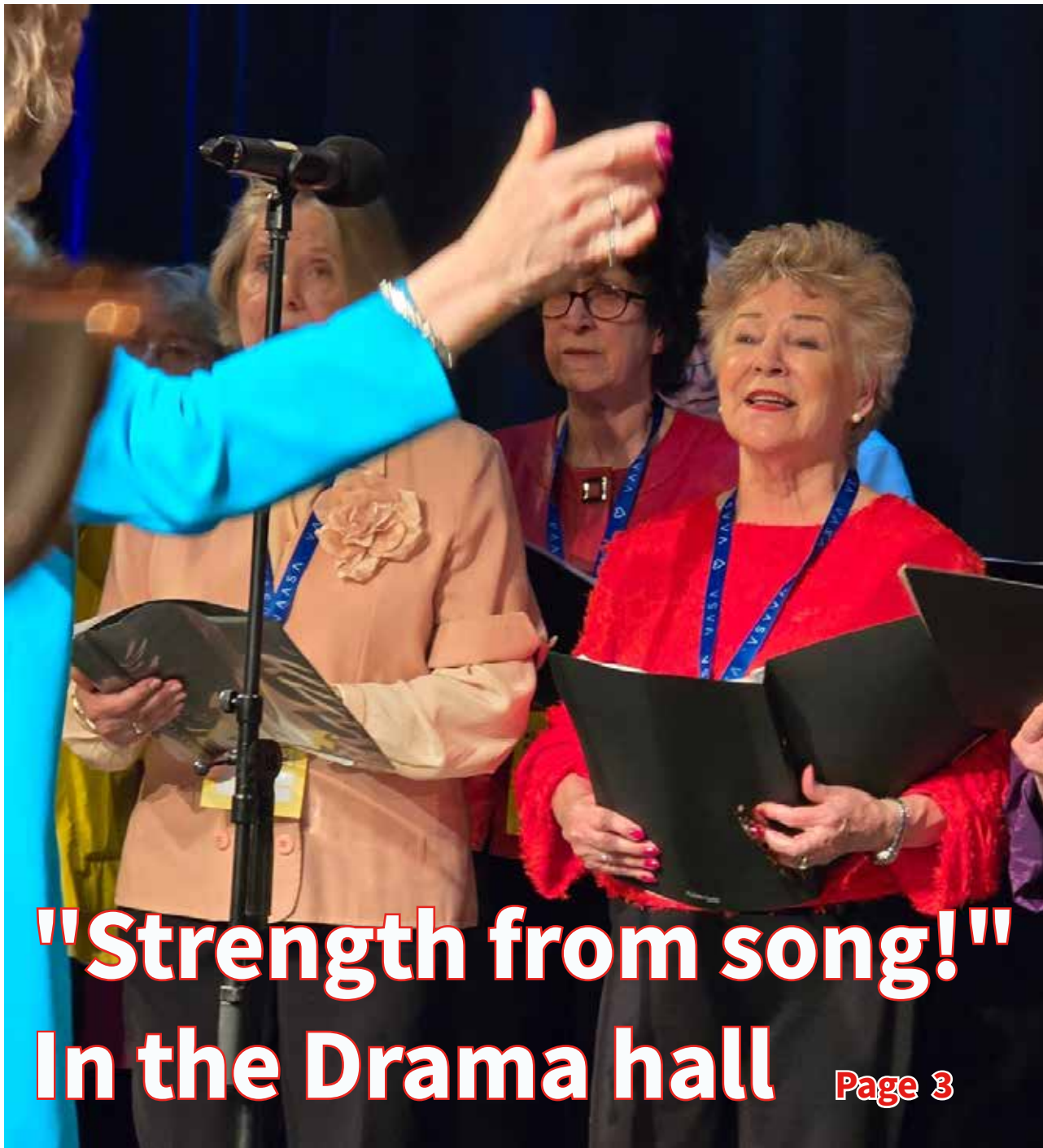


# WASA DAILY



## LOCAL NEWS

### **ALMA K15 HISTORIC BUILDING RETURNS TO LIFE – VAASA’S ALMA K15 OPENS ITS DOORS**



A familiar landmark in central Vaasa is stepping into a new era. After a major renovation project, Alma K15 at Kirkkopuistikko 15 will open to the public during a special open house event on Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 3 pm to 6 pm.

For months, locals have watched construction work transform the historic property in the heart of the city. Now residents finally get a chance to walk inside the renewed building and see the results for themselves.

The renovated Alma K15 is expected to become a modern hub for education, culture and community activities. Visitors will be able to tour the upgraded facilities, meet users of the building and explore how the old structure has been adapted for today’s needs.

According to the City of Vaasa, the renovation aimed to preserve the building’s historical atmosphere while creating flexible and modern spaces.

For many in Vaasa, the reopening marks more than just a renovated building – it signals a new pulse in the city centre.  
Source: City of Vaasa

### **ACCESSIBILITY DAY “Can you move freely?” – Vasa’s Accessibility Day lets visitors experience barriers firsthand**

Residents in Vaasa will soon get a chance to see everyday life from a completely different perspective. Accessibility Day will be held on

EDITORIAL

History repeats itself

There are stories that never really leave humanity. They just change their names, languages and uniforms. Power gets a new face, the court new titles and the battlefields new geographical coordinates – but the drama itself remains the same.

A ruler surrounds himself with obedient advisers. They say what he wants to hear. The army is strong. The nation has been chosen. The enemy weak. The victory was obvious. It will take three days. And in the midst of this chorus of agreeing voices, there is sometimes a lone person who refuses to participate in the illusion.

This was also the case in the strange and almost eerily current story in the book of 1 Kings, chapter 22 of the Bible. There we meet a king who wants to go to war against a neighboring country to regain territory. The advisers unanimously assure him of success. No one dares to contradict it. The political climate is not such that dissenting opinions are rewarded.

But there is one man who does not bow down. The prophet Micah says what no one else dares to say: the war will end in disaster and the king himself will die. In our day, his name could have been Alexei.

That is not a pleasant truth. Therefore, he is taken back to prison.

The rest of the story is as old as humanity's pride. The war begins. Soldiers die. Nothing goes according to plan. The ruler falls.

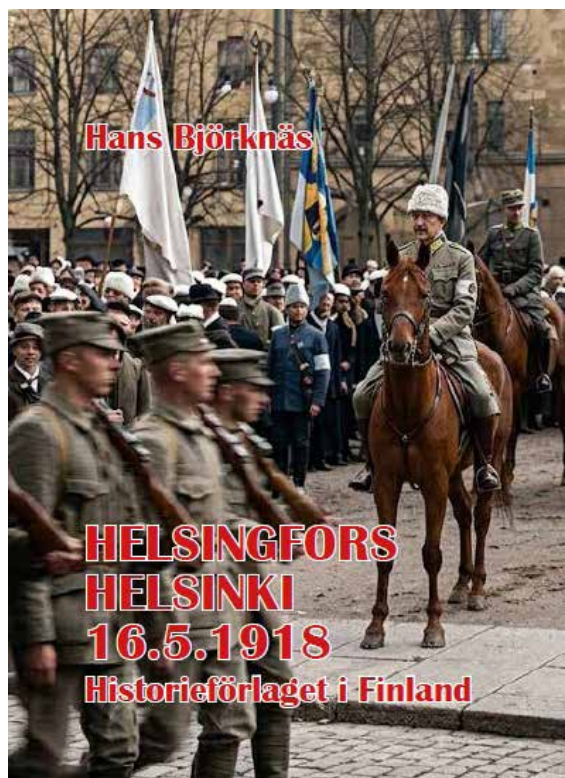
When reading the text, it is almost impossible not to think about our own time. We like to believe that humans develop morally in step with technology. But history provides little evidence for this. The same mechanisms are constantly recurring: leaders who isolate themselves from criticism, ministers who turn into applause machines, and truth-tellers who are silenced because their words interfere with the narrative of the inevitable victory.

