culture of reading, especially among its youngest citizens. The digital revolution is here, and Vasa’s library users are embracing it wholeheartedly!
Source: Vaasa.fi

PARLIAMENT

Conversion Therapies to Be Banned in Finland

FINLAND’S PARLIAMENT has voted to ban therapies that attempt to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity. The decision was made on March 28, with 125 MPs voting in favor of the ban and 49 against. The Christian Democrats and Finns Party opposed the proposal.

What Are Conversion Therapies?

Conversion therapies are practices that aim to change a gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex person’s sexual orientation or gender identity to heterosexual or cisgender (where gender identity aligns with sex assigned at birth). Such therapies have been widely criticized as harmful and a violation of human rights.

Why Are They Being Banned?

The citizens’ initiative ”A Person Is Whole – Ban Conversion Therapies” highlighted that these methods can lead to severe mental health issues and discrimination. Parliament found that current laws are not clear enough to prevent such practices, making a specific ban necessary.

What Happens Next?

A legislative committee will begin drafting a law to explicitly ban conversion therapies. The goal is to protect the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals and ensure no one is subjected to these harmful practices.

The decision marks a step toward a more inclusive and respectful approach to all people’s identities and sexual orientations.

NEWS

WÄRTSILÄ

Wärtsilä Powers Finland’s Green Future with Two Major BioLNG Plants, one in Nurmo



Cutting-edge technology turns farm waste into clean fuel for sustainable transport

In a landmark move for Finland’s green energy transition, technology leader Wärtsilä has been selected to deliver bioLNG production systems for two revolutionary biogas projects. These facilities, developed by Suomen Lantakaasu Oy (a joint venture between St1 Biokraft and Valio), will transform agricultural waste into 25 tons per day of clean biofuel each – enough to power hundreds of eco-friendly trucks while slashing dairy’s carbon footprint.

From Farm Waste to Future Fuel

The Nurmo and Kiuruvesi plants (scheduled for 2026) will: □ Convert manure and food waste into renewable bioLNG fuel □ Produce odorless biofertilizer for local farmers (closing the nutrient loop) □ Enable biogas-powered transport across Finland □ Reduce milk production emissions by tackling both agricultural and transport CO₂

“This partnership combines our biogas expertise with Finland’s strongest sustainable agriculture players,” said Magnus

Folkelid, Wärtsilä’s Biogas Sales Manager. “Each plant is a building block for decarbonizing transport and farming.”

Why This Matters

Double impact: Cuts methane emissions from manure while replacing diesel in trucks

Proven tech: Wärtsilä’s systems already operate successfully in Scandinavia

Full solution: Includes 300m³ storage tanks and export stations

Local benefits: Creates circular economy partnerships with Finnish farmers

“These plants kickstart Finland’s national biogas network,” emphasized Leena Helminen, CEO of Suomen Lantakaasu. “Wärtsilä’s experience ensures we’ll produce reliable, large-scale green fuel.”

With construction beginning soon, Finland moves closer to its 2035 carbon neutrality goal – one truckload of clean fuel at a time.

Image caption: *Wärtsilä Gas Solutions will supply and install the bioLNG production solutions for two large-scale biogas projects in Finland. © Wärtsilä Gas Solutions*

VAASA

Vaasa Inner Harbour Ice Swimming Spot Closes After Easter



VAASA’S POPULAR ICE SWIMMING spot at Inner Harbour will close after Easter (week 17), with plans to reopen when the next winter swimming season begins in autumn.

The pedestrian bridge leading to the Hietasaarenkatu ice swimming area will also be removed during week 17, though the exact date has not yet been confirmed.

Preventing Mischief as Summer Approaches

With warmer weather on the way, the city has decided to close the site to avoid potential vandalism.

– In May, the sunnier weather attracts more people to outdoor areas and beaches. Closing the ice swimming spot helps prevent possible damage, explains Jarmo Latvala, Service Manager of Vasa’s Green Areas Team.

Successful Winter Season – Upgrades Coming Next Year

This winter season has gone

smoothly, with no reports of vandalism and plenty of positive feedback from visitors.

For next season, the city has already purchased heated elements for the stairs leading into the icy water, ensuring safer access in freezing temperatures.

– The heating will make winter swimming more comfortable and prevent ice buildup on the steps, says Latvala.

Free & Open to All – Returning in Autumn

The Inner Harbour ice swimming spot, which opened in December 2023, has been a free and popular winter activity. It will remain closed during summer but is expected to reopen when cold weather returns.

For those looking for summer swimming alternatives, the city recommends Vasa’s public beaches.

More info: vaasa.fi

ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Magnus Enckell

1870-1925

Arne Cederholm ja malli - Arne Cederholm med modell - Arne Cederholm with a Model, 1905

Kansallisgalleria - Nationalgalleriet - Finnish National Gallery

EVENTS

TIKANOJA
THE ART EVENT OF THE
YEAR!

The exhibition covering the entire career of the masterful nature and portrait photographer Eero Järnefelt (1863–1937) will be on display until 25.5.2025 at the Tikanoja Art Museum - so there is still plenty of time.

Järnefelt is connected to Vaasa in that his father Alexander served as the governor of the province of Vaasa from 1888 to 1894. Alexander lived on Rantakatu and the family rented Tottesund Manor in Maksamaa for the summers of 1891–1892. Eero Järnefelt's sister Aino married Jean Sibelius there. The exhibition has been curated by Timo Huusko, Chief Curator of the Ateneum, and the exhibition at the Tikanoja Art Museum has been produced by the Ateneum Art Museum / Finnish National Gallery in cooperation with the Vaasa Museums.

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-Sältin.

