

# Wasa Daily

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## LABORATORIES

### Arvoterveys – New Low-Cost Laboratory Disrupts Healthcare Prices in Vaasa

A newly opened private laboratory in Vaasa is drawing attention for dramatically undercutting competitors' prices. Arvoterveys has launched laboratory and imaging services that, according to price comparisons, are significantly cheaper than those offered by established healthcare providers.

One example is the liver test AFDOS, priced at just 4

euros at Arvoterveys, compared with 23–39 euros elsewhere. The PSA test, commonly used to screen for prostate conditions, costs 12 euros – while other laboratories charge between 53 and 100 euros.

The company attributes its pricing to streamlined operations and a focus on essential diagnostics without extra services that drive up costs. The model is aimed particularly at self-paying customers seeking transpa-

rency and affordability.

The launch comes amid growing public debate over rising healthcare expenses in Finland. If Arvoterveys' model proves sustainable, it could place pressure on competitors to reconsider long-standing pricing practices.

You can book an appointment online (www.arvoterveys.fi) where you can also find more detailed information, Source: Arvoterveys press release

## VAASA

### Etuovi: City Centre, Gerby and Sundom Top Housing Searches in Vaasa

Where do people want to live in Vaasa right now?

According to a new ranking published by property portal Etuovi.com, the city centre remains the most searched residential area. Its appeal lies in easy access to services, workplaces and urban life.

Gerby rises to second place, climbing two spots. The area's mix of detached houses, green surroundings and good schools continues to attract families. Sundom, a long-time favourite, slips one position but still ranks third.

Palosaari follows closely, popular among students and young professionals, while Vähäkyrö holds steady in fifth place. The biggest mover is Suvilahti, which jumps nine places, suggesting growing interest in quieter neighborhoods outside the city core.



Here are the most popular sites:

The ranking reflects changing preferences in a market where buyers carefully weigh price, location and quality of life. In Vaasa, the most desirable areas combine accessibility with a sense of space.

Here are the most popular sites:

1. Centrtre
2. Gerby (+2)
3. Sundom (-1)
4. Palosaari (-1)
5. Vähäkyrö
6. Västervik (+1)
7. Suvilahti (+9)
8. Hietalahti (-2)
9. Isolahti (+5)
10. Länsiniitty (-2)

Source: Etuovi.com / STT

## Photo of the Week:



Winter

## JANUARY SUNDAY

### Januarysunday Commemoration Brings History to Life in Laihia



On Sunday, January 25, the municipality of Laihia will mark Tammissunday with a commemorative event honoring the legacy of Finland's 1918 Civil War. The day begins at 10 a.m. with a church service at Laihia Church, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the memorial dedicated to the fallen of the War of Independence. The program continues at the historic Captain's House on Kasarmintie, where participants will gather for another wreath-laying at the Hulmi memorial. The ceremony will be accompanied by

the Laihia Men's Choir, adding a solemn musical dimension to the occasion.

Visitors will also be offered a guided presentation of the Captain's House by Olavi Koskinen, shedding light on its historical significance. Musical performances by singer Mariam Sandhu, accompanied by Jukka Kinnunen, round out the program. Coffee will be served.

Organizers stress that Tammissunday is not only about remembrance, but about understanding how history continues to shape the present.

Source: Municipality of Laihia / Cultural Services

## VAASA

### Free breakfast and sausages for winter sports enthusiasts in Vaasa

On Thursday 29 January, the city of Vaasa invites residents to move around on the winter hiking and cycling trails by offering free breakfast and sausages. The event will be held at the intersection of Järviakatu and Wolffinatie, opposite Vaasan Sähkö.

Winter sports enthusiasts will be offered rolls and hot drinks from 6 am to 9 pm. In the afternoon, from 2 pm to 6 pm, sausages, hot drinks and small sweets are distributed. Staff will be present throughout the day.

The event is based on Vaasa's intensified winter maintenance, which aims to keep pedestrian and cycling paths safe even during the winter. At the same time, the city and winter maintenance contractor

06 Infra want to hear direct feedback from the users of the routes.

The Finnish Road Safety Council will also be present to share tips for safe winter cycling. The event is free of charge and open to everyone.

Vaasa is Europe's Green Leafy City in 2026 and aims to reduce traffic emissions by promoting walking and cycling.

Source: City of Vaasa / STT Info

## WIND POWER

### Kristiinankaupunki and Närpiö Lead Finland's Wind Power Surge — Enough for a Nuclear Plant's Output

Kristiinankaupunki and Närpiö, coastal municipalities in the Ostrobothnia region, have emerged as Finland's top wind power locations, generating levels of wind energy comparable to the effect of a nuclear power plant - when the wind is right. According to the Wind Power Statistics 2025, Finland's total installed wind power capacity exceeded 9,400 megawatts (MW) by

the end of 2025, with a significant concentration in the Ostrobothnia region.