Perhaps the most fascinating thing is not that the Bible describes this. The most fascinating thing is that, almost three thousand years later, people still seem surprised when history repeats itself.

Perhaps civilization's biggest problem is not that we forget history.

Maybe it's that we recognize it – and yet we repeat it again.

Photo Supplement



Hans Björknäs

HELSINGFORS  
HELSINKI  
16.5.1918

Historieförlaget i Finland

EUROVISION

Finland came in sixth. A good ranking but still a bit disappointing?



The Eurovision Song Contest turned Saturday night into a massive celebration across Europe – and western Finland joined the party in full force.



Around one hundred people gathered at Hovioikeudenpuistikko in central Vaasa to watch the Eurovision final and cheer for Finnish performers Linda Lampenius and Pete Parkkonen competing in Vienna. The atmosphere was electric as fans watched the broadcast outdoors, sang along to the performances and reacted dramatically as points were announced late into the night



At the same time, one of Finland's most iconic bridges became part of the Eurovision spectacle. Replot Bridge was illuminated in bright orange to honour the Finnish Eurovision stars. According to the Municipality of Korsholm, the special lighting was switched on Saturday, May 16, at 10 pm and remained visible until 1 am. The glowing bridge was at its most impressive after 11.30 pm, when darkness fully covered the Kvarken archipelago and the giant structure lit up the night sky in Eurovision colours.

Thursday, May 21, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Vasa City Main Library and Onkilahti Activity Park.

The event combines expert talks with hands-on experiences. Visitors can test mobility aids, explore a new accessible nature trail and hear personal stories about living with disabilities and navigating public spaces.

This year's theme focuses on linguistic accessibility – making information, services and communication understandable for everyone through clear language, interpretation and inclusive communication methods.

Inside the library's drama hall, specialists and experience experts will discuss accessibility and equal access to information. Sign-language interpretation and live captioning will also be available.

Organizers say the goal is simple: to open people's eyes to barriers many face every day. The event is free and open to the public.

Source: City of Vaasa

DRIVER'S LICENSES

Drivers licence services changes in Vaasa - Ajovar- ma losing Vaasa region

A major change is coming for driver's license services in western Finland. Finnish Transport and Communications Agency Traficom has completed its tender process for road traffic examination and permit services for 2027-2029, and in Vaasa, Seinäjoki and Kokkola the services will move from Ajovarma to Citykatsastus starting in early 2027.

The decision has raised eyebrows because Citykatsastus is still a relatively small company, currently operating only five inspection stations in southern Finland. The company is now rapidly searching for new premises and recruiting staff across the country as it prepares for expansion. Exactly where the new service point in the Vaasa region will be located remains unclear.

The process is not fully settled yet. Ajovarma has filed a request for rectification, meaning final contracts cannot be signed before Midsummer.

Despite the uncertainty, Traficom says customers should not worry.

- The services customers need will remain well accessible throughout Finland, even as the service network is streamlined in a controlled manner, says Traficom department head Hanna Antila.

Source: Traficom

TAJGA-TICK

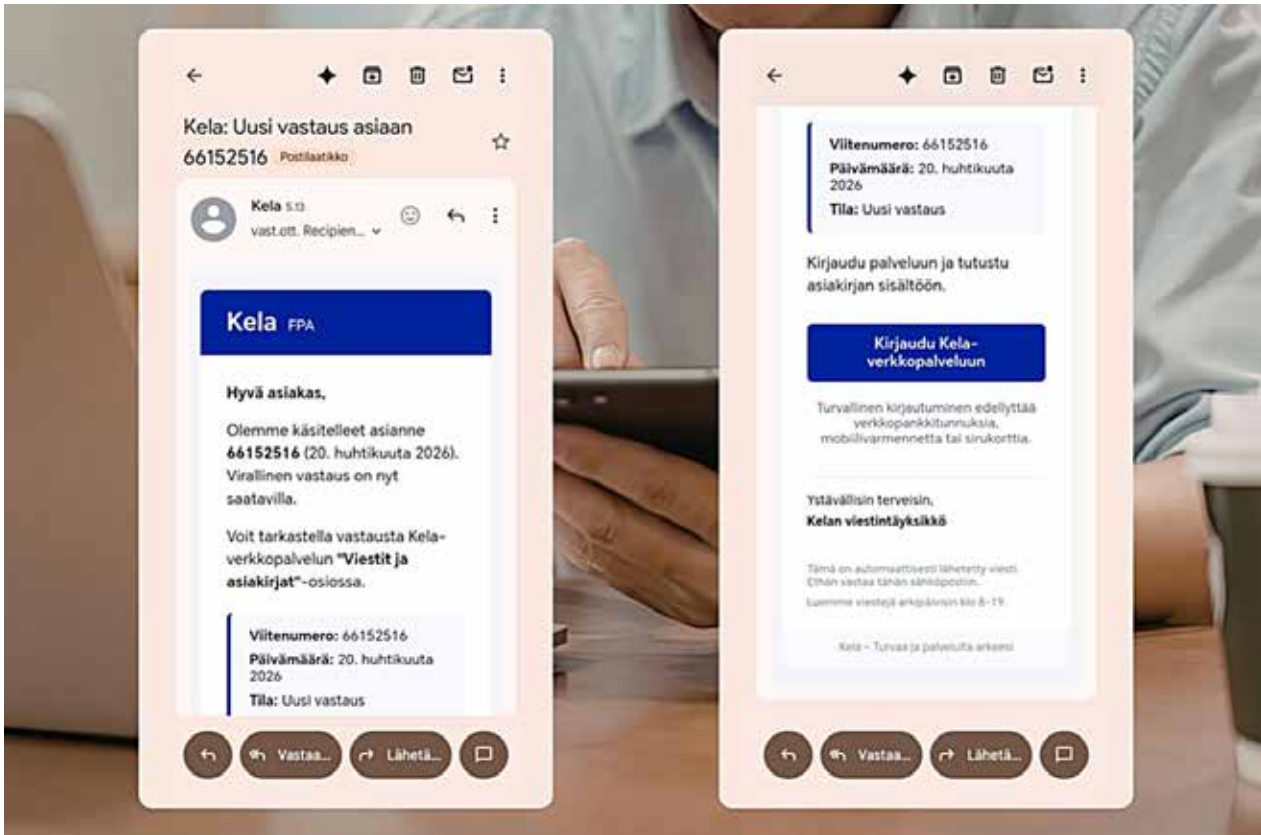
Dangerous "Super Tick" Spreading Near Vaasa – Scientists Sound the Alarm

A more aggressive species of tick is now spreading rapidly in western Finland – and researchers say the Vaasa region has become one of the new hotspots.



Siberian tick (Ixodes persulcatus) seen under a microscope. Photo: João Fonseca Lucas University of Turku

# NEWS



## CYBER FRAUD

### Fake Kela message spreading in Finland – “Do not click the link”

Finnish consumers are being warned about a new scam message pretending to come from Kela, the Social Insurance Institution of Finland. The Finnish Direct Marketing Association says fraudsters are trying to steal banking credentials and personal information through fake benefit notifications.

The scam began circulating widely this week. Recipients are told they must urgently “update their information” or risk losing benefit payments. However, the attached link leads to a fraudulent website designed to mimic Kela’s official service.

“The message is fraudulent. People should never click the link or provide banking details through text messages or emails,” the association warned.

Experts say scammers increasingly rely on fear and urgency to pressure victims into reacting quickly. The fake messages often appear highly convincing, using official logos and realistic wording.

Cyber fraud has risen sharply across Finland in recent years, particularly targeting elderly people and citizens waiting for government support payments.

Authorities and cybersecurity experts advise users to avoid logging in through message links and instead access Kela services directly through the organization’s official website. Source: Finnish Direct Marketing Association

## THE CHOIR FESTIVAL

### “Strength from song!” in the drama hall



The drama hall of the Vaasa Choir Festival exploded with joy today when the pensioners’ choir “Laulusta voimaa” marched onto the stage under the direction of music advisor Marjukka Riihimäki – and there was no subdued humming!

