

Wasa Daily

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Here we are:
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24/7



KRUUNUVUORI BRIDGE

The Replot Bridge is no longer the longest in Finland

Finland has a new longest bridge. The Kruunuvuori Bridge, connecting Kruunuvuori on Laajasalo to Korkeasaari in Helsinki, was inaugurated on Saturday afternoon, 18 April 2026, by Mayor Daniel Sazonov. 1191 m long.

The impressive bridge opened to pedestrians at 2:00 PM and to cyclists at 5:00 PM, drawing large crowds eager to witness the historic moment.

While Kruunuvuori Bridge now takes the crown as Finland's longest bridge, the previous record holder - the Replot Bridge -

is relegated to an honorable second place. Measuring 1,045 metres, the cable-stayed bridge, inaugurated by President Martti Ahtisaari back in 1997, long stood as a proud symbol of Finnish engineering. Its pylons rise 82.5 metres above sea level, and the clearance for vessels is 26 metres.

However, Finnish motorists can breathe a sigh of relief. Kronbergs Bridge is reserved exclusively for public transport, pedestrians and cyclists - private cars are not allowed. This means that the Replot Bridge, where car traffic is per-

mitted, remains Finland's longest sea bridge open to cars. So anyone wishing to experience the longest drive over open water in the country must still head towards Replot.



Image of the Week:



Spring

LOCAL NEWS

VAASA

Vaasa water tower enters major renovation



One of Vaasa's most recognizable landmarks is about to disappear from daily view. The city's historic water tower is undergoing a major renovation that will last well over a year. Work began in spring 2025 and continues until the end of 2026. For safety reasons, the area around the tower will be fenced off, with restricted access and traffic changes. While the structure itself remains in good condition, the façade, roof and roughly 140 windows require extensive restoration. The project is described as the most significant renovation in decades. Bricks will be replaced, structural elements checked and historical details carefully restored.

Water supply will not be affected, but the city skyline will change during the works. When completed, the tower is expected to stand renewed—ready for another century.

TRINITY CHURCH

TODAY: Major anniversary service in Vaasa draws attention



In moments of illness, loss and uncertainty, many turn to quiet support. Now, those experiences take center stage in a special anniversary service in Vaasa.

On Sunday, April 26 at 1:00 PM, a bilingual celebration titled "Jubilate - Rejoice!" will be held at Trinity Church. The event marks two major milestones: 60 years of hospital chaplaincy and 50 years of family counselling services.

The service reflects on life's most difficult moments—serious illness, grief and relationship struggles—while also highlighting hope, compassion and human connec-

TODAY

EDITORIAL

Shock figure: one in ten young women medicated – in the world’s happiest country?



Finland consistently ranks as the happiest country in the world. Yet new figures reveal something that unsettles that image: more than one in ten young women are using antidepressant medication. In just a decade, the share has nearly doubled.

This is no statistical footnote. Behind the numbers is a generation reporting rising anxiety, pressure and psychological strain. Teenage girls stand out in particular, with an even steeper increase. At the same time, young men remain at

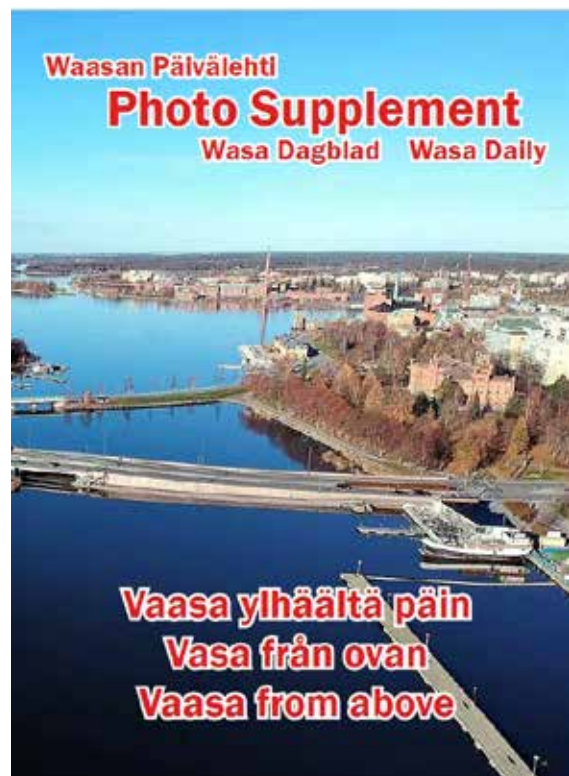
significantly lower levels, raising questions about gender-specific risk factors.

Is this a sign that healthcare has improved in identifying and treating mental health issues – or that the problems themselves are becoming more widespread? Likely both.

Still, the contrast is striking: a country praised for stability, education and security, where a growing number of young people need medical support just to cope.

The question is not whether we should react. The question is why we haven’t already.

Photo Supplement



NEWS

tion. After the service, visitors are invited for coffee and cake in the church crypt.

Organizers expect strong interest, as demand for emotional and spiritual support continues to grow.

Source: Vaasa Swedish Parish

VAASA

Vaasa joins top research: can the shingles vaccine also protect against memory problems?

The people of Vaasa will soon have a unique opportunity to participate in a study that will find out whether the shingles vaccine can reduce the risk of memory disorders. The FIN-DEMENTIA study is now looking for volunteers aged 60–85 who have not previously received the shingles vaccine.

The study is based on international observations that the virus caused by shingles may affect brain health. Now Finnish researchers want to find out whether the vaccine also has a protective effect on memory functions. Participation is free of charge and includes a health check-up, vaccination and follow-up visits. Those interested can register at fvr.fi/findementia and check if they meet the participation criteria.

If the link to the prevention of memory disorders is confirmed, it may be one of the most significant discoveries in promoting the health of the elderly.

MALAX

Malax launches survey on equality – residents invited to share experiences

Residents in Malax are being asked to share their experiences of equality and fair treatment in a new municipal survey. The initiative targets both locals and users of public services and forms part of the municipality’s ongoing efforts to strengthen inclusion.

The anonymous survey aims to gather insight into how people perceive everyday interactions and access to services. The results will be used to update Malax’s equality and non-discrimination plan.

Participants can respond online or by filling in paper forms available at the municipal office and libraries in Yttermalax, Bergö and Petalax. The deadline for responses is May 3, 2026.

Officials stress that public input is essential for improving services and ensuring equal treatment for all residents.

Source: Malax Municipality



MALAX

Read your way to rewards – Malax launches month-long reading challenge

Reading could now pay off—literally. In Malax, residents are being encouraged to turn pages into prizes during a month-long campaign focused on boosting reading habits.

The “Reading Joy” campaign runs throughout April and invites people of all ages to log their reading time. Books, newspapers and audiobooks all count, with every 30 minutes marked on a reading card available at local libraries. Participants who reach at least 30 hours of

reading will enter a draw for the top prize: a €40 bookstore gift card. Even those who read five hours or more can win smaller prizes. Completed cards must be returned to libraries by May 8, 2026. Winners will be contacted later in May.

Source: Malax Municipality

MALAX

What is your body really made of? Popular health test arrives in Malax.

Residents in Malax now have a rare opportunity to take a closer look inside their bodies. Two InBody measurement sessions will be held in April, offering detailed insights into physical health.