Among the notable developments is the Pjela wind farm, straddling Kristiinankaupunki and Närpiö. With its 56 turbines and approximately 380 MW of capacity, Pjela produces more than 1 terawatt-hour of renewable electricity annually — a milestone in Finland's clean energy transition.

The rapid expansion of wind power in these municipalities not only contributes substantially to Finland's renewable energy portfolio but also bolsters local economies through investment and jobs. As national planning reforms steer future projects toward northern Finland and further from population centers, Ostrobothnia's wind industry remains a cornerstone of Finland's energy strategy. Source: Renewables Finland — Wind Power Statistics 2025

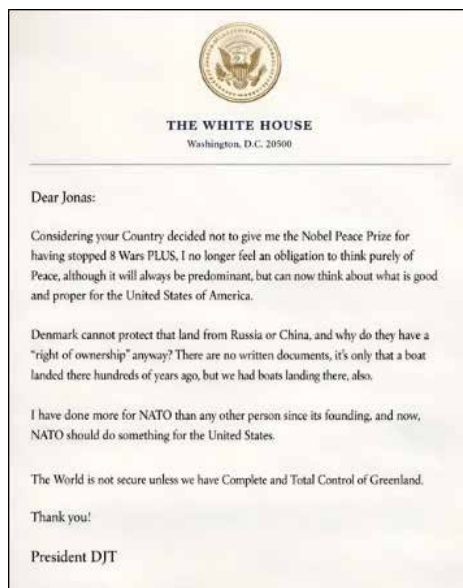
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## TODAY

### EDITORIAL

# President Trumps letter to the prime minister of Norway, demanding "Complete and Total Control of Greenland"



**Dear Jonas:**  
Considering your Country decided not to give me the Nobel Peace Prize for having stopped 8 Wars PLUS, I no longer feel an obligation to think purely of Peace, although it will always be predominant, but can now think about what is good and proper for the United States of America. Denmark cannot protect that land from Russia or China, and why do they have a "right of ownership" anyway? There are no written documents, it's only a boat that landed there hundreds of years ago, but we had boats landing there, also. I have done more for NATO than any person since its founding, and now, NATO should do something for the United States. The World is not secure unless we have Complete and Total Control of Greenland. Thank you! President DJT

#### Statement from Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre regarding communications with President Donald Trump.

'I can confirm that this is a text message that I received yesterday afternoon from President Trump. It came in response to a short text message from me to President Trump sent earlier on the same day, on be-

half of myself and the President of Finland Alexander Stubb. In our message to Trump we conveyed our opposition to his announced tariff increases against Norway, Finland and select other countries. We pointed to the need to de-escalate and pro-posed a telephone conversation between Trump, Stubb and myself on the same day. The re-sponse from Trump came shortly after the message was sent. It was his decision to share his message with other NATO leaders,' said Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre.

'Norway's position on Greenland is clear. Greenland is a part of the Kingdom of Denmark, and Norway fully supports the Kingdom of Denmark on this matter. We also support that NATO in a responsible way is taking steps to strengthen security and stability in the Arctic. As regards the Nobel Peace Prize, I have clearly explained, including to president Trump what is well known, the prize is awarded by an independent Nobel Committee and not the Norwegian Government.

**Comment:** President Trump's message to Norway's prime minister is striking less for its substance than for its tone and reasoning. By conflating personal grievance over the Nobel Peace Prize with sweeping claims about war, NATO, and territorial control of Greenland, the letter abandons diplomatic norms in favor of bravado and historical distortion. The assertion that sovereignty rests on who "had boats landing there" trivializes international law, while the demand for "complete and total control of Greenland" disregards both Denmark's legal status and the interests of the Greenlandic people themselves. Prime Minister Støre's re-sponse, by contrast, underscores a fundamental point Trump ignores: alliances, security, and peace are built on rules, institutions, and mutual respect—not on threats, resentment, or uni-lateral claims of entitlement.

## NEWS

### JANUARY SUNDAY

# Alavus to Host Regional Commemoration of the January Sunday (Tammisunnuntai)



The regional commemoration of Tammisunnuntai will take place in Alavus on January 25th, 2026. This significant historical anniversary begins at 10:00 AM with a service at Alavus Church, featuring a sermon

by Bishop Matti Salomäki, followed by a formal wreath-laying ceremony.