STUNDARS

17.4.25

Easter walk in the museum village

Stundar Museum Area: a guided Easter walk among the cottages on Thursdays in April, at 1 pm in Swedish, at 2 pm in Finnish, and at 3 pm in English.

www.stundars.fi

STUNDARS

24.4.25 at 6 pm

The farm we inherited

Lecture: Buildings and history of the Ostrobothnian Manor

Ruusa Viljanen Rossi (architect/building antiquarian) Ruusa Viljanen Rossi gives a lecture on the Ostrobothnian building culture and its origins. Why do our farms look the way they do? How have they developed and what buildings were traditionally on a farm?

Fee 10 € (incl. coffee service) Registration by 22.4 on <https://forms.office.com/e/fTkTc8zQ0G> or to tel. 044 7635277

www.stundars.fi

Vaasa-Vasa Baroque

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

Handel and Roman in London – Handel möter Roman i London

Kajsa Dahlbäck, soprano / sopranDrottningholms barockensemble (SWE)

<https://vaasabaroque.com/>

STUNDARS

1.5.25 at 12 pm

May Day at Stundars

Stundars celebrates the arrival of spring with a May Day celebration on Thursday at 12–15.

Music program outside restaurant Hemmer, with singing and orchestras of different styles.

12:30 Solf Wind Orchestra

Kl. 13:15 Wasa Gospel

14:00 Johanna Lönngren and Tryout folk music

www.stundars.fi

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

AMOX REX Helsinki

12.6.25

FREE admission throughout the Helsinki

Day

www.amorex.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.

This event gathers knowledgeable and motivated individuals from the business world, universities, regional decision-making bodies, and ministerial corps to focus on solving issues in Vaasa and across Finland. The event can be followed on Wasa Future Festival YouTube channel.

ONKILAHTI TRAFFIC PARK

Miniature Vasa Opens Its Gates – Popular Onkilahti Traffic Park Ready for a New Season!

Get ready for fast-paced adventures and playful learning! The much-loved children's traffic park in Onkilahti is reopening its doors on the second of May, inviting everyone to a summer full of traffic fun.

Following last year's success, where the adjacent pump track already attracted a multitude of visitors, it's now time for this unique traffic park to once again welcome children and their families. From the second of May until the end of September, young road users aged 6 to 12 can zoom around the 640-meter track on go-karts or bicycles. For the youngest ones, aged 4 to 6, there's the opportunity to ride pedal cars with a supportive parent walking alongside.

But it's not just the speed that attracts. Along the track awaits a fascinating journey of discovery through a miniature Vasa. No fewer than twelve carefully recreated models of the city's iconic buildings, such as the City Hall, the Water Tower, and the Railway Station, line the route. You'll also find the market square, roundabouts, traffic lights, and level crossings – all designed to create the most authentic city experience possible on a child-friendly scale.

“The Onkilahti traffic park is like Vasa in miniature and offers both children and adults a wonderful environment to learn about traffic and have fun,” noted Service Manager Jarmo Latvala at last year's opening, and the park truly lives up to that promise.

On weekdays, the park is open to the public between 12 PM and 6 PM, and on weekends between 12 PM and 4 PM. Mornings are reserved for booked groups from schools and kindergartens, where professional staff from the City of Vasa's youth services guide the children through traffic rules and safety.

Each driving session begins with a short safety briefing, and there are departures every 30 minutes. With 36 go-karts and bicycles, and even a miniature model of the Lifti bus, there are plenty of vehicles for everyone.

And don't miss the adjacent 1000 square meter pump track, which invites you to exciting rides with skateboards, scooters, or BMX bikes!

Don't miss the chance to experience Vasa in a completely new and playful way! Welcome to the Onkilahti traffic park on the second of May!





CLIMATE CHANGE

Copernicus: March 2025 Was the Warmest March Ever Recorded in Europe – A Climate Emergency Unfolding



A PLANET ON FIRE. Europe's Hottest March in History

The latest data from the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) confirms what many feared: March 2025 was the warmest March ever recorded in Europe, shattering previous records and deepening concerns over an accelerating climate crisis.

Globally, March 2025 was the second-warmest March on record, with an average surface air temperature of 14.06°C—0.65°C above the 1991-2020 average and a staggering 1.60°C above pre-industrial levels. While it was 0.08°C cooler than March 2024's record, it still surpassed the third-warmest March (2016) by a narrow margin.

But the most alarming revelation? This marks the 20th month out of the last 21 where global temperatures exceeded 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels—a critical threshold scientists warn could trigger irreversible climate tipping points.

Europe in the Hot Seat: A Continent Burning Up

For Europe, March 2025 was unprecedented. The average temperature over European land reached 6.03°C, a shocking 2.41°C above the 1991-2020 average. The worst-hit regions included eastern Europe

and southwest Russia, where temperatures soared far beyond seasonal norms.

Samantha Burgess, Strategic Lead for Climate at ECMWF, stated:

"March 2025 was the warmest March for Europe, highlighting once again how temperatures are continuing to break records. It was also a month of contrasting rainfall extremes—some regions experienced their driest March on record, while others saw their wettest in at least 47 years."

This climate whiplash—swinging between extreme drought and flooding—is becoming the new normal, destabilizing agriculture, ecosystems, and human settlements.

The Arctic Crisis: Sea Ice Hits a Devastating Low

While Europe baked, the Arctic suffered another devastating blow. Winter sea ice coverage hit a record low, continuing a decades-long decline. The loss of reflective ice accelerates global warming, as dark ocean water absorbs more heat—a dangerous feedback loop.

Scientists warn that without urgent action, Arctic summers could be ice-free within decades, with catastrophic consequences for global weather patterns, sea levels, and

biodiversity.