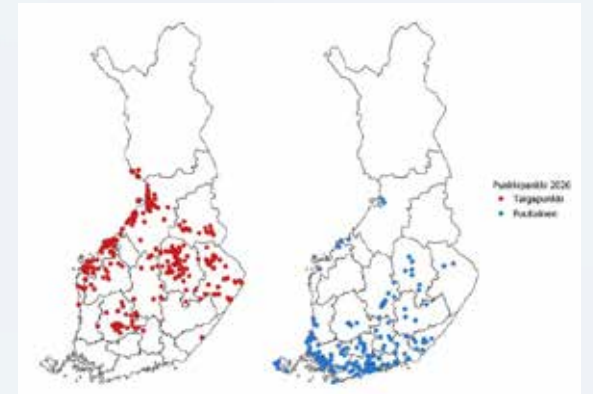
The audience lived with it from start to finish, and when the wedding waltz began to play, the dance also swept with the audience. At that moment, something essential crystallized: singing is not just music – it is joy, community, energy and vitality.

And as we have now seen once again: choral singing not only prolongs life – it makes life much more fun on the road.

## WASA DAILY

Nearly everything You need to know on 12 pages  
vpress.fi

Scientists at the University of Turku report that the so-called taiga tick has appeared in unusually high numbers during this spring’s nationwide tick collection campaign. The species is considered more dangerous than the common tick because it can carry serious diseases such as tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) and Lyme disease.



Finnish people have sent ticks to researchers from all over the country. The red dots represent the taiga ticks sent to the researchers, and their high numbers may indicate changes in the species’ distribution. University of Turku

Until recently, taiga ticks were mainly associated with eastern Finland and areas closer to Russia. But now researchers say the species appears to be moving westward at increasing speed.

The findings come from Finland’s “Tick Bank” project, where citizens send ticks to researchers for identification and disease monitoring. According to the researchers, this year’s collection season has started “with a bang,” with particularly large numbers of taiga ticks already reported.

Experts believe the unusually mild winter may be one major reason. When the ground does not freeze properly, more ticks survive and spread into new environments.

People in the Vaasa area are now being urged to take extra precautions while hiking, gardening or spending time in forests and grassy coastal areas. Careful skin checks after outdoor activities remain the most effective protection.

Researchers also warn that Finland could be facing an exceptionally long tick season this year. Source: University of Turku

## THE VITALITY CENTRE

### Major road projects start – but the money is not enough for everything

The transport and road plan for 2026 includes several major projects, including improvements to Highway 8 and new cycle paths in Ostrobothnia. But the Swedish Transport Administration warns: the funding is not enough for the entire network. “We have to prioritize safety first,” the agency says.

Major construction projects to begin in 2026 In 2026, several significant road and traffic investments will be initiated in the region, with the aim of improving traffic flow and safety:

A level crossing will be built at the intersection of highways 3 and 19 in Jalasjärvi.

In Seinäjoki, the dangerous Tepo intersection will be removed from Highway 19 in Nurmo and replaced with new road arrangements.

In Vaasa, the Liaison Road will be transformed into a four-lane road from the motorway to the Sepänkylä Road.

In Pedersöre, 2+2 bypass sections will be implemented on Highway 8 between Edsevö and

## VAASA FINNISH PARISH

### Carnival atmosphere and film music in Vaasa Church Park – an event for the whole family – will fill the city centre on Saturday



**A day filled with joy, music and community will be celebrated in the centre of Vaasa when the Finnish congregation in Vaasa organises the Church Park carnival on Saturday 23 May from 11 am to 5 pm. The free event for the whole family spreads to Church Park and Vaasa Church.**

The carnival starts at 11 am at the main entrances of Vaasa Church with a joint singing of the Summer Hymn.

Immediately afterwards, activity points for all ages will open in Kirkkopuisto: there will be a bouncy castle, a giant springball, a flea market for game exchange, a small pilgrimage and handicrafts in the church. The Saga activity will be held

at 11.30 and again at 13.00. Posetiivari adds an old-fashioned carnival feel to the area.

The café and sausage frying are open from 11:15 to 14:15. At the same time, deacon work and family counseling offer help with discussions. Vaasa Family Counselling Centre presents its activities as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The programme in

Kirkkopuisto ends at 14.15, after which the event will be moved to Vaasa Church with concerts. At 2:15 p.m., the fireworks concert for children and families begins, with performances by the Jippii choir and the house band together with Varpu Kivekäs and Sini Usmi.

The day ends with the concert "Circle of Life – Films of My Life" at 4–5 pm. In Vaasa Church, you

can hear movie melodies known as organ music, from animations to grand dramas.

The music takes listeners from the big screen to familiar worlds. Featuring classic songs from animation to action movies, from sadness to love, and from suspense to fantasy worlds. You should be prepared for surprises, says the congregation.

The performers are organists Sini Usmi and Valteri Tuomisto, and the host is Varpu Kivekäs.

Admission to the events is free.

Organizer: Vaasa Finnish parish

PHOTO: Vaasa church on May Day Eve

Lepplax.

In Kokkola, Highway 8 will have four lanes close to the city centre.

At the same time, several new planning and improvement projects are waiting for funding decisions for the coming years.

Source: Vitality Centre

## KORSHOLM

### Ice cream summer on Fjärdskär – new kiosk opens by the sea



Now summer guests and boat tourists will have a new stop in the archipelago. On 1 May, a new ice cream kiosk will open on Fjärdskär in Korsholm – just in time for the start of the intense summer season.

The new kiosk will sell ice cream, cold drinks and simple summer refreshments to visitors who move around the area. Fjärdskär is already a popular destination for locals and tourists alike, especially on sunny summer days.

The municipality hopes that the investment will increase well-being and make the area even more attractive for families and leisure boats. The opening will take place on Thursday 1 May 2026, just in time for the spring's first major excursion weekend.

For many, it will also be the first real signal that summer is now on its way to Ostrobothnia.

Reference: Mustasaari Municipality

## MICKELSÖRARNA

### Summer adventure to Mickelsörarna – day cruises attract out to sea

This summer's day trips to Mickelsörarna in the Kvarken are now starting. The excursions will be held on 28 June and 26 July 2026 and will take visitors out to the unique archipelago environment outside Vörå.

The Mickelsör region is known for its dramatic nature, its old fishing villages and the UNESCO-protected Kvarken Archipelago World Heritage Site. During the day trips, visitors have the opportunity to experience nature trails, sea views and archipelago environments that are otherwise difficult to reach.

The trips are aimed at both locals and tourists and are expected to be popular during the height of summer. Interest in nature tourism and day trips in the Kvarken has increased sharply in recent years.

The organizers recommend advance registration as the number of places is limited.

Reference: Vörå municipality – <https://www.vora.fi/nyheter/aktuellt/gor-en-oforglomlig-dagsresa-till-mickelsorarna-28-626-7-2026>

# MUSIC

## VAASA CHOIR FESTIVAL

### Three wonderful choir days

Vaasa was once again filled with the power of singing when the Vaasa Choir Festival gathers dozens of choirs and hundreds of singers for three sparkling spring days. The event, which has already been held 32 times, transformed the city into a large, living stage. Singing echoed from nursing homes to the library's Drama Hall and from churches to cafés, as 71 choirs from all over Finland performed a total of 170 times. The programme included everything from delicate interpretations by chamber choirs to

large sing-alongs in which the audience can also join in. The festival's producer Ilkka Nyqvist describes the atmosphere as "a three-day celebration of music, where everyone will find their own favourite". The event was also a tribute to Finnish choral culture – a sense of community that carries across generations. Vaasa got a special pulse these days: the streets were filled with smiles, tunes and the warm feeling that only singing together can create.



# NEWS

## WELLBEING

### THE WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY Sick leave drops in Finland's health-care sector – but pressure on staff remains intense

After years of strain inside the healthcare system, sick leave among employees at Ostrobothnia Wellbeing Services County is finally falling. Officials say early intervention programs and leadership training may be helping exhausted workers stay on the job.