The events take place on Wednesday, April 29, from 2 to 5 PM at the sports cabin in Pixne (Idrottsvägen 2). For €20, participants receive a comprehensive analysis including muscle mass, body fat, fluid balance and visceral fat levels.

Those interested can also receive personal feedback on their results. However, the test is not suitable for everyone, including pregnant individuals or people with pacemakers.

With growing interest in personal health data, demand is expected to be high.

Source: Malax Municipality

KORSHOLM

Are you dreaming of your own deserted house? Now it can be yours

One of Mustasaari’s most talked-about abandoned houses may soon be given a new lease of life. Within the project Many villages – small investments, the municipality is now looking for new owners who want to transform an abandoned house into a living part of the village again. The house, which has been empty for years, has become a symbol of both decay and possible development.

The municipality attracts with support, advice and the opportunity to become part of a larger rural lift. There is already a lot of interest – everyone from young families to renovation enthusiasts has contacted us. The goal is to save cultural environments and at the same time create more attractive housing in the villages.

”This is a chance to do something really meaningful,” says the project management. Now all that remains is to find the right person with the right vision.

Source: Korsholm.fi



KORSHOLM

Full speed at the senior disco – Smedsby swings again 30.4 at 13-14.30

There was glitter, dancing and unexpectedly many quick steps when the senior disco returned to Smedsby. The event, which has become something of a local cult classic, attracted both seasoned dance foxes and curious beginners.

The DJ mixed everything from 60s classics to more modern rhythms, and the dance floor filled quickly. Many participants highlighted the importance of social activities that get both body and mood moving. ”You get younger from this,” laughed one of the evening’s most

NEWS

WÄRTSILÄ

Wärtsilä Powers AI Revolution With 412 MW Off-Grid Data Center in Ohio

The explosive growth of artificial intelligence and cloud computing demands a new kind of energy solution, and Wärtsilä is delivering just that. The Finnish technology group has secured a landmark order to supply a staggering 412 megawatts of engine power for a massive new hyperscale data center project in Ohio, USA.

And, 412 megawatts is about half of a nuclear power plant!

The project will feature 40 of Wärtsilä's 34SG spark-ignited gas engines, marking the first-ever deployment of this robust model in a data center application. This order propels Wärtsilä's total sold engine capacity to the U.S. data center market past the 1.6-gigawatt milestone. The modular 34SG engines

are tailor-made for the intense demands of AI workloads, offering high efficiency, proven reliability, low water consumption, and exceptional performance even in high temperatures.

Perhaps most critically, the new power plant will allow the data center to operate entirely off-grid, sidestepping the long and costly interconnection delays that plague many U.S. projects. "As AI and cloud demand accelerate, operators need energy solutions that are efficient, resilient, and available on their timeline – not the grid's," said Risto Paldanius of Wärtsilä Energy. With equipment deliveries scheduled for a planned start-up in early 2028, Wärtsilä is ensuring the digital future stays powered up, on its own terms.

Image: Wärtsilä



energetic dancers. The municipality now hopes that the success will lead to more recurring events. Because if one thing was clear this evening, it is that the joy of dancing has no age limit.

Source: Korsholm.fi

KORSHOLM

Cat owners are warned: common mistakes can be costly

Korsholm is now sharing new advice for cat owners – and several of them are surprising. Many people think that cats can take care of themselves, but the municipality reminds that even independent pets need more care than you might think.

Among the tips are everything from avoiding dangerous plants to reviewing your cat's outdoor time. The importance of ID marking and neutering is particularly emphasized, as stray and homeless cats have become a growing problem in the region. The municipality also urges owners to think about exercise and mental stimulation – a bored cat can quickly become an unhappy cat. The advice has been received positively and is now expected to spread widely among animal lovers in the area.

Source: Korsholm.fi

KORSHOLM

Mustasaari invests in safer routes to school – major changes are underway

A new official letter shows that Korsholm is planning several measures to make the school routes safer. Among the proposals are improved lighting, clearer signage and new pedestrian and cycle paths. The municipality also wants to review speed limits near schools.

The background is increasing traffic and concerns from both parents and school staff. The goal is for children to be able to get to school safely – regard-

less of whether they walk, cycle or travel by bus. The changes can begin to be implemented as early as later this year, if the decisions are passed.

The municipality emphasizes that security is a priority and that the investment is part of a larger long-term work.

Source: Korsholm.fi

SFP

SFP Osthrobotnia nominates eight candidates for parliamentary elections

– I am happy to present the first candidates for the parliamentary elections. We are well on our way to a really strong candidate list, the goal of which is to secure RKP's four seats with the largest possible margin, says chairman Roberth Sjöström.

The district meeting gave the district board the responsibility to continue nominating candidates, and the goal is to have the candidate list ready before the end of the year. RKP will participate in the elections with a full list.

The candidates nominated are:

Nina Brännkärr-Friberg, 49 years old, founder of Project Liv r.y, domiciled in Pietarsaari
Inger Damlin, 57 years old, chairwoman of the association, domiciled in Vöyri
Johanna Holmäng, 43 years old, midwife, domiciled in Pedersöre
Christoffer Ingo, 31 years old, member of parliament, domiciled in Mustasaari
Anders Norrback, 62 years old, member of parliament, domiciled

in Närpiö



A

nne Salovaara-Kero, 51 years old, director, domiciled in Vaasa
Niclas Sjöskog, 54 years old, farmer, domiciled in Pedersöre
Joakim Strand, 43 years old, minister, domiciled in Vaasa



Mikko Ollikainen will no longer stand as a candidate.

Chairman Roberth Sjöström and vice-chairmen Ida-Marie Jungell and Nicklas Nygård will continue in their positions for a second year.
Source: SFP

PALOSAARI

Vaasa is looking for your memories – a factory era will be preserved for eternity

The old industrial area at Rahkola and the soap factory in Palosaari in Vaasa are undergoing a major transformation when the land is planned for housing. In April, the City of Vaasa's Cultural Services will organise two open discussion events to collect memories, photographs and stories from the area. A Walk of Memories will be held on Monday 20 April at 2–3 p.m., starting from the Vaasa Maritime Museum, and an Evening of Memories will be held on Thursday 23 April at 5–7 p.m. at Brändö Library. The material is used by artists Valentina Gelain and Bekim Hasaj and will form the basis for an art project and future public art.
Read more: vaasa.fi

WELLBEING

THE WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY

Pietarsaari won the health prize – the secret?

Associations and low threshold
On 14 April 2026, the City of Pietarsaari received the Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia's Wellbeing Deed Award for its comprehensive work to promote the health and well-being of residents of all ages. The award committee highlighted the city's life-cycle approach and the broad preventive perspective – from the Vippari service

VÄHÄKYRÖ CHURCH

Music of life's journey – emotional concert invites reflection in Vähäkyrö today



Vähäkyrö Church – Sunday April 26, 2026 at 2:00 PM

A concert exploring life's deepest emotions will take place this Sunday in Vähäkyrö, offering audiences a moment of reflection through music.

“Musiikkia elämän poluilta” (“Music from the paths of life”) will be held on April 26 at 2:00 PM in Vähäkyrö Church. The program focuses on themes such as love, hope, loss and personal growth, capturing the full spectrum of human experience. With Aki Alamikkotervo, Leena Reinman, Riiitta Ingelin.

The event is expected to draw a wide audience, from music enthusiasts to those simply seeking a quiet, meaningful pause. Church concerts like this have grown in popularity as spaces for emotional connection and contemplation.

