

WASA DAILY

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Korsholm Music Festival

Violinist Elina Vähälä in Vaasa

Vaasa Future Festival

Butterfly-Exhibition

Global Footprint

Bilingualism: Defence against Dementia

WASA DAILY



HERE WE ARE:

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Korsholm Music Festival 22-30.7.2025

A family doctor and a personal nurse are the key to health care

Health care professionals see the family doctor and family nurse model as a key solution for restoring citizens' trust in the shaky health care system.

According to a recent report by the Sustainable Health Care Network, a permanent care relationship would enable a more individual encounter with the patient and improve the continuity of care.

Finns' trust in health care has plummeted alarmingly in recent years. According to the Healthy Finland report by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), in 2024 only about half of Finns trusted health services, while in 2020 the corresponding share was still 76 per cent.

A total of 580 healthcare professionals responded to the survey conducted by the healthcare research company NHG in May–June 2025. According to Research Director Riikka-Leena Leskelä, strengthening trust requires corrections at both the system and everyday level.

Permanent treatment relationship as a solution

Many professional respondents considered a permanent treatment relationship to be the most important solution. The model in which the family doctor and nurse work as a pair was seen as a way to ensure the continuity and quality of care. The family doctor and nurse model was supported regardless of the respondents' background, and it was believed that it would better enable individual and unhurried encounters with patients.

The Finnish Medical Association has set an ambitious goal: by 2030,

every Finn will be guaranteed a family doctor who is easy to contact and, if necessary, can be consulted within two weeks. Achieving this goal requires immediate implementation.

Long waiting times undermine trust

According to the report, citizens' trust in health care is undermined especially by long waiting times, lack of resources and experiences of mistreatment. The respondents emphasised the need for faster appointments, access to treatment and continuity of care – the same issues that citizens were concerned about in the Healthy Finland report.

Treatment pathways should be clear, well-described, and proceed consistently. They should be communicated enough and they should be easy for anyone to find. Sufficient human resources were seen as the key to managing the workload of professionals and coping.

Personal encounters must be preserved

Although digital services offer many people effective channels for organising care, the respondents emphasised the need to maintain the opportunity for personal encounters – especially for the elderly or those in need of special support. Diverse service models were seen as a solution that can take into account different needs.

The professionals also saw room for improvement in the encounter with the patient. The responses emphasised the desire to encounter the patient as an individual, not just as a case, and they also wished for more time for encounters.

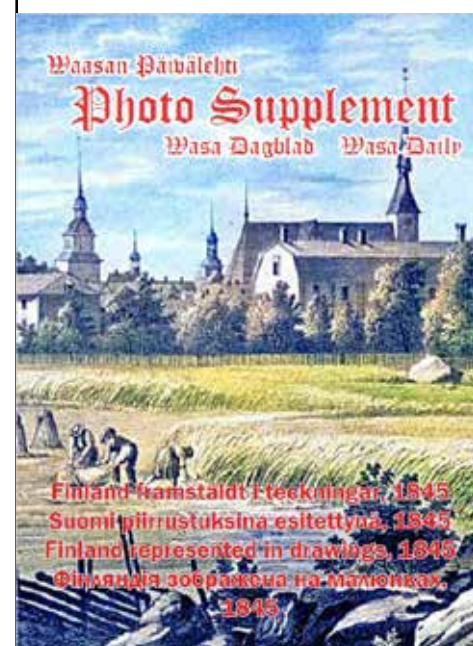
A universal system would strengthen trust

Professor Heikki Hiilamo from the University of Helsinki proposes a universal health care system that serves all Finns equally as a solution. By universal system, he means that tax money is used to pay for the same level of services for everyone, without unequal categories.

Public health care increases citizens' trust and is also the most financially sustainable way to organise services in the long term," Hiilamo summarises. In addition, the system needs incentives that reward the prevention of diseases, not just their treatment.

Liina-Kaisa Tynkkynen, Principal Researcher at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, emphasises that the weakening of trust must be taken seriously. According to her, it is important to listen better to both citizens and health care professionals when considering the next steps in the reform of national and regional health care.

Photo Supplement



NEWS

MUSIC

World-Renowned Violinist Elina Vähälä in Vaasa Tonight



This evening is a special occasion for music lovers in Vaasa: the internationally acclaimed Finnish violinist Elina Vähälä will perform in two concerts as part of the Korsholm Music Festival. At 6 p.m., she will appear in the baroque-themed concert Concert Royal at the Vaasa City Hall, and at 9 p.m., she will play in the intimate and atmospheric staircase concert Fantasia, also held in the City Hall.

Elina Vähälä (born October 15, 1975, in Iowa City, USA) is considered one of the most prominent Finnish musicians of her generation. She made her solo debut at

the age of 12 with the orchestra now known as Sinfonia Lahti and was named the orchestra's "Young Soloist of the Year" for the 1993–1994 season. Her international breakthrough came in 1999 when she won the prestigious Young Concert Artists competition and made her New York debut, which received an enthusiastic review from The New York Times.

Since then, Vähälä has performed extensively across North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, both as a soloist and chamber musician. In 2008, she appeared at the Nobel Peace

Prize Concert in Oslo, a performance that brought her further international acclaim.

In addition to her performing career, Vähälä has been an influential educator. She served as Professor of Violin at the Detmold University of Music in Germany from 2009 to 2012, and then at the Karlsruhe University of Music until 2019. She is currently a professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, one of Europe's leading music institutions.

In Finland, Vähälä is well known as the artistic director of the Naantali Music Festival, where she plays a key

role in shaping the festival's artistic vision. This summer, she organized a remarkable concert at the newly reopened Kultaranta, the summer residence of the Finnish president. The event was attended and warmly praised by President Stubb and his spouse.

For many years, Vähälä has performed on a violin owned by the Finnish Cultural Foundation, which until 2011 was believed to be made by Antonio Stradivari in 1678 — a testament to the high regard in which she is held within the classical music world.

For those who want to experience her artistry online, a stunning recording of Sibelius' Violin Concerto with conductor Osmo Vänskä is available on YouTube, filmed in Japan in 2013. The performance has been widely praised for its power and emotional depth.

As Svenska Dagbladet once wrote: "Elina Vähälä's playing was blinding, answering all the demands of the music in power, virtuosity and soft melancholy."

Tonight's concerts at the Korsholm Music Festival offer a rare chance to see and hear this world-class artist live. The program features both baroque gems and virtuosic works for solo violin, performed in two uniquely atmospheric settings.

NEWS

YOU CAN READ THIS NEWSPAPER ANYWHERE



You can read this paper wherever You are. Like here in Palo-saari

BLOG WRITERS

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UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate is rising - but is lowest in Malax and Larsmo

IN OSTROBOTHNIA AND Central Ostrobothnia, unemployment continued to rise in June, but the region's unemployment rate still remains the lowest in Mainland Finland. Particularly positive news comes from Malax and Larsmo, where the unemployment rate is among the lowest in the country.

In the Ostrobothnia ELY Centre's area, there were a total of 9,620 unemployed jobseekers at the end of June. This represents a significant increase, as the number of unemployed was 1,015 more than a year earlier and a full 1,371 more than in May. Despite the increasing number of unemployed, the proportion of unemployed jobseekers in the labor force in the Ostrobothnia ELY Centre's area

is still the lowest in Mainland Finland, at 8.3 percent. In the whole country, the corresponding proportion is significantly higher, at 12.2 percent. The data is based on KEHA Centre's Employment Statistics.

The unemployment rate in Ostrobothnia and Central Ostrobothnia is thus still low compared to the rest of the country. In the whole country, the number of unemployed increased by an average of 12.8 percent compared to a year earlier, while the increase in the Ostrobothnia ELY Centre's area was 11.8 percent. The number of unemployed jobseekers increased in all of the region's economic areas compared to the previous year. The lowest unemployment rate was measured in the South Ostrobothnia

coastal region, at 5.2 percent.

At the municipal level, the increase in the number of unemployed was largest in Vaasa, Kokkola, and Pedersöre. As a positive development, the number of unemployed decreased most in Malax, Nykarleby, and Halsö. The proportion of unemployed jobseekers in the labor force was highest in Kaskinen (12.9%). In contrast, the proportion of unemployed jobseekers in the labor force was lowest in Larsmo municipality (3.5%) and Malax (3.7%), which underlines these municipalities' strong employment situation. Vaasa's unemployment rate was 9.9 percent, Jakobstad's 10.8 percent, and Kokkola's 10.5 percent.

Unemployment increased at

the end of June in most age and occupational groups, as well as at all education levels. The number of unemployed jobseekers under 25 years of age was 1,273, which is 122 more than the previous year. The number of unemployed over 50 years of age was 3,084, thus 224 more than a year earlier, and they constituted 32 percent of all unemployed jobseekers. By education level, unemployment increased most among those with secondary education, with an increase of 485 people (+11.6%) compared to the previous year. By occupational group, unemployment increased most in the specialist occupational group (+336), while it decreased most in the occupational group of farmers, forest workers, etc. (-34).

MUSIC

KORSHOLM MUSIC FESTIVAL

Korsholm Music Festival Opens with Cheerful Spirit



THE KORSHOLM MUSIC FESTIVAL was officially opened on Wednesday at Rewell Center in Vaasa with a delightful and lighthearted performance. Entertaining the opening-day audience was the Vaasa Gangsta Quartet – a humorous and skillful ensemble formed by musicians from the Vaasa City Orchestra. The group was led by conductor Mauno Mämmi, with performers Vladimir Retshetko, Pontus Grans, and Eneko Iriarte. The open space at Rewell quickly filled up, drawing a crowd of over a hundred music lovers who gathered to enjoy the lively start of this year's festival.-

A Celebration of Classical Music in the Heart of Ostrobothnia

This year's Korsholm Music Festival takes place from July 22 to July 30, featuring 25 concerts and around 100 musicians from Finland and abroad.

Set amid the scenic coasts and archipelago of Vaasa and Mustasaari, the festival offers a unique and atmospheric stage for world-class performances. Since its founding in 1983, the Korsholm Music Festival has brought together top Nordic and international artists and established itself as one of Finland's most esteemed chamber music festivals.







NEWS

CLIMATE CHANGE

Finnish Meteorological Institute: New temperature record in Finland. And it doesn't stop there.



FINLAND IS experiencing an exceptional heat wave, as the highest temperature of the summer was measured yesterday at the Hiekkapakkka observation station in Lappeenranta. At the same time, 30.3 degrees was measured in Parikkala Koitsanlahti, which today is the 14th day in a row where it has been measured above 30.0 degrees anywhere in Finland.

According to the Finnish Meteorological Institute, this is the longest period of consecutive days exceeding 30 degrees Celsius in the statistics since 1961. The record is clearly better than previous heat

waves and shows how climate change affects weather conditions in Finland.

The warm weather continues

According to the Finnish Meteorological Institute's forecasts, the heat wave will continue, and next week also looks set to start with general warmth. Warm temperatures will remain high, although thunderstorms will become more frequent as the week changes, which may provide temporary relief.

Meteorologists warn that this year's heat wave is unlikely to be unique. Climate change is causing such extreme weather phenomena to become more common in Finland.

Europe on fire

Finland is not alone in having

exceptional temperatures. In June and July 2025, Europe experienced a widespread heatwave with local temperatures exceeding 40°C, and June 2025 was the warmest June on record in Western Europe with an average temperature of 20.49°C.

According to an analysis by Imperial College London, extreme temperatures may have caused around 2,300 deaths in 10 days in the 12 cities analyzed.

Although there is no more detailed information on the current temperatures in Estonia, the country's all-time previous temperature record is 35.6°C, which is still lower than the current values in Finland.

Effects of climate change

Western Europe is currently affected by a strong

high-pressure system that damages dry air from North Africa into the region and leads to extreme heat. This has significant consequences in all areas of life, leading to increased air pollution and a high risk of forest fires.

According to meteorologists, the weather in Finland is changing permanently. Summers are getting warmer and previously rare heat waves are becoming more frequent. This 14-day heat wave is just the beginning of what can be expected in the future.

The Finnish Meteorological Institute urges residents to prepare for constant heat and to take precautions, especially when it comes to outdoor activities and physical exertion. Thundershowers may provide temporary relief, but the basic trend remains: Finland is warming.

NEWS

GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

Earth Hits Breaking Point Earlier Than Ever



THE CLOCK RUNS out. Earth Overshoot Day fell on July 24th this year – the earliest date humanity has ever burned through the planet’s annual resources. From here on, we’re stealing from tomorrow.

The math is brutal. Humanity uses nature 1.8 times faster than Earth’s ecosystems can regenerate. We’re strip-mining the future, and the bill keeps growing.

This isn’t some distant crisis. Overshoot drives the chaos we see every day – biodiversity collapse, extreme weather, food shortages, conflicts over dwindling resources. The damage compounds. Every year we run a deficit, the debt gets deeper.

Even as this year’s Earth Overshoot Day is the earliest ever, it has remained within a narrow window for over 15 years. The date holds steady while the pressure builds. We’re maxed out, running on fumes, depleting what’s left.

The market broke. That’s the cold truth. From an economic perspective, overshoot is a clear example of market failure. Resources get underpriced. Overuse gets rewarded. The system cannibalizes itself.

Cities burn through resources. Energy systems leak waste. Food chains collapse under pressure. Population grows while the planet shrinks. The biosphere bleeds out.

But here’s the kicker – solutions exist. They’re profitable. Cutting CO2 emissions from fossil fuels by 50% would move the date by three months. Technologies that restore balance make money as they scale.

Smart money sees what’s coming. Companies that reverse overshoot position themselves for a resource-constrained future. The writing’s on the wall.

“We are stretching the limits of how much ecological damage we can get away with,” warns Dr. Lewis Akenji from Global Footprint Network. “We owe the planet at least 22 years of ecological regeneration, even if we stop any further damage now.”

The choice cuts sharp. Dr. Mathis Wackernagel, who tracks these numbers, puts it plain: “Overshoot cannot last. It will end either by deliberate design or dumped-on disaster.”

Design or disaster. Fix the market or watch it collapse.

The carbon footprint alone devours 61 percent of humanity’s ecological budget. We’re burning the house down for heating fuel.

Countries, cities, companies – whoever adapts first survives what’s coming. The unprepared face catastrophic risk. Resource security becomes the new currency. Access to clean water, fertile soil, stable climate – these determine who thrives and who falls.

The debt clock ticks. Every day past July 24th, we borrow more from a planet that’s already overdrawn. The interest compounds. The damage spreads.

But tomorrow’s decisions still matter. Technology exists to flip the script. Investment flows toward solutions. Political will can shift overnight when survival’s on the line.

The question isn’t whether overshoot ends. Physics guarantees it will.

The question is whether we choose the ending – or let it choose us.