The new figures were released on May 4, 2026, in Vaasa, western Finland. According to the wellbeing services county, 30 percent of employees had no sick leave at all during 2025. Average absence fell to 21.8 days per employee-year, down from 22.7 the previous year.

Management credits a new work ability program and more active support discussions between supervisors and staff. More than 3,500 early-support meetings were reportedly held during the year to prevent long-term burnout and absences.

"We aim to intervene before problems turn into long sick leaves," HR director Juha Suikkanen said in the statement.

Still, warning signs remain. The highest absence rates continue to appear in home care and residential services, sectors already struggling with staff shortages and heavy workloads.

The wellbeing services county is now launching additional workplace wellbeing projects together with Keva and the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health.

The development mirrors a wider Nordic trend: sickness absence has slowly declined since the pandemic years, although women working in healthcare and elderly care remain the most affected group

## MUSIC

### 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: RITZ

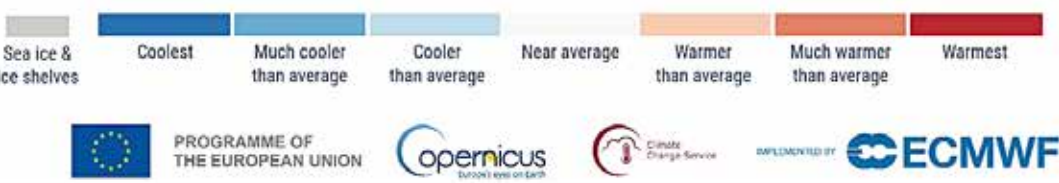
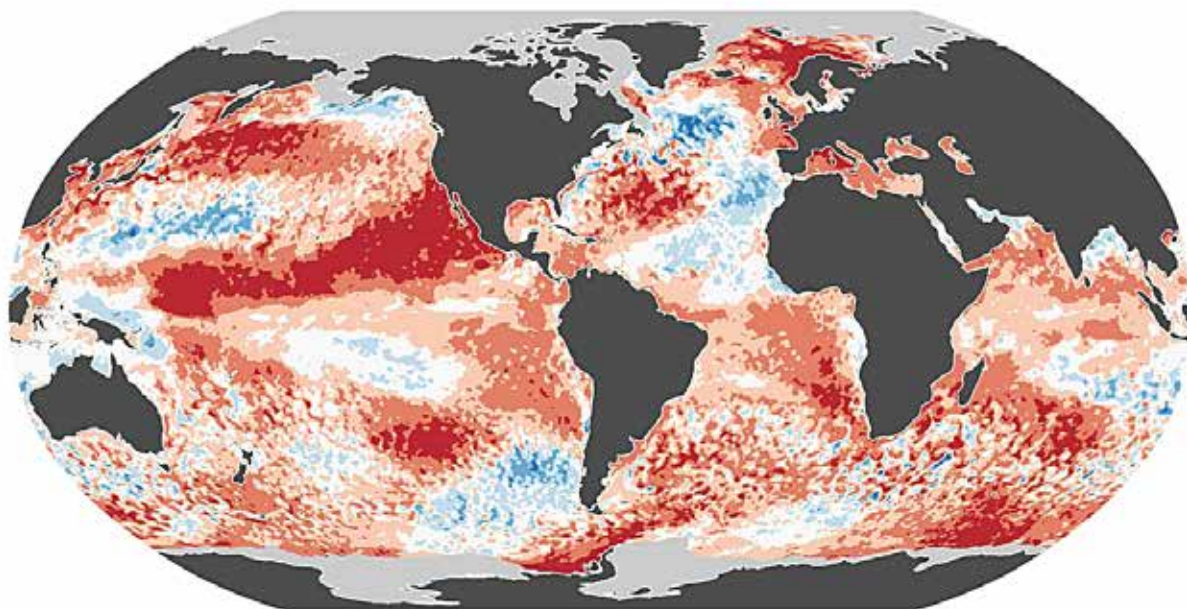
### KAAOS FESTIVAL The metal storm returns to Vaasa – Kaaos Festival gears up for a new invasion

After last year's success, Kaaos Festival is making a comeback in Vaasa – and the organizers promise even heavier names and a larger audience in the summer of 2026.

The festival will be held in Vaskiluoto on 24–25 July 2026 in the old Wasalandia area, which will be transformed into a massive festival area for hard rock and metal fans from all over the Nordic region. Last year's debut attracted audiences far beyond Ostrobothnia and brought Vaasa international attention in the metal scene. Now the organizers are hoping for an even greater impact. The festival is marketed as one of the most intense metal experiences of the summer in Finland, with both

## Anomalies and extremes in sea surface temperature in April 2026

Data: ERA5 1979–2026 • Reference period: 1991–2020 • Credit: C3S/ECMWF



## CLIMATE CHANGE

# World's oceans near record heat again – scientists warn of worsening climate extremes

**World's oceans near record heat again – scientists warn of worsening climate extremes**

According to a new report published Friday, May 8, 2026, in Bonn, Germany, by the European Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), global sea surface temperatures reached the second-highest April levels ever recorded. April 2026 also ranked as the third-warmest April globally since modern measurements began.

Average ocean surface

**“April 2026 adds to the clear signal of sustained global warmth. Sea surface temperatures were near record levels with widespread marine heatwaves, Arctic sea ice remained well below average, and Europe saw sharp contrasts in temperature and rainfall; all hallmarks of a climate increasingly shaped by extremes.”** —Samantha Burgess, Strategic Lead for Climate at ECMWF

temperatures across the ice-free seas climbed to 21°C, only slightly below the record-breaking levels seen during the strong El Niño year of 2024. Scientists say conditions in the Pacific now suggest another El Niño event may be forming, potentially driving even more heat, droughts, floods and powerful storms in the

months ahead.

Large parts of the tropical Pacific experienced intense marine heatwaves during April, while Arctic sea ice dropped to its second-lowest April extent on record. “Climate conditions are increasingly marked by extremes,” said Samantha Burgess of the European

Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts in the report.

Scientists warn that unusually warm oceans are one of the clearest indicators of long-term global warming because the seas absorb most of the excess heat trapped by greenhouse gases. Source: C3S



Iin mieslaulajat

international and Finnish bands on the program. Hotel bookings in Vaasa are already expected to increase ahead of the festival weekend. Source: Kaaos Festival – <https://kaaosfestival.fi/>

### UUSIKAUPUNKI

## Crusell Week blows in with French elegance. The Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra participates

Uusikaupunki will be transformed into the capital of music from 27 July to 2 August 2026 when Crusell Week takes over the city's squares, churches and auditoriums. The festival opens with Avajaispuhallus on the square (27.7 at 12 noon), and the week offers everything from the children's concert Freija to the grand Grand Concert Festif in the New Church (30.7 at 6 pm) with the Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra and Helena Juntunen as soloist. The evenings end with lantern concerts and French tunes under the stars. Source: [crusell.fi/konsertit-2026](https://crusell.fi/konsertit-2026)

### CRUSELL WEEK IN UUSIKAUPUNKI

## Helena Juntunen leads Crusell's big anniversary concert

On 30 July at 6 p.m. in the New Church in Uusikaupunki, the highlight of the Crusell Week will be celebrated: the Grand Concert de Celebration. Soprano Helena Juntunen and conductor Teemu Hämäläinen lead the Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra through Crusell's own songs and French orchestral music. A festive evening that combines classic elegance with Nordic passion. Source: [crusell.fi/grand-concert-de-celebration](https://crusell.fi/grand-concert-de-celebration)

## HEALTH

### CHRONIC PAIN

## Why women suffer from pain longer than men – scientists uncover possible biological cause

For years, women with chronic pain have often been told their symptoms were linked to stress, anxiety or emotional sensitivity. Now, a new American study suggests the explanation may lie in the immune system itself.

Researchers at Michigan State University announced findings in February 2026 that could explain why women are more likely than men to develop long-lasting pain conditions.