With its intimate atmosphere and powerful themes, the concert promises more than just music—it offers a shared moment of reflection on life itself.

Source: Vähäkyrö Parish

Wasa Daily
Nearly everything You want to know, in ten pages
vpress.fi

NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

Vaasa moves into the heart of EU power – university opens Brussels office



Vaasa is stepping directly into Europe's decision-making arena. University of Vaasa has officially opened a new office in Brussels, aiming to strengthen its role in European research and innovation.

The opening event took place on Tuesday, April 21, from 4:45 to 7:00 PM at the University Foundation (Rue d'Egmont 11), bringing together researchers, policymakers and industry leaders for discussions on energy transition and collaboration.

Timing is critical. The

EU is currently shaping its next major research and innovation framework programme, which will define funding priorities for years to come.

The new office is located in Nordic House (Rue du Luxembourg 3), alongside several Nordic organisations. Its mission is to build partnerships, identify funding opportunities and support participation in EU projects.

The move reflects Vaasa's strong position in energy technology and sustainability. With this step, the university aims not only to secure funding—but to influence Europe's research agenda.

Source: University of Vaasa

bus for the elderly to free school lunches during the summer holidays. The prize was awarded at the seminar How is Ostrobothnia? in Jakobstad. The role of associations was also highlighted as central to reaching out to residents that the city would not otherwise reach. Read more: stinfo.fi/.../staden-jakobst-ad-fick-pris-for-sitt-halso-och-valfardsframjande-arbete

THE WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY

Free childbirth in Vaasa? The proposal can become a reality

In April, the Board of the Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia considered a proposal to make childbirth at Vaasa Central Hospital free of charge during a trial period from 1.8.2026 to 31.12.2027. The idea is to ease the financial burden on families with children – at present, a day of care costs 71.50 euros and a birth usually lasts 2–3 days. Approximately 1,500 children are born in Ostrobothnia each year, of which about 1,000 are in Vaasa. If the Board supports the proposal, it will be forwarded to the county council for a decision. The department will also have renovated premises with its own toilets and showers in the autumn of 2026. Read more: stinfo.fi/.../forslag-avgiftsfria-forlossningar-i-vasa-i-fortsattning-en

MUSIC

KALEVALA

Ancient singing tradition comes alive in Vaasa – free Kalevala workshop open to all

Vaasa – Alma Adult Education Centre, Tuesday April 28, 2026, 6:00–7:30 PM
An ancient musical tradition is making

a comeback in Vaasa, offering residents a rare chance to experience the sounds of the Kalevala.

A free “Kalevalan kutsu” singing workshop will take place on Tuesday, April 28 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM at the Alma Adult Education Centre (Raastuvankatu 31). The event is open to everyone, regardless of experience.

Participants can listen to insights about the Kalevala's themes and even join in traditional runo singing. The session will be led by professional runo singer Liisa Matveinen.

Organizers say the workshop is part of a broader effort to highlight the Kalevala's role in European cultural heritage.

With growing interest in traditional culture, the event is expected to draw a wide audience. Source: City of Vaasa

CITY ORCHESTRA

Cheers Vaasa! Walpurgi Night kicks off with musical and student caps

Walpurgi Night is not complete without the Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra's traditional concert – Cheers! Vappu Concertti – which will take place on Thursday 30 April at 19.00 at Vaasa City Hall. Shortly after the Topelius statue received its student cap, conductor Martin Segerstråle and Vaasa-based singer and actress Sarah Nedergård take over the stage. The program offers musical songs from Evita, West Side Story and My Fair Lady as well as classical orchestral pieces. Tickets cost 34/28/2 euros. Read more: vaasa.fi/

RITZ

New talent wanted – Vaasa opens stage for emerging artists

Vaasa – Ritz, May 22–23, 2026, 6:00–10:30 PM

The spotlight is calling. In Vaasa, aspiring musicians now have a chance to step onto a real stage as the Feasta Marathon returns this May. The two-day event takes place on May 22–23 at Ritz (Kirkkopuistikko 22), featuring six performers each evening. Every act gets a 30-minute set, with short interviews between performances.

Organizers are inviting bands and artists from various genres, with a special focus on those creating original music. Applications remain open until May 10.

With free entry for audiences and strong local interest, the event could become a breakthrough moment for emerging talent. Source: City of Vaasa

HEALTH

ANTIDEPRESSANTS

More than one in ten young women on antidepressants – sharp rise in a decade



A striking trend is emerging in Finland: a growing number of young women are using antidepressant medication, with figures nearly doubling over the past decade.

New data shows that 11.5% of women aged 18–29 now use SSRI medications, compared to 7.1% in 2016.

The increase has been even steeper among teenage girls. At the same time, surveys indicate rising levels of anxiety and psychological distress among young people.

Experts link the trend to a mix of long-term social factors and the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the rapid growth has slowed recently, usage remains at historically high levels.

Young men show significantly lower usage rates, highlighting a clear gender gap. Source: Kela/FPA via STT Info

CANCER

Small diet changes could cut cancer risk – researchers highlight plant-based shift



A small change on your plate could have a big impact on your health. New research suggests that shifting towards a more plant-based diet may reduce



NEWS

PEDESTRIAN STREET

Summer pedestrian street takes over Vaasa city centre

The summer pedestrian street opens on Thursday, April 30. And it will remain open until September 14. Traffic restrictions begin as early as Monday, April 27, when the area is prepared for the summer season.

In previous years, the arrangement has received positive feedback from both entrepreneurs and customers. That's why the city is repeating the concept. The northern side of Hovioikeudenpuistikko will be closed to through traffic between Kirkkopuistikko and Raastuvankatu. Traffic lights will be switched off. The pedestrian crossing across Raastuvankatu will be widened to the full width

of the pedestrian street. But the pedestrian street affects more than just the sidewalks. Eight paid parking spaces will be removed. Buses will face changes: lines 1, 2, and 4 will be rerouted via Hietasaarenkatu. The Hovioikeudenpuistikko bus stop will be out of use for the entire summer.

Maintenance access and access to plots will be handled from the Hietasaarenkatu side via Pankkiirinkuja. On the southern side of Hovioikeudenpuistikko, time-limited parking will be added, along with a stopping place for delivery traffic.

All traffic arrangements will return to normal on September 16. But the summer atmosphere will linger in memory.

Source: vasa.fi



FINLAND

VETERAN'S DAY Mikkeli honours veterans – Saara Aalto sings and Yle broadcasts live

Mikkeli – the päämajakaupunki of war – will host National Veterans' Day on 27 April 2026, 81 years after the end of the war. The theme is Yhdessä eteenpäin katsoen (Together we look to the future).



The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. with an ecumenical service in the Parish Church, after which the main national festivities will be held at 1:00 p.m. in the Martti Talvela Hall in the Mikaeli Congress Hall. The festival programme includes singer Saara Aalto, Rakuunasoittokunta and lauluyhtye Evenio. The party will be broadcast live on Yle1 and Yle Areena from 1 p.m. Veteraan Week runs from 20 to 27 April with a rich programme throughout Mikkeli. Read more: mikkeli.fi/.../kansallisen-veteraanipaivan-valtakunnallinen-paajuhla

ALERT Alert: Fake government messages surge – scammers exploit Suomi.fi

A sharp rise in digital scams is now hitting Finland, with fraudsters impersonating official services to trick victims. According to a new report, scam messages using the name of Suomi.fi have surged dramatically in recent weeks. The goal is to lure users into clicking links and entering banking credentials or personal data. Messages often appear to come from trusted authorities, referencing tax decisions or official documents to create urgency. Scams are also circulating under the name of Kela, directing users to fake login pages. Experts stress one key rule: never

log in via links in messages—always access services directly through official websites. Source: STT Info / Finnish Telemarketing Association

UNIVERSITIES

ÅBO AKADEMI EU funding boost puts Turku on the map – aiming to become Europe's imaging hub

Turku is positioning itself at the forefront of European science. The Euro-BioImaging infrastructure, with Åbo Akademi as a key partner, has secured major EU funding to expand its capabilities.