The afternoon program at the Alavus School Centre includes a communal lunch and a main celebration starting at 12:30 PM. The keynote speech

will be delivered by Ilmari Käihkö, Docent of Military Strategy. The event boasts a rich cultural program with music by the Navy Band Brass Quintet, folk dancing by the Tulikipuna Trio, and performances by local students.

## LUNG CANCER

# Lung cancer screening launched – long-time smokers aged 50–74 are looked for

The pilot project for lung cancer screening, which began on January 21, will be carried out with five regional hospitals. The pilot is open to people aged 50–74 who have smoked for a long time in the regions of Uusimaa, Pirkanmaa, Ostrobothnia, North Ostrobothnia and Southwest Finland.

Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer deaths in Finland. Around 3,000 people are diagnosed with the disease each year, and only 15 percent of them live five years after diagnosis. In the metastatic form of the disease, the average life expectancy is about six months.

The pilot project that is now being launched will study early detection of lung cancer using low-dose lung imaging and assess forms of support for smoking cessation as part of the screening.

The pilot project is being carried out by Oulu University Hospital and the Finnish Cancer Registry. The study is exceptionally comprehensive regionally. The University Hospitals of Helsinki, Oulu, Tampere and Turku, as well as Vaasa Central Hospital,

are involved in the implementation.

"We are very pleased that the pilot for lung cancer screening has been launched with the help of an extensive cooperation network. With the help of such a comprehensive study, it is possible for the first time to reliably assess the functioning of lung cancer screening in Finnish healthcare," says Tytti Sarkeala, Head of Screening at the Finnish Cancer Registry.

It is hoped that the study will reach those who belong to a risk group

Lung cancer is primarily a disease of the elderly. Only 10 percent of cases are diagnosed in people under the age of 60. The biggest risk factor is smoking, and it is estimated that up to 30 percent of long-term smokers develop lung cancer. That is why the pilot that is now being launched is aimed at 50-74-year-olds who have smoked for more than 25 years.

The pilot study is looking for 1,200 participants. Some of them will undergo a chest X-ray at the beginning and end of the study, and all participants will be offered support in quitting smoking. Participation in the study lasts for two years and includes two visits to the study nurse.

Unlike other cancer screenings in Finland, lung cancer screening cannot be sent in person to the target group. A long-term smoking history is not av-

ailable in the registers, so those who belong to a risk group must register for the study themselves.

"Lung cancer often progresses for a long time without symptoms, which is why it is important for people in risk groups to participate in screening. We hope that the screening pilot will reach risk groups as well as possible. It is often possible to treat local lung cancer curatively, but the prognosis of metastatic disease is usually poor," says Jussi Koivunen, Specialist in Oncology at Oulu University Hospital.

Support for smoking cessation is a key component of the pilot project for lung cancer screening. According to international studies, more than 70 percent of those who participated in screening have felt that screening has increased their motivation to quit smoking.

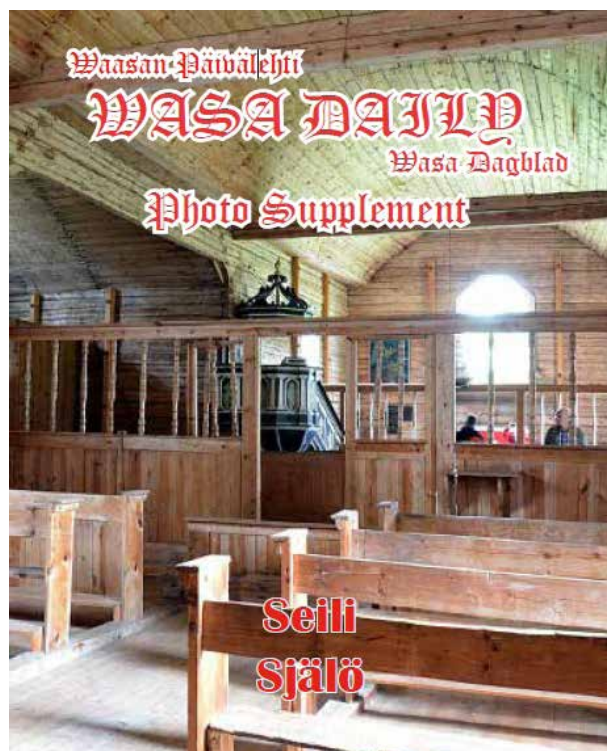
"When screening is combined with smoking cessation support, the benefits can also include the prevention of other smoking-related diseases and the management of the total healthcare costs," Koivunen continues.