ONLINE TRANSLATIONS

The Best Online Translators in 2025

In 2025, online translation tools have become more advanced than ever, offering near-human accuracy in many languages. For translations between Finnish, Swedish, and English—three languages with different linguistic roots—some AI-powered translators perform better than others. This article compares the top options available today, evaluating their strengths and weaknesses.

1. Google Translate: The Most Reliable All-Rounder

Google Translate remains one of the most widely used translation tools, supporting over 100 languages, including Finnish and Swedish. Its neural machine translation (NMT) system has improved significantly, especially for Finnish, which is a challenging language due to its complex grammar.

Pros:
Fast and free
Handles long texts well
Offers pronunciation and transliteration
Continuously updated with user corrections

Cons:
Sometimes produces awkward phrasing in Finnish
Less nuanced than some AI competitors

2. DeepSeek: The Rising AI Contender

DeepSeek has gained popularity for its high accuracy in Nordic languages. It uses advanced large language models (LLMs)

fine-tuned for Scandinavian and Finno-Ugric languages, making it a strong choice for Finnish-Swedish-English translations.

Pros:
Better context retention than Google Translate
Handles idiomatic expressions well
Free to use (as of 2025)

Cons:
Limited additional features (e.g., no speech translation)
Still improving for less common dialects

3. ChatGPT (OpenAI): Best for Contextual Accuracy

ChatGPT-4.5 (or later versions) excels in understanding context, making it ideal for translating complex sentences. Unlike traditional translators, it can adjust tone and style, which is useful for business or creative writing.

Pros:
Natural-sounding translations
Can refine outputs based on user feedback
Works well with technical and literary texts

Cons:
Requires a subscription for best performance
Slower than dedicated translation tools

4. Gemini (Google DeepMind): AI-Powered Precision

Gemini, Google's advanced AI model, integrates with Google Translate but offers deeper contextual understanding. It performs particularly well with Swedish-English translations due to extensive training data.

Pros:



Strong handling of Scandinavian languages
Can explain translations (useful for learners)
Integrates with other Google services

Cons:
Not as strong with Finnish as with Swedish
Requires internet access for full functionality

5. Claude (Anthropic): Balanced and Safe Translations

Claude focuses on providing accurate, bias-free translations, making it a good option for professional use. While not as fast as Google Translate, it avoids many common errors in Finnish grammar.

Pros:

High accuracy for formal texts
Explains translation choices
Good for business and academic use

Cons:
Limited free access
Not as optimized for casual speech

6. Opera's Aria: The Underrated Option

Aria, powered by OpenAI's models, is a free alternative built

into the Opera browser. It works well for quick translations, especially between Swedish and English, but struggles slightly with Finnish nuances.

Pros:
Free and easy to use
Browser-integrated for convenience
Decent accuracy for short texts

Cons:
Less reliable for long documents
Fewer language customization options

Verdict: Which One Should You Use?

For everyday use: Google Translate (fast, reliable, free)

For business/academic translations: ChatGPT or Claude (better context handling)

For Finnish-specific needs: DeepSeek (strongest with Finno-Ugric languages)

For Swedish-English: Gemini (most natural phrasing)

Ultimately, the best tool depends on your needs. While AI translation has come a long way, human proofreading is still recommended for critical documents.

Trump Named in Epstein Files

Trump Named in Epstein Files

Former President Donald Trump was notified in May by the U.S. Justice Department that his name appears in connection with documents related to the late financier Jeffrey Epstein, according to recent reports.



The revelation adds a new layer of scrutiny to the long-running investigation into Epstein's alleged network of abuse and trafficking. While no charges have been brought against Trump in this context, the mention of his name in the files has drawn renewed public and political attention.

During his presidency, Trump's administration supported efforts to unseal grand jury materials related to Epstein. However, a federal judge in Florida, Robin Rosenberg, rejected the move, citing the need to protect grand jury secrecy.

The matter has further escalated tensions in Washington. A congressional committee has issued a subpoena demanding full access to the Epstein files, signaling growing pressure for transparency in the high-profile case.

Trump Administration Clashes with Federal Reserve Over Headquarters Renovation

President Trump and Fed Chairman Jerome Powell engaged in a public disagreement over the cost of renovations to

the Federal Reserve headquarters. The dispute highlights ongoing tensions between the administration and the central bank regarding fiscal responsibility and institutional independence. Sources close to the matter indicate the renovations have exceeded initial budget projections significantly. The disagreement comes as the Fed maintains its focus on managing inflation and employment levels. Political analysts suggest this confrontation reflects broader concerns about executive branch influence over monetary policy. The renovation project has become a symbol of government spending priorities under the current administration.

Global Economic Growth Projections Remain Subdued

The European Union economy is projected to grow by just 1.0 percent in 2025, facing challenges from higher trade barriers and elevated policy uncertainty. Economic forecasters cite slowing growth in major economies including the United States and China as contributing factors. OECD projections indicate global GDP growth will slow notably this year due to substantial increases in trade barriers. Businesses report increased difficulty planning investments amid uncertain trade policies. Consumer spending patterns show signs of caution as households adjust to higher costs. International cooperation on economic policy remains limited, complicating recovery efforts worldwide.

Ukraine Conflict Developments Continue to Shape Regional Security

Russian forces claimed control of the entirety of Luhansk Oblast in Ukraine, according to local officials. The announcement comes amid continued fighting across multiple fronts in the ongoing conflict. A Ukrainian drone

attack on a military facility in Izhevsk, Russia, resulted in three deaths and 45 injuries, prompting Russian authorities to declare a state of emergency in the region. International observers continue monitoring humanitarian conditions in affected areas. NATO allies maintain their support commitments to Ukraine while managing escalation risks. The conflict's impact on global energy markets remains a significant economic concern.

Middle East Tensions Escalate in Gaza Operations

Israel expanded its military ground operation into Deir al-Balah, one of Gaza's last relatively safe zones. The escalation raises humanitarian concerns as civilian populations face increased displacement and danger. International aid organizations report difficulties accessing affected areas to provide essential services. Diplomatic efforts to establish cease-fire agreements continue with limited success. Regional powers maintain their respective positions while civilian casualties mount on all sides. The situation complicates broader Middle East stability efforts and international diplomatic initiatives.

Climate Change Impact on Economic Policy Expected to Intensify

Climate change's impact on the world economy is becoming increasingly apparent, forcing central banks and finance ministries to factor environmental risks into daily policies. However, policy coordination faces challenges as different administrations maintain varying approaches to climate action. Financial institutions report growing pressure to assess climate-related risks in their lending and investment decisions. Insurance companies adjust coverage policies as weather-related claims increase significantly.

ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Helene Schjerfbeck

10.7.1862, Helsinki

23.1.1946, Saltsjöbaden, Ruotsi

Flicka från Eydtkuhnen II, 1927

EVENTS

UMEÅ WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

IN THE SECRET SERVICE OF THE KINGDOM

4.5 - 20.8.2025

Meet the women in the Swedish intelligence service during World War II. Hotel cleaners, cleaners and secretaries are recruited to the Swedish intelligence service. They secretly act as informants, couriers, or infiltrators. Others are employees of the Postal Service, the Telephone Control, or the Defense Staff's cryptography department to write, decipher, translate, and search through letters and calls about suspicious things."

<https://www.kvinnohistoriskt.se/>

EVENING MUSIC

In Vaasa Church – enjoy the atmosphere of a classic summer evening

Feel the atmosphere of summer evenings with high-quality music in Vaasa Church. The Evangelical Lutheran parishes are once again offering free classical music concerts, which have already established themselves as the pearls of the city's summer programme over the years.

Classical evening music on Wednesdays from 4.6.25 at 19.30

9.7. Loviisa Tuomisto ja Valtteri Tuomisto, urut, piano ja laulu.

16.7. Jenny Sandelin, sopraano ja Anton Ylikallio, piano. tiistai 22.7. kello 18.30 Pétur Sakari, urut. Yhteistyössä Korsholman Musiikkijuhlien kanssa.

6.8. Inka Pärssinen, trumpet ja Hanna Koljonen, urut.

13.8. Noora Karhuluoma, sopraano ja Marco Bonacci, sem-balo.

LOHTAJA CHURCH MUSIC FESTIVAL

22-27.7.25

Church music from thousand-year-old traditions

www.kirkkomusiikkijuhlat.fi

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."

VAASA CITY HALL

27.7.25

CONCERT ROYAL

Amélie goes to Belgrade with her friends

Korsholm Music Festival

VAASA FESTIVAL 2025

31.7.-2.8.2025

Music, food and wine

In Vaasa's inner harbour

<https://vaasafestival.fi/>

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. Wasa Innovation Center

Gerbyntie 18

65230 Vaasa

<https://wasafuturefestival.fi/>

Butterfly Exhibition

12-31 August 2025 as part of Wasa Future Festival

Butterfly Symposium 12.8.2025

Butterfly is an international interactive exhibition on new media and performance art, which is a collaboration between the University of Vaasa, Deak University, Umeå University and the University of Tampere, and which is part of the program of the Wasa Future Festival (11-16.8.2025) as well as a related program (symposium and program for school children).

<https://sites.uwasa.fi/butterfly/>



NIGHT OF THE ARTS

14.8.2025

"Toivottavasti näemme taas ensi vuoden Taiteiden yössä"

<https://www.vaasa.fi/koe-ja-nae/kulttuuria-vaasassa-ja-seudulla/vaasan-kaupunginorkesteri/las-vegas/>

KOKKOLA SKI CHAMBER – KOKKOLA AUTUMN CHAMBER

August 2025 & 2026

www.kokkolansyyskamari.com

VAASA CITY THEATRE PIAF

Premiere 11.9.2025 AT 6 PM Romeo Hall

"In September 2025, the musical play Piaf – I Don't Regret Anything will premiere on the Romeo stage of the Vaasa City Theatre, which tells the unique and multi-stage life story of Édith Piaf, who rose to world

fame from the streets of Paris."

The role of Piaf is interpreted by theatre actress Sonja Halla-aho.

<https://www.netticket.fi/piaf-vaasa>

Jorma Panula - Conductor Course Concert

19.9.2025 at 6 pm

Vaasa City Hall

In cooperation with Panula Academy.

Vaasa City Orchestra cond. Students of the conducting course

"Over the decades, Jorma Panula's courses in Vaasa have seen both future world stars in the world of conducting and pedagogues doing important basic work. Maestro Panula, who has an enormous amount of experience, finds the essence in music, and the popularity of the courses shows that he also knows how to pass it on to his students. In the final concert of the conducting course, we will put the lessons learned during the week to full use!"

Las Vegas

2.10.2025 at 6 pm

Vaasa City Orchestra

cond. Antti Rissanen

sol. Juki Välipakka & Chiara Orlandi

Come Fly With Me, Fly Me to the Moon, My Way, I want to be Loved by You.... <https://www.vaasa.fi/koe-ja-nae/kulttuuria-vaasassa-ja-seudulla/vaasan-kaupunginorkesteri/las-vegas/>

VAASA CITY THEATRE

UNNECESSARY PEOPLE

Premiere 23.10.2025 AT 7 PM Juliet Hall

One of the most influential dramas in Finnish playwriting. <https://www.netticket.fi/tarpe-ettomia-ihmisia-vaasa>

VAASA CITY THEATRE

FOREVER YOUNG

Premiere 31.10.2025 AT 7 PM Romeo Hall

"Forever Young is a joyful musical comedy full of vibrant joy. As we get older, do we get old? Or are we always forever young?"

<https://www.netticket.fi/ikui->

VAASA FUTURE FESTIVAL

VAASA FUTURE FESTIVAL

International Art Exhibition Makes Digital Butterfly Effects Visible in Vaasa



An exceptional art exhibition opening in Vaasa this August combines art and science to examine the real environmental impacts of digitalization. The Butterfly exhibition asks what happens to the planet when every click and ChatGPT search consumes natural resources.

The exhibition, running August 12-31, 2025 in the "Catacombs" at Wasa Innovation Center, is a joint international project between the University of Vaasa, Deakin University, Umeå University, and the University of Tampere's Games Research Lab. It is part of the Wasa Future Festival program and critically examines the development between humans and nature globally.

Technology Critiques Itself

The exhibition's central idea is paradoxical: it utilizes the same

technology it problematizes. Artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and audio data technology function both as medium and object of critique. The exhibition demonstrates how these technologies define our lives and how art can use technology to critique itself.

"The more digital we become in one area, the more significant digitalization's impact may become in another area," describes producer Elina Melgin from the University of Vaasa regarding the exhibition's starting point.

The exhibition's philosophical foundation is "ecosophy" – philosophy about the interconnection between ecological systems and human values. The concept combines "eco" (ecology) and "sophy" (wisdom) to reflect on how technological development affects the environment and people.

International Artist Group The Butterfly exhibition presents internationally recognized artists from around the world. Participants include Moa Cederberg from Finland, Jurgis

Peters from Latvia and Finland, Samuel Kujala from Finland, and a broad Australian artist group from Cameron Bishop to Spencer Rose.

Particularly interesting is the collaboration between award-winning Jack Manning Bancroft and Tyson Yunkaporta, who contribute new vocabulary to the rapidly developing digital landscape through Australian Indigenous knowledge systems.

The artists address questions about artificial intelligence, sustainability, and ecosophy, and their impacts on culture, language, society, environment, human agency, and human relationships.

Smart Industry Requires Sustainable Energy Solutions

The exhibition highlights a current challenge: industry is becoming not only digital but presumably "smart" as well. The challenge is finding sustainable energy solutions to maintain the technology that drives this intelligence. Every small click and search on

Google or ChatGPT consumes natural resources. The exhibition makes these hidden environmental impacts visible and reflects on how we can develop technology more sustainably.

Curatorial Team and Side Programming

The exhibition has been curated by an international team including Associate Professor Rebekah Rousi from the University of Vaasa, Associate Professor Toija Cinque from Deakin University in Australia, Dr. Anne Scott Wilson from Deakin University, Aska Mayer from the University of Tampere, and Associate Professor Esteban Guerrero Rosero from Umeå University in Sweden. The exhibition's architecture is handled by Lyndsey Morley from Britain and Finland together with the curatorial group.

The exhibition's side programming includes the Butterfly symposium on August 12, 2025, and programs for school children. The exhibition opening for invited guests is arranged on August 11 at 5:30-7:30 PM.

Catalog and Additional Information

An approximately 80-page art exhibition catalog will be published in July. It contains 18 artist presentations and five scientific articles. The catalog's editors are Rebekah Rousi, Toija Cinque, and Katey O'Sullivan.

The exhibition has emerged through grants and partnerships, with Wasa Innovation Center being the most significant. The exhibition is open to the public August 12-31, 2025, as part of the Wasa Future Festival at Gerbynvägen 16 in Pukinkulma, Vaasa.