The investment will support cutting-edge imaging technologies, artificial intelligence and new research services. These tools allow scientists to explore biological systems—from cells to entire organisms—with unprecedented precision.

Finland is already a global leader in bioimaging, and the new funding strengthens that position further. Thousands of researchers and companies rely on the infrastructure for advances in medicine, pharmaceuticals and environmental science.

The ambition is clear: to turn Turku into a European powerhouse in biological and biomedical imaging—where future scientific breakthroughs take shape.

Source: Åbo Akademi

POLITICS

SOFIA VIRTA "Going separate ways" – Green Party leader Sofia Virta confirms breakup

Sofia Virta, chair of the Green League of Finland, has announced the end of her relationship. She shared the news in a personal Instagram post.

"The hardest part of public life has been not being able to protect my loved ones from attention and speculation," she writes.

Rumors about her relationship status

had begun to spread. Virta chose to speak out herself – to spare those close to her from uncomfortable questions.

Despite the sadness, she describes the relationship with warmth and gratitude. The separation was mutual, she says.

She also shares personal reflections on love, trust, and the support she received.

Now, she wants to move on. No further comments. And a clear request: please respect her loved ones' privacy.

Source: Instagram

MEDIA

MAGAZINES "Posti penalises the countryside" – Bergqvist demands action on unequal magazine distribution



On April 1, Posti raised its prices. Magazines got more expensive. Especially in sparsely populated areas.

In some regions, prices nearly doubled. MP Sandra Bergqvist (SPP) has had enough. She has submitted a written question to the government.

– This hits member magazines hard. Many of their subscribers live in precisely these areas, she says.

The problem is Posti's monopoly. It is the only operator with a nationwide distribution network.

Competition barely exists. Yet magazines are not classified as universal postal services. Posti can price freely.

– We risk creating unnecessary divides. In the end, the individual consumer loses, Bergqvist says.

Posti blames changing market conditions. More parcels. Fewer letters and magazines.

Bergqvist refuses to accept the explanation. She demands political action.

– Residents of rural areas should not have to pay more for the same information.

Source: SFP/RKP

SOCIAL MEDIA

NORWAY Norway targets social media giants – 16 age limit under discussion

Scrolling freely on social media could soon come with a strict age check. Norway's government is preparing a proposal to introduce a 16-year age limit—and make tech companies verify users' ages.

The bill is expected to be presented to parliament later in 2026, reflecting growing concern over the impact of social media on children.

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre says the goal is clear: protect childhood from being dominated by algorithms and screens.

the risk of colorectal cancer—one of the most common cancers in Finland.

According to scientist Rilla Tammi at University of Helsinki, even modest dietary adjustments can make a difference. Replacing some red and processed meat with whole grains, vegetables and fruits has been linked to a lower cancer risk.

The findings are based on long-term Finnish population data and highlight the importance of lifestyle factors. Physical activity, body weight and alcohol consumption also play a role.

Researchers stress that radical changes are not required. Gradual improvements in eating habits can already have measurable effects.

The takeaway is simple: everyday food choices may shape long-term health more than we think.

Source: University of Helsinki

BOOKS

RIIKKA PURRA Finland's Thatcher? Now comes the book about Purra



Now the book about Riikka Purra has been released, "Riikka Purra – Finland's Iron Lady". The book promises in-depth analyses of the hard-line power players of the True Finns. Expectations are high – and so are the critics. The question is whether the book will be a declaration of love or a nail-biter. Is she Finland's Thatcher? Source: STTinfo

NEWS

ASTRONOMY

Apophis, an asteroid that passes close to Earth on 13.4.2029.

A SHORT STORY:
Friday the 13th.
Of course.
Mara had the numbers memorized.
99942. That was the name once upon a time. Now everyone just called it God's hammer.

340 meter wide old rock. Moves at 7.4 kilometers per second. Nearest approach point 31,000 kilometres. Inside the ring where the satellites fly. She saw them die. One by one. GPS. Weather. Communication. The hammer didn't even notice it. Just kept coming. The control center had become silent three hours ago. Not dark. Just quiet. People stood at the windows. Mara was not standing at the windows. She was doing calculations. The politicians had said sure. The authorities had said sure. Probability of impact point zero-zero-zero-anything. They had been saying it for twenty years. Since the Egyptian astronomer first discovered it in 2004. Named after the Egyptian god of chaos and darkness. Someone had a sense of humor.

Or a gift for prophecy. Her screen flickered. The number was changed. It was getting closer. Get closer and closer. She looked at it twice. Three times. Her coffee got cold. Outside, Pasadena slept. At three o'clock in the morning on April 13. The whole world slept or watched or prayed. Forty thousand people visible online. Streamed the approach. Made a party. Sold t-shirts. God's hammer didn't care about t-shirts. The screen refreshed again. She picked up the phone. Shut it down. Picked it up. Through the window, the sky was still dark and full of ordinary stars. Somewhere up there between these stars, something huge was threading the needle. The tightest needle in human history. 31,000 kilometres. The breadth of nothing. The number did not decrease any further. And now the number started to rise again. She was breathing. It held. Then past. Gone. Clean. She put down the phone. Drank the cold coffee. Outside, someone was already celebrating. Noise rose from the street below. Human noise. The best kind. Still here.

Facts

On Friday, April 13, 2029, the asteroid Apophis will pass Earth at a distance of 30,000 km, which in astronomical terms is a month more than a stone's throw. Most satellites are further away than that. The moon is ten times as far away. This close to Earth does an asteroid of this size come only once in a thousand years. If it were to hit the earth (which it does not), an area the size of Europe would be destroyed. We will all be able to see it fly across the sky with the naked eye.



ILYA REPIN

The Kremlin and the Ateneum disagree: Is Repin Ukrainian or Russian?

Finland's largest art museum has touched a raw nerve in Moscow. The Ateneum Museum in Helsinki has officially reclassified legendary 19th-century artist Ilya Repin as Ukrainian, not Russian—a decision the Kremlin calls "Unfortunately, Russophobia has also affected the cultural sphere. It's reaching the point of absurdity".

Russian Ambassador Pavel Kuznetsov voiced his indignation, while presidential adviser Vladimir Medinsky a few days ago dismissed the move as the work of "stupid and illiterate people". But the museum stands firm, pointing to newly uncovered church records showing Repin's grandfather and father were born in Ukraine.

The artist, famous for masterpieces like "Cos-

sacks Writing a Letter to the Sultan," was born in 1844 near Kharkiv in what is now Ukraine. After the revolution, he settled in Finland and died there in 1930, refusing to return to communist Russia.