The scientists discovered that specialized immune cells called monocytes help “switch off” pain by producing an anti-inflammatory signal known as IL-10. In men, these cells appeared significantly more active, partly because of testosterone. In women, the same mechanism was weaker, potentially allowing pain to persist longer.

“The difference in pain between men and women has a biological basis,” said lead researcher Geoffroy Laumet when the study was released.

The research was published on February 20, 2026, in the journal Science Immunology. The team examined both laboratory mice and human patients recovering from injuries and accidents.

Chronic pain affects nearly one in four American adults. Researchers now hope the discovery could eventually lead to new non-opioid treatments – and force healthcare systems to take women's pain more seriously. Source: Michigan State University

## FINLAND

### ALERT

# ECONOMY

# NEWS



## MONEY VALUE

### Pay more, get less: “Shrinkflation” and “Cheapflation” in the age of inflation

Inflation is emptying wallets at the checkout, but consumers are facing a double whammy: the phenomenon of “shrinkflation” and its more insidious cousin “cheapflation”.

#### Shrinkflation: A familiar enemy

Shrinkflation, a portmanteau of the words “shrink” and “inflation”, is a well-documented practice in which manufacturers subtly reduce the quantity of a product while maintaining or even raising the price. In practice, this means that you pay more for less of the same product. In Swedish, the word krimpflation is also used.

For example, your favorite chocolate bar may have shrunk slightly in size, or your cereal box may now contain a few fewer flakes. While the change may seem insignificant at first glance, it can add up to significant amounts over time, especially for budget-conscious consumers.

#### Cheapflation: A Cunning Strategy

Cheapflation takes this strategy a step further.

Here, manufacturers not only reduce the quantity, but also adjust the recipe itself, replacing higher-quality ingredients with cheaper alternatives. This can go unnoticed by consumers who rely solely on brand recognition.

Foodwatch, a Belgian consumer protection organization, recently exposed this practice. They identified cases where products such as surimi sticks contained less fish, mayonnaise had a lower egg content (hàmliàng = content), and chocolate contained less cocoa. Worryingly, these changes often coincided with price increases, leaving consumers feeling doubly cheated.

#### Manufacturers’ defense

Manufacturers often cite rising raw material costs as a justification for these practices. While inflation is putting pressure on production, critics say the lack of transparency around recipe changes and price increases is unacceptable.

The fight for fairness Foodwatch’s research highlights the need for



And here, real inflation

greater transparency from manufacturers. Consumers deserve to know exactly what they are paying for, especially when faced with rising food prices. Regulators also have a role to play in ensuring fair practices and protecting consumer rights.

#### What can you do?

Become a label detective: Read ingredient lists carefully and compare product sizes and prices between brands. Choose budget brands: You may be surprised by the quality of sto-

re-bought private labels. Shop in bulk: If you have the storage space, buying staples in larger quantities can provide better value for money.

Advocate for transparency: Support organisations like Foodwatch that promote consumer rights and fight for fair practices. By staying informed and making informed choices, we can navigate the complexities of inflation and ensure we get value for our money.

### 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

### CHILD BENEFITS

#### Major shake-up planned for child benefits – equal payments proposed for every child

Finland could be heading for one of the biggest child benefit reforms in years. Government-appointed experts are proposing that every underage child would qualify for the same flat-rate child benefit, regardless of how many children are in the family.

The proposal was published by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (STM) in Helsinki on Mon-day, May 11, 2026, at 9:03 a.m. The report also suggests extending child benefits to 17-year-olds.

Under the proposal, current extra payments for large families would disappear and be replaced by an equal child-specific allowance. Supporters say the reform would simplify the system and improve equality between children and parents.

But the plan is already sparking debate. Critics warn that some low-income families could lose financial support unless other welfare benefits or tax measures are adjusted.

The government insists the goal is not to cut spending on families, but to modernize Finland’s child benefit system and adapt it to today’s diverse family structures.

Source: STM

### DRUG DEATHS

#### Finland moves to widen access to overdose antidote – bid to stop rising drug deaths

Finland is preparing major new measures to combat drug-related deaths. On May 7, 2026, at 3:41 p.m. in Helsinki, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (STM) launched a public consultation on legal changes that would expand access to naloxone, a medicine used to reverse opioid overdoses.

Under the proposal, naloxone could be distributed anonymously and free of charge through low-threshold addiction services and outreach clinics aimed at high-risk groups. At present, obtaining the drug usually requires a personal prescription, something officials say has discouraged many people from seeking it. Naloxone, often administered as a nasal spray, can rapidly restore breathing during a potentially fatal overdose. Finnish authorities hope easier access will help reduce the country’s stubbornly high number of drug deaths.

A non-prescription nasal spray version of naloxone is also expected to arrive in Finnish pharmacies during 2026, potentially making the life-saving medication more widely available than ever before.

Source: STM

# HEALTH

## PANCREATIC CANCER

### Daraxonrasib – New Hope for Patients With Pancreatic Cancer

For decades, pancreatic cancer has been one of medicine's darkest diagnoses. Patients often heard the same devastating words: "There are very few treatment options." The disease spread quickly, hid deep inside the body, and resisted many of the drugs doctors tried to use against it. Even the best chemotherapy often bought only a few extra months.

Now, scientists believe the story may finally be starting to change.

At the center of that hope is an experimental new pill called Daraxonrasib – a drug many cancer researchers are calling one of the most exciting breakthroughs in pancreatic cancer treatment in years.

The journey began with a scientific obsession: a tiny genetic mutation known as KRAS.

More than 90 percent of pancreatic cancers are driven by KRAS mutations. For decades, researchers called KRAS "undruggable." The protein's smooth surface made it nearly impossible for medicines to attach to it and shut it down. Laboratories around the world tried – and failed.

"Almost everybody thought that it was going to be impossible to make drugs against KRAS," said Marina Pasca di Magliano, a researcher at the University of Michigan in an interview in New York Times on May 12.

But it was possible. Scientists at Revolution Medicines took a different approach. Instead of trying to smash the lock, they designed a molecular "glue" capable of trapping KRAS in its active state and blocking the signals that tell cancer cells to grow. The result became daraxonrasib – a once-daily pill designed to attack one of cancer's most notorious engines.

Then came the clinical trials.

Doctors began seeing results that once seemed



almost unimaginable in advanced pancreatic cancer. In a major study, patients receiving daraxonrasib lived a median of 13.2 months, compared with 6.7 months for standard chemotherapy. Some tumors shrank dramatically. Others stopped growing altogether.

**"These are dramatic, practice-changing outcomes, and our focus now is moving quickly to bring this potential new treatment option to patients who urgently need new treatment"**

For patients and families, those numbers are not just statistics.

They are birthdays regained. Vacations taken. Weddings attended. Time.

Researchers are careful not to call the drug a cure. Side effects can still be severe, and many patients eventually develop resistance to treatment. But even cautio-

us oncologists describe the results as a turning point.

"These are dramatic, practice-changing outcomes, and our focus now is moving quickly to bring this potential new treatment option to patients who urgently need new treatment," RevMed

CEO Mark Goldsmith said in an interview.

Goldsmith called the results "unprecedented," saying no drug has shown an overall survival benefit greater than one year in a Phase 3 trial for pancreatic cancer. The company plans to soon seek Food and Drug Administration approval using a Commissioner's National Priority

Voucher, which grants a review within a matter of months.

At cancer centers across the United States, demand for early access to the drug has become so intense that clinics are racing to enroll patients before formal approval is completed. Approval may happen soon. And if the results go on to be quite positive, it may not be long until this drug can be used in Europe. And Finland.

For the first time in years, pancreatic cancer specialists are using words rarely associated with the disease:

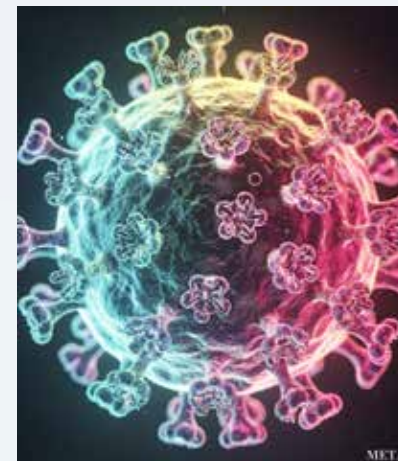
*breakthrough momentum hope*

And perhaps most importantly – a future. And this is not the end of this story, dozens of similar drugs are now being tested for cancers of the pancreas, lung and colon.