Why This Matters: We Are Living in a Climate Emergency
1.5°C Is Not a Target—It's a Limit We've Already Crossed

The Paris Agreement aimed to keep warming below 1.5°C, but we are already flirting with disaster.

20 of the last 21 months exceeded this threshold, meaning we are living in uncharted territory.

Extreme Weather Is the New Normal

Droughts, floods, wildfires, and heatwaves are no longer anomalies—they are the baseline.

Europe's wildfire season is starting earlier and lasting longer, while Mediterranean nations face crippling water shortages.

The Arctic's Collapse Will Affect Everyone

Melting ice disrupts the jet stream, leading to prolonged heatwaves and brutal cold snaps.

Rising sea levels threaten coastal cities worldwide, from Miami to Mumbai.

A Call to Action: What Must Be Done?

The Copernicus report is not just another climate warning—it is a screaming alarm bell.

□ End Fossil Fuel Subsidies – Governments still pour billions into oil and gas while renewable energy waits for funding.

□ Accelerate Renewable Energy Transition – Solar and wind must replace coal and gas within years, not decades.

□ Enforce Stricter Climate Policies – Carbon taxes, deforestation bans, and binding emissions cuts are non-negotiable.

□ Prepare for the Unavoidable – Even if emissions stop today, locked-in warming guarantees more extremes. Cities must adapt now.

The Next Decade Will Decide Our Future

We are not just breaking records—we are breaking our planet. If March 2025 is a sign of what's to come, the 2020s will be the decade that determines whether we avoid climate catastrophe or plunge into irreversible chaos.

The time for half-measures is over. The time for action is now.

MIGRI

Finland Streamlines Reception System as Asylum Numbers Decline. Oravais will close in December

THE FINNISH IMMIGRATION SERVICE (Migri) has announced the closure of multiple reception centres, including the Oravais facility in December, as the need for asylum accommodation continues to decrease.

Fewer Arrivals, More Local Integration

The decision follows a significant drop in asylum applications—down 45% in 2024 compared to the previous year. Additionally, the number of displaced Ukrainians seeking temporary protection has steadily declined. At the same time, an increasing number of reception centre residents have successfully transitioned to permanent municipal housing, reducing the demand for centralized accommodation.

Cost Efficiency Without Compromising Welfare

To maintain a financially sustainable reception system, Migri will terminate contracts with 18 reception centres by July, saving an estimated €21 million in 2025. A further eight centres will close by February 2026.

Elina Nurmi, Director of Reception Services, emphasized that the closures have been carefully timed:

“The first centres will not shut before the end of June, ensuring school-aged children can complete their academic year without disruption. Our priority remains the well-being of vulnerable groups, particularly minors.”

Pathway to Independence

Over 2,200 current residents are now eligible to apply for municipal residency, granting them the freedom to settle anywhere

in Finland. Nearly half could relocate immediately if they choose. Those not yet ready for independent living will be transferred to other reception centres, with Migri providing tailored support throughout the transition.

“We’re committed to a smooth process,” Nurmi added. “Each case will be assessed individually, and clients retain the option to move into private housing if preferred.”

A Shift in Finland’s Migration Landscape

This move reflects broader trends in migration—fewer new arrivals and greater emphasis on long-term integration. While the closures signify a reduction in immediate capacity, they also highlight the success of Finland’s resettlement policies in helping asylum seekers establish stable lives.

What’s next?

With further adjustments possible in 2026, Finland’s reception system appears poised for a more targeted, cost-effective future—one that balances fiscal responsibility with humanitarian commitments.

This rationalization was inevitable given the sharp decline in asylum seekers. However, the real test will be ensuring that those still in the system—particularly families and unaccompanied minors—receive adequate support as they transition to independence.

The €21 million savings are a win for taxpayers, but the human aspect of integration must remain a priority.

MIGRI

Фінляндія оптимізує систему прийому, оскільки кількість біженців зменшується. Oravais

ІМІГРАЦІЙНА СЛУЖБА ФІНЛЯНДІЇ (Migri) оголосила про закриття кількох центрів прийому, включаючи заклад Oravais, у грудні, оскільки потреба в притулках продовжує зменшуватися.

Менше прибуттів, більше локальної інтеграції

Це рішення послідувало за значним падінням кількості заявок на надання притулку — на 45% у 2024 році порівняно з попереднім роком. Крім того, кількість переміщених українців, які шукають тимчасового захисту, неухильно зменшується. У той же час, все більша кількість мешканців приймальних центрів успішно перейшли на постійне муніципальне житло, що зменшило попит на централізоване житло.

Економічна ефективність без шкоди для добробуту

Щоб підтримувати фінансово стійку систему прийому, Migri розірве контракти з 18 центрами прийому до липня, заощадивши приблизно 21 мільйон євро у 2025 році. Ще вісім центрів будуть закриті до лютого 2026 року.

Еліна Нурмі, директор служби прийому біженців, наголосила, що закриття було ретельно розплановано:

«Перші центри не закриються до кінця червня, щоб діти шкільного віку могли завершити навчальний рік без збоїв. Нашим пріоритетом залишається благополуччя вразливих груп населення, особливо неповнолітніх».

Шлях до незалежності

Понад 2200 нинішніх жителів тепер мають право подати заявку на муніципальне проживання, що надає їм свободу проживання в будь-якому місці Фінляндії. Майже половина може переїхати негайно, якщо захоче. Ті, хто ще не готовий до самостійного життя, будуть переведені в

інші центри прийому, а Migri надаватиме індивідуальну підтримку протягом усього переходу.