Ateneum director Marja Sakari has a few years ago questioned the rigid labeling of artists from an era when Finland itself was a Russian Grand Duchy. "The question of the meaning of nationality depends on context. Consider our own art world of the late 19th century: with the help of Golden Age artists, we built our national identity and distinction from Russia. Should our Finnish Golden Age artists, then, be considered Russians? After all, Finland was a Russian Grand Duchy when they were born. Such a classification would certainly seem unfair."

(Referens: X)



Ilya Repin
24.7.1844, Tšugujev
29.9.1930, Kuokkala nyk. Repino, Venäjä
Young Woman in Rose Blouse, 1903
Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum, Wäinö Walli Collection
Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Hannu Pakarinen

Research highlights risks linked to heavy use, including sleep problems, reduced concentration and mental health challenges.

The debate is not limited to Norway. Across Europe and beyond, countries are increasingly considering similar restrictions, typically around ages 15-16.

The message is unmistakable: regulation of young people's digital lives is moving rapidly up the political agenda.

SOURCE: NRK

AI

DEEPSEEK

DeepSeek Unveils V4: A New Flagship with 1M Context and Agentic Power



DeepSeek today unveiled the preview version of its long-awaited V4 series, billed as the most potent open-source platform yet. The release comes almost a year after the Chinese startup upended global AI with its low-cost R1 breakthrough.

Sensational new features include a million-word context window and a hybrid attention architecture that dramatically reduces memory and compute costs. The V4 series is split into two versions: the high-performance Pro, which leads open-source models in agentic coding, mathematics, and world knowledge, and the economical Flash, which offers similar reasoning at lower latency.

DeepSeek claims the V4-Pro beats all rival open models in coding and reasoning, ranking just behind closed-source giants in general knowledge. Both models are open source and available immediately via API. Early feedback from internal use suggests the V4-Pro already exceeds the user experience of many commercial alternatives.

RUSSIA

RUSSIA

"AI drones change the war – Russian frontline soldiers warn of new threat"

Russian war correspondents now describe a dramatic change on the battlefield. According to several reports, Ukrainian forces have started using new types of drones controlled by advanced AI systems. These drones are said to be able to navigate independently, avoid interference and find targets without direct operator contact. Several Russian commentators claim that this has made the so-called "intermediate attack" impossible to sustain. This means that logistics, fuel transports and ammunition depots up to 300 kilometres behind the front can now be knocked out much easier than before.

The reports describe a growing concern among Russian soldiers and analysts, who believe that technology is changing the dynamics of the war at a rapid pace. Independent experts have not yet confirmed all the data, but note that AI drones are already being used by several countries and that the development is going very fast.

Source: Telegram

RUSSIA

Celebrity's open criticism sparks debate – video of Putin is spread in Russian channels. Seen by tens of millions.

RUSSIAN WAR AGAINST UKRAINE - DOCUMENTS

RUSSIA

The advance of Russia and the new world

Here are parts of an article published by Ria Novosti (a Russian news agency surely never publishing anything without Kremls permission”) on February 26, 2022, two days after the start of the Russian military operation in Ukraine.

Two days after the start of the war - and Ria Novosti is declaring the victory over Ukraine. "Now this problem is gone - Ukraine has returned to Russia."

This article is also proof that the goal of Russia's war of aggression was to conquer all of Ukraine, incorporate it into Russia, and recreate the former Soviet Union."Russia is restoring its unity - the tragedy of 1991, this terrible catastrophe of our history, its unnatural dislocation, has been overcome."

"Russia is returning."

"A new world is being born before our eyes. Russia's military operation in Ukraine has opened a new era - in three dimensions at once. And of course, in the fourth, domestic Russian one. Here a new period begins both in ideology and in the very model of our socio-economic system - but this is worth discussing separately a little later.

Russia is restoring its unity - the tragedy of 1991, this terrible catastrophe of our history, its unnatural dislocation, has been overcome. Yes, at a great cost, yes, through the tragic events of a de facto civil war, because now brothers, divided by their belonging to the Russian and Ukrainian armies, are still shooting at each other - but Ukraine as anti-Russia will no longer exist. Russia is restoring its historical completeness, gathering the Russian world, the Russian people together - in all its totality of Great Russians, Belarusians and Little Russians. If we had refused this, had allowed the temporary division to become entrenched for centuries, then we would not only have betrayed the memory of our ancestors, but would also have been cursed by our descendants - for allowing the disintegration of the Russian land.

Vladimir Putin has taken upon

himself - without a drop of exaggeration - historical responsibility, deciding not to leave the solution of the Ukrainian question to future generations. After all, the need to solve it would always remain the main problem for Russia - for two key reasons. And the issue of national security, that is, the creation of an anti-Russia and an outpost for the West to put pressure on us from Ukraine, is only the second most important of them.

The first would always remain the complex of a divided people, the complex of national humiliation - when the Russian house first lost part of its foundation (Kyiv), and then was forced to come to terms with the existence of two states, not one, but two peoples. That is, either to renounce its history, agreeing with the crazy versions that "only Ukraine is the real Rus", or helplessly gnash its teeth, remembering the times when "we lost Ukraine". Returning Ukraine, that is, turning it back to Russia, would be more and more difficult with each decade - the recoding, de-Russification of Russians and setting Little Russians-Ukrainians against Russians would gain momentum. And in the case of the consolidation of complete geopolitical and military control of the

West over Ukraine, its return to Russia would become completely impossible - it would be necessary to fight for it with the Atlantic bloc.

Now this problem is gone - Ukraine has returned to Russia. This does not mean that its statehood will be liquidated, but it will be restructured, re-established and returned to its natural state of being part of the Russian world. Within what borders, in what form will the union with Russia be secured (through the CSTO and the Eurasian Union or the Union State of Russia and Belarus)? This will be decided after the period in the history of Ukraine as anti-Russia is put to rest. In any case, the period of the split of the Russian people is ending.

And here begins the second dimension of the coming new era - it concerns relations between Russia and the West. Not even Russia, but the Russian world, that is, three states, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, acting in geopolitical terms as a single whole. These relations have entered a new stage - the West sees Russia returning to its historical borders in Europe . And it loudly resents this, although deep down it must admit to itself that it could not have been otherwise.

Did anyone in the old European

capitals, in Paris and Berlin, seriously believe that Moscow would abandon Kiev? That the Russians would forever be a divided people? And at the same time, when Europe is uniting, when the German and French elites are trying to wrest control over European integration from the Anglo-Saxons and assemble a united Europe? Forgetting that the unification of Europe became possible only thanks to the unification of Germany, which happened by Russian good will (even if not very smart). To then set their sights on Russian lands is the height of not even ingratitude, but geopolitical stupidity. The West as a whole, and even more so Europe separately, did not have the strength to keep Ukraine in its sphere of influence, much less take it for itself. Not to understand this, one would have to be a geopolitical fool.

More precisely, there was only one option: to bet on the further collapse of Russia, that is, the Russian Federation. But the fact that it did not work should have become clear twenty years ago. And already fifteen years ago, after Putin's Munich speech, even the deaf could hear

- Russia is returning."

NEWS



Victoria Bonya. Georges Biard

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A video in which the Russian blogger and TV personality Victoria Bonya directs sharp criticism at the country's leadership is now widely spread on Russian social media. In the clip, which is widely discussed in political circles, Bonya says that many Russian citizens "fear their president". She also mentions several current crises, including the floods in Dagestan and reports of mass deaths of livestock in Siberia.