# NEWS

## HANTAVIRUS

### Deadly Andes virus sparks alarm – Finland tightens infectious disease rules



Finland is moving swiftly after the dramatic spread of the rare Andes hantavirus linked to a cruise ship outbreak in the Atlantic. The Finnish government has now added diseases caused by the Andes virus to the country's list of generally hazardous communicable diseases, allowing authorities to impose stricter measures such as quarantine and isolation.

The decision follows an international health scare aboard a Dutch-flagged cruise ship where several passengers fell seriously ill. At least three people have died, while others developed severe respiratory symptoms. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are closely monitoring the situation. Finland has also been indirectly affected. According to the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), two Finland-based travellers may have been exposed to the virus during a flight from Johannesburg to Amsterdam on April 25. No confirmed infections have been reported in Finland so far.

Unlike most hantaviruses, the Andes virus is considered capable of limited person-to-person transmission.

Source: STM

## POLITICS

### GREENS

#### Prohibition of mediation protects the victim – not a cost-cutting measure

The Greens demand that the ban on mediation in violent crimes should be seen as a protection for the victim, not as a way to save money. The party reacts to the fact that some municipalities have tried to limit the ban on mediation for financial reasons.

According to Virta, the lack of police resources is a real problem, but it cannot be addressed by weakening the position of victims and children who are victims of violence. In a panel on domestic violence, THL's Senior Researcher Johanna Hieta-mäki pointed out that in previous mediation, for example, violence control had not been identified and the process was aimed at the victims.



"A victim of violence cannot be an equal partner at the mediation table, and the experience of violence by an adult close to the child is always harmful to the child. The prohibition on mediation protects victims of domestic violence, and it is not suitable for savings," says Virta.

Virta has pushed for an initiative against child peace violations in Parliament, which would give a child who witnesses domestic violence the status of a victim of crime in criminal law, thereby improving the child's legal protection. The initiative gathered a majority of over a hundred members of parliament from all parliamentary parties. Source: The Greens

## RUSSIA

### RUSSIA

#### Putin's comments about Finland

During the press conference on May 9, Putin said: "Why did Finland join NATO? With us were there any territorial disputes with Finland? No, everything was decided a long time ago, nothing was needed, and the Finnish leadership was well aware of this. What did they do to NATO?" Comment: Of course, Putin knows perfectly well why Finland and the people of Finland wanted to join NATO. But he doesn't say that.

### RUSSIA

#### Putin on May 9:

"Everyone was counting on Russia's rapid collapse – within six months, in their opinion, everything should have collapsed: businesses should have stopped, the banking system should have stopped working, millions of people should have been out on the streets." No, not everyone really did. We thought that Russia's army was the second strongest in the world. Most people in Europe believed that Ukraine would collapse in a week or two. That Ukraine did not do so is something of a miracle. It turned out that Russia's army was the second strongest in Ukraine.

### RUSSIA

#### Moscow is locked down ahead of Victory Day – Putin is protected

### "like never before"

Security around Vladimir Putin is being tightened sharply ahead of Russia's big Victory Day celebration on May 9 in Moscow. According to information from sources within the Federal Protection Service (FSO), exceptional security measures are awaiting around the president during the military parade on Red Square. Sources describe the situation as serious and urge the public to be vigilant in central Moscow during the festivities. At the same time, the extensive internet and communication interruptions that have already been noticed in the capital are defended. According to the information, the measures are both about protection against drone and missile attacks and about fear of threats from internal enemies. The communication restrictions are also seen as a test of how a major national lockdown would work in practice. Victory Day on 9 May is one of Russia's most important political and military symbolic events and is held annually on Red Square in Moscow. Reference: Telegram

### RUSSIA

#### Moscow tests digital lockdown – internet

blockades could become permanent tool The extensive internet and communication disruptions in Moscow are now described as a success by Russian government sources. According to information from Telegram channels, the blockades are being used as part of the protection of President Vladimir Putin ahead of Victory Day on May 9. At the same time, the measures are said to serve as a dress rehearsal for future major communications controls in Russia. The authorities are said to be satisfied with how the restrictions worked during the first tests. Residents of Moscow and the Moscow region have reported problems with mobile networks, internet connections and digital services during the week. Critics believe that the measures show how quickly the state can limit the flow of information in a crisis situation. The Victory Day celebration on Red Square is expected to bring together both military and political elites under the strictest possible security surveillance. Reference: Telegram

### RUSSIA

#### Alarm about growing pharmaceutical crisis in Russia – cancer patients risk being left without treatment

Russia is facing a serious shortage of medicines that is now hitting cancer patients directly. Russian human rights representatives and patient organizations are warning about this after growing reports of empty pharmacy shelves around the country. The situation is particularly difficult for important cancer drugs such as methotrexate and etoposide. According to data from the President's Council on Human Rights, complaints have increased sharply in several regions. Experts warn that the consequences could be dramatic in the longer term. According to sources, the lack of treatment risks leading to more serious cancer cases within four to five years. The problems do not only apply to cancer drugs. Vaccines and other important medicines are also reported to be difficult to

obtain. At the same time, reduced funding and financial problems are pointed out as causes of the growing crisis. Russian pharmaceutical manufacturers are not considered to be able to fully cover the need. Reference: Telegram

### RUSSIA

#### Information: New wave of mobilization could start as early as this summer

According to several sources, the Russian Ministry of Defense is preparing a new wave of mobilizations that could begin as early as June or July. The information comes from Telegram channels with reference to sources within the ministry. At the same time, a possible partial demobilization is also being discussed for some soldiers who have served for a long time on the front line in Ukraine. No official announcements from the Kremlin have yet been made, but the information has already raised strong concerns among many Russian families. Russia carried out its first major mobilization in the autumn of 2022, which led to widespread criticism and a large exodus of military-capable men from the country. The continued pressure on the Russian army and the protracted fighting are now said to be the reason why new conscriptions are being considered. Reference: Telegram

### RUSSIA

#### "Pray for Putin 15 times a day" – new information about unrest in the Kremlin

Unusual calls are now being spread within the Russian Orthodox Church. According to information from Telegram sources close to the church leadership, Russians are urged to pray for President Vladimir Putin between ten and fifteen times a day. According to the sources, the background is a growing concern about the situation in Russia and about the president's security. The message is said to have been conveyed through people close to Patriarch Kirill. The wording "the situation is difficult" is said to have been used internally according to the information. No official comments from the Russian Church or the Kremlin have been given. Since the invasion of Ukraine, the Russian Orthodox Church has had a clearly close relationship with the political leadership in Moscow and has often expressed support for the state's line. Reference: Telegram

# EVENTS

## TODAY

### KASKINEN

#### Kaskinen parish celebrates 100 years – celebrating today



Kaskinen parish celebrates its centenary today, May 17, in Kaskinen. The parish, founded in 1926, will hold a celebratory service at 11 a.m., music and a soup lunch at 12:30 p.m. in the city park, with Janna Novák and Tommi Cappel playing.

In the small coastal town, the parish has had a great significance for the local community for generations. The parish has been with us from the war years to the present day and has been a part of the city's identity and everyday life.