The purpose of the screening pilot is to produce information on the effectiveness of lung cancer screening, promote early detection of the disease, and support smoking cessation. The study is being carried out as part of the EUCanScreen project, which is co-funded by the EU.

Registration for the study is now open at [www.keuhko.fi](http://www.keuhko.fi).

Source: Finnish Cancer Registry

## Photo Supplement



## Photo Supplement

Seili  
Sjalö

[vpress.ovh](http://vpress.ovh)



## NEWS

### JANUARY SUNDAY

# Professor and Military Master Annukka Jokipii to Headline 'Tammisunnuntai' – Patriotic Celebrations in Vaasa

Vaasa City Hall will be the stage for a grand patriotic celebration this Sunday as the traditional "January Sunday" honors Finland's defense heritage. The event focuses on the legacy of veterans, the voices of the youth, and a historic milestone for women in the military.

The last Sunday of January, known as Tammisunnuntai, remains a cornerstone of patriotic tradition in Vaasa. On January 25, 2026, the public is invited to join a series of events organized by the Ostrobothnia Defense Guild.

This year's keynote speaker is the distinguished Professor Annukka Jokipii from the University of Vaasa. A leader both in academia and in uniform, Jokipii holds the distinction of being the first woman in Finland to reach the rank of Military Master (the highest NCO rank) in the



reserves. Her speech will also highlight the 30th anniversary of women's voluntary military service in Finland, a path taken by 10,000 women to date.

The day begins at 4:00 PM with a wreath-laying

ceremony at the Heritage Wall in Casern Square, featuring a guard of honor and a procession of over 20 organizational flags. The main celebration at the City Hall starts at 5:30 PM, featuring the award ceremony for a

local schools' essay competition and patriotic music performed by the Navy Band's brass quintet. From the Jäger March to modern classics, the evening promises a stirring tribute to the nation.



### UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

# University of Vaasa Rises into World's Top 300 for Business and Economics

The University of Vaasa has made a major leap on the global academic stage, ranking among the world's 251–300 best universities in Business and Economics in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings by Subject. This places the university firmly on the map for high-impact research and teaching in economics and management.

THE's subject ranking evaluates universities on criteria including research quality, international outlook, teaching and citation impact. Vaasa's improvement reflects concerted efforts to strengthen its international profile and research output.

In addition to Business and Economics, the university



also participated in rankings for Computer Science and Social Sciences (both placed in the 401–500 range), and Engineering maintained its position in the same bracket.

Vice-Rector for International Affairs Martin Meyer highlighted that the ranking is a testament to long-term development, global collaboration and research that addresses real-world challenges such as sustainable business and energy transitions.

This achievement enhances the University of Vaasa's reputation not only in Finland but internationally, as it attracts students and scholars seeking high-quality academic environments.

Source: STT Info / University of Vaasa

Photo: University of Vaasa. Free to use.



## VAASA

# What Good Could You Do for the Environment with €50,000? Vaasa Invites Citizen Ideas

The City of Vaasa is asking its residents to propose environmentally beneficial ideas backed by a €50,000 budget as part of its participatory budgeting programme for 2026. The call comes as Vaasa prepares to celebrate its designation as a European Green Leaf City 2026, a recognition of its commitment to sustainable urban development and environmental action.

Ideas can be submitted until 8 February via the city's website or at public service points. After the submission phase, all proposals will be screened and put to a public vote between 11 and 29 March. The winning idea will be announced on 10 April, and its implementation will be followed closely on the city's social media channels.

– Our aim is to inspire citizens to think creatively about how to make Vaasa greener and more livable by proposing practical, impactful projects, says Vaasa Strategy Director Suvi Aho.



Projects might include urban gardening initiatives, biodiversity enhancement plans or energy efficiency upgrades—ideas that bring tangible environmental benefits to neighborhoods.

Last year's winning idea of borrowable rowing boats boosted community engagement with local waterways, showing that even relatively modest investments can encourage people to enjoy and care for the natural environment.

As a European Green Leaf City, Vaasa wants to demonstrate how citizen-driven environmental actions can be scaled up and supported at the municipal level. The participatory budgeting initiative reflects a wider trend of empowering communities to shape the future of sustainable cities.

Source: City of Vaasa / STT press release What good deeds for the environment would you do with €50,000?

## UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

# Research: Open Dialogue Could End Bitter Environmental Conflicts – "NGOs Still Viewed as Obstacles"



**A new doctoral dissertation from the University of Vaasa calls for legal updates and a shift in attitude: environmental organizations' expertise is being wasted if authorities view them only as adversaries.**

The Finnish environmental movement has come a long

way from the local "chains and padlocks" protests of the late 1970s to today's global climate and biodiversity crises. However, despite gaining more official channels for participation, the full potential of these organizations remains underutilized.