STREETS AND SQUARES

STREETS

The Transformation of Kasarmintori Begins – Old Trees Replaced, Street Renewed



VAASA's historic Kasarmintori (Eastern Barracks Square) is facing a transformation: on Wednesday, July 30th, the renovation of the church-side section of the street will begin, renewing both the street surface and the green areas. The work will continue until the end of October, and with it, the area will gain new trees, improved water supply, and safer pedestrian areas.

Old Trees Replaced – More and Stronger Trees to Be Planted

The trees along the street have been inspected, and most of them are in poor condition. The stress caused by the groundwork would further weaken their condition, so the old trees will be

replaced with new ones.

"We decided to preemptively remove the trees in poor condition so that they don't cause hazardous situations later. More columnar maples will be planted in their place, which have better conditions to thrive," says the city's responsible person for green areas.

Only one park tree will be removed, and a new one will be planted in its place. In addition, long-lived oaks will be planted in the area, strengthening the park's vegetation for the future.

Street Works Disrupt Traffic – Parking Moves to Nearby Streets

During the work period, parking at Kasarmintori will be suspended, and motorists will be directed to use free parking spaces on nearby streets. Signs will be installed around the work area to minimize disruptions.

"We aim to complete the work as quickly and with as little disruption as possible. After the renewal, the area will be more beautiful and functional for both pedestrians and motorists," promises the project manager.

Fifth Fire Street in Renovation Cycle – Water Supply Renewed

Kasarmintori is the fifth fire street to be renovated as part of Vaasa's street network renewal project launched in recent years. This time, a key part is the improvement of water supply, which ensures a more sustainable infrastructure for the area.

"The renovation of fire streets is a long-term effort that improves the city's resilience. In the coming years, renovations will continue on other streets," says a representative of the building department.

What are the benefits of the renewal?

- ☐ Safer street – new surfaces and better maintained trees reduce risk.
- ☐ Greener environment – more trees and more diverse vegetation.
- ☐ More sustainable infrastructure – new water supply ensures longer-lasting use.

Work Schedule: ☐ July 30 – October 31, 2025 ☐ Eastern Kasarmintori (church-side section)

Parking: ☐ Nearby streets offer temporary parking options.

More information: City's construction pages Map of the work area

The new Square will soon be ready – welcome to enjoy the renewed environment!

Source: www.vaasa.fi

PHARMACY REFORM

PHARMACIES

Major Pharmacy Reform Coming – Prescription Drugs to Get Cheaper, Common Medicines to Be Sold in Stores



FINLAND'S pharmacy system is set for a major overhaul that will make prescription medications more affordable and allow select over-the-counter medicines to be sold in grocery stores. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has released a proposal for changes aimed at cutting public spending while improving medicine accessibility.

Key Changes Coming

Lower Prices for Prescription Drugs

The reform will reduce prescription medication fees, directly lowering costs for patients.

Expected to save €30 million annually in state drug reimbursement expenses.

New Tax Rules for Pharmacies

Pharmacy tax will shift from being based on revenue to profit margins.

Small pharmacies with profits under €250,000 will be exempt entirely.

Over-the-Counter Medicines in Stores

Common medications like heartburn and constipation treatments will be available outside pharmacies.

Selection will be limited to products deemed safe without pharmacist consultation.

Pharmacies Gain New Authority

Pharmacists will be allowed to correct obvious prescription errors under strict conditions.

What Happens Next?

The proposal is open for public consultation until Au-

gust 18, 2025. If approved, changes would take effect January 1, 2026.

"This reform delivers on our government program while protecting nationwide pharmacy coverage. We're making better use of pharmacists' expertise in health-care," said Minister of Social Security Sanni Grahn-Laasonen.

The ministry estimates the changes will create a more efficient, accessible and cost-effective medication system while maintaining safety standards.

BIOGAS

BIOGAS

Biogas Accelerates the Green Transition in Ostrobothnia – New Digital Platform Connects Stakeholders



Biogas plays a key role in advancing regional energy self-sufficiency and circular economy in Ostrobothnia, Central Ostrobothnia, and South Ostrobothnia. A joint research project by the University of Vaasa, Centria University of Applied Sciences, and Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences, called DigiBiogasHubs, is developing a digital platform to connect biogas market actors and enable new collaborations.

Biogas Production Could Multiply

Regional biogas hubs have already been identified where production and usage can expand significantly. Each sub-region has unique strengths:

Ostrobothnia: Industry and maritime transport drive demand.

Central Ostrobothnia: Industrial parks provide a supportive ecosystem.

South Ostrobothnia: The food system creates favorable conditions for biogas utilization.

The region's biomethane potential is estimated at 676–1,172 GWh per year—eight times current production levels. Agricultural waste, such as manure and

straw, offers a major feedstock opportunity.

Significant Climate Impact

Biogas can drastically reduce emissions, particularly in agriculture. When produced from manure, biogas can even achieve a negative carbon footprint. For example, a plant processing 50,000 tons of manure annually could reduce emissions by 135–139% compared to fossil fuels.

“Biomethane production could exceed 1,000 GWh per year in these regions,” says Sanna Hietamäki, project manager at Seinäjoki UAS.

Challenges: Logistics & Regulation

Growth is hindered by feedstock availability uncertainties, logis-

tical bottlenecks, and complex regulations. EU climate targets and national subsidy schemes also create investment uncertainties.

“We need a unified digital platform to streamline knowledge-sharing and collaboration,” says Wajahat Ali, a researcher at the University of Vaasa.

A Digital Hub for Collaboration

The DigiBiogasHubs platform serves as a marketplace and networking tool, integrating:

Biogas trading

Feedstock management

Logistics solutions

Regulatory data

It also enables logistics tendering, auctions, and certification management. A pilot phase is underway, with feedback guiding further development.

DigiBiogasHubs is an EU-funded project coordinated by the University of Vaasa's VEBIC research platform, running until 2025.

Source: University of Vaasa, Centria UAS, Seinäjoki UAS

Image: Existing, planned and under construction biogas plants in the Ostrobothnian regions. Icons are indicative. Milla Hanula, University of Vaasa. Image freely available.

EU BUREAUCRACY

EU

Important breakthrough to reduce corporate bureaucracy – Henriksson's report approved



MEP AnnaMaja Henriksson (RKP, Renew Europe) has achieved significant success in simplifying rules and bureaucracy for businesses in the EU's single market. Today, Parliament's Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) voted through her own-initiative report with strong support: 42 votes in favour and only 3 against.

The goal: simplifying rules and digitalisation

Henriksson's report contains 40 concrete proposals. They aim to simplify EU legislation, streamline administrative processes and facilitate reporting for companies –

all without compromising the EU's fundamental goals such as climate, consumer protection and digital transformation. One of the clearest proposals is to introduce a digital "one-stop shop", where companies can handle all administrative matters in one place – instead of having to navigate between different platforms and occasionally submit papers to different member countries.

Henriksson points out that the EU's internal market with about 450 million inhabitants has great potential, but that it is currently hampered by bureaucratic obstacles. By simplifying and digitalising

systems, businesses can focus on innovation, growth, jobs and tax revenues – as well as strengthening the EU's competitiveness globally.

Challenges and next steps

The decision of the IMCO Committee is just the beginning. The report will now be voted on in the parliament's chamber this autumn. First, even more members must be convinced – but with 423 members of the committee, it has got off to a strong start. Henriksson has led the negotiations intensively and describes the process as demanding, but determined. The result is one result: a report with concrete points to cut

unnecessary administration and simplify the everyday life of companies.

The report also supports the European Commission's goal of reducing administrative costs for businesses by up to 25% in general and 35% for SMEs – the so-called SMEs. The goal is for companies to put their resources into work and growth, not on paper exercises.

AnnaMaja Henriksson's message

Henriksson emphasizes clearly:

"If we are to cope with global competition, companies must be able to focus on their core business – not on filling in forms or deciphering fine print."

She further stresses that the EU needs a regulatory environment that is clear, predictable, proportionate and practicable – an environment where rules support growth, innovation and growth without compromising common values.

What is an INI report?

The report is a so-called INI report – an initiative by MEPs to influence the European Commission's legislative work. Such reports send clear signals about what Parliament wants to see in terms of reforms and are important tools for driving EU policies forward.

Source; SFP

Image: EU

THL ADVICE

THL

Rising Cases of Avian Influenza in Finland: Authorities Urge Caution Around Sick or Dead Birds



Finnish health and veterinary authorities are urging the public to take extra caution after a notable increase this year in sightings of wild birds infected or killed by avian influenza. While transmission to humans remains rare, experts warn that the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain currently circulating in wild birds can cause severe illness if exposure occurs.

Recent findings show that instances of avian flu in Finland are on the rise compared to the previous year. The virus has also been detected sporadically in mammals—including otters and foxes—underlining its potential to cross species barriers. Previous outbreaks on fur farms (notably in 2023) and across European poultry farms have demonstrated the virus's

capacity to infect a variety of animal hosts

Transmission and Human Health Risk

THL (Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare) infectious disease specialist Erika Lindh explains that while person-to-person transmission of H5N1 is very unlikely, the virus poses a serious health risk if humans are directly exposed through contact with infected animals. This could occur via contaminated hands touching the mouth, eyes, or nose, or in enclosed spaces such as vehicles. Although rare, such cases can lead to severe respiratory illness or even death.

Protect Yourself and

Your Pets

Authorities strongly advise avoiding all direct contact with sick or dead wild animals. If it's absolutely necessary to handle one—for example, for removal or safe disposal—protective measures are critical:

Wear disposable gloves.

Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately afterward.

Use alcohol-based sanitiser if water isn't available.

If handling takes more than a brief moment, wear a respirator-style mask to reduce inhalation risk.

Pet owners should be vigilant: cats or dogs that bring home deceased birds can spread the virus. If your pet shows signs of illness within a week—such as lethargy or respiratory symptoms—seek veterinary advice and mention the bird incident.

What to Do If You Spot a Single Suspect Animal

Symptoms in wild animals may include apathy, respiratory distress, diarrhea, or neurological signs like abnormal posture or movement. Some animals may die suddenly without apparent symptoms. Authorities instruct that:

Report any sick or dead wild animal to your nearest licensed veterinarian.

Never bring the animal into places with other people or animals.

You can leave a dead bird in its natural habitat or, for hygiene, bury it or place it securely in a

sealed plastic bag for disposal.

If further analysis is needed, samples can be sent for post-mortem and disease testing according to Finnish Food Mass Die-Offs Require Immediate Action

Finding a group of dead or sick waterfowl—more than one swan, over five gulls or ducks, or ten other birds—constitutes an outbreak. Similarly, discovering a single large raptor that has died unexpectedly should be reported. Local veterinarians will collect specimens for laboratory testing.

Vaccine Protection for High-Risk Groups

In anticipation of heightened risk, Finland began offering H5 bird flu vaccinations to high-risk groups—such as poultry or fur farm workers, veterinarians, wildlife handlers, and laboratory staff—during March 2025. The European-authorized CSL Seqirus vaccine is provided free through local wellbeing-services counties, complementing existing biosafety protocols

Current Outlook in Europe

According to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), between March and June 2025, Europe saw 365 outbreaks of HPAI H5, mostly in wild waterfowl and poultry. Spillover into mammals—including cats, foxes, otters, seals, and even a sheep in the UK—has been confirmed. There were 20 reported human cases across six countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Mexico, and Vietnam) during this period, including four deaths. However, no sustained transmission to or within humans has occurred

CYBERSECURITY

CYBERSECURITY

Telia's Five Tips for Safe Summer Remote Work



SUMMER IS HERE, and many knowledge workers are relocating their offices to lakeside docks, hammocks, or café terraces. While mobile networks provide plenty of bandwidth, cybersecurity never takes a vacation.

Henry Kylänlahti, Chief Security Officer at Telia Cygate, encourages everyone to enjoy the flexibility of remote work—as long as they remember the basics of safe

digital practices. "Cybersecurity isn't just about firewalls and passwords—it's about how we act. Sometimes, this means holding a remote meeting from your kitchen table is smarter than joining from a rowboat," he says.

Kylänlahti shares five tips to stay secure while working remotely this summer:

1. Keep Your Devices Updated

Before heading to the summer cabin, make sure all

software on your work devices is up to date. Cybercriminals don't take breaks, and an outdated browser can be an open invitation to malware. Don't forget to update your mobile hotspot and home router regularly too.

2. Think Twice Before Using Public USB Ports

If your phone is running out of battery, charging it via a public USB port could expose it to a juice jacking attack—where data is stolen or

malware is installed. Always use your own charger or a power bank instead. A dead battery is safer than an infected device.

3. Be Mindful of Conversations on the Dock

Summer breezes carry sound far, and a meeting on the dock might unintentionally reach the neighbors' ears. Keep confidential discussions indoors or ensure no outsiders are within earshot to protect sensitive business information.

4. Use Work Devices for Work—Personal Devices Should Stay on Vacation

When working from a summer cottage or café, it might be tempting to use personal devices or public cloud services. But work-related files belong only on company-approved devices and systems—this keeps data secure and backups up to date.

5. Cybersecurity Never Takes a Break—Scammers Certainly Don't

Summer is prime time for scammers, with workplaces relying on substitutes and remote employees being more mobile. Stay alert: don't click suspicious links, ignore strange requests, and save IT support contacts somewhere other than just your work device.

With these tips, summer remote work can be both enjoyable and secure—for employees and businesses alike.

NEWS

MUSIC

The Power of Music Unites at This Year's Korsholm Music Festival



Strings. Over the weekend, FRIGG will deliver vibrant folk music at the Doo-Bop Club. On Sunday, audiences will experience an innovative concert combining classical works by Shostakovich and Prokofiev, followed by lively Balkan music in the city hall's festive hall — with childcare provided to make the event more accessible to families.

The festival culminates in a grand final concert. Soprano Aurora Marthens will perform Sibelius songs alongside the Vaasa City Orchestra, followed by the orchestral classic Elgar's *Enigma Variations*.

"We've succeeded in crafting a powerful and cohesive program. This could be one of our strongest years yet," says a proud Jan-Erik Gustafsson.

THE KORSHOLM, Music Festival is celebrating its 43rd edition this year, bringing together over a hundred artists from around the world for a week filled with music, connection, and diversity. The theme of this year's festival is "Bridges", with the subtitle "Journey Together", aiming to build cultural and human bridges through music.

The festival's program is

wide-ranging and varied — from classical music to tango, folk music, children's performances, and, for the first time, Balkan music. Among this year's participants are violinist Elina Vähälä, conductor Arvid Engegård, cellist Aleksei Kiseliiov, soprano Mari Palo, and ensembles such as Opus13, folk group FRIGG, and the colorful Amélie goes to Belgrad.

"A bridge doesn't have to be physical — it can be a connection between cultu-

res, generations, or people. Music can unite what may initially seem different," says artistic director Jan-Erik Gustafsson.