The centenary celebration is seen in Kaskinen not only as a ecclesiastical milestone but also as a common celebration for the entire city. Source: Kaskinen parish

## MAY

### CYCLING WEEK

#### Cycling fever hits Vaasa – a week of movement and creativity



Vaasa, Friday May 8, 2026. National Cycling Week arrives with the theme "Cycling and Art," launching with a family outdoor event at Onkilahti activity park. From May 8–17, the city hosts a variety of cycling-themed activities promoting everyday mobility and enjoyment. Highlights include the opening of a new shelter and nature trail in Kolkki, free breakfast for cyclists, and a group ride to Pilvilampi. The week blends fitness, community spirit, and creativity, inviting residents to rediscover the joy of cycling. Reference: [vaasa.fi](http://vaasa.fi)

## JUNE

### EVENING MUSIC

#### 50 years of free evening music

#### in Vaasa – stars take over Vaasa Church



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

### BOTHNIA BEER FEST

#### Beer Festival Buzz Hits Vaasa – Bothnia Beer Fest Set for June Weekend

Craft beer lovers are expected to flock to Vaasa when Bothnia Beer Fest takes place on June 5–6, 2026 at Bock's Corner Brewery.

The festival will bring together breweries from across Finland and the Nordic region for a weekend filled with specialty beers, live music and food. Visitors will be able to sample everything from classic lagers to trendy IPAs and dark stouts produced by independent breweries.

Organizers say the event aims to celebrate the rapidly growing craft beer culture in Finland while creating a relaxed summer festival atmosphere for both enthusiasts and casual visitors.

In addition to beer tastings, the programme includes food vendors, entertainment and opportunities to meet brewers directly. Interest in locally produced beverages has surged in recent years, and organizers hope the event will become a major annual attraction in Ostrobothnia. Source: Bock's Corner Brewery

### 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)

### STUNDARS

#### Step Back in Time – Stundars Kicks Off the 2026 Summer Season!



History comes alive as Stundars Museum and Cultural Centre in Solf, Korsholm, officially opens its 2026 summer season. On Monday, June 22, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, visitors are invited to explore a vibrant museum village filled with traditional crafts and historical charm. The opening day promises a packed program featuring skilled artisans, friendly farm animals, and an authentic look at rural life from the past. Whether you are looking for a peaceful stroll in a beautiful setting or an educational family outing, Stundars offers a unique glimpse into the soul of Ostrobothnia. Enjoy local treats at the café and soak in the atmosphere of this beloved cultural treasure. Don't miss this festive start to the summer!

Referens: [Stundars.fi](http://Stundars.fi)

## JULY

### DRÖMMEN

#### Dreams come true at Yliopistopuisto

A magical day awaits when the Drömmen festival takes over Vaasa Yliopistopuisto. It's all about community, good music and a wonderful summer atmosphere. The exact

list of performers is still a secret, but the organizers promise "everything you love, and a little more". Pack a picnic blanket, bring your friends and get ready for an afternoon and evening that feels like one long burst of happiness.

• When: Saturday, July 4, 2026, 4 p.m.

• Where: Vaasa University Park, Universitetsstranden 7

### KORSHOLM MUSIC FESTIVAL

#### Korsholm Music Festival turns 40+ – stars take over the clear nights of the west coast

#### 22–31 July 2026

Warm summer evenings. Clear nights.

And top-notch music. Since 1983, Korsholm Music Festival has been a chamber music festival unlike any other.

The founder, cellist Seppo Kimanen, would be proud. Since 2023, cellist Jan-Erik Gustafs-son has led the festival, which attracts the cream of Finnish and international art musicians.

Experience the unique surroundings of the west coast as dusk falls. Bring a picnic basket – and a handkerchief. It can be so beautiful that it hurts.

Source: Bothnia Classic

### KAAOS FESTIVAL

#### The metal storm returns to Vaasa – Kaaos Festival gears up for a new invasion

After last year's success, Kaaos Festival is making a comeback in Vaasa – and the organizers promise even heavier names and a larger audience in the summer of 2026. The festival will be held in Vaskiluoto on 24–25 July 2026 in the old Wasalandia area, which will be transformed into a massive festival area for hard rock and metal fans from all over the Nordic region. Last year's debut attracted audiences far beyond Ostrobothnia and brought Vaasa international attention in the metal scene.

Now the organizers are hoping for an even greater impact. The festival is marketed as one of the most intense metal experiences of the summer in Finland, with both international and Finnish bands on the program.

Hotel bookings in Vaasa are already expected to increase ahead of the festival weekend.

Source: Kaaos Festival – <https://kaaosfestival.fi/>

### UUSIKAUPUNKI

#### Crusell Week blows in with French elegance. The Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra participates

Uusikaupunki will be transformed into the capital of music from 27 July to 2 August 2026 when Crusell Week takes over the city's squares, churches and auditoriums. The festival opens with Avajaispuhallus on the square (27.7 at 12 noon), and the week offers everything from the children's concert Freija to the grand Grand Concert Festif in the New Church (30.7 at 6 pm) with the Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra and Helena Juntunen as soloist. The evenings end with lantern concerts and French tunes under the stars. Source: [crusell.fi/konsertit-2026](http://crusell.fi/konsertit-2026)

### CRUSELL WEEK IN UUSIKAUPUNKI

## UKRAINE PRESIDENT

# For the Fifth Year, We Have Been Standing against an Enemy That Is Larger than We Are, but That Does Not Achieve What It Seeks



**The President, at the Presentation of State Awards to Ukrainian Warriors**  
16 May 2026 - 10:00

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy honored Ukrainian defenders with the highest state awards and presented orders and distinctions to the families of fallen warriors awarded posthumously.

“We are presenting Ukraine’s state awards to the people on whom everything depends – the Ukrainian state, Ukrainian independence, Ukrainian future. Between us and

Russia stands only one real and strong barrier – Ukrainians who are fighting for the freedom of our state and working to ensure Ukraine has what it needs to defend itself,” the Head of State stressed.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked all branches of Ukraine’s Security and Defense Forces and stressed that Ukrainians are not only fighting for their state on their own territory, but are also bringing the war back to Russia, where it came from.

“We are conducting **Glory to Ukraine!**

operations on Russian territory. Our long-range sanctions against Russia for this war are working– they are truly working every night, every day. We are fighting for Ukraine in the diplomatic arena and ensuring Ukraine’s defense with the necessary weapons and support. It is extremely difficult, but we have it all. For the fifth year, we have been standing against an enemy that is larger than we are, but that does not achieve what it sought, and still seeks,” the President noted.



## ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



**Ilja Repin**  
24.7.1844, Tšugujev  
29.9.1930, Kuokkala nyk. Repino, Venäjä  
**Portrait of A. Gallen-Kallela, 1920**  
Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum  
Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Jenni Nurminen

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## George Orwell 1984 Part 28

Every capitalist went about with a gang of lackeys who----'

The old man brightened again.

'Lackeys!' he said. 'Now there's a word I ain't 'eard since ever so long. Lackeys! That reg'lar takes me back, that does. I recollect--oh, donkey's years ago--I used to sometimes go to 'Yde Park of a Sunday afternoon to 'ear the blokes making speeches. Salvation Army, Roman Catholics, Jews, Indians--all sorts there was. And there was one bloke--well, I couldn't give you 'is name, but a real powerful speaker 'e was. 'E didn't 'alf give it 'em! "Lackeys!" 'e says, "lackeys of the bourgeoisie! Flunkies of the ruling class!" Parasites--that was another of them. And 'yenas--'e definitely called 'em 'yenas. Of course 'e was referring to the Labour Party, you understand.'

Winston had the feeling that they were talking at cross-purposes.

'What I really wanted to know was this,' he said. 'Do you feel that you have more freedom now than you had in those days? Are you treated more like a human being? In the old days, the rich people, the people at the top----'

'The 'Ouse of Lords,' put in the old man reminiscently.

'The House of Lords, if you like. What I am asking is, were these people able to treat you as an inferior, simply because they were rich and you were poor? Is it a fact, for instance, that you had to call them "Sir" and take off your cap when you passed them?'

The old man appeared to think deeply. He drank off about a quarter of his beer before answering.

'Yes,' he said. 'They liked you to touch your cap to 'em. It showed respect, like. I didn't agree with it, myself, but I done it often enough. Had to, as you might say.'

'And was it usual--I'm only quoting what I've read in history books--was it usual for these people and their servants to push you off the pavement into the gutter?'