Terhi Raikas, a researcher in Public Law, shows in her doctoral thesis that the attitudes of authorities toward environmental NGOs vary significantly. In some municipalities, organizations are seen as vital partners, while in others, they are viewed as "troublemakers" who merely complicate and

## SCREEN TIME

# THL: Goodbye smartphone? New strict recommendations for children published – Minister: "We need support for parents"

The latest national digital recommendations put the numbers on the table: children under the age of 13 are not recommended to have their own smartphones at all. The government is even considering statutory restrictions on social media.

The Finnish government and experts have published the long-awaited national digital recommendations for children's leisure time. The message is clear: children's screen time needs to be drastically limited and device purchases need to be postponed.

The most significant policy concerns smartphones. The recommended age limit for buying your own smartphone has now been raised to 13 years. For those younger than that, it is not recommended to have your own device at all. According to the new guidelines, social media is also a no-go area for children under the age of 13.

How to limit screen time:  
Children under 2 years old: No screen time at all.  
2-5 years: Up to one hour per day.  
6-10 years old: Up to one



hour per day.

11-13 years: Up to two hours a day.

Minister shows restrictions on social media

Minister of Social Security Sanni Grahn-Laasonen emphasises the responsibility of adults to protect childhood. "The recommendations provide parents with support and support. Under Prime Minister Orpo's leadership, we are currently exploring the possibility of banning social media for children under the age of 15," Grahn-Laasonen points out.

Minister of Sports Mika Poutala also challenges families to swap screen time for outdoor activities and play. Minister of Education Anders Adlercreutz, on the other hand, hopes that schools and homes will work closely together to implement the new policies.

The new recommendations are based on extensive research data and comments from more than 6,000 parents. The next step will be to prepare recommendations for young people aged 13–18.

Source: THL

delay decision-making.

Activism in the Spotlight, Expertise in the Shadows Current public discourse on environmental activism is often dominated by civil disobedience, with groups like Extinction Rebellion (Elokapina) grabbing the headlines. According to Raikas, this focus can be misleading.

"Extinction Rebellion receives a lot of media attention, but it is just one form of influence among many. It is crucial that civil disobedience does not overshadow the extensive expert work and official advocacy these organizations perform," Raikas reminds.

The study highlights a case where local officials chose to listen to activists during an unauthorized protest in front of a government building rather than simply shutting it down. Raikas argues that this type of direct dialogue can dismantle polarizations and actually streamline the decision-making process.

A Need for Legal Moderni-

zation

In Finland, the legal interpretation of civil disobedience has long relied on precedents from the 1980s. Raikas notes that countries like Sweden and Switzerland have already moved toward legal frameworks where civil disobedience can, in specific circumstances, be justified as a "state of necessity."

According to Raikas, updating Finnish legislation to reflect modern civic activity would benefit everyone: authorities, organizations, and the general public. It would clarify the "rules of the game" in an era where environmental challenges are more complex than ever.

"Environmental organizations are now responding to challenges that, due to the climate crisis and biodiversity loss, are broader and more complicated than in the past," Raikas concludes.

Source: University of Vaasa Press Release (Jan 15, 2026), Doctoral Thesis by Terhi Raikas

## ART

# Eero Nelimarkka at the Ateneum – A Finnish Master Revisited

HELSINKI. A new major exhibition at the Ateneum Art Museum opens on March 13, showcasing the complete career of Eero Nelimarkka (1891–1977), one of Finland's most beloved painters. Born in Vaasa as the son of a washerwoman, Nelimarkka became known for his evocative South Ostrobothnian landscapes and striking portraits.

For the first time at the Ateneum, over a hundred works—including paintings, drawings and photographs—offer a fresh look at the artist's world, where seemingly simple scenes often reveal deeper, almost magical meanings.

The exhibition runs March 13 to September 13, 2026, inviting both seasoned art lovers and curious visitors to experience Nelimarkka's unique perspective.