What has attracted the most attention is her claim that the country's president would be "misled by his own subordinates". The statement has led to extensive discussions, as public figures rarely express such criticism openly. Reactions are mixed: some users praise her courage, while others question her motives. Regardless, the video has become one of the most talked about features of the week in Russian online forums.

Source: Telegram

RUSSIA

Rumours are gaining momentum: authorities are investigating claims that Prigozhin is alive



Russian media and social channels are once again filled with speculation about the former leader of the Wagner Group, Yevgeny Prigozhin. After an interview with Pavel Gubarev, former "People's Governor" of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, several Russian authorities - including the FSB and SVR - are reported to have begun investigating rumors that Prigozhin is alive. Prigozhin was reported dead in a plane crash in 2023, but theories that he survived have been circulating ever since. Gubarev's statements have now given new fuel to the speculation, although no evidence has been presented. The authorities have not commented publicly on the information. Analysts point out that similar rumors often arise around controversial people, especially in environments where information is scarce and mistrust is widespread.

Source: Telegram Phto: УлПравда TB Creative Commons Attribution 3.0

RUSSIA

Flood chaos in Dagestan - the death toll is estimated to be more than a hundred

Dagestan continues to be hit by widespread floods, which have destroyed entire communities and forced thousands to leave their homes. According to information circulating

What Russia Should Do with Ukraine

Published by Ria Novosti 09:15 04.04.2022

If Russia were to win the war of aggression against Ukraine and take control of the entire country, this would not mean an end to the suffering of the people of Ukraine, on the contrary, it would be the beginning of a new severe suffering for the next 25 years. This article, published in April 2022 by Ria Novosti, the state and state-controlled news agency that never publishes anything without the Kremlin's permission, shows the fate that Ukraine would be deprived of after a defeat.

Here are some important parts of this article.

"RIA Novosti columnist Timofey Sergeyev shared his thoughts on what the denazification of Ukraine implies and why it is needed."

A significant part of the people are Nazis

"Denazification is necessary when a significant part of the people - most likely, its majority - is mastered and drawn into the Nazi regime's policy. That is, when the hypothesis "the people are good - the government is bad" does not

work. Recognition of this fact is the basis of the policy of denazification, all its measures, and the fact itself is its subject."

"Nazis who have taken up arms must be destroyed on the battlefield to the maximum extent possible. No significant distinction should be made between the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the so-called national battalions, as well as the territorial defense that has joined these two types of military formations. All of them are equally involved in extreme cruelty towards the civilian population, equally guilty of the genocide of the Russian people, and do not comply with the laws and customs of war. War criminals and active Nazis must be punished in an exemplary and demonstrative manner. Total lustration must be carried out."

A significant part of the masses are also guilty

"However, in addition to the top, a significant part of the masses, who are passive Nazis, accomplices of Nazism, are also guilty.

The further denazification of this mass of the population consists of re-education, which is achieved by ideological repression (suppression) of Nazi attitudes and strict censorship: not only in the political sphere, but also necessarily in the sphere of culture and education."

"The period of denazification can-

not be shorter than one generation, which must be born, grow up and reach maturity under the conditions of denazification."

"In this case, the necessary initial steps of denazification can be defined as follows:

liquidation of armed Nazi formations (which are understood to mean any armed formations of Ukraine, including the Armed Forces of Ukraine), as well as the military, information, and educational infrastructure that ensures their activity;

the formation of organs of popular self-government and militia (defense and law enforcement) of liberated territories, protecting the population from the terror of underground Nazi groups;

installation of the Russian information space;

confiscation of educational materials and prohibition of educational programs at all levels that contain Nazi ideological principles;

mass investigative actions to establish personal responsibility for war crimes, crimes against humanity, the dissemination of Nazi ideology and support for the Nazi regime;"

Forced labor as punishment for Nazi activities

(from among those to whom the death penalty or imprisonment will not be applied)

"lustration, publication of the names of accomplices of the Nazi regime, their forced labor to restore the destroyed infrastructure as punishment for Nazi activities (from among those to whom the death penalty or imprisonment will not be applied);

the adoption at the local level, under the supervision of Russia, of primary normative acts of denazification "from below", the prohibition of all types and forms of the revival of Nazi ideology;

the establishment of memorials, commemorative signs, and monuments to the victims of Ukrainian Nazism, perpetuating the memory of the heroes of the fight against it;

inclusion of a set of anti-fascist and denazification norms in the constitutions of the new people's republics;"

This will go on for 25 years

"creation of permanent denazification bodies for a period of 25 years."

EVENTS

TODAY

QUINNTON

Lauantain korvakarkkia – naiskuorot tarjova kahvia ja musikia



On Sunday afternoon, or today, there will be pure ear candy when two of Ostrobothnia's leading female choirs join forces. Vaasa's Quinnton and Närpiön Norakören offer a joint coffee concert in the Alma Hall.

Conductors Monica Heikius and Marika Esch will each conduct the choir when they take to the stage at 3:00 PM. For the price of ten pounds, you get both the concert and the coffee – a real bargain! The event lasts until 5:00 PM.

Looking for a relaxing Sunday afternoon in the spirit of music? Then head to Kirkkopuistikko 15.

FINESTRE

Tampere string ensembles attract visitors to the City Hall

On Sunday at 4:00 PM, it's time for atmospheric chamber music in the City Hall Hall. The Finestre String Quartet from Tampere will be visiting with two additional musicians.

The audience will be treated to a high-quality program, featuring the music of Russian Tchaikovsky and Austrian Korngold. Tickets cost 15 euros for adults and 10 euros for children and students.

The evening is organized by the Vaasa Chamber Musicians Association. Don't miss the opportunity to experience a true gem of classical music in the middle of Vaasa! The event ends at 5:30 p.m.

THIS WEEK

CITY ORCHESTRA

Cheers Vaasa! May Day concert begins with a musical and student caps

No May Day evening is complete without the Vaasa City Orchestra's traditional concert – Cheers! May Day concert – which will be held on Thursday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m. at Vaasa City Hall. Shortly after the Topelius statue receives its graduation cap, conductor Martin Segerstråle and singer-actress Sarah Nedergård from Vaasa will take the stage. The program includes musical pieces from Evita, West Side Story and My Fair Lady as well as classical orchestral works. Tickets cost 34/28/2 euros.

MAY

STUNDARS

May Day at Stundars – par-

ties, bonfire and spring awakening at the open-air museum



May Day is traditionally celebrated in Stundars with flag-raising, singing and speeches. Visitors are invited to the first spring celebrations in a historic setting, where a bonfire is lit and spring is welcomed with grandeur and spectacle. The event is suitable for the whole family and offers a glimpse into how May Day was celebrated in the old days. The museum café is open and there will be sausage making and socialising. Don't miss the first real spring celebration of the year at the Ostrobothnia Open Air Museum. Source: Stundars.fi

RITZ

Osku lets loose – a comedy show with little problems and big laughs”

Osku Elias returns to the Ritz with his new stand-up show Show: Little Things – an evening where life's little annoyances turn into big laughs. The audience can expect sharp humor, improvisation and lots of self-irony.

Time: April 26th at 7:00 PM

Place: Ritz, Vaasa

The show is K18Reference: Ritz.fi

RITZ

Strandberg unleashes his inner “people’s man” – adult humor at a high level

Christoffer Strandberg takes over the Ritz with his new People's Man show – a satirical and cheeky show where he highlights both energy and honesty.