'One of 'em pushed me once,' said the old man. 'I recollect it as if it was yesterday. It was Boat Race night--terribly rowdy they used to get on

Boat Race night--and I bumps into a young bloke on Shaftesbury Avenue. Quite a gent, 'e was--dress shirt, top 'at, black overcoat. 'E was kind of zig-zagging across the pavement, and I bumps into 'im accidental-like. 'E says, "Why can't you look where you're going?" 'e says. I say, "Ju think you've bought the bleeding pavement?" 'E says, "I'll twist your bloody 'ead off if you get fresh with me." I says, "You're drunk. I'll give you in charge in 'alf a minute," I says. An' if you'll believe me, 'e puts 'is 'and on my chest and gives me a shove as pretty near sent me under the wheels of a bus. Well, I was young in them days, and I was going to 'ave fetched 'im one, only----'

A sense of helplessness took hold of Winston. The old man's memory was nothing but a rubbish-heap of details. One could question him all day without getting any real information. The party histories might still be true, after a fashion: they might even be completely true. He made a last attempt.

'Perhaps I have not made myself clear,' he said. 'What I'm trying to say is this. You have been alive a very long time; you lived half your life before the Revolution. In 1925, for instance, you were already grown up. Would you say from what you can remember, that life in 1925 was better than it is now, or worse? If you could choose, would you prefer to live then or now?'



The old man looked meditatively at the darts board. He finished up his beer, more slowly than before. When he spoke it was with a tolerant philosophical air, as though the beer had mellowed him.

'I know what you expect me to say,' he said. 'You expect me to say as I'd sooner be young again. Most people'd say they'd sooner be young, if you arst 'em. You got your 'ealth and strength when you're young. When you get to my time of life you ain't never well. I suffer something wicked from my feet, and my bladder's jest terrible. Six and seven times a night it 'as me out of bed. On the other 'and, there's great advantages in being a old man. You ain't got the same worries. No truck with women, and that's a great thing. I ain't 'ad a woman for near on thirty year, if you'd credit it. Nor wanted to, what's more.'

Winston sat back against the window-sill. It was no use going on. He was about to buy some more beer when the old man suddenly got up and shuffled rapidly into the stinking urinal at the side of the room. The extra half-litre was already working on him. Winston sat for a minute or two gazing at his empty glass, and hardly noticed when his feet carried him out into the street again. Within twenty years at the most, he reflected, the huge and simple question, 'Was life better before the Revolution than it is now?' would have ceased once and for all to be answerable. But in effect it was unanswerable even now, since the few scattered survivors from the ancient world were incapable of comparing one age with another. They remembered a million useless things, a quarrel with a workmate, a hunt for a lost bicycle pump, the expression on a long-dead sister's face, the swirls of dust on a windy morning seventy years ago: but all the relevant facts were outside the range of their vision. They were like the ant, which can see small objects but not large ones. And when memory failed and written records were falsified--when that happened, the claim of the Party to have improved the conditions of human life had got to be accepted, because there did not exist, and never again could exist, any standard against which it could be tested.

At this moment his train of thought stopped abruptly. He halted and looked up. He was in a narrow street, with a few dark little shops, interspersed among dwelling-houses. Immediately above his head there hung three discoloured metal balls which looked as if they had once been gilded. He seemed to know the place. Of course! He was standing outside the junk-shop where he had bought the diary.

# HUMOUR ONE HUND-RED YEARS AGO

## SOUTH WIND.

“The doctor advised me to stay in a region where there are south winds,” said the traveler. “Does it blow from the south here?”

“Yes, you have come to the right place. It always blows from the south here,” assured the innkeeper. “Always? But it seems to me that the wind is blowing from the north today, at least,” remarked the traveler. “Yes, it may be blowing from that direction, but it is a south wind after all. It is only on its way back now.”

## A QUESTION OF MATTER.

Mr. Jones had sat down to breakfast and was looking at the newspaper. To his astonishment, he noticed in the paper an announcement that he had died. Excitedly, he rushed to the telephone and called his friend Smith. “Hello, Smith,” he said, “have you seen the news of my death in the paper?”

“Yes,” replied Smith, “where are you calling from?”

## 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.

## MISSING CLOTHES

A couple of girls were arrested in New York on charges of appearing at a dance. The costumes in which the accused had danced were required to be produced as evidence in the trial. But for want of evidence the case had to be dismissed.

## PAINTED

Bill: Who was that new girl I saw with you last night?  
Jack: She wasn't new, she was my old one repainted.

## WEATHER REPORT

Sentimental young man: Oh, you are the sunshine of my life, sweet as a south wind, refreshing as a gentle rain after a long drought! Without you my life would be like a cloud of gloomy clouds  
Girl (interrupting): Wait a minute. Are you talking about a proposal, or a weather forecast?

## FEAR OF WATER

“Auntie, please,” said little John, “wouldn't you like to wash my face?”  
“You can wash your face yourself,” said the aunt.  
“Yes,” admitted John, but explained, “My hands are clean and don't need to be wet now.”

## 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.

## Astronomic picture of the week:



### Phobos

Color image of Phobos, the moon of Mars, imaged by the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter on 23 March 2008.

The illuminated part of Phobos seen in the images is about 21 kilometers (13 miles) across. The most prominent feature in the images is the large crater Stickney in the lower right. With a diameter of 9 kilometers (5.6 miles), it is the largest feature on Phobos.

Credit: NASA / JPL-Caltech / University of Arizona  
Public domain



## HOROSCOPE FOR MAY 2026

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

**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)**  
May begins with a burst of energy! Unfortunately, you misplaced it. Try checking under the couch or in the fridge. Love is knocking – open the door, but peek through the peephole first.

**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)**  
Happy birthday season! Celebrate with cake, presents, and maybe one extra glass of bubbly. Finances look stable – until you pass a flea market.

**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 20)**  
You've got answers to everything, but no one's asked the questions yet. Careful with the puns – not everyone enjoys being called a “pre-coffee morning zombie.”

**Cancer (Jun 21 – Jul 22)**  
You're feeling emotional. That's okay – especially when you see a cute dog in the rain. Your career is moving forward... slowly, like a snail on a sightseeing tour.

**Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 22)**  
May is your catwalk! But remember: not every sidewalk is a stage. Love is blossoming – so is the balcony weed. Choose which one to water.

**Virgo (Aug 23 – Sep 22)**  
You're planning everything to perfection. May says: “Good luck with that!” The stars suggest letting go a little – or at least trying spontaneous Taco Tuesday.

**Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)**  
You're weighing your options. May might trap you in a decision loop – especially at the ice cream counter. Love is nearby, possibly hiding behind a bookshelf.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)**  
You attract secrets and drama. Perfect – May has

plenty of both, with bonus cliffhangers. Tip: always have extra coffee at home.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)**  
Wanderlust is real! Even if your biggest trip is to the grocery store. May wants you to try something new – maybe salsa dancing. Or at least hot sauce.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)**  
You're working hard. May whispers: “Take it easy.” A picnic in the park might give you more insight than three PowerPoint decks.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 18)**  
You're ahead of your time. May is still in pajamas. Meet halfway – maybe shorts with a blazer? Innovation is coming... once you find your charging cable.

**Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)**  
Your head's in the clouds. May offers sunshine, rain, and sudden existential questions while waiting in line at the post office. Trust your gut – but also check the weather forecast.



## BLOG WRITERS

Join Wasa Daily as a Blog Writer! Are you passionate about sharing your thoughts, stories, or expertise with the community? Wasa Daily is looking for enthusiastic blog writers to contribute engaging content for our readers.

Whether you love writing about local events, culture, lifestyle, business, or personal experiences, we welcome your voice!

Writing for Wasa Daily is a great opportunity to reach a wider audience, connect with fellow locals, and showcase your creativity. No prior experience is needed—just bring your ideas and enthusiasm! We value diverse perspectives and fresh voices that reflect the vibrant spirit of our community.

Interested? Send us your blog pitch or a short sample, and let's get your words published! Join us in making Wasa Daily a platform for meaningful conversations and inspiring stories.

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

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

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

## FROM OUR READERS

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

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