Source: Ateneum Art Museum / Ateneum.fi



KUNTSI

## Berlin Art Beats in Vaasa — Body Politics Opens at Kuntsi Museum



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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

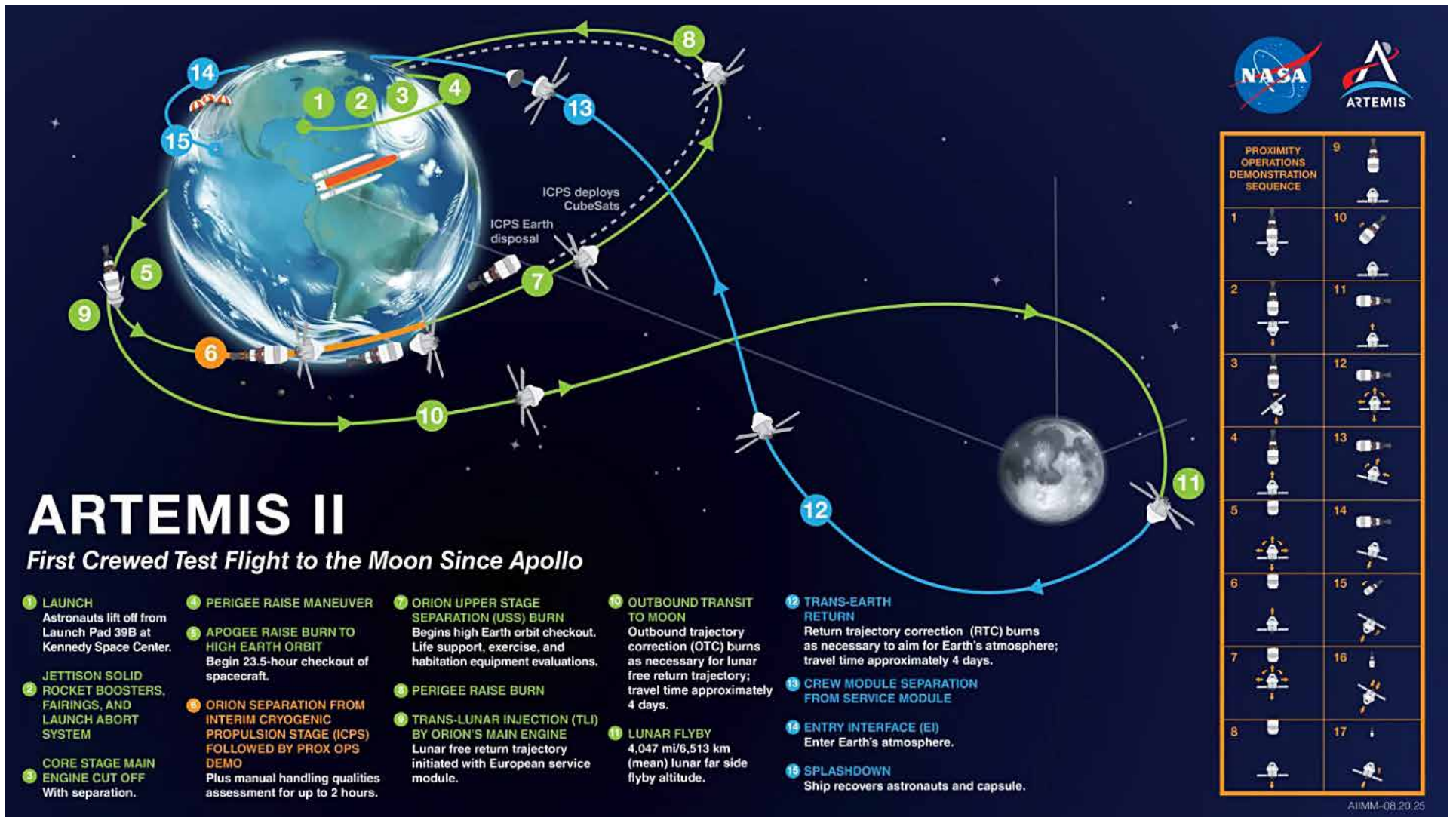
Source: Kuntsi Museum of Modern Art / Museums of Vaasa



## SPACE TRAVEL

### ARTEMIS II

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Images: NASA

### ARTEMIS II

## Meet the Crew Poised for a Historic Lunar Orbit



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# UKRAINE PRESIDENT The President Met with Ukrainian Youth



23 January 2026

On the eve of International Day of Education, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy took part in the Second National Forum of Talented Youth. This event is organized for the second year in a row by the Fund of the President for Education, Science and Sports to recognize the achievements of young Ukrainians at the national level, as well as to showcase prospects for professional development in Ukraine.

The forum brought together over 600 participants from across the country, including winners of international and national Olympiads, the 2025 WRO Robotics Olympiad, gradu-

ates with the highest NMT scores, and winners of the 2025 Youth Olympic Games.

“We are grateful that you are in Ukraine, and this is the truth. I think we should all, first of all, be grateful to our military. Thanks to them, Ukraine exists. And secondly, we should be grateful to you. You give this energy and motivation to fight for what Ukraine is. Above all, Ukraine is our freedom and our people,” the Head of State said.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy emphasized that, during wartime, Ukraine has made significant progress in technological development, especially in the defense sector, and it is important not to lose this expertise after

peace is restored.