“Ми прагнемо до безперервного процесу», — додав Нурмі. “Кожен випадок буде оцінюватися індивідуально, і клієнти зберігають можливість переїхати в приватне житло, якщо це бажано».

Зміни в міграційному ландшафті Фінляндії

Цей крок відображає ширші тенденції в міграції — менша кількість новоприбулих і більший акцент на довгостроковій інтеграції. Хоча закриття означає скорочення негайної пропускної здатності, воно також підкреслює успіх політики переселення Фінляндії у допомозі шукачам притулку налагодити стабільне життя.

Що далі?

З можливими подальшими коригуваннями у 2026 році система прийому у Фінляндії, схоже, готова до більш цілеспрямованого та економічно ефективного майбутнього — такого, яке збалансує фіскальну відповідальність із гуманітарними зобов’язаннями.

Така раціоналізація була неминучою з огляду на різке зменшення кількості шукачів притулку. Однак справжнім випробуванням буде забезпечення того, щоб ті, хто все ще перебуває в системі, особливо сім’ї та неповнолітні без супроводу, отримували належну підтримку на шляху до незалежності.

Економія у розмірі 21 мільйона євро — це вигреш для платників податків, але людський аспект інтеграції має залишатися пріоритетом.

PARTY DRUGS

Laughing gas epidemic: the hidden danger destroying young lives



"Living Made Easy": An 1830s satirical print depicting Humphry Davy giving a dose of nitrous oxide to a woman. Wikimedia Commons.

A SILENT BUT DEADLY TREND is sweeping through parties, festivals, and even schoolyards across the nation. Nitrous oxide, commonly known as "laughing gas," is being abused at record rates—and medical experts warn it could leave a generation with permanent nerve damage, paralysis, or even death.

The problem is already big in Sweden, and we usually follow in Sweden's footsteps here in Finland.

What Is Laughing Gas?

Nitrous oxide (N₂O) is a colorless, sweet-tasting gas that has legitimate medical uses as an anesthetic in dentistry and surgery. When used properly under medical supervision, it helps relieve pain and anxiety. However, outside the clinic, it has become a popular—and dangerously misunderstood—recreational drug.

From Medical Tool to Party Drug

Legally, nitrous oxide is classified as a pharmaceutical and should only be administered by trained professionals. Yet, it's alarmingly easy to obtain. The gas is sold in small metal canisters (often called "whippits") meant for whipping cream

in professional kitchens. These canisters are now being openly sold online and in shops, with little regulation.

The Shocking Rise in Abuse

According to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), nitrous oxide has become one of the most commonly used recreational drugs among young adults in Europe, with use doubling in some countries since 2020. In the UK alone, hospital admissions linked to laughing gas have surged by 300% in the last five years (NHS Data, 2024).

The High—And the Horrific Crash When inhaled, laughing gas induces a brief but intense euphoria, dizziness, and uncontrollable laughter—hence its nickname. The effects last only 20-30 seconds, leading users to binge multiple canisters in one session. But what comes next is far from funny.

The Dark Side: Nerve Damage, Paralysis, and Death

While many dismiss it as "harmless fun," doctors are seeing an alarming spike in severe neurological damage caused by nitrous oxide abuse.

The gas destroys vitamin B12, a critical nutrient for nerve function. Without it, the nervous system begins to fail.

Symptoms of long-term abuse include:

- ☐☐ Tingling and numbness in hands and feet (early warning signs)
- ☐☐ Loss of bladder and bowel control (due to nerve damage)
- ☐☐ Paralysis in legs (from spinal cord deterioration)
- ☐☐ Psychosis and memory loss (in extreme cases)

A 19-year-old in the Netherlands was left wheelchair-bound after months of heavy use, his spinal nerves irreversibly damaged (Dutch Journal of Medicine, 2023). Another case in the UK saw a young woman permanently unable to walk after just six months of weekend use (BBC News, 2024).

A Warning to Young People: "It's Russian Roulette With Your Nerves"

Dr. Lisa Carter, a neurologist at King's College Hospital, has treated dozens of laughing gas victims. She warns:

"Young people think it's safe

because it's used in medicine. But medical doses are controlled. Recreational use is like playing Russian roulette with your nervous system. Once the damage is done, it's often permanent."

The Lethal Risk: Oxygen Deprivation

Beyond nerve damage, laughing gas can starve the brain of oxygen, leading to sudden death. In 2023, a 17-year-old girl in Germany died after inhaling nitrous oxide from a balloon and suffocating (Der Spiegel, 2023).

What's Being Done?

Some countries are cracking down. The UK recently banned recreational sales of nitrous oxide, imposing fines and jail time for possession. But enforcement remains difficult, and the black market is thriving.

Is 30 Seconds of Laughter Worth a Lifetime of Regret?

The message from doctors is clear: Laughing gas is no joke. What starts as a "harmless high" can end in a wheelchair—or worse.

If you or someone you know is using nitrous oxide recreationally, STOP NOW. The next balloon could be the one that changes your life forever.

If you are worried about yourself or someone close to you:

- ☐ Substance abuse counselling 0800 900 45

Environmental impact – not just health risks

☐ Nitrous oxide is a powerful greenhouse gas (300 times more potent than carbon dioxide)

SOURCES:

- EMCDDA (2024) - European Drug Report
- NHS England (2024) - Hospital Admission Statistics
- Dutch Journal of Medicine (2023) - Case Study on Spinal Damage
- BBC News (2024) - "The Laughing Gas Crisis"
- Der Spiegel (2023) - Fatal Nitrous Oxide Case

ART

HELENBE SCHJERFBECK

Helene Schjerfbeck Exhibition Comes to The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York – A Historic First for Finnish Art

Ateneum Art Museum | News |
April 2, 2025

A LANDMARK MOMENT in Finnish art history is approaching as the works of Helene Schjerfbeck will be displayed at The Metropolitan Museum of Art (The Met) in New York from December 5, 2025, to April 5, 2026. This marks the first time a Finnish artist has been granted a dedicated exhibition at one of the world's most prestigious art museums. The showcase is the result of long-term collaboration between the Ateneum Art Museum and the Klassikot maailmalle (Classics to the World) initiative, supported by the Jane and Aatos Erkkö Foundation.