This year's featured composer is the legendary Finnish composer Aulis Sallinen, recognized as the country's first operatic composer of international stature. The festival seeks to highlight his significant contributions to Finland's musical culture.

The festival opens with a concert by the Helsinki-based Wegelius Chamber

In addition, the festival emphasizes accessibility and sustainability — all bus transportation to concerts is included in the ticket price. It also continues its investment in young talent with masterclasses, featuring five teachers and space for forty students, aiming to give more emerging musicians the chance to experience the unifying power of music.

HISTORY

VAASA CITY FIRE ON AUG 3, 1852

Pali-Maja and the poem about the fire in the city of Wasa

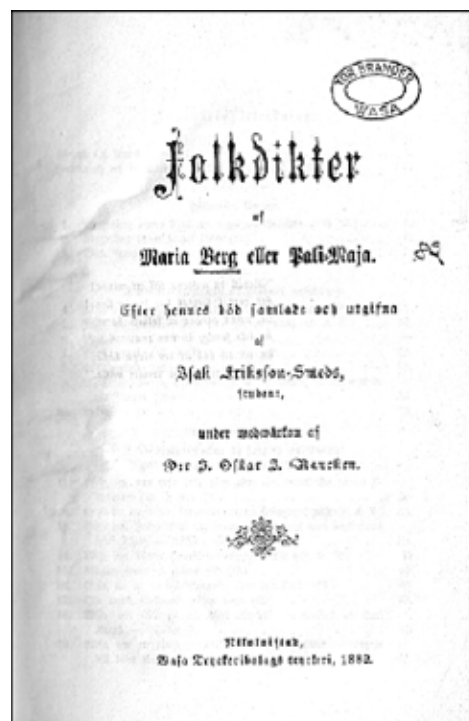


According to hER, fire was God's punishment for the sins of humanity—and many of his contemporaries, including priests, probably agreed.

Marie Johansdotter Berg, known by her pseudonym Pali-Maja, was born on 10 December 1784 in Pali, a farm group on Österlandsvägen in Pörtom. Her father, Johan Hansson Uppgård, had moved to Pörtom from Pjelax in Närpes, after he married Maria Greta Uppgård and thus became the owner of half of a homestead called Uppgård. When the homestead was changed, the family had to move to a meadow called Pala or Pali, a name that lives on to this day. The family had 14 children, 9 of whom survived to adulthood. Isak Smeds tells about the family in the book of poems published in 1882: "All the children were endowed with a wise head and a happy disposition to learn everything that came to their minds."

She died on 11 October 1867 in Närpes. In her time, she was the most prolific female poet in our country.

In her time, she was one of the most respected people in the Närpes area. In 1882 a book was published con-



taining the poems that had been found and in the preface to it, lecturer Isak Smeds from Petalax writes: "The poetess, whose songs are undoubtedly most commonly sung throughout Ostrobothnia and whom I heard in my childhood in my homeland with such great admiration and respect."

Pali-Maj must have been very talented, because already at the age of 18 she became a "schoolmaster" and in that role she was responsible for the education of children in many villages in Närpes. Already at the age of 18 she started writing poems. As a 20-year-old, she visited Stockholm, a trip that went by boat from Närpes. Her fellow travellers are said to have described her as a "songbird".

Vaasa fire and the people's lamentation

One of Palis-Maja's most famous poems is about the great Vasa fire on 3 August 1852, when almost the entire city was destroyed by fire. The fire is one of Finland's largest city fires, and over 2500 people were left homeless. Several died, entire neighborhoods were reduced to ashes and churches and schools were destroyed. She wrote the poem to comfort all those who have been left homeless because of the terrible fire

Palis-Maja's poem about this event, "The Fire of Wasa City", is a unique document of the time. In strong religious images, she describes the despair of people, children fleeing from the fire, church bells falling, and a city punished by an angry God. Pali-Maja was deeply aware of the sinful life that was led in Vaasa before the fire. Entertainment flourished, taverns were plentiful, dances were arranged one after another, travelling theatre companies delighted the townspeople. According to her, the fire was God's punishment for the sins of mankind – and many of her contemporaries, including the clergy, were probably of the same opinion.

At the same time, she appeals to God's mercy, calls for repentance and solidarity with those in need. It is a poem that both mourns and exhorts – it is as much intercession as the collective lament of the people.

Here is Pali-Maja's poem about the fire in the city of Vaasa:

My God, the source of all that's good,
I fall with humble heart to you.
Let all my sighs be understood—
I pray in Jesus' name, so true.
O Holy Spirit, plead for me,
That I in prayer heard may be.

I pray for those, so crushed and poor,
In Vasa's city, burned and lost.

O Father, show your grace once more,
And turn their grief to joy, no cost.
Your stream of mercy flows again,
From heaven's heights to broken men.

I seem to hear the bitter cries,
The weeping rising from each soul.
As flames devoured the darkened skies,
Despair took hold and stole control.
No time remained for prayer or flight,
As hope was lost in fire and night.

The little ones who just could walk
Were snatched from fire's fierce advance.
The sleeping babes no time to talk—
They fled in fear with not a chance.
Their cribs replaced by earth and sky,
The only shelter left nearby.

Vasa stads brand.

Rönnmålignast efter Smeds' uppteckning. I Rändens samling finnas två varianter, som sakna någon strof: den ena upptecknad af rektor A. O. J. Hallström, den andra af dåvarande kyrkoisten J. Dahlb.

Utgåes som No 288 i gila hv. psalmb.: "Min hjärt och sinne" m. m.

Min Gud, min Gud, all godhetskälla,
jag faller ödmjukt i din famn;
låt mina suckar för dig gälla,
dem jag frambär i Jesu namn!
o, Helge Ande, för mig be',
Så vinner jag bönhörelse.

Jag beder för de usla, arma
i nys förbrända Vasa stad.
O, Fader, nådigt dig förbarma,
gör dessa sorgsna åter glad!
Din godhets källa flödar än
af nåde ifrån himmelen.

Älsk tycks, jag hör den bittra qvida,
den gråt och låt af hvarje man,
hur mången der fick händer wrida,
när staden stod i eld och brand,
när godsets frälsning war förment
och rop till Herren war för sent.

The old with silver in their hair
Had never seen such dreadful pain.
The fire consumed without a care—
And many lives it sought to claim.
Those who would save both wealth and breath
Were taken by the fire to death.

There rose a cry on every side—
From human lips and creatures' moan.
In helpless grief they testified,
Though guilt was not the beasts' alone.



They suffered for the sins of man
Against the holy, just God's plan.

No force could stop the fire's spread,
It raced with fury, none could tame.
All human effort fell and bled—
A day of loss, of ash and flame.
How wretched was that fate and day
When all they had was swept away.

To see one's home in ashes lie,
To watch the walls collapse in dust,
And not to know where one might cry,
Or find a place to sleep or trust—
What pain, what sorrow words can't bear,
To know no haven anywhere.

How mournful was the ringing sound
When church bells fell and broke apart.
As if the angels wept around,
When God, in wrath, withdrew His heart.
The temple burned before their eyes,
Unshielded from the stormy skies.

O Vasa, crown of this proud land,
Who stood in beauty just before—
Have you let go of God's command,
And lived in pride He can't ignore?
For God who will not suffer pride,

Poured out His wrath, no place to hide.

Were there not five who still were just,
Whose prayers might turn the flame away?
The prayers of righteous ones are trust—
They calm the fire, they light the way.
Yes, even greater grief can bend,
When holy hearts to heaven send.

What heart does not in sorrow break
To see the children roam alone?
O God, You weep for mercy's sake—
Give them a roof, a bed, a home.
Bring shelter to the ones who weep,
And food for those who none can keep.

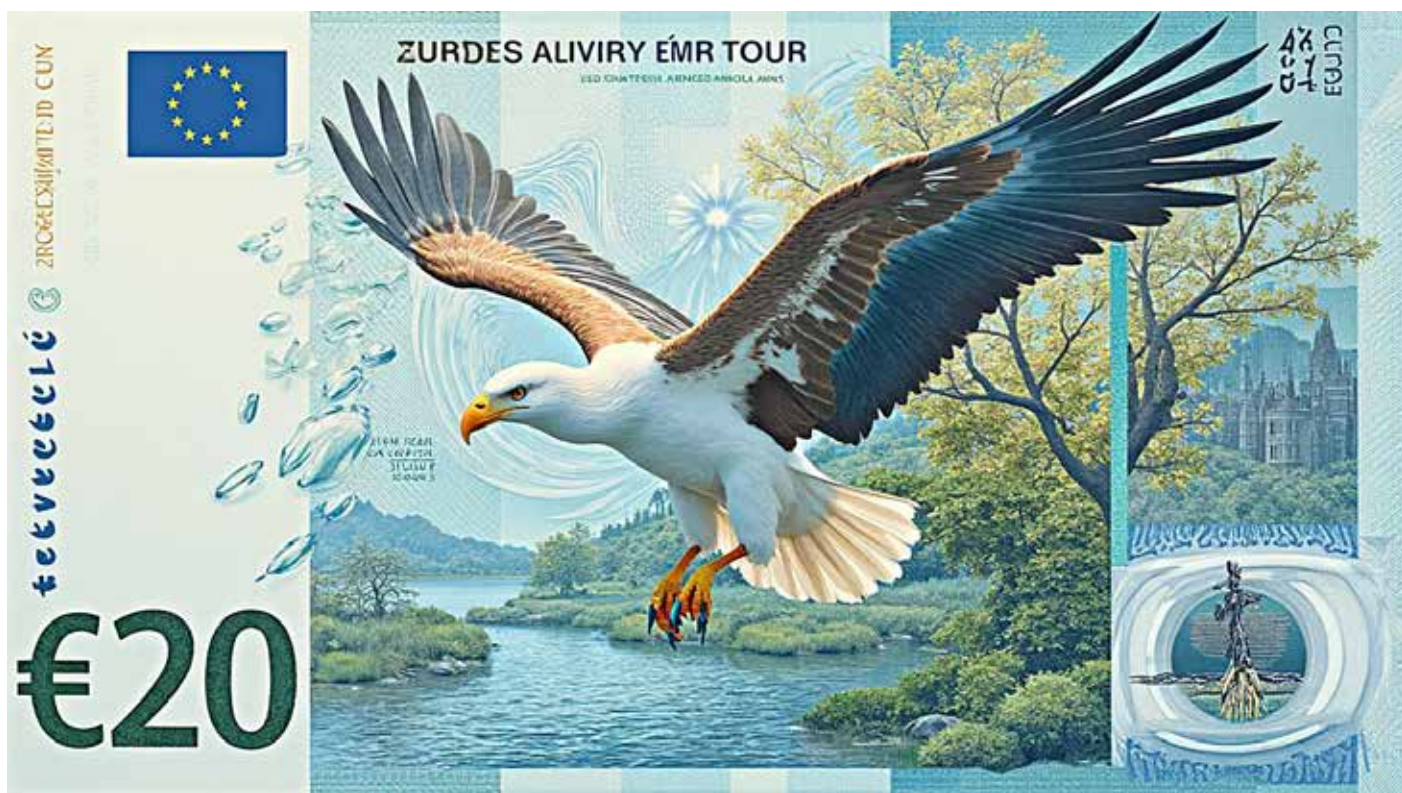
The heart that feels no pity here,
Nor lifts a hand to heal this pain,
Deserves no comfort, help, or cheer
When faced with hardship's own domain.
For God will meet each soul in turn—
No wealth can make His justice burn.

Now I shall end these mournful lines,
Written in tears that cloud my sight.
With heartfelt prayer my hope aligns—
To God, whose wealth is endless light:
Help all who suffer, cold and poor,
And grant them daily bread once more.

NEWS

NEW EURO-NOTES

ECB Launches Design Competition for New Euro Banknotes - Here Are Our Editorial Suggestions



THE EUROPEAN Central Bank (ECB) announced today that it's launching an open design competition for the appearance of a new series of euro banknotes. The news has sent our editorial team into a mild state of euphoria, and we've already tossed around our own, admittedly completely impartial and expert suggestions. Because who better to know what kind of long-haired rocker or swan choir should really be on a euro banknote than us?

According to the ECB, de-

signers can apply to participate in the competition starting July 15, 2025, with the registration period closing on August 18, 2025. The final appearance of the banknotes will be decided based on a public survey by the end of 2026. This means we still have plenty of time to refine our proposals and perhaps even launch a small-scale lobbying campaign within the newsroom.

The theme options chosen for the new banknote series are "European Culture" and "Rivers and Birds." The first presents common cultural spaces and prominent European figures, while the latter focuses on the resilience and diversity of European natural ecosystems. Frankly, we're wondering why "Europe-

an Kebab Culture" or "Rivers Without Fish Thanks to Dams" weren't selected. But we understand that the ECB has its own, somewhat more conservative guidelines.

Our Hot Takes for the New Euro Banknotes:

We don't settle for mere abstract concepts; we've already visualized the future of banknote art:

ECB President Christine Lagarde stated that "The euro is more than just a currency: it is a symbol of European unity and diversity." Our editorial team wholeheartedly agrees with this. And we believe our proposals reflect this unity and diversity in a completely new, humorous, and memorable way. Who would want a boring bridge

when you can have a banknote featuring someone trying to assemble IKEA furniture?

Designers are encouraged to submit their applications by August 18 at 12:00 PM Central European Time. Unfortunately, we can't participate in the competition ourselves, as we're busy with newspaper work.

But if any brave designer dares to adopt one of our suggestions, we certainly wouldn't mind – on the contrary, we'd demand a small share of the royalties. Or at least eternal glory at the coffee table!

Source: Bank of Finland



TRAFFIC

VAASA

Traffic Lights Coming to Busy Vaasa Intersection



One of Vaasa's busiest intersections, the crossing of Koulukatu and Korsholmanpuistikko, will get new traffic lights. The installation work is set to begin in August 2025. The goal is to improve traffic safety and make it easier for buses to stay on schedule.

The intersection is already very busy, and its traffic load is expected to increase further next year when a new daycare center opens in the area. According to Jukka Talvi, Director of Municipal Engineering, approximately 9,000 vehicles travel on Skolhusgatan daily, which is more than on most other streets in the city center. For example, Handelsplanaden, despite having double the traffic capacity, sees about 1,000 fewer vehicles per day.

Smoother Public Transport and Safer Crossings

One of the most significant reasons for the project is the challenges that public transport faces at the intersection. Buses turning left from Kors-holmsplanaden have had dif-

ficulties getting through, especially during rush hour, which has caused schedule delays.

The new traffic lights will have a bus priority function. The system can detect if a bus is behind schedule and can then extend the green light or change it earlier. This ensures that buses can pass through the intersection smoothly.