“Everything that today serves the front and preserves our defense capabilities will, in peacetime, serve the peaceful process. The same frontline medicine will work exclusively for the civilian sector after the war. Technologies, demining, and so on. Everything connected today with drones, engineering, mathematics – all that which was lost for many years in Ukraine has now found its place,” the President noted.

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# USA USA Stays in NATO and Defends Europe—With a Price

WASHINGTON D.C. — The Pentagon has officially released the 2026 National Defense Strategy, confirming that the United States will remain a member of NATO. However, the 25-page document signed by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth marks a “tough-love” era for the alliance. The strategy identifies homeland defense as the top priority, followed by deterring China in the Indo-Pacific. While the U.S. vows to maintain its “vital role” in NATO, it classifies Russia as a “manageable threat” rather than a primary adversary. The message to Brussels is clear: European allies must take primary responsibility for their own conventional

defense. A central pillar of the strategy is burden-sharing. The U.S. is pushing for a new benchmark where allies are expected to spend up to 5% of their GDP on defense. The document signals that American support in Europe will become more “critical but limited,” focusing on high-end capabilities like the nuclear triad and space-based assets, while expecting Europeans to provide the bulk of boots-on-the-ground forces.

Analysis: A New Era of Strategic Realism  
The 2026 NDS represents a “common sense” pivot toward America First realism. By defining Russia as “managea-

ble,” Washington is signaling that it no longer intends to be the primary guardian of the Euro-pean continent. This is not a withdrawal, but a recalibration. For Europe, this is a wake-up call. The era of “strategic complacency” is officially over. Allies must now rapidly revitalize their own industrial bases to fill the gap left by shifting U.S. priorities. While the U.S. security umbrella remains, its shadow is growing shorter as Washington turns its gaze toward the Pacific and its own borders. “European NATO dwarfs Russia in economic scale... it is the answer to the security threats it faces.”

## ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



**Albert Edelfelt**  
**Istuva alaston, 1903**  
**Finlands Nationalgalleris samling /**  
**Konstmuseet Ateneum**

# George Orwell 1984 15

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

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

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

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

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

‘A very inadequate substitute,’ said Syme.

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

which he was authoritative and interesting. Winston turned his head a little aside to avoid the scrutiny of the large dark eyes.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



## HUMOUR ONE HUND- RED YEARS AGO

### VERY STRANGE

— Tell me, Dad, weren't you born in Helsinki?  
— Yes.  
— And I was born in Vaasa?  
— Yes.  
— And Mom was born in Mariehamn?  
— Yes.  
— Don't you think it's very strange that the three of us have found each other?

### THE FIRST LOUDSPEAKER

He: The first speaker was made from a bone.  
She: Is that possible?  
He: Yes, from Adam's rib.

### AS YOU SEE AND NOT SEE

Teacher: Things you see are called concrete or real, things you don't see are called, — Well Lisa O-o-o-  
Lisa: Indecent.

### PAINTER OR POET

- I don't know if I'm going to be a poet or a painter.  
— Be a painter.  
— Have you seen any of my paintings?  
— No, man, I've read a couple of your poems.

### THIRTEEN AT THE TABLE

Do you mind if there are thirteen at the table?  
— Yes, if there's only food for twelve.

### ROLLS-ROYCE

Anna: — Was it love at first sight? Dagny: — Absolutely. Right when I saw him in his new Rolls-Royce.

### WORK KILLS NO ONE

— Why don't you work? Hard work kills no one.  
— You're mistaken, my wife. I lost both my wives that way.

### THE RUNNER-UP

— Does the boy have any special marks by which one can recognize him, the police constable asked the father whose son had run away. — No, not yet, but if I can just get a hold of him it won't be long before that is the case.