A Dream Come True for Finnish Art

"This is a dream come true—not just for me but for Finnish art as a whole. The Met is in a league of its own, and it's an incredible honor that Helene Schjerfbeck's works will grace its walls," says Anna-Maria von Bonsdorff, Director of the Ateneum Art Museum.

The exhibition spans Schjerfbeck's (1862–1946) entire career, from her early academic works to her introspective late self-portraits. Over 60 pieces will be on display, including portraits, still lifes, and landscapes, featuring iconic works such as *The Convalescent* (1888), *The Seamstress* (1905), and a series of self-portraits. A speci-

Helene Schjerfbeck: Self-Portrait with a Black Background (1915). Finnish National Gallery / Ateneum Art Museum, Hallonblad Collection. Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Yehia Eweis.

al highlight is *The Lace Collar* (1920), acquired by The Met in 2023—the first work by a Finnish artist to enter the museum's collection.

International Collaboration and Contemporary Art Spotlight

The exhibition will be held in The Met's Robert Lehman Wing, curated by Dita Amory, with Anna-Maria von Bonsdorff serving as consulting curator. A comprehensive exhibition catalog, including an essay by von Bonsdorff, will accompany the showcase.

Alongside Schjerfbeck's retrospective, Finnish con-



temporary art will also take center stage in New York. The *Remix the Archive* exhibition (May–June 2025) will feature generative art created using open-access data from the Finnish National Gallery's collections, including the award-winning *Loom of Reality* by Ilmo and Aarni Kapanen.

Finnish Art's Global Reach

Schjerfbeck's works have previously captivated international audiences, with a celebrated 2019 exhibition at London's Royal Academy of Arts and a 2014–2016 tour across Japan and Germany.

The *Klassikot maailmalle* project continues to bring Finnish masters to global audiences: a Pekka Halonen exhibition will open at Paris's Petit Palais in November 2025, following the recent Akseli Gallen-Kallela showcase at Vienna's Belvedere Museum.

Who Was Helene Schjerfbeck?

Schjerfbeck developed a distinctive modern style, stripping her paintings of unnecessary detail. Her self-portraits—painted from youth to old age—reveal a profound artistic journey. The Ateneum holds the world's largest Schjerfbeck collection, with over 200 works.

BOOKS

HISTORICAL LITERATURE

Karl August Tavaststjerna: Nobleman

A romantic in the whirlwind of hard times

Hårda tider will be published by Wasa Daily

KARL AUGUST TAVASTSTJERNA, the controversial and great star of Finland-Swedish literature, was born in 1860 into a noble family in the municipality of Mikkeli. Already in her childhood, he experienced the shadows of upper-class life, when her mother died of typhoid fever while caring for beggars during the famine years. This tragic event made an indelible impression on the young Karl August, which was later reflected in his works.

The road to school was rocky. After his father's death, he was placed under the guardianship of Colonel Constantin Ruin, and his studies at the Helsinki Polytechnic School did not inspire him much. He longed to return to the Parisian art scene, but eventually returned to Finland disappointed. After this, however, his literary career began to flourish.

Tavaststjerna was a controversial figure, a "patriot of the fatherland" who hated the intellectual atmosphere and language battles in Finland. He thirsted for international recognition and moved around in Parisian artistic circles, but at the same time he depicted the conflicts and injustices of Finnish society in his works. The novel *Hårda tider*, (Hard Times) (1891) is a brutal depiction of the famine years of the 1860s, where noble romanticism collides with grim reality.

Tavaststjernas pen was sharp and satirical. He did not shy away from depicting the dark side of society, and his work aroused much discussion in his time. He was a realist who did

not embellish reality, but at the same time he had the soul of a romantic who longed for beauty and harmony.

Tavaststjerna's book *Hårda tider* and the Finnish translation *Kovina aikoina* will be published on Wasa Daily's website.

His life came to a tragic end in Pori in 1898, only 37 years old. According to the story, instead of medicine, she was given a lethal dose of lamp oil, according to other sources, it was a nurse's mistake. This seemingly absurd death is the end of his contradictory life.

The legacy of Tavaststjerna lives on in Finland-Swedish literature. His works are timeless depictions of the role of man in difficult times, and his satirical pen continues to scratch the surface of society. He was a noble romantic who dared to look reality in the eye and describe its brutality.

His book *Hårda tider* is a milestone in Finnish literature that depicts the misery and despair of the famine years. Häme-star does not spare the reader, but shows the horrible face of hunger, disease and death. He also describes people's desperate attempts to survive and even exploit each other. The book is a harsh depiction of the time



Karl August Tavaststjerna (1860-1898) Wikimedia Commons when Finland was a poor and hungry country.