At the same time, the safety of pedestrians and cyclists will be improved. Pedestrian crossings will be made shorter by narrowing the roadway of Kors-holmsplanaden. This reduces the risk of accidents, which is an important measure given the many trips to and from schools and daycare centers in the area. The project's total cost is approximately 150,000 euros, and it is expected to be completed during the autumn. Temporary traffic arrangements will be put in place during construction, and the city asks for patience and cooperation from motorists and residents.

Source: Vaasa.fi



WELFARE REGION

SFP

“The Ministry of Finance’s mistake should not become Ostrobothnia’s burden,” says Ramieza Mahdi



Region loses €4 million – SFP vice chair demands accountability from the state

A calculation error by the Finnish Ministry of Finance has serious consequences for the wellbeing services county of Ostrobothnia. Earlier this week, the Ministry announced that the region will receive €4 million less in state funding next year than originally promised. Ramieza Mahdi, vice chair of the Swedish People’s Party (SFP) and member of the county council, calls the situation unacceptable and deeply concerning.

“It is simply unreasonable that a wellbeing services county has to recalculate its entire budget in July. Four million euros less for Ostrobothnia next year is not a minor adjustment – it’s a direct blow to a system that’s supposed to ensure equal access to care across the country,”

Mahdi says.

The error occurred in calculations made by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) and the Ministry of Finance, but it’s the wellbeing services counties – like Ostrobothnia – that are now being forced to pay the price. Mahdi sees this as a sign of deeper systemic flaws.

“What we’re really talking about here is the state handing an unexpected deficit to a region that has already made tough sacrifices. This is a structural failure that exposes something serious. We are making decisions about elder care, staffing, and preventative services – all without knowing what resources we actually have,” Mahdi explains.

Region already made painful cuts – and now punished? The wellbeing services county of Ostrobothnia has already implemented some of the most

stringent cuts in Finland, affecting nearly all sectors. Mahdi emphasizes that local residents have done their part and do not deserve new cutbacks – especially not because of mistakes made in Helsinki.

“Our residents have taken on a lot of responsibility. They don’t deserve more austerity – and certainly not because of an error in a funding model over which we have no local control,” she stresses.

According to Mahdi, Ostrobothnia has acted responsibly and made difficult decisions in order to stay within budget. Yet now the region is being penalized for its diligence.

“What kind of message does this send to the people? Does it matter at all how well a region manages its duties, if in the end it is still punished?”

Ministry must take responsibility
Mahdi calls on the Ministry of

Finance to take full responsibility for the error and restore the €4 million that Ostrobothnia now stands to lose.

“The least we can expect is that the state takes responsibility for its own mistakes. Wellbeing services counties should not be forced to carry retroactive financial burdens due to flaws in national systems. The Ministry caused this problem – it’s their job to fix it.”

The Ministry has yet to comment on any possible compensatory measures. Meanwhile, concerns are rising in other regions that may also be affected by similar funding discrepancies.

“It raises the question: is the entire system fair? If even careful financial management isn’t enough to ensure stability, then what is?” Mahdi asks.

Source; SFP

CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE

Earth's Rotation and Day Length: The Climate Change Connection



The Earth's rotation has been gradually slowing down throughout its history, but recent scientific evidence suggests that climate change is introducing new complexities to this ancient process.

Understanding how our planet's spin affects day length, and how human activities are now influencing this fundamental astronomical phenomenon, reveals an unexpected intersection between climate science and celestial mechanics.

The Fundamentals of Earth's Rotation

Earth completes one full rotation on its axis approximately every 24 hours, defining our standard day. However, this rotation is not perfectly constant. The planet's rotational speed is influenced by the conservation of angular momentum, meaning

that any redistribution of mass or changes in the Earth's shape can affect how quickly it spins. Throughout geological history, the dominant factor slowing Earth's rotation has been tidal friction caused by the Moon's gravitational pull, which gradually transfers angular momentum from Earth to the Moon, causing our days to lengthen by about 1.7 milliseconds per century.

Climate Change as a Modern Influence

Climate change is now introducing measurable effects on Earth's rotation through several interconnected mechanisms. The most significant impact comes from the redistribution of water mass across the planet. As global temperatures rise, massive ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica are melting at unprecedented rates, causing water to flow from polar regions toward the equator. This redistribution of mass affects the planet's moment of inertia, similar to how a

figure skater extends their arms to slow their spin.

The melting of polar ice represents a transfer of mass from higher latitudes to lower latitudes, effectively moving mass closer to Earth's rotational axis. According to the laws of physics, this should cause the planet to spin faster, shortening the length of days. However, the situation is more complex than this simple analogy suggests, as the elastic rebound of land masses previously compressed by ice sheets also plays a role in the overall rotational dynamics.

Atmospheric and Ocean Circulation Changes

Climate change also affects Earth's rotation through alterations in atmospheric and oceanic circulation patterns. The atmosphere and oceans are coupled to the solid Earth through friction, and changes in wind patterns and ocean currents can influence rotational speed. Stronger or more persistent jet streams, altered monsoon patterns, and changes in ocean circulation can all contribute to variations in day length on seasonal and annual timescales.

Research has shown that El Niño and La Niña events, which are becoming more intense due to climate change, can cause detectable changes in Earth's rotation. During El Niño events, changes in atmospheric circulation can slow Earth's rotation by up to 0.5 milliseconds, while La Niña events can have the opposite effect.

Measuring the Unmeasurable

Modern technology allows scientists to measure these minute changes in Earth's rotation with extraordinary precision.

The International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service uses a combination of Very Long Baseline Interferometry, Global Positioning System measurements, and satellite laser ranging to monitor Earth's orientation in space. These measurements can detect changes in day length at the level of microseconds, revealing the subtle influences of climate change on our planet's rotation.

As climate change accelerates, its effects on Earth's rotation are expected to become more pronounced. Continued ice sheet melting could lead to measurable changes in day length over the coming decades. While these changes will remain imperceptible to human senses, they represent a profound example of how human activities are influencing even the most fundamental aspects of our planet's behavior.

The study of Earth's rotation in the context of climate change demonstrates the interconnected nature of Earth's systems and highlights how human activities are leaving their mark on processes that have remained relatively stable for millions of years. This research not only advances our understanding of planetary dynamics but also provides another tool for monitoring and understanding the full scope of climate change impacts on our planet.

Image: NASA images by Reto Stöckli, based on data from NASA and NOAA. Instrument: Terra – MODIS Public domain

INDUSTRY

WÄRTSILÄ

Wärtsilä Delivers 204 MW Power Solution to Major Mining Project in Pakistan



Finnish technology group Wärtsilä from Vaasa has signed a contract to supply a 204-megawatt power plant to the Reko Diq copper-gold mining project in Balochistan, Pakistan.

The order, placed by Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC), was recorded in Wärtsilä's second-quarter order book and marks a major step in sup-

porting one of the world's most significant untapped mining sites.

The plant, which will operate with twelve Wärtsilä 50 engines and auxiliaries, will provide reliable and economical electricity for the mining operations in a remote region of western Pakistan. Delivery of the equipment is scheduled to begin in late 2026.

"Wärtsilä's technical expertise and strong local presence in

Pakistan are highly valued. We're pleased to have them as a reliable partner in this major undertaking," said Tim Cribb, Project Director at RDMC.

The deal is structured as an engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract, and includes advanced heat recovery systems and infrastructure for future renewable energy integration. The engines are also designed to be converted for use with alternative, more sustainable fuels — align-

ing with Wärtsilä's broader strategy to accelerate the global energy transition.

According to Alexandre Eykerman, Director of Wärtsilä Energy, the mining sector holds "some of the largest growth potential for Pakistan's economy," and projects like Reko Diq are essential to unlocking that potential.

"Pakistan has vast, underutilized reserves of copper, gold, lithium, and rare earth elements — all vital for the global green transition and technological development," Eykerman said.

The Reko Diq initiative is expected to generate significant local economic benefits, including job creation and community development investments.

Wärtsilä – Leading the Energy Transition

Headquartered in Helsinki and listed on Nasdaq Helsinki, Wärtsilä is a global leader in energy and marine technology solutions. In 2024, the company's net sales reached EUR 6.4 billion. With 18,300 employees across 77 countries, Wärtsilä focuses on innovation in sustainable energy and lifecycle services. Its energy segment alone has delivered 79 GW of power plant capacity and over 130 energy storage systems to 180 countries.

Image: Wärtsilä will provide a 204 MW power plant to the Reko Diq copper-gold mining project in Pakistan. © Reko Diq Mining Company

CLIMATE CHANGE

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Kabul On Course To Be World's First Capital To Run Out Of Water



By Farangis Najibullah
Kabul could become the world's first capital to run out of water completely, experts say, blaming the crisis on rapid population growth, climate change, and mismanagement.

The Afghan capital's groundwater levels have plummeted by up to 30 meters in the past decade, while almost half of the city's boreholes -- the main source of drinking water for the residents -- have dried out, according to a recent study by the Mercy Corps NGO.

Demand for groundwater in the city is disproportionately

high: each year, 44 million cubic meters more water is extracted than can naturally be replenished -- nearly double the sustainable rate.

Kabul's population has grown from about 2 million in 2000 to more than 6 million in 2025, putting immense pressure on its water supplies.

The city's aquifers are also being drained by more than 100,000 unregulated borewells and hundreds of factories and greenhouses, according to Mercy Corps and Afghan water management experts who spoke to RFE/RL.

"Kabul has some 400 hectares of greenhouses that consume

about 4 million cubic meters of water annually," said Najibullah Sadid, a water resources and climate change researcher based in Germany. "There are also more than 500 beverage businesses operating in Kabul. Just one such company, Alokozay, the largest soft drink company in the city, uses about 1 million cubic meters of groundwater each year."

The United Nations has warned that without swift action, Kabul's groundwater could be depleted by 2030, posing an existential threat to residents and sparking a major wave of migration.

'Having To Choose Between Water And Food'

Many parts of Kabul have already run dry, and residents rely entirely on the limited amount of water they purchase from tankers.

One person who lives in the relatively affluent area of Taimani in northwestern Kabul says he spends a quarter of his salary on water.

"My monthly salary is 21,000 Afghani (\$300) and I spend at least 5,000 Afghani (\$70) on water for our family of 10 people," he told RFE/RL on June 26. "We use this water for tea, cooking, washing-up, laundry, and bathing."

"There are many families that can't afford to buy water, it's like having to choose between water and food," the Taimani resident said.

He also said that those who can't pay for water travel several kilometers to bring it from areas that have public water pumps. Even in sweltering sum-

mer weather, many apartment blocks in Kabul only get water once or twice a week.

Water contamination is another major challenge that has plagued Afghanistan, where nearly 80 percent of people have no access to safe drinking water, according to the United Nations.

Most of Kabul's groundwater is contaminated with sewage, toxins, and high levels of arsenic, experts say.

Potential Solutions

The Western-backed former Afghan government, which collapsed in 2021, received more than \$4 billion from international donors to overhaul its water sector, according to the World Bank, but the sector remains largely underdeveloped both in the capital and the rest of the country.

Officials of the current Taliban-led government in Kabul did not respond to RFE/RL's request for comment. However, many local experts believe the Afghan capital could still resolve its water crisis relatively quickly if decisive steps are taken.

"This problem is not new. For over a decade, various proposals on how to tackle the problem have been presented to Afghan authorities, but it has never been a priority for them," Sadid told RFE/

Source: <https://www.rferl.org/a/kabul-water-crisis-running-out-of-water-afghanistan-2025/33461892.html>

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CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE

C3S: June was hot - but not in Finland



The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) has released its monthly climate bulletin revealing that June 2025 was the third-warmest June globally, but Nordic countries including Finland experienced notably different conditions compared to the scorching heat that gripped much of Europe.

Global Heat Records Continue June 2025 was the third-warmest June globally, with an average ERA5 surface air temperature of 16.46°C, 0.47°C above the 1991-2020 average for June. While this represents a slight cooling from the record-breaking June 2024, global temperatures remained significantly elevated, standing 1.30°C above the estimated 1850-1900 average used to define the pre-industrial level. Europe's Tale of Two Climates The continent experienced dramatically contrasting conditions between its western and northern regions. Western Europe as a whole saw its warmest June on record, with an average temperature of 20.49°C, 2.81°C

above the 1991–2020 average. This narrowly surpassed the previous record set during the infamous heat of 2003. Two major heatwaves in mid- and late June 2025 affected large parts of western and southern Europe. Much of the region saw feels-like temperatures exceeding 38°C, corresponding to 'very strong heat stress'. Parts of Portugal saw feels-like temperatures reach around 48°C or 'extreme heat stress'.

Finland and Fennoscandia Buck the Trend

However, the Nordic region painted a different picture entirely. It was wetter than average in Iceland, Ireland, the northern UK, Denmark, much of Fennoscandia, the Baltic states, Belarus, and parts of Ukraine and Russia. This pattern meant that while much of Europe sweltered, Finland and its Nordic neighbors experienced cooler, more humid conditions. The contrast was particularly stark when considering precipitation patterns. While it was drier than average in western

and southern Europe, as well as much of the UK and regions of southern Scandinavia, Finland benefited from above-average rainfall that provided relief from the continental heat wave. Mediterranean Reaches Unprecedented Temperatures Adding to the intensity of the European heat wave, an exceptional marine heatwave developed in the western Mediterranean in June, leading to the highest daily SST ever recorded for the region as a whole in June (27.0°C), corresponding to the highest daily SST anomaly for any month (3.7°C above average).

Climate Expert Warns of Future Trends

Samantha Burgess, Strategic Lead for Climate at ECMWF, emphasized the significance of these patterns: "June 2025 saw an exceptional heatwave impact large parts of western Europe, with much of the region experiencing very strong heat stress. This heatwave was made more intense by record sea surface temperatures in the western Mediterranean. In a warming

world, heatwaves are likely to become more frequent, more intense and impact more people across Europe."

Global Climate Context The June 2025 data fits into a broader pattern of climate extremes. The 12-month period of July 2024 – June 2025 was 0.67°C above the 1991-2020 average, and 1.55°C above the pre-industrial level. Notably, June 2025 was only the third month in the last 24 with a global temperature less than 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level. The contrasting conditions between Finland and western Europe highlight the complex regional variations in climate change impacts, demonstrating that even as global temperatures rise, different regions can experience vastly different weather patterns within the same time period.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service provides monthly climate bulletins using data from billions of measurements from satellites, ships, aircraft and weather stations around the world.