Time: May 8th at 7:00 PM

Place: Ritz, Vaasa

Strandberg promises an evening full of confession, absurdity and unexpected truths. K18 – and that's performances.

Reference: Ritz.fi

RITZ

Mother’s Day in style – Ritz offers a warm and beautiful concert

Ritz celebrates all mothers with an atmospheric Mother's Day concert full of music, warmth and a festive atmosphere. Perfect for families who want to make the day special.

Time: May 10th at 6 pm

On stage: Sarah Nedergård, Jannike, Åsa Jinder and Patrik Isaksson.

Musicians Ben Bergman, Janne Hyöty and Rickard Mitts will perform.

Venue: Ritz, Vaasa

An elegant afternoon where both classical and modern tones honor the protagonists of the day.

Reference: Ritz.fi

RITZ

Peter Jöback takes over the Ritz – an evening of musi-

cal splendor and magic

Swedish star Peter Jöback visits Vaasa for an exclusive concert: Evening Peter With Jöback. An intimate evening with his best songs, personal stories and musical brilliance.

Time: May 12th at 7pm

Venue: Ritz, Vaasa

Tickets are likely to sell out quickly – Jöback attracts audiences of all ages.

Source: Ritz.fi

RITZ

Gustav III brought to life – opera dramas with a royal drama at the Ritz

The Ritz offers historical entertainment with the opera performance Gustav III – A Celebration to Remember. A dramatic and humorous interpretation of the king's last celebrations.

Time: May 13th at 5pm

Venue: Ritz, Vaasa

An evening where history, music and theatre come together in a colourful package.

Source: Ritz.fi

CHOIR FESTIVAL

32nd Vaasa Choir Festival: Club 45 is rocking out at the Ritz – tickets already sold out?



14.-17.5.2026

Vasa will soon be filled with soulful singing as the 32nd Choir Festival begins. But there is only one concert that will make people sweat – the fantastic Club 45 at the Ritz on Saturday 16 May.

The festival brings together choirs from all over Finland. Tickets are already on sale, and according to rumors, places are starting to sell out. Vocal music lovers – act now!

The rest of the program offers everything from classical choir to experimental vocal art. But Club 45? It is the talk of the town this year.

Source: Bothnia Classic

JUNE

EVENING MUSIC

50 years of free evening music in Vaasa – stars take over Vaasa Church



7. kesäkuuta – 14. elokuuta 2026
- Joka keskiviikko klo 19.30, täysin ilmainen

June – 14 August 2026

– Every Wednesday at 7.30 pm, completely free. The evening music at the Trinity Church has been a summer classic for 50 years. And This year it is being celebrated in earnest.

The organ has its place, of course – it is, after all, one of the finest churches in Finland. But the singing, violin, piano, clarinet and cello also shine. The artists? Well-known Finnish musicians and international guest performers.

High-quality, free and open to all. So simple, so good.

Bring a friend and enjoy the bright June evenings until mid-August.

Source: Bothnia Classic

ILMAJOKI-OPERA

50th anniversary celebration in Ilmajoki: “The Great Injustice” turns into an opera as the year of hatred takes the stage



ILMAJOKI (5–14 June 2026)

When the Ilmajoki Music Festival turns 50, it does so with a bang. For the first time, the festival will present “The Great Injustice” – a brand new, in-house produced opera about the horrors of hatred and the fate of our ancestors in Kyröjoki along.

Behind the work is a dream team: librettist Anneli Kanto, director Tuomas Parkkinen and conductor Eero Lehtimäki. The festival has offered opera celebrations in the traditional landscapes of Southern Ostrobothnia since its founding in 1975. Now the bar is being raised considerably.

Tickets are expected to sell out like hot stones in the sunshine. If you don't get there now, you'll have to wait for the next half century.

Source: <https://www.musiikkijuhlat.fi/denstoraofreden.html>

LISÄÄ LÖYLYÄ

Ten years of rock and sauna spirit

Lisää Löylyä Rock Festival is celebrating its tenth anniversary with a bang. This time the party will move to Vaskiluoto – right where Wasalandia used to be. On stage: Sonata Arctica, Rhapsody of Fire and much more. Two days of hard rock, sweat and joy. Two-day early bird tickets are on sale for 119 euros. Sauna? Maybe not, but a steamy atmosphere is guaranteed!

• When: 12–13 June 2026

• Where: Vasklot, Vaasa (formerly Wasalandia)

UKRAINE PRESIDENT

Statement by the President of Ukraine During a Joint Press Conference with the President of Azerbaijan

25.4.2026

Thank you very much, dear Mr. President. I would like to thank you and thank our delegations for this visit. Indeed, over recent years, we have held several meetings on different international platforms. We have always supported each other. I thank Azerbaijan for its support of our sovereignty and territorial integrity. Without a doubt, Ukraine has always supported the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan..



During this war, this is my first visit to Azerbaijan – together with our delegation – and I thank you for this visit. Today, we have signed six documents. Our teams will certainly share the details later.

They cover various areas. Security is the top priority today – the defense-industrial complex. Ukraine has demonstrated resilience during this war against the aggressor and is now sharing its experience. Today, I spoke with our experts who are currently in Azerbaijan. They are certainly supporting our colleagues. Of course, we will develop our cooperation and co-production. These are very important areas that will definitely increase both the security of our countries and our peop-

les, as well as trade, which we truly want to expand between our countries.

Second issue. Today, I thanked the President for the fact that, during this difficult winter, our partners stood with us – the Ukrainian people were not alone. Of course, there was our air defense, our heroic military personnel, our power engineers – but also our partner relations. And the energy packages provided throughout the entire period of hardships of this difficult war: 11 energy packages through which Azerbaijan supported Ukraine. We are grateful for this and deeply appreciate it. And we are discussing the continuation of relevant initiatives.

I would like to particularly thank Mr. President for helping our children

from border regions who suffered greatly because of the war. Thank you for this support. You hosted more than 500 Ukrainian children. Thank you for this humanitarian assistance.

We also discussed energy and our cooperation. This is a global challenge today – not only for Ukraine or Europe, but for the entire world, due to the war in Iran. Therefore, stable partners are needed here. I thank you for this.

Of course, we are also very pleased that Azerbaijani students often choose Ukraine. We will continue the relevant programs.

... Thank you, dear Mr. President. Thank you for this visit, for our conversation, and most importantly, for our agreements.



ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Ilya Repin
24.7.1844, Tšugujev
29.9.1930, Kuokkala nyk. Repino, Venäjä
Double Portrait of Natalia Nordmann and Ilya Repin, 1903
Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum
Photo: Finnish National Gallery

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George Orwell 1984 Part 27

A knot of others, standing round with glasses in their hands, were watching the scene.

'I arst you civil enough, didn't I?' said the old man, straightening his shoulders pugnaciously. 'You telling me you ain't got a pint mug in the 'ole bleeding boozer?'

'And what in hell's name IS a pint?' said the barman, leaning forward with the tips of his fingers on the counter.

'Ark at 'im! Calls 'isself a barman and don't know what a pint is! Why, a pint's the 'alf of a quart, and there's four quarts to the gallon. 'Ave to teach you the A, B, C next.'

'Never heard of 'em,' said the barman shortly. 'Litre and half litre--that's all we serve. There's the glasses on the shelf in front of you.'