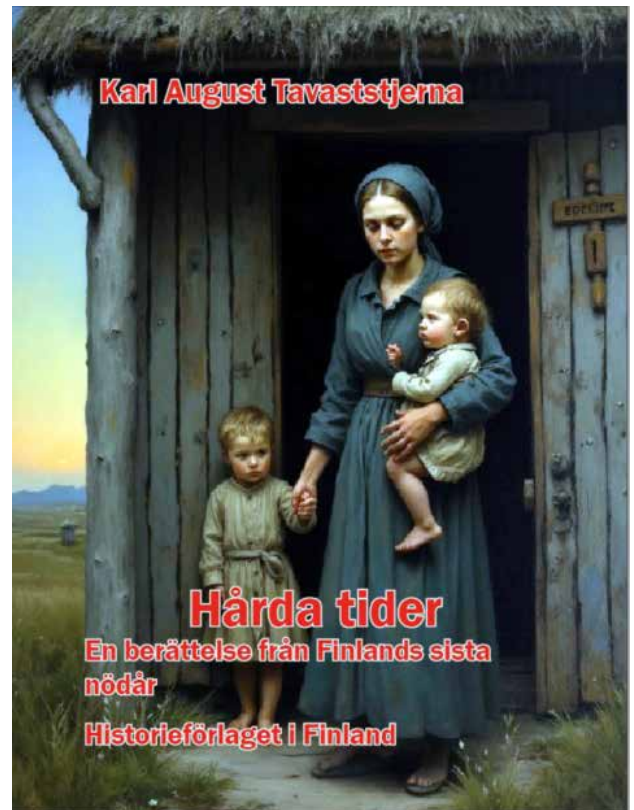
Tavaststjerna's humour was black and sarcastic. He mocked the hypocrisy of the nobility and the greed of the bourgeoisie. He did not mince words, and his works are full of sharp

observations and apt comparisons. He was a writer who dared to laugh even at serious things.

Tavaststjerna was also very talented. He wrote poems, plays, and novels, and he was also a skilled journalist. He started his own newspaper, but it was not financially successful. He was a visionary who wanted to change the world, but he also had a realistic understanding of its brutality.

Karl August Tavaststjerna was a controversial and fascinating figure who left an indelible mark on Finland-Swedish literature. His works are still relevant today, and they are still read and studied.

He was a noble romantic who dared to look reality in the eye and describe its brutality.



EXHIBITION

AMOS REX

Anna Estarriola's "Staged Circumstances and Piles of Things" – A Multisensory Journey Through Constructed Realities at Amos Rex



WHAT HAPPENS when reality is not what it seems? When the objects, sounds, and spaces around us are staged, manipulated, and deliberately arranged? The new exhibition Staged Circumstances and

Piles of Things by Catalan-born, Helsinki-based media artist **Anna Estarriola** at Amos Rex invites visitors to peel back the layers of perception and step into a labyrinth of shifting realities.

Opened to the public on April 2, this is Estarriola's largest solo exhibition to date, transforming Amos Rex's underground galleries into an immersive, ever-changing environment. Each of the 17 installations acts as a portal into a different dimension—sometimes startlingly tangible, sometimes hauntingly abstract.

Constructed Spaces and the Fluidity of Meaning

Blending sculpture, moving image, sound, and interactive electronics, Estarriola's works challenge the viewer's senses and assumptions. The exhibition's title (Staged Circumstances and Piles of Things) hints at its core themes: How do the objects around us gain meaning? Can we trust our own perception?

"Estarriola's work doesn't just tell stories—it turns the viewer into an active participant. Her installations are like intimate theatrical experiences where everyone plays a role," says curator Katariina Timonen.

Where Art and Science Collide

Drawing inspiration from quantum physics, neuroscience, and belief systems, Estarriola's practice explores how the brain processes reality and constructs order from

chaos.

"I want people to question what they see. Is what's in front of me really there? Or is it just a construct I've learned to accept?" Estarriola reflects.

Her work has been exhibited internationally and is held in collections such as the Finnish National Gallery and the Saastamoinen Foundation. In 2015, she received the prestigious AVEK Award, followed by a five-year state artist grant.

Touch, Interact, Disrupt Expectations

This is not a traditional art exhibition where visitors observe from a distance. Here, every movement, glance, or touch can reshape the experience. Estarriola's installations provoke thought, defy expectations, and leave the audience wondering: What is real, and what is staged?

Staged Circumstances and Piles of Things runs at Amos Rex from April 2 to September 1, 2025, alongside Enni-Kukka Tuomala's Expanding Empathies, offering a fascinating counterpoint to Estarriola's explorations.

Images: Anna Estarriola, System-Amos Rex-Aukusti Heinonen
 AnnaEstarriola_03_Amos Rex_StellaOjala



BOOK

Rediscovered classic offers new insight into today's society

Wasa Dagblad has translated "1984"

into Swedish and the book can be read on the newspaper's website: www.vpress.ovh. The English version is also ready-

In an era marked by digital surveillance and the influence of social media, George Orwell's novel "1984" has gained new relevance. Although the book was written in 1948, long before the internet and smartphones, its depiction of a totalitarian society is frighteningly relevant.

The novel, which takes place in a dystopian future, describes a society where the state controls every aspect of citizens' lives. Through advanced surveillance and manipulation of information, the regime maintains its power and creates an atmosphere of fear and suspicion.

"It is fascinating how pinpoint-accurate Orwell was in his description of a surveillance society," says a well-known literary critic. "Although technology has developed enormously since 1948, the

underlying mechanisms for control and manipulation are still the same."

In "1984," the state uses "telescreens" to monitor citizens 24/7. In today's society, we have surveillance cameras, internet tracking, and facial recognition. Although these technologies are often justified on security grounds, they raise questions about privacy and civil liberties.