SCIENCE

BILINGUALISM

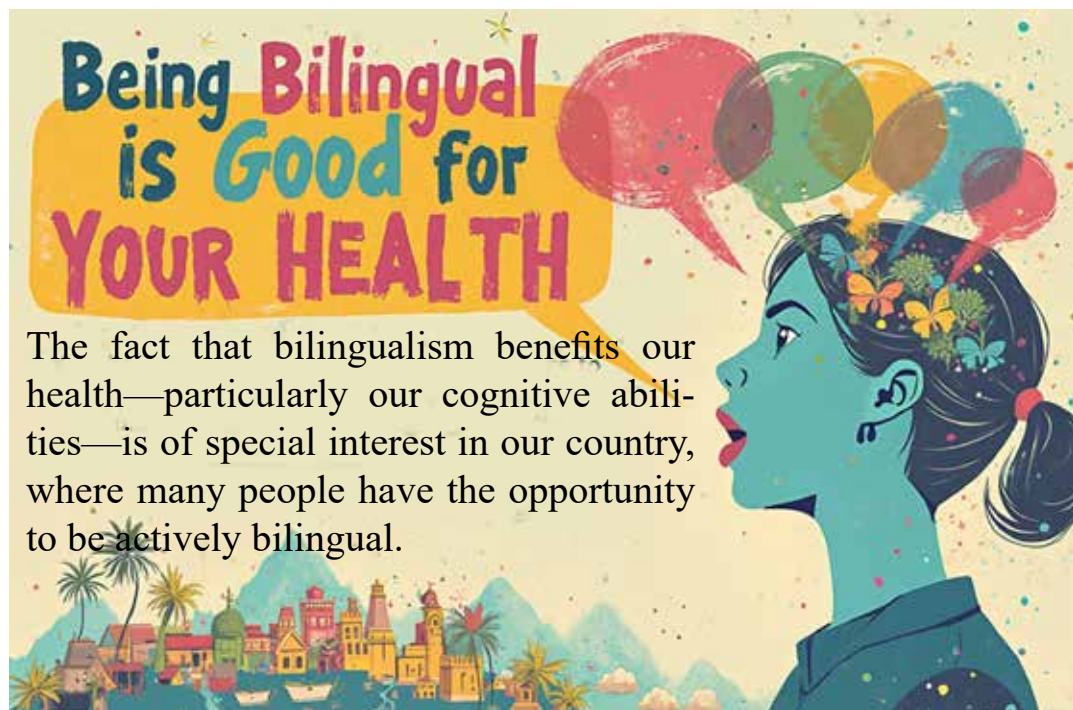
Being Bilingual Is Good for Your Brain

THE ABILITY to speak more than one language has long been associated with cognitive, social, and professional advantages. However, recent neuroscientific research has revealed that bilingualism also confers significant neurological benefits, enhancing brain function, delaying cognitive decline, and even protecting against neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's (Bialystok 2011, 229).

This article examines the cognitive advantages of bilingualism, drawing on empirical studies in psychology, neuroscience, and linguistics to demonstrate how speaking multiple languages reshapes the brain and improves mental resilience.

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The fact that bilingualism benefits our health—particularly our cognitive abilities—is of special interest in our country, where many people have the opportunity to be actively bilingual.

country, where many people have the opportunity to be actively bilingual.

Cognitive Benefits of Bilingualism

1. Enhanced Executive Function

Bilingual individuals constantly switch between languages, a process that engages the brain's executive control system. This mental exercise strengthens cognitive flexibility, attention regulation, and problem-solving skills. According to a study by Costa et al. (2008, 280), "Bilinguals outperform monolinguals in tasks requiring inhibition of irrelevant information and task-switching, suggesting that bilingualism enhances executive control mechanisms."

Neuroimaging studies support these findings, showing that bilinguals exhibit increased gray matter density in the prefrontal cortex—the brain

region responsible for decision-making and self-regulation (Abutalebi et al. 2012, 1056).

2. Delayed Cognitive Decline and Dementia

One of the most striking benefits of bilingualism is its protective effect against age-related cognitive decline. Research by Bialystok et al. (2007, 459) found that bilingual individuals developed symptoms of Alzheimer's disease four to five years later than monolinguals, despite having similar levels of brain pathology.

A longitudinal study by Craik et al. (2010, 1378) corroborated these findings, concluding that "the constant mental juggling required by bilingualism builds cognitive reserve, effectively shielding the brain from neurodegeneration."

3. Improved Memory

and Learning Abilities

Bilingualism enhances working memory—the ability to hold and manipulate information in the mind—which is crucial for learning and comprehension (Morales et al. 2013, 225). Children raised in bilingual environments often exhibit superior metalinguistic awareness, allowing them to better understand grammar rules and language structures (Kovács & Mehler 2009, 6556).

Neurological Adaptations in Bilingual Brains

1. Structural Brain Changes Bilingual individuals show increased connectivity in the anterior cingulate cortex (ACC) and left inferior frontal gyrus, areas linked to language control and conflict resolution (García-Pentón et al. 2016, 118). Diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) studies reveal that bilinguals have



more robust white matter integrity, indicating faster neural communication (Luk et al. 2011, 3942).

2. Enhanced Neuroplasticity

Learning and using multiple languages promote neuroplasticity—the brain’s ability to reorganize itself by forming new neural connections. A study by Li et al. (2014, 8) found that bilingual seniors maintained better cognitive function than monolinguals, suggesting that bilingualism helps preserve brain plasticity well into old age.

Social and Psychological Benefits

Beyond cognitive advantages, bilingualism fosters greater empathy and cultural adaptability. Research by Fan et al. (2015, 120) indicates that bilingual children are better at perspective-taking, as they must constantly navigate different linguistic and cultural contexts. Additionally, bilingualism has been linked to hig-

her academic achievement and career opportunities, as multilingual individuals often possess superior problem-solving skills and adaptability (Dewaele & Wei 2013, 231).

The scientific consensus is clear: bilingualism enhances brain function, delays cognitive decline, and improves mental flexibility. From structural brain changes to improved executive control, the benefits of speaking multiple languages extend far beyond mere communication. As societies become increasingly multilingual, fostering bilingual education could be a powerful tool for cognitive health and lifelong learning.

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SHORT STORY

STRÖMSÖ

Not everything goes like in Strömsö



Matti had watched every single episode of Strömsö for the past fifteen years. He knew exactly how to prune roses in March, could recite the perfect rye bread recipe from memory, and had memorized the precise angle for hanging Christmas lights that would make his neighbors weep with envy. So when he decided to renovate his own summer cottage on the Ostrobothnian coast, he figured it would be a breeze.

"How hard can it be?" he muttered, adjusting his brand-new checkered shirt that looked suspiciously like the ones worn by the TV hosts. "I've practically got a PhD in cottage renovation from the University of Strömsö."

The first sign of trouble came when Matti tried to install what the show called "charming vintage shutters." In the program, this task took exactly three minutes and resulted in perfect symmetry and rustic charm. In reality, Matti spent four hours with a crooked drill, three bent nails, and shutters that made his cottage look like it was permanently winking at passersby.

Next came the garden makeover. On Strömsö, wildflowers bloomed in perfect disorder, creating that effortless "natural" look that screamed sophisticated design. Matti's wildflower seeds, however, seemed to have attended a different design school. Half refused to grow entirely, while the other half grew with such enthusiasm

that his cottage disappeared behind a wall of aggressive lupins that towered over the windows.

The *pièce de résistance* was supposed to be a cozy outdoor sauna renovation. The TV version featured smooth-talking carpenters who made it look like adult Legos. Matti's version featured a lot of colorful Finnish swearing and a sauna door that opened inward, trapping him inside for twenty minutes until his neighbor heard the muffled cries for help.

By midsummer, Matti's cottage looked less like a Strömsö showcase and more like a cautionary tale about the dangers of DIY enthusiasm. But as he sat on his wonky deck, watching the sunset through his crooked shutters while his jungle of lupins swayed in the coastal breeze, he realized something: his imperfect cottage had more character than any TV renovation ever could.

"Well," he chuckled, raising his coffee mug to toast his wonderfully flawed creation, "at least the coffee still tastes perfect. Some things you just can't mess up."

The mug promptly slipped from his hand and shattered on the deck.

Even the coffee, apparently, doesn't always go like in Strömsö.

IMAGE: Reality is not all here in the world.

SHOPS

SUNDOM

New Fish Shop Opens in Sundom – Kvarkens Fisk Draws Crowds on Opening Day



On Monday, the new gourmet food store Kvarkens Fisk opened its doors in Sundom, located at the intersection of Kronviksvägen and Sundomvägen.

Despite the warm summer weather, many curious visitors flocked to the shop to explore its wide selection of fish and delicacies.

A Long-Planned Project

The shop is the brainchild of Thomas Sund and Stefan Smedman, who spent a full year planning the venture.

The location is strategic, as the area is developing into a shopping hub. Nearby businesses include S-Market, an egg shop, and a café, making Kvarkens Fisk a perfect addition for food enthusiasts.

Experienced Staff and Diverse Selection

Seven employees will work at the store, including Nina Holmsten, Heidi Mattsson, and Tom Mäntysaari. One of the key figures is the highly experienced chef Märten Berg, who brings his culinary expertise to the team.

Kvarkens Fisk offers a broad range of fish products, including the local favorite Sundom böckling, as well as other seafood and meat delicacies. The shop caters not only to Sundom residents but also to visitors heading out to the archipelago who want to pick up fresh fish for their trips.

A Welcome Addition

The fish selection in Sundom's existing grocery stores (K-Market and S-Market) has been limited, making this new shop a highly anticipated addition.

Flexible Opening Hours

Opening hours may be adjusted based on demand, but initially, the store is open:

Tuesday–Thursday: 10 AM–5 PM

Friday: 10 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 10 AM–3 PM

With its wide selection, experienced staff, and convenient location, Kvarkens Fisk is sure to become a favorite spot for fish lovers. And as a final reminder—**fish is healthy!**

TRAFFIC

SUNDOM

The Sundom cycle path is ready



The residents of Sundom and Kronvik can finally enjoy safer and smoother travel: a new cycle path along Kronvikintie has been completed.

The 2.6 km long combined pavement and cycle path offers an improved connection, especially for school commuters, between Kronvik and Sundom.

This is a joint project of the City of Vaasa and the South Ostrobothnia Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment, the aim of which has been to improve traffic safety in the area. The new route runs between Sundomintie and Vanha Kronvikintie, crossing a beautiful countryside with forest on the left and fields on the right.

This is an important project, especially for school-

children. Now both pedestrians and cyclists can travel safely and on their own route.

The bicycle path has been in use with a crushed stone surface since last autumn, but in May 2025 it received an asphalt coating that improves comfort and durability. The finishing touches have now been made to tidy up the roadside ditches and the general appearance, and the project is complete in its entirety.

Making school journeys safer

The cycle path will especially serve the area's schoolchildren, who travel between Sundom Primary School and Kronvik School. Previously, school trips had to be partly on the side of a busy road, which caused concerns about safety.

The new separate bus will provide a solution to this problem. Now children and young people can move on their own route without fear of cycling or

walking in traffic.

This is a clear improvement on the previous one. We can be really pleased that safety is now at a much better level.

Good parking for bicycles

New bicycle parking shelters have also been built to support cycling. A total of 14 covered bicycle spaces have been placed at the ends of Stråkantie and Vanha Kronvikintie. This way, the bike can be left in a sheltered place for onward connections or the school day.

The canopies also increase the attractiveness of the route for those who want to combine cycling with bus connections or walking, for example.

Cooperation ensures continuous maintenance

The project has been the result of cooperation between the city and the ELY Centre. The City of Vaasa's street construction unit has been responsible for the implementation, but now that the

construction site has been completed, the bicycle path will be officially transferred to the management of the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment.

This means that in the future, the ELY Centre will be responsible for the maintenance of the route – for example, winter maintenance and necessary repairs. In the future, feedback and development proposals related to the use of the bicycle path can also be directed directly to the ELY Centre.

An investment that makes everyday life easier

The new cycle path in Kronvik is an example of how an infrastructure project that seems small can have a significant impact on everyday safety, smoothness and sustainable mobility. At the same time, it is an investment in the future – an encouragement to move around by bike and on foot in safe conditions.

Source: Vaasa.fi

FOOD

SUNDOM

Sundom's Smoked Herring ("Böckling") and Sundom Smoked Fish Seek Protected Designation of Origin Status



Two of Ostrobothnia's most traditional fish products – Sundom's smoked herring ("böckling") and Sundom smoked fish – are now one step closer to official recognition.

The Finnish Food Authority has begun processing applications for Protected Geographical Indication (PGI). If successful, these valued fish products will achieve the same status as French champagne – a designation guaranteeing only products made in a specific region using traditional methods can bear the prestigious name.

Preserving a Sustainable Fishing Tradition

At the initiative of Sundom Fiskargille (Sundom Fishermen's Guild), the Ostrobothnian Fisheries Association spent 2024 preparing the PGI applications for Sundom smoked herring and Sundom

smoked fish. Submitted to the Finnish Food Authority at year's end, the applications are now under official review.

"Our goal is to ensure these traditions endure for future generations. The PGI protects both product quality and origin, preventing misuse of Sundom fish's good reputation," explains Marina Nyqvist, Executive Director of the Ostrobothnian Fisheries Association.

The PGI requires production in a defined region (here, Sundom village), though the fish itself may come from other waters. What matters most is maintaining traditional smoking methods that create the products' unique flavor and appearance.

A Century of Unchanged Technique: Birch Wood and Eyeless Herring

Fish smoking in Sundom dates to the 1700s, but the

modern method developed between 1900-1920 with the construction of special smoke ovens still used today.

"Sundom böckling is known for its golden color and soft, smoky taste. A key characteristic is being sold without eyes – traditionally, herring are skewered through the eyes before smoking," describes Tom Blom, Chairman of Sundom Fiskargille.

Exclusive use of birch wood gives the fish its distinctive aroma. The same method produces other Sundom smoked fish like whitefish, perch, salmon, and even shrimp.

A Lengthy Process With Historic Potential

The PGI approval process is slow – authorities may request application supplements, and final EU approval could take years. But local fishermen and smokehouses already recognize the project's significance.

"This is our chance to bring Sundom fish to the world. A PGI would boost our regional brand while supporting local livelihoods," says Blom.

Funding comes from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund via Ostrobothnia's fisheries development program.

What PGI Means for Consumers

If approved, consumers can trust Sundom smoked products are made authentically in their region of origin. The designation may also increase market value and demand.

"This matters not just for Sundom but all Ostrobothnia. We're proud of our fishing heritage and want to preserve it genuinely," Nyqvist concludes.

As decisions await from Finnish and EU authorities, Sundom villagers believe their golden smoking tradition may soon earn its rightful recognition.

CULTURE

VAASA LITTFEST

Vaasa LittFest in November – A Cultural Festival to Look Forward To



Pajtim Statovci. Foto: Ano Kurki / Otava

As November's darkness settles over the city, Vasa will once again light up—through literature, culture, and engaging dialogue. Vasa LittFest, taking place from November 13 to 15, 2025, brings together literature enthusiasts, renowned authors, and timely themes for a unique and thought-provoking festival weekend.

