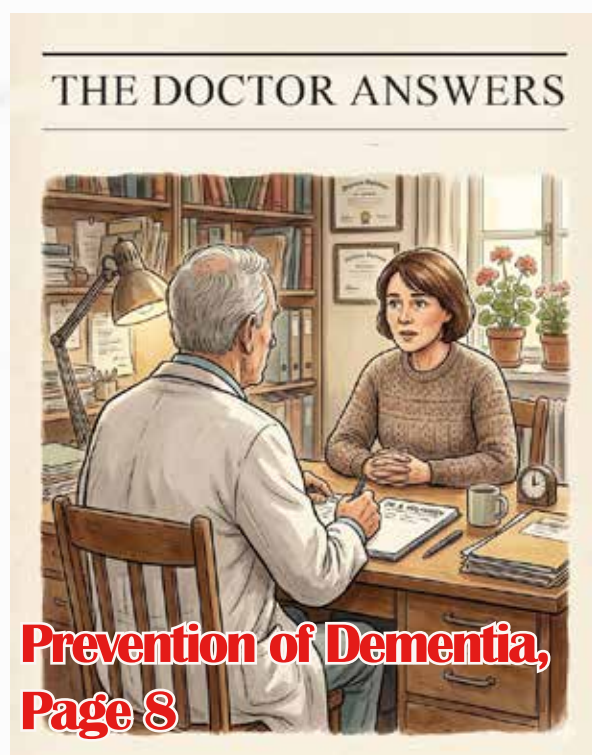


WASA DAILY



Korsholm Music Festival still four days
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Page 2

LOCAL NEWS

KORSHOLMS MUSIC FESTIVAL

A Night of Musical Magic: Vivaldi's Four Seasons Meets the Power of NOX



Sunday, July 26, at 6:00 p.m. One of the highlights of this year's Korsholm Music Festival will take place at Vaasa City Hall, where audiences are invited to experience the gala concert "Four Seasons & NOX." The evening promises an inspiring combination of timeless Baroque music and contemporary choral excellence.

The concert opens with Antonio Vivaldi's legendary The Four Seasons, one of the most celebrated violin concertos ever written. Composed between 1723 and 1725, the work revolutionized classical music by vividly portraying nature through sound—from birdsong and thunderstorms to autumn harvests and icy winter winds. Internationally acclaimed violinist Alissa Margulis will perform as soloist, accompanied by the festival's outstanding string musicians.

Following the intermission, the atmosphere shifts as the renowned Ostrobothnian choir NOX joins forces with soprano Angelika Klas. Their varied programme includes works inspired by the Kalevala, poetry by Edith Södergran, George

TODAY

EDITORIAL

The time of the paper newspaper (and the E-newspaper) is not over – but they must change

For two hundred years, the morning newspaper has been self-evident. It has woken us up with news, provided us with in-depth information and given us a leading article to relate to. It has been the safe haven of democracy – a unifying force in a fragmented world.

But that time is over. Digitalisation has torn down the walls. The print editions of the paper newspaper are declining, readers are getting older and distribution costs are skyrocketing. A daily paper newspaper in the traditional sense is about to disappear.

Should we then settle down and let it die out? No. The paper newspaper as a format has a future, but only if it dares to change.

It's no longer about competing with digital platforms in speed. We can never do that. Instead, we must offer what no algorithm can replace: local knowledge, in-depth, curation, reflection and credibility.

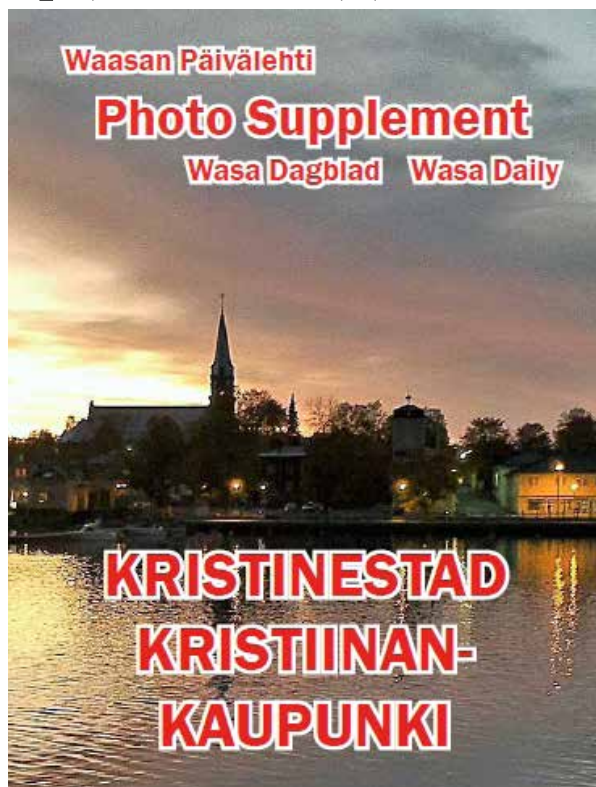
The paper newspaper must become a premium medium – fewer days a week, but with higher quality, longer reports and sharper analyses.