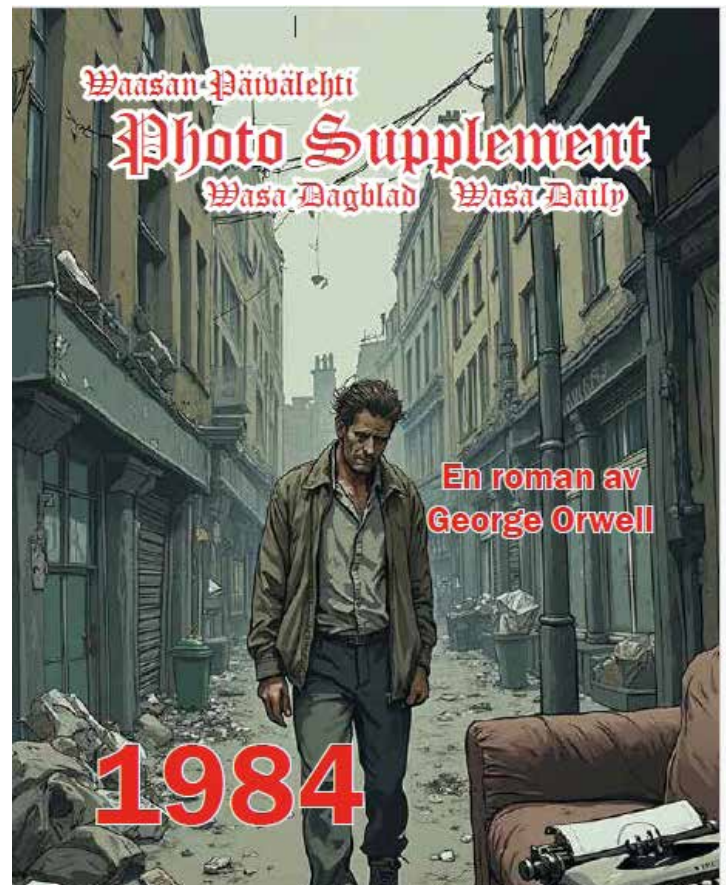
Orwell also depicts how the state uses "newspeak" to limit citizens' ability to think and control their perception of reality. By eliminating words that express opposition and criticism, the regime creates a language that makes it impossible to think "non-authoritarian" thoughts.

"It is a frightening thought that language can be used as a tool of control. In today's society, we see how politicians and the media use 'spin' and 'fake news' to manipulate public opinion. Orwell's newspeak may not be so far from our own reality."

"1984" is not only a warning against totalitarianism, but also a reminder of the impor-



George Orwell (1903 - 1950). Wikimedia Commons



tance of safeguarding freedom of expression, privacy, and critical thinking. In a time when these values are being challenged, Orwell's novel is more relevant

than ever.

'1984' can be recommended to everyone. It is a book that makes you think about our own time and the challenges we face.

RUSSIAN WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

President and First Lady Attend Events Marking the Third Anniversary of Bucha's Liberation from Russian Invaders



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POETRY

Bertel Gripenberg, 1927

The Far-away house.

Far away, far away from the worlds foul fray
in the wood, in the wild, wide wood
far away, far away once my homested lay,
my lonely house once stood.

In silence and night, in sunshine and light,
in the days with the golden feet,
in darkness and frighl, in sorrow and plighl
this house was my home, my retreat.

And all my löst years, all the days I hal are gone,
still hover about thal lone house,
my far-away home, thal dreams still alone,
whcre the echos my löst years arouse.

Far away, far away now my footsteps may stray
but my thoughts and dreams linger there,
far from struggle and fray all my soul still will slay
in that lost, that enchanted sphere.

Bertel Gripenberg: A Traditionalist Poet with a Controversial Legacy

Bertel Gripenberg (1878-1947) was a prominent Finnish-Swedish poet during the early 20th century. While renowned for his formal and technical skills, he held traditional and re-actionary views on poetry and society, making him a controversial figure even in his own time.

Gripenberg's early work, exemplified by collections like "Vida vägar" (1904) and "Galler-grinden" (1905), consisted of passionate love poetry, considered daring for its time. His subsequent period, often regarded as his strongest, saw a shift towards ethical themes, evident in works like "Aftnar i Tavastland" (1911).

The Finnish Civil War of 1918 profoundly impacted Gripenberg, inspiring works like "Un-der fanan" (1918), which glorified the war and demonized the Red opponents. This, coupled with his anti-democratic and anti-populist stance, solidified his position as a controversial figure.

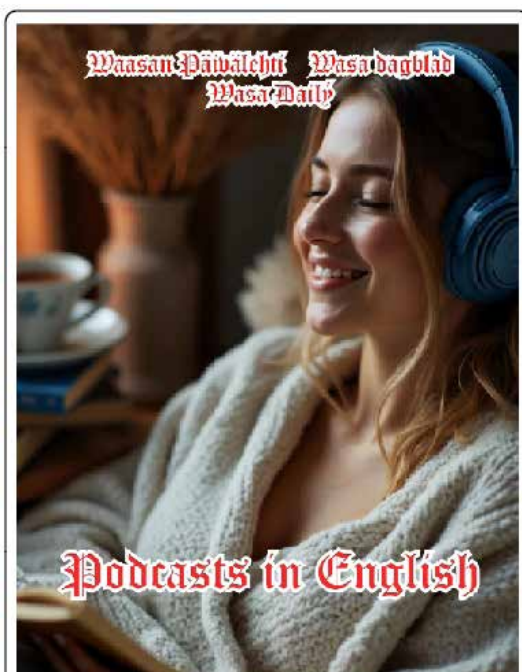
Gripenberg continued to publish poetry collections throughout his career, including "Sista ronden" (1941). In 1925, he released "Den hemliga glöden" (under the pseudonym Åke Erik-son), a parody of modernist poetry that inadvertently revealed new facets of his own work.



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 Ostrobothnia region

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

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

The magazine is available online for free.

Editor-in-chief Hans Björknäs.