The theme of the 2025 festival is Border(s), inviting reflection on physical, cultural, linguistic, and mental boundaries—and the ways literature helps us cross them. Literature, by its nature, constantly moves beyond borders, opening windows into other realities.

Among the first confirmed

guests are a number of celebrated Finnish and Nordic authors. *Pajtim Statovci*, twice awarded the Finlandia Prize, will present his latest novel *Lehmä synnyttää yöllä* (2024), which has become an international literary sensation. Translation rights have already been sold to publishers in the U.S., Germany, Italy, and beyond. Statovci's previous works, including *My Cat Yugoslavia* and *Bolla*, have earned critical acclaim at home and abroad.

From Sweden, *Mikael Niemi* will join the festival. He is best known for his August Prize-winning novel *Popular Music from Vittula* (2000). Niemi's storytelling explores life in Tornedalen, where three cultures intersect. His latest novel, *Sten i siden* (2025), is a multigeneratio-

nal family saga set in the far north.

The festival will also feature multi-talented artist *Laura Malmivaara*, who performs with the Vaasa City Orchestra and composer-percussionist Arttu Takalo. Together, they will present excerpts from Malmivaara's recent novel *Iltatähti* through a unique combination of literature and live music—a rare treat for festival audiences.

Among the featured Finnish authors is folklorist and novelist Mikko Kamula, known for his popular *Metsän kansa* series. Kamula delves into the historical borders of Finland through richly detailed novels rooted in 15th-century Finnish folk beliefs.

Science journalist and author *Marcus Rosenlund* will explore the planet's natural boundaries. His works traverse the realms of meteorology, outer space, and microorganisms. His latest book takes a closer look at the underground world—the life and systems that exist beneath our feet.

But the tone isn't all serious. Beloved dialect poet and author *Heli Laaksonen* will bring laughter and warmth to the stage at Vaasa City Theatre. Known for her witty and nature-themed verse, Laaksonen rose to fame with her debut *Pulu uis* (2000) and has since written both

poetry and nonfiction about the Finnish landscape and environment.

One of the festival's most unique events is a late-night session that explores folklore and true crime. Author duo *Tiina and Marko Hautala* will host an evening with religious studies scholar Tuomas Äystö, whose new book *Paholaisen perilliset* (2025) dives into the history of Satanic Panic. The evening will also feature a panel on mythology and magic, with folklorist and author *Jenna Kostet*, Finland's most famous modern witch Kuparikettu, and writer-crafter Riina Peltonen, who has studied magical sites in Ostrobothnia.

— The festival program offers a chance to explore identity, politics, history, and society from both personal and global perspectives. We aim to inspire dialogue not only about literature but also about contemporary issues, says cultural producer Ilkka Nyqvist.

Vasa LittFest is more than just a literary event—it is a space for encounters that transcend generations, languages, and borders.

Vasa LittFest 2025 – a festival that crosses borders and connects people through the power of stories.

VAASA UNIVERSITY

VAASA UNIVERSITY AND VAMK

University of Vaasa and VAMK - Stronger and More Competitive Together



The University of Vaasa and Vaasa University of Applied Sciences (VAMK) have taken a significant step toward a shared future - a new higher education consortium has now been officially established.

This historic merger is strengthened by the university's 70% ownership stake in VAMK, while the City of Vaasa retains 30%. Both institutions will keep their

names, but the consortium's new name will be announced this fall.

This strategic initiative creates a strong, internationally competitive higher education community in Ostrobothnia that addresses workforce skill gaps and enhances research impact. The collaboration isn't new - the institutions have long worked closely together, particularly in engineering education through Technobothnia's laboratories and the Tritonia Academic Library.

"Our goal is to create an internationally significant higher education unit that offers students flexible study paths and high-quality learning environments all the way up to doctoral education," says Minna Martikainen, Rector of the University of Vaasa.

The new consortium aims for regional, national and international influence. Resources will be used more efficiently, research groups will be strengthened, and cooperation with businesses will intensify. "We're developing research infrastructure, which will also strengthen Finland's export potential," empha-

sizes Hannu Vahtera, Managing Director of VAMK.

This merger isn't just an administrative change - it's a strategic investment in a future where education, research and working life interact even more effectively. The combined strengths of these institutions will create new opportunities for students, researchers and businesses throughout the region and beyond.

Image: Vaasa University. The image can be freely used.

WASA FUTURE FESTIVAL

The University of Vaasa participates in Wasa Future Festival 11–16.8.2025

The Wasa Future Festival, which will be held in August, will be bigger and more international than ever before.

The University of Vaasa is once again strongly involved in the festival's programme throughout the week from 11 to 16 August 2025. The event offers a wealth of content for those interested in science, energy, technology, art and social issues.

The main themes of the festival in 2025 are the environment, innovations and energy. The diverse programme consists of lectures, panel discussions, exhibitions, seminars and workshops. The event will be held at the Wasa Innovation Center (Gerbyntie 16), but the program will also be held elsewhere, such as the University of Vaasa and Tritonia.

Sustainable development, science and art meet

The festival week will open on Monday 11 August with a discussion event that will focus on the culture of overconsumption, climate change and solutions to biodiversity loss. In the evening, the spectacular Butterfly exhibition will also open, which combines art, science and technology. The exhibition examines global interactions between humanity, technology and the environment.

Tuesday 12.8. The University of Vaasa will have a strong presence in the morning when Rector Minna Martikainen, Chair of the Board Mari Kiviniemi and Vice Rectors Mika Grundström, Martin Meyer and Tanja Risikko open the day. Energy experts Jan Segerstam and Kimmo Kauhanen will also participate in the discussions. On the same day, a multidisciplinary Butterfly



Symposium will be held on sustainability in digitalisation, energy and business. Speakers include architects Juhani Risku and Anne Stenros.

Other themes on Tuesday include artificial intelligence, regional energy systems, greenhouse gas emissions and the resilience of society. The day will culminate in an international Thought Leaders Roundtable discussion on the energy transition and an interesting panel on the appeal and leadership of populism, which will include Professor Esa Hyyryläinen, Mari Kiviniemi and journalist Olli Seuri, among others.

Space, youth and lightless experiences

On Wednesday 13 August, the theme of the festival is energy and technology. The day will begin with the Space Day event, organised by the European Space Agency Business Incubation Centre and ESA PhiLab. The Butterfly Immersive Learning

Experience for young people offers an experiential way to explore future phenomena under the guidance of Rebekah Rousi. In the evening, there will be an atmospheric Lights-off experience, where works of art and performances are experienced without electric light.

Towards northern innovation

On Thursday 14 August, we will focus on the opportunities for the Nordic countries to attract investments. The panel organised by the University of Vaasa and Borenus will discuss how to make Finland a leading international investment destination. The panellists include Minister Joakim Strand, Casper Herler and Minna Martikainen.

On the same evening, the Butterfly exhibition will be open longer than usual as part of the Vaasa Night of the Arts. In addition, an art exhibition by Australian artist Katey O'Sullivan will be opened at Tritonia.

Culture and well-being

On Friday 15 August, the festival continues with a new Nordic culture and well-being. The programme includes virtual reality-based well-being at work games and classes. The weekend's program will be confirmed later.

The University is building a more sustainable future

The goal of Wasa Future Festival is to bring together experts from different fields and find solutions to society's major challenges. The participation of the University of Vaasa reflects its strategic goal to be an active player in regional development and global change.

The up-to-date programme and further information can be found on the Wasa Future Festival website: wasafuturefestival.fi

PHOTO: Vaasa Futurefestival 2023

SOURCE: University of Vaasa

ONLINE COURSES

AI-COURSE

VAMK and University of Vaasa Offer AI Course for Entrepreneurs and Professionals – Free Online Course Explores AI's Business Potential



Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming businesses at an unprecedented pace, enabling automation, improved customer service, and even entirely new business models.

But how can small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs harness AI in practice? Vaasa University of Applied Sciences (VAMK) and the University of Vaasa now offer a solution: a free online course to help identify AI opportunities in business.

AI Isn't the Future—It's Here Now

The new AI2Business online course is designed for SMEs, entrepreneurs, and professionals who want to learn how AI can enhance business growth. The course provides practical knowledge without requiring deep technical expertise.

"Companies need concrete

guidance on AI implementation. Our goal is to accelerate AI competence building," says Sanna Peltonen, project manager of AI2Business at VAMK.

The self-paced course is available in English, making it ideal for busy professionals.

How AI is Reshaping Business

While many see AI as just a tool for automation, its impact is far broader. "AI doesn't just streamline processes—it changes business logic," emphasizes Marko Kohtamäki, professor at the University of Vaasa.

The course covers AI from three perspectives:

Business – How can AI create competitive advantages?

Technology – What applications exist?

Design – How to develop user-friendly AI solutions?

"AI adoption isn't just about technology. If a solution doesn't serve users, it remains disconnected," Peltonen notes.

Real-World Examples: How Businesses Use AI Today

The course features three company-driven AI experiments demonstrating practical applications:

Document processing – Automated data extraction and report generation.

Price prediction – Dynamic pricing models based on market conditions.

Production quality control – Machine learning detects defects in real time.

"These experiments are based on real business needs, showing how AI can be applied across industries," says Jani Boutellier, assistant professor at the University of Vaasa.

How to Join the Free Course?
Currently in pilot phase,

the course is free and ideal for SMEs, managers, and anyone interested in AI.

Participation is simple:

Register on the AI2Business Moodle platform: <https://moodle.muovadigital.net/mod/page/view.php?id=680>

Study at your own pace – 24/7 access.

Receive a certificate upon completion.

As part of the EU-funded AI2Business project, participants are encouraged to join the project's monitoring system to help measure AI training impact in Finland.

"No need to worry about details—we guide you every step of the way," assures Peltonen.

AI is the Future—Start Learning Now

AI offers vast potential for businesses, but leveraging it requires understanding how it fits into operations. This course helps companies take their first steps into AI without major investments.

Ready to future-proof your business? Enroll now!

AI2Business is an EU-funded project promoting AI skills for SMEs. Learn more: VAMK website.

WASA DAILY
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The year of the City Theatre
Korsholm cheapest in Finland
Prostate Cancer
Inkeri Julkunen
A new era in weight loss
A New Dwarf Planet

WASA
DAILY

Wasa Daily



Welcome to a new era of newspapers! Say hello to **Wasa Daily** - the smart news source that you can read anywhere and that keeps you well-orientated.

So, what exactly is **Wasa Daily**? Well, it's your weekly dose of news, information, laughter, insight and everything else that makes life a little wiser, and more fun. And the best of all? Its free! Exactly, you read that right. No hidden fees, no subscriptions. We believe news should be accessible to everyone, whether you're on a beach in Thailand or in your favorite cafe around the corner. So how does it work? Easy! Just download our **Wasa Daily** to your tablet, and you have the whole world in your hand.

We at **Wasa Daily** know that Finns love their coffee. Every Sunday morning you can enjoy your favorite coffee and at the same time update yourself on world events. So take out the coffee cup, sit comfortably and read the **Wasa Daily**.

In a world full of boring news, someone like us is needed to spice things up. Welcome to **Wasa Daily** - we make news easier to swallow!

UKRAINE

UKRAINE PRESIDENT

We Are Preparing More Unpleasant Surprises for the Enemy – Address by the President



I wish you good health, fellow Ukrainians!

Today, I held a meeting of the Staff. Reports were presented by our intelligence agencies – the Foreign Intelligence Service of Ukraine and the Defense Intelligence of Ukraine – regarding the challenges expected this summer and autumn, as well as Russia's intentions. We had a detailed discussion about the threats that must be addressed. There was also a report on the operational situation, delivered by Commander-in-Chief Oleksandr Syrskiy.

All operational areas were covered, with Pokrovsk receiving primary focus. In the Sumy region, we continue to take action along the border. I also want to thank all our units operating on Russian territory. The Minister of Defense reported on the

delivery of assistance from our partners – we are ensuring the reliable transfer of weapons to Ukrainian warriors. I have instructed preparations to begin for a Technology Staff meeting – specifically on drones. A plan has been approved to reach the amount of 500 to 1,000 interceptors per day, which is not easy. Per day within a defined timeframe, and this is a matter of personal responsibility for all our officials involved.

Today, I was in the region and visited one of the companies producing drones – this specific type, the interceptors. I thanked the team very much – they are a truly fantastic team of manufacturers. I am grateful to the developers and to all developers who are advancing this very effort, scaling it directly within our forces and in our defense. We are contracting everything we can – at maximum capacity.

We are ensuring funding for all drone manufacturers – of all types of drones.

I also visited today one of the medical centers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs – a center specializing in post-injury rehabilitation for our military personnel. I spoke with the guys and presented them with state awards. You know that such gratitude to our warriors, to all our people defending the state by protecting its independence, is always important. Documents are currently being prepared, along with all the necessary submissions, to confer the titles of Hero of Ukraine on several Ukrainian warriors. The decrees will be issued soon.

I also held meetings today on preparing legislative decisions that we are planning to implement in the near future. And of

course, our communication with all partners continues to ensure that not a single day is lost this summer, which could add pressure on Russia. I am grateful to the European leaders. I want to thank the United States of America – the pressure on the aggressor is not weakening, and that is crucial. We are preparing more unpleasant surprises for the enemy. I thank everyone who is helping Ukraine!

Glory to Ukraine!

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RUSSIA

Russia-Azerbaijan Relations Hit Rock Bottom After Downed Airliner Sparks Diplomatic Crisis

THE DECADES LONG alliance between Russia and Azerbaijan has rapidly deteriorated into an unprecedented diplomatic crisis following the downing of an Azerbaijan Airlines flight in December 2024, with Baku now threatening international legal action against Moscow and pivoting toward closer Western ties.

The crisis began on December 25, 2024, when Azerbaijan Airlines Flight 8243, traveling from Baku to Grozny, crashed near Aktau, Kazakhstan, killing 38 people with 29 survivors. Initial Russian explanations of the crash were quickly dismissed as fabrications by Azerbaijani officials, who accused Moscow of shooting down the civilian aircraft with air defense systems while attempting to repel Ukrainian drone attacks.

President Vladimir Putin's response has done little to calm tensions. In a phone call to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on December 28, Putin offered what many characterized as a "non-apology apology," expressing regret that the "tragic incident occurred in Russian airspace" without explicitly acknowledging Russian responsibility for downing the plane. The Kremlin statement mentioned that Russian air defense systems were active due to Ukrainian drone strikes but stopped short of admitting they struck the civilian aircraft.

Aliyev's reaction was swift and unforgiving. He accused Russia of covering up evidence and criticized Putin for failing to openly admit guilt, stating that "for the first three days, we heard nothing from Russia except absurd versions." The Azerbaijani president outlined three non-negotiable demands: Russia must apologize, admit guilt, and pay compensation while bringing those responsible to criminal justice.