'I likes a pint,' persisted the old man. 'You could 'a drawed me off a pint easy enough. We didn't 'ave these bleeding litres when I was a young man.'

'When you were a young man we were all living in the treetops,' said the barman, with a glance at the other customers.

There was a shout of laughter, and the uneasiness caused by Winston's entry seemed to disappear. The old man's white-stubbed face had flushed pink. He turned away, muttering to himself, and bumped into Winston. Winston caught him gently by the arm.

'May I offer you a drink?' he said.

'You're a gent,' said the other, straightening his shoulders again. He appeared not to have noticed Winston's blue overalls. 'Pint!' he added aggressively to the barman. 'Pint of wallop.'

The barman swished two half-litres of dark-brown beer into thick glasses which he had rinsed in a bucket under the counter. Beer was the only drink

you could get in prole pubs. The proles were supposed not to drink gin, though in practice they could get hold of it easily enough. The game of darts was in full swing again, and the knot of men at the bar had begun

talking about lottery tickets. Winston's presence was forgotten for a moment. There was a deal table under the window where he and the old man could talk without fear of being overheard. It was horribly dangerous, but at any rate there was no telescreen in the room, a point he had made sure of as soon as he came in.

'E could 'a drawed me off a pint,' grumbled the old man as he settled down behind a glass. 'A 'alf litre ain't enough. It don't satisfy. And a 'ole litre's too much. It starts my bladder running. Let alone the price.'

'You must have seen great changes since you were a young man,' said Winston tentatively.

The old man's pale blue eyes moved from the darts board to the bar, and from the bar to the door of the Gents, as though it were in the bar-room that he expected the changes to have occurred.

'The beer was better,' he said finally. 'And cheaper! When I was a young man, mild beer--wallop we used to call it--was fourpence a pint. That was before the war, of course.'

'Which war was that?' said Winston.



'It's all wars,' said the old man vaguely. He took up his glass, and his shoulders straightened again. 'Ere's wishing you the very best of 'ealth!'

In his lean throat the sharp-pointed Adam's apple made a surprisingly rapid up-and-down movement, and the beer vanished. Winston went to the bar and came back with two more half-litres. The old man appeared to have forgotten his prejudice against drinking a full litre.

'You are very much older than I am,' said Winston. 'You must have been a grown man before I was born. You can remember what it was like in the old days, before the Revolution. People of my age don't really know anything about those times. We can only read about them in books, and what it says in the books may not be true. I should like your opinion on that. The history books say that life before the Revolution was completely different from what it is now. There was the most terrible oppression, injustice, poverty worse than anything we can imagine. Here in London, the great mass of the people never had enough to eat from birth to death. Half of them hadn't even boots on their feet. They worked twelve hours a day, they left school at nine, they slept ten in a room. And at the same time there were a very few people, only a few thousands--the capitalists, they were called--who were rich and powerful. They owned everything that there was to own. They lived in great gorgeous houses with thirty servants, they rode about in motor-cars and four-horse carriages, they drank champagne, they wore top hats----'

The old man brightened suddenly.

'Top 'ats!' he said. 'Funny you should mention 'em. The same thing come into my 'ead only yesterday, I dono why. I was jest thinking, I ain't seen a top 'at in years. Gorn right out, they 'ave. The last time I wore one was at my sister-in-law's funeral. And that was--well, I couldn't give you the date, but it must 'a been fifty years ago. Of course it was only 'ired for the occasion, you understand.'

'It isn't very important about the top hats,' said Winston patiently. 'The point is, these capitalists--they and a few lawyers and priests and so forth who lived on them--were the lords of the earth. Everything existed for their benefit. You--the ordinary people, the workers--were their slaves. They could do what they liked with you. They could ship you off to Canada like cattle. They could sleep with your daughters if they chose. They could order you to be flogged with something called a cat-o'-nine tails. You had to take your cap off when you passed them.'

HUMOUR ONE HUND-RED YEARS AGO

MR WEST

A well-known joker once came in company into a restaurant, where he saw a familiar gentleman named Wester sitting drinking toddy.

"Listen, Wester," he exclaimed, "can you tell me what is the resemblance between the sun and a toddy?"

"No", he replied.

"Well, both go down in the west," was the answer.

WHERE THE CHILDREN COME FROM

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAMN LUCK

— Hello, my lord, cried the energetic flower seller, buy some flowers for your darling.

- I have no sweetheart, said the young man.

- Then buy some flowers for your wife.

— I have no wife.

— Well, lucky cheese, then buy some flowers to celebrate your damn luck.

THE CUCKOO

The teacher (who told about the cuckoo):

— Well, what is it in the main that you now know about the cuckoo?

Student:

— It does not lay its own eggs.

BAD FOOD

Have you ever tasted a raw oyster?

I have twice. Once when it went down and once when it came up.

NEWSPAPER CLIP

"What did you cut out of that newspaper?"

"Just a little news story

about a man getting a divorce from his wife because she used to look at his bills."

"What are you going to do with that news story?"

"I'll just put it in my own pocket."

KNEW THE ANSWER.

A traveling salesman met a young girl. Getting into conversation with her, he asked her; "How old are you now?"

"Eleven years old," was the answer.

"Can you tell me how old you will be when you are sixteen?"

The girl replied: "I'll be old enough to flirt with boys then."

SEE IN THE DARK

Little Esther: Can that beautiful Aunt Smith see in the dark?

Mom: Not at all. Why do you ask that?

Little Esther: Because I heard her tell Papa last night in the dark room that his cheeks needed a shave.

Astronomic picture of the week:



Moon & Earth

Artemis II - April 6 2026 (55209861313).png

Wikimedia Commons

Credit: NASA/Artemis II/Kevin M. Gill

Kevin M. Gill

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Contact us at wasadagblad@gmail.com for more details. We can't wait to hear from you!

WASA DAILY

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

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

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

Editor-in-chief Hans Björknäs. Readers' writings are welcome!

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

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

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

Email: wasadagblad@gmail.com

FROM OUR READERS

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

ADVERTISE

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

Send ads to wasadagblad@gmail.com

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HOROSCOPE FOR APRIL 2026

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

☐ Aries (March 21 – April 19)

You're full of energy and initiative, but don't pick a fight with the coffee machine – it always wins.

☐ Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Your patience will be tested this April. Maybe it's time to accept that sighing loudly won't make the checkout line move faster.

☐ Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

You have a thousand ideas and zero time to execute them. Try finishing one thing before jumping to the next – or just embrace the chaos!

☐ Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

April might be an emotional month, but remember: no one expects you to save the

world... just to deal with your own stuff.

☐ Leo (July 23 – August 22)

You love being the center of attention, but maybe let someone else tell the joke at the coffee break – just once.

☐ Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

You have a plan, a backup plan, and a backup plan for the backup plan. Breathe – the worst that could happen is... well, not much, really.

☐ Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Decisions are tough. If you're spending over an hour choosing what to eat, maybe that's a sign you should just cook something yourself. Or not.

☐ Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Your magnetism is at its peak. Use it wisely – or you'll once again find yourself at a party you don't know how to leave.

☐ Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

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

☐ Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Your hard work is finally paying off! Soon, you can reward yourself with something big – like an overpriced coffee, guilt-free.

☐ Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Your ideas are brilliant, but not everyone is ready for them yet. Maybe wait a bit before suggesting that all meetings should be replaced by memes.

☐ Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

You're daydreaming more than ever. That's adorable – as long as you remember to get off at the right bus stop.

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