### LUNDBERG

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

### NOT HOME

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

### FISHING LUCK

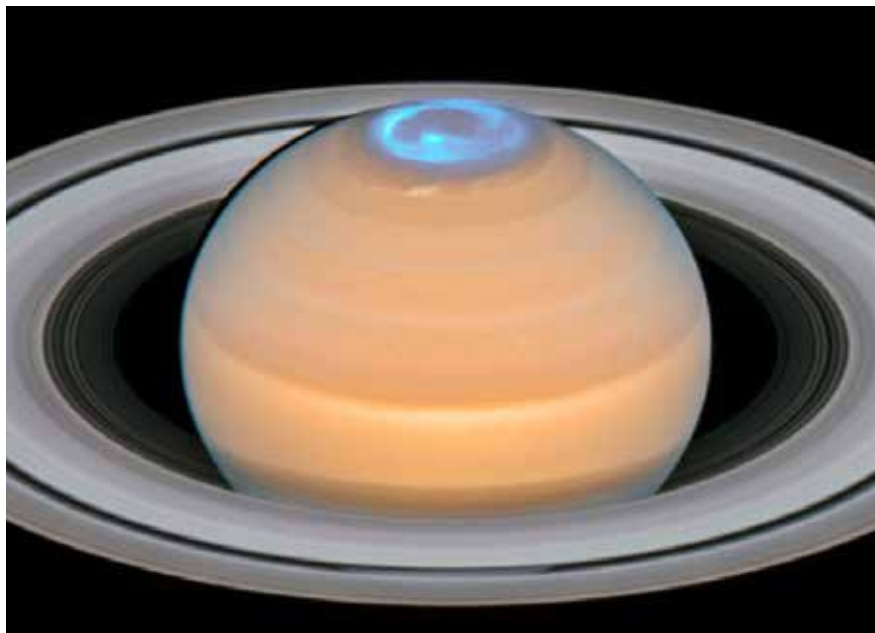
— Well, what did you do this summer?  
— We've been fishing, you know. And when we fish, we always have on liter 96% with us, and for every fish we take a sip, ; and if we get a lot of fish, we go home and take another liter

### TWO STREET LAMPS

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

## Astronomic picture of the week:

### Aurora around Saturn's North Pole



Are Saturn's auroras like Earth's? To help answer this question, the Hubble Space Telescope and the Cassini spacecraft monitored Saturn's North Pole simultaneously during Cassini's final orbits around the gas giant in September 2017.

Image Credit: NASA, ESA, Hubble, OPAL Program, J. DePasquale (STScI), L. Lamy (Obs. Paris)

Explanation: Are Saturn's auroras like Earth's? To help answer this question, the Hubble Space Telescope and the Cassini spacecraft monitored Saturn's North Pole

## BLOG WRITERS

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## 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](http://digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi)). GPT3, Gemini, Aria and Monica do some of the routine editing work, such as translation, corrector reading, and short notice writing. All texts have been checked by journalists and the editorial staff is responsible for all the content of the texts.

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

Editor-in-chief Hans Björknäs. Readers' writings are welcome! The magazine is locally owned and will remain so. For ever! Editorial office: Wasa Daily, Koulukatu 37 B 7, 65100 Vaasa, tel. +358-40-5462455. Helsinki editorial office: Wasa Daily, Toinen linja 9 B 36, 00530 Helsinki. Phone +358-40-5462455. Email: [wasadagblad@gmail.com](mailto:wasadagblad@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:wasadagblad@gmail.com)

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## HOROSCOPE FOR JANUARY 2026

January 2026 Horoscopes: Laugh Your Way Into the New Year

Aries (March 21–April 19): You'll charge into January like a caffeinated goat on a mountain. Just remember, not every hill is worth climbing, especially when Netflix has new releases.

Taurus (April 20–May 20): You're feeling stubbornly optimistic this month. Someone will suggest a kale smoothie. Resist. Your taste buds deserve better.

Gemini (May 21–June 20): Your double personality shines in January – you'll either join a yoga class or binge-watch crime documentaries while eating pizza. Duality is your superpower.

Cancer (June 21–July 22): Home is your happy place this month. Unfortunately, so is your fridge. Remember: snacks are feelings too.

Leo (July 23–August 22): New year, new you! But let's be honest, the crown you bought in December isn't coming off. Keep ruling, your majesty.

Virgo (August 23–September 22): You've already color-coded your New Year's resolutions. Relax – you'll end up ignoring them by February anyway.

Libra (September 23–October 22): Your quest for balance will be tested when your couch competes with your gym membership. Spoiler: the couch wins.

Scorpio (October 23–November 21): You're radiating mystery this month. Or maybe it's just that you forgot to answer texts from last year. Keep 'em guessing.

Sagittarius (November 22–December 21): You're craving adventure in January. But the biggest journey might be walking to the mailbox in your slippers. Baby steps.

Capricorn (December 22–January 19): It's your season, goat! You'll be climbing corporate ladders and icy sidewalks with equal determination. Try not to slip on either.

Aquarius (January 20–February 18): The stars predict intellectual breakthroughs this month. Or maybe you'll just finally solve Wordle in two tries. Either way, genius vibes.

Pisces (February 19–March 20): Your emotional waves are high, but so is your charm. Use it to convince someone to shovel the driveway.