The diplomatic rupture has escalated dramatically in recent weeks. On July 20, 2025, Aliyev announced that Azerbaijan is preparing to file lawsuits in international courts against Russia over the plane crash, marking a definitive break from diplomatic channels. This legal threat represents an unprecedented challenge to Moscow from what was once considered a close regional ally.

The fallout has extended far beyond the plane incident. Relations have nosedived as both countries have engaged in tit-for-tat actions that would have been unthinkable just months ago. Azerbaijan has cancelled all Russian cultural events, citing "systematic acts of violence" against its citizens. Meanwhile, multiple Russian nationals have been arrested in Baku, with eight Russians detained

in July on charges of cybercrimes and drug smuggling, some appearing in court with visible signs of beatings.

Russia has responded by criticizing Azerbaijan's "highly emotional response" and accusing Baku of "deliberately dismantling bilateral ties" with "growing hostility." The Russian Foreign Ministry has summoned Azerbaijani diplomats over what it calls the harassment of Russian journalists and citizens.

This dramatic shift in relations carries significant geopolitical implications for the South Caucasus region, where Russia has traditionally maintained dominant influence. Azerbaijan's pivot away from Moscow appears to be opening space for improved relations with Western powers, as Baku seeks alternative partnerships to replace its historic ties with Russia.

The deterioration marks a stunning reversal for two nations that have maintained close political, economic, and cultural ties for decades. Russia has long been a key trading partner and security guarantor for Azerbaijan, particularly during the country's conflict with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Analysts suggest the crisis represents more than a bilateral dispute - it signals a broader reshuffling of regional alliances as post-Soviet states reassess their relationships with Moscow following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Azerbaijan's willingness to directly challenge Russia through international legal channels demonstrates a confidence that would have been unimaginable during previous periods of Russian regional dominance.

As both sides continue to escalate their rhetoric and actions, the prospect of repairing this relationship appears increasingly remote. For Azerbaijan, the path forward seems to lead not toward reconciliation with Moscow, but toward new partnerships with the West - a development that could fundamentally alter the geopolitical landscape of the South Caucasus for years to come.

MAP: CIA



RUSSIA

Dmitry Medvedev's strange diplomatic language

FORMER President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev in Telegram July 18, 2025

"European idiots have agreed on the 18th package of sanctions against our country.

It is useless to write that it is capable of changing Russia's position exactly as much as the previous seventeen did. Our economy will surely survive, and the loss of the Bandera regime will continue. Attacks on so-called Ukrainian targets, including Kyiv, are being carried out with increasing intensity.

We should also promote the greatest possible distance from the EU and the most despicable EU Member States, which now include not only the miserable Balts, the arrogant Chukhonts, the indivisible Poles and the British, who have grown up with their own, but also Germany and France, whose leaders are persecuted by the laurels of the Third Reich and the Vichy regime.

We know how this will end for Europe.

We just need to keep the memory of their disgusting Russophobia for as long as possible and learn to hate them as much as our ancestors could. Hate is the most important weapon that most effectively allows us to move towards its opposite—love. Of course, in relation to those who deserve it.

P.S. Disgusting old woman

Ursula declared the EU's invasion of "the heart of Russia's war machine". I'm not sure she understands where the heart is. But she always seems to think from one point of view. What she was busy during the failed doctor's appointment."

Comment:

In this post in Telegram, Russia's former president and current Vice-President of the Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev, comments on the 18th package of sanctions from the EU with remarkably harsh and insulting wording. He writes, among other things:

"European idiots have agreed on the 18th package of sanctions against our country."

"[...] the most despicable EU countries, which now include not only the miserable Balts, the brazen Chukhontsies, the undivided Poles and the British who are overgrown with their own shit, but also Germany and France [...]"

"We just need to preserve the memory of their disgusting Russophobia for as long as possible and learn to hate them as much as our ancestors could. Hate is the most important weapon that allows us to move most effectively towards its opposite – love."

Medvedev's speech is distinguished not only by a loud tone but also by coarse language and nationalistic attacks on several European



countries. It is remarkable that a former head of state expresses himself in this way in a public forum. The language is militarized and polemical, with a clear incitement to hatred, which is in sharp contrast to the diplomatic tone traditionally expected of high-ranking representatives of a state.

In a concluding addition, he addresses the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen directly:

"The disgusting old woman Ursula explained the EU's attack on 'the heart of Russia's military machine'. I'm not sure she understands where the heart is. But she always seems to think with a single perspective. What she was busy with during her fai-

led medical practice."

Ursula van der Leyen is a gynaecologist which explains some of the above posts.

Comments of this kind have little place in the tradition of diplomatic communication, where restraint, objectivity and respect for other actors are usually emphasized. Medvedev's speech should therefore be seen as a politically charged move aimed at a domestic audience rather than as part of a diplomatic conversation.

At the same time, the statement illustrates the increasingly confrontational language that now characterizes parts of the Russian state leadership's public communication.

RUSSIA

Дивна дипломатична мова Дмитра Медведєва

IN UKRAINIAN

свої невдалої лікарської практики».

Експрезидент Росії Дмитро Медведєв у Telegram 18 липня 2025 року

«Європейські ідіоти погодили 18-й пакет санкцій проти нашої країни.

Марно писати, що вона здатна змінити позицію Росії рівно настільки, наскільки це зробили попередні сімнадцять. Наша економіка неодмінно вистійть, а поразка режиму Бандери триватиме. Атаки на так звані українські об'єкти, включно з Києвом, здійснюватимуться з наростаючою силою.

Ми також повинні пропагувати курс на максимальне дистанціювання від ЄС і наймерзніших країн ЄС, до яких зараз належать не лише убогі балти, нахабні чухонці, неподільні поляки та оброслі власним лайном англійці, а й Німеччина та Франція, лідерів яких переслідують лаври Третього Рейху та режиму Віші.

Чим це закінчиться для Європи, відомо.

Нам просто потрібно якомога довше зберегти пам'ять про їхню огидну русофобію і навчитися ненавидіти їх так сильно, як це могли зробити наші предки. Ненависть — це головна зброя, яка дозволяє нам найбільш ефективно рухатися до своєї протилежності — любові. Звичайно ж, по відношенню до тих, хто цього заслуговує.

P.S. Огидна бабуся Урсула заявила про атаку ЄС на "серце російської військової машини". Я не впевнений, що вона розуміє, де серце. Але вона, здається, завжди мислить з єдиної точки зору. Чим вона займалася під час

Коментар:

Колишній президент Росії та нинішній віцепрезидент Радбезу Дмитро Медведєв у дописі в Telegram коментує 18-й пакет санкцій від ЄС напрочуд різкими та образливими формулюваннями. Він, серед іншого, пише:

«Європейські ідіоти погодили 18-й пакет санкцій проти нашої країни».

«[...] наймерзніші країни ЄС, до яких тепер належать не лише нещасні балти, нахабні чухонці, неподільні поляки та британці, що обросли власним лайном, а й Німеччина та Франція [...]»

«Нам просто потрібно якомога довше зберегти пам'ять про їхню огидну русофобію і навчитися ненавидіти їх так сильно, як це могли зробити наші предки. Ненависть — це найважливіша зброя, яка дозволяє нам найефективніше рухатися до своєї протилежності — любові».

Виступ Медведєва відрізняється не лише гучним тоном, а й грубою лексикою та націоналістичними випадками на адресу кількох європейських країн. Примітно, що колишній глава держави висловлюється таким чином на публічному форумі.



Мова мілітаризована і полемічна, з явним розпалюванням ненависті, що різко контрастує з дипломатичним тоном, якого традиційно очікують від високопоставлених представників держави.

У заключному доповненні він звертається безпосередньо до президентки Європейської комісії Урсули фон дер Ляєн:

«Огидна бабуся Урсула пояснила атаку ЄС на "серце російської військової машини". Я не впевнений, що вона розуміє, де серце. Але вона, здається, завжди мислить з єдиної точки зору. Чим вона займалася під час своєї невдалої лікарської практики».

Урсула ван дер Ляєн — гінекологиня, що пояснює деякі з наведених вище дописів.

Коментарі такого роду мають мало місця в традиції дипломатичного спілкування, де зазвичай наголошують на стриманості, об'єктивності та повазі до інших суб'єктів. Тому промову Медведєва слід розглядати як політично заряджений крок, спрямований на внутрішню аудиторію, а не як частину дипломатичної розмови. У той же час ця заява ілюструє все більш конфронтаційну мову, яка зараз характеризує частини публічної комунікації російського державного керівництва.

AI

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

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



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

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

The Emergence of AI-Generated Podcasts

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Wasa Daily

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

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

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

The magazine is available online for free.

Editor-in-chief Hans Björknäs.

Readers' writings are welcome!

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

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Email: wasadagblad@gmail.com



HOROSCOPE FOR JULY 2025

July Horoscope – The Stars Are Mumblin' (And Maybe Making Some Sense)

July Horoscope – As
Unreliable as Your Sum-
mer Weather App

Aries (Mar 21–Apr 19)
You're full of energy
this July – unfortunately
so is your mosquito
population. Try to avoid
starting arguments at
BBQs. Not everyone
wants to debate the
correct way to grill hal-
louni.

Taurus (Apr 20–May 20)
You seek comfort, and
the stars say you'll
find it – in a hammock
you bought online that
collapses immediately.
Romance is in the air,
but so is pollen. Take
antihistamines.

Gemini (May 21–Jun 20)
This month you'll
finally finish a project!
Just kidding. You'll start
three new ones instead
and forget what the first
one was. Embrace your
chaos – it's charming (to
some people).

Cancer (Jun 21–Jul 22)
It's your season, and
your emotions are
hotter than your sun-
burn. You might cry at
sunset, stray cats, or
sandwich ads. Go with
it. Everyone loves a soft
crab.

Leo (Jul 23–Aug 22)
You radiate sunshi-
ne – sometimes a bit
too much. Tone it down
before someone mista-
kes you for a solar flare.
Great month to shine,
but wear SPF 50.

Virgo (Aug 23–Sep 22)
You made a spreadsheet
for your holiday, and
somehow still lost your
passport and dignity.
Let go. Sometimes mes-
sy beach hair is the plan.

Libra (Sep 23–Oct 22)
Decisions are hard, es-
pecially when it comes
to choosing an ice cream
flavor. Spoiler: it melts
while you're still deci-
ding. Love is confusing
but sweet – like mango
sorbet.

Scorpio (Oct 23–Nov 21)
Your magnetism is un-
deniable this month –
though mostly to sand,
drama, and old exes.
Dive deep, but not into
shallow beach gossip.

Or do, it's summer.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22–
Dec 21)**
You want to travel,
explore, and find mean-
ing. You'll mostly find
traffic jams, questiona-
ble Airbnb decor, and
seagulls judging your
snacks. Adventure
awaits, sort of!

**Capricorn (Dec 22–Jan
19)**
You're working hard
while everyone else
is sipping rosé. Why?
July is literally telling
you to take a break.
Try napping. It builds
character.

**Aquarius (Jan 20–Feb
18)**
You'll come up with a
brilliant idea at 3 AM.
It involves flip-flops,
NFTs, and a beachside
utopia. Write it down.
Or don't. We'll pretend
we didn't see it.

Pisces (Feb 19–Mar 20)
Dreamy as ever, you
forget where you put
your sunglasses, your
towel, and possibly
your existential dread.
Float along. You're the
inflatable flamingo of
the zodiac.



HUMOUR ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

BÄ BÄ

Doctor K- and his brother the veterinarian get into a dispute about whose profession requires the greatest ability to diagnose. Both hold their ground, but the vet's argument seems to be the strongest because the animals cannot tell where their pain is.

Some time later the vet falls ill and the doctor is called.

— Well, where do you hurt?

No answer.

— You can tell where the evil is, right?

The only answer that comes from the sick person is; BÄ BÄ The doctor writes out a prescription, which he hands to the nurse with the words:

"Give him this and if he's not well the day after tomorrow, we'll shoot him."

THE DAD IN A GOOD MOOD

The daughter:

— You know, mother, father was in an unusually good mood today, when he went to the office.

Mother:

— Crosses in all the world! That reminds me I forgot to ask him for money.

AT THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S

The photographer;

— Should it be a bust?

The customer:

— No, I'd like to include some of the face as well.

WIFE'S INTEREST IN THE ANTIQUITY

— How did you cure your wife of her antique fly?

— Well, I gave her a dress of the 1907 model for her birthday.

THE SUITOR NEEDED THE ENCOURAGEMENT

The suitor:

— I have something important to tell you, but I don't know how to begin.

The lady:

— If I say "yes", maybe you will be helped to start.

Astronomic picture of the week:



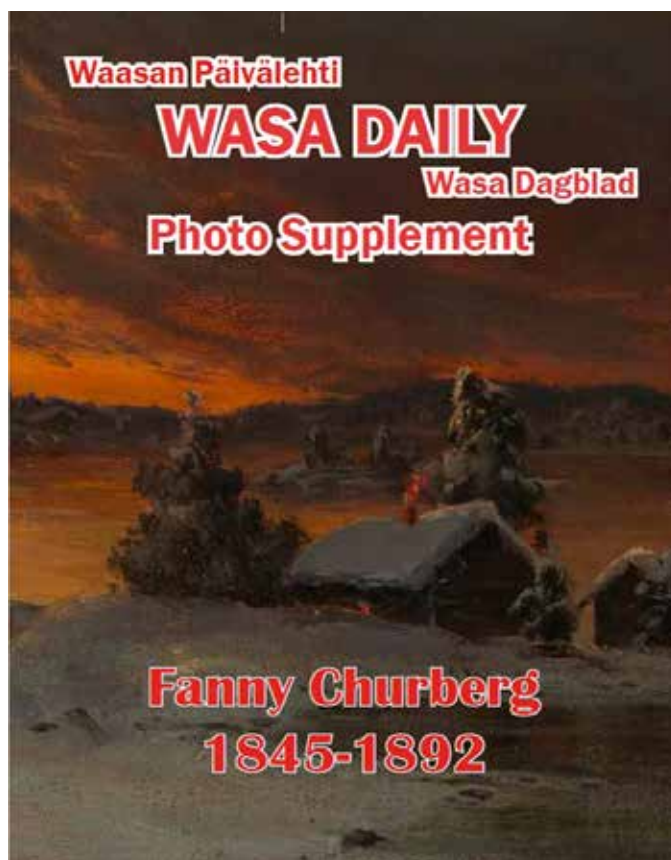
PSYCHE (Asteroid).jpg

An illustration depicting the target of NASA's Psyche mission: the metal-rich asteroid Psyche, in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Credits: NASA/JPL-Caltech/ASU

 NASA

 Public domain

Next week:



From our readers

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