Readers' writings are welcome!

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

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

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

Email: wasadagblad@gmail.com



HOROSCOPE FOR APRIL 2025

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

□ Aries (March 21 – April 19)
You're full of energy and initiative, but don't pick a fight with the coffee machine – it always wins.

□ Taurus (April 20 – May 20)
Your patience will be tested this April. Maybe it's time to accept that sighing loudly won't make the check-out line move faster.

□ Gemini (May 21 – June 20)
You have a thousand ideas and zero time to execute them. Try finishing one thing before jumping to the next – or just embrace the chaos!

□ Cancer (June 21 – July 22)
April might be an emotional month, but remember: no one expects you to save the world... just to deal

with your own stuff.

□ Leo (July 23 – August 22)
You love being the center of attention, but maybe let someone else tell the joke at the coffee break – just once.

□ Virgo (August 23 – September 22)
You have a plan, a backup plan, and a backup plan for the backup plan. Breathe – the worst that could happen is... well, not much, really.

□ Libra (September 23 – October 22)
Decisions are tough. If you're spending over an hour choosing what to eat, maybe that's a sign you should just cook something yourself. Or not.

□ Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)
Your magnetism is at its peak. Use it wisely – or you'll once again find yourself at a party you don't know how to leave.

□ Sagittarius (Novem-

ber 22 – December 21)
Your adventurous spirit is soaring, but maybe start small? Like taking a different route to work before booking a one-way ticket to Mongolia.

□ Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)
Your hard work is finally paying off! Soon, you can reward yourself with something big – like an overpriced coffee, guilt-free.

□ Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)
Your ideas are brilliant, but not everyone is ready for them yet. Maybe wait a bit before suggesting that all meetings should be replaced by memes.

□ Pisces (February 19 – March 20)
You're daydreaming more than ever. That's adorable – as long as you remember to get off at the right bus stop.

□ The stars whisper – but you do whatever you want anyway! □



HUMOUR ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

WIDOW

The teacher asked: — can one of you explain to me what "widow" means.. — A widow, answered little Anna, is a wife who lived with her husband for so long that he died.

»Yes, yes, find them in mother's desk drawer. It was open, and they were so beautiful and there was a whole bunch of them tied with red silk ribbons».

SWIMMING COMPETITION.

Little Karl was with his mother at a swimming competition. Now follows - said the mother - 100 meter breaststroke for ladies. Little Karl: — Mother — is it forbidden to use the arms?

DANGEROUS

A.: »Is dyeing the hair as dangerous as the doctors say?"

B.: »Yes, it is even more dangerous! One my old uncle once tried to dye his hair and less than in three months he was married to a widow with 7 children.

EINSTEIN

— Has the lady read Einstein's theory of relativity? — Well, yes, I'll wait until it comes out as a film.

DEEP PARTICIPATION

The mother is at an art exhibition with her children.

SEEN WITH YOUR OWN FEET

— I have a good friend who usually says that you never know anything about anything until you have seen with your own feet where the shoe pinches.

MAIL MAN

"Where have you been, my little darling?" asked little Albert's mother, when he came home after being gone for a couple of hours. "Yes, we were out with Kalle and Olle playing postman," answered the darling. "Oh really! How did it happen then?" "»Well, we went around to all the houses around here and put letters in all the boxes.» "But were they really real letters?" "»Yes then!» "»Where did you get them from then?»

The astronomic picture of the week:



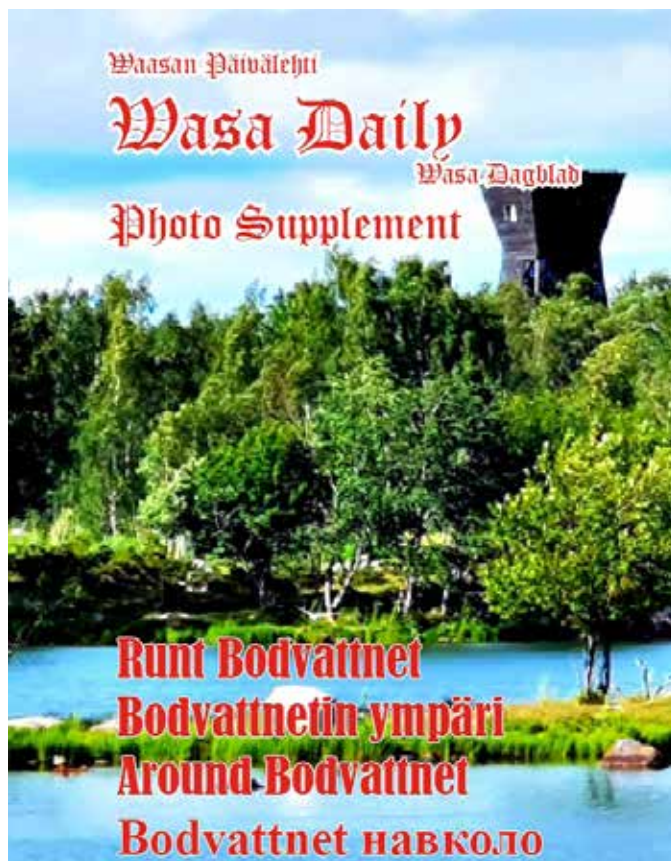
NASA Unveils Celestial Fireworks as Official Hubble 25th Anniversary Image.jpg

The star cluster Westerlund 2 in the Milky Way galaxy, with an estimated age of about one or two million years. It contains some of the hottest, brightest, and most massive stars known. The cluster resides inside a stellar breeding ground known as Gum 29, located 20,000 light-years away in the constellation Carina.

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

Public domain

Next week:



From our readers

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

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