Several newspapers have already taken the step. From daily to three days a week, from news provider to weekly magazine. Supplemented with a daily E-magazine. It's not a retreat – it's a repositioning. It is a way of protecting what is unique: the well-argued editorial, the investigative journalism, the local anchoring.

The question is no longer whether the paper newspaper has a future, but what future it has. The answer lies in our own hands. If we dare to downsize, if we dare to specialize and if we dare to invest in digital as the first choice – then the paper newspaper can live on. Not as it was, but as it needs to be.

The time of the paper newspaper is not over and the E-magazine can be an elegant complement. They've just grown up enough to realize that less can be more. And that quality will always have a place – regardless of format.

Photo Supplement



NEWS

Gershwin's beloved Summertime, and several modern choral masterpieces, creating an evening rich in emotion and musical colour.



The concert lasts approximately 100 minutes, including an intermission. Families are also welcome, as complimentary childcare is available during the performance with advance reservation. With world-class performers and a programme spanning three centuries of music, this gala concert is expected to be one of the festival's unforgettable highlights

Source: : Korsholm Music Festival

<https://www.netticket.fi/kmf-gala>

Imagessa Angelika Klas. Foro: Ville Paul Paasimaa

VAASA

Royal Visit to Vaasa – Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel Heading to Finland

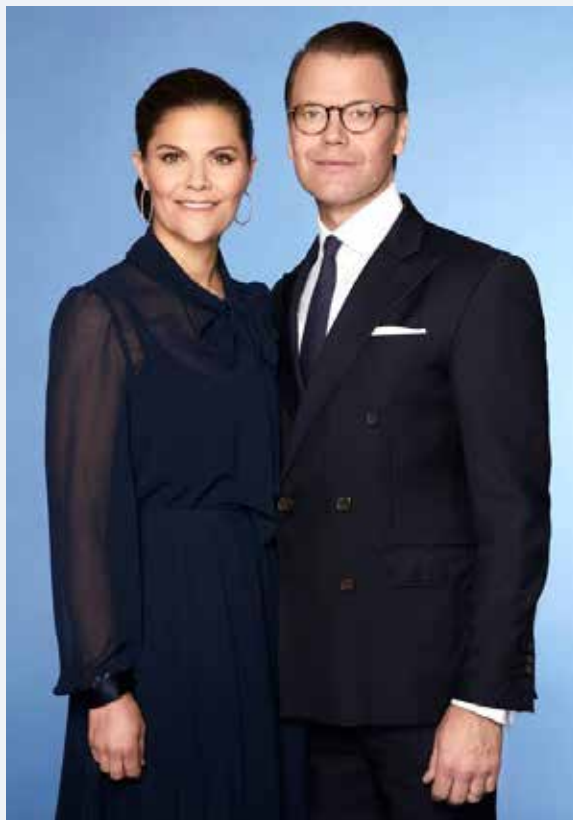


Photo: Anna-Lena Ahlström / The Royal Court of Sweden

It's official – Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel are coming to Vaasa! On 21 August, the royal couple will visit the city to honour the 250th anniversary of Vaasa Court of Appeal. This marks the first royal visit to Vaasa since 2006, when King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia attended the city's 400th anniversary celebrations.

– The Court of Appeal's historic anniversary year is such a significant event that we decided to approach the Swedish Royal Court and invite a representative to grace the celebration with their presence. We are truly honoured that the Crown Princess and Prince Daniel accepted our invitation, says President of the Court of Appeal Sakari Laukkanen.

The royal couple will begin the day with an hour-long visit to the Court of Appeal, which was founded by King Gustav III in 1775 and commenced operations exactly 250 years ago, on 21 August 1776. Following this, the Crown Princess will plant a commemorative tree in Hovioikeudenpuisto (Court of Appeal Park).

At 10:30 a.m., the royal guests will walk to Hovioikeudenpuistikko (Court of Appeal Esplanade), where they will have the opportunity to greet local residents. The tour then continues to Vaskiluoto, where the Crown Princess and Prince Daniel will explore Wärtsilä's technology centre and learn about cutting-edge developments in carbon-neutral maritime transport and energy production.

– Vaasa proudly showcases to its royal visitors how the city has evolved over the past four centuries and how it is rapidly growing into the energy capital of the Nordics, says Mayor Tomas Häyry.

The visit concludes with a lunch hosted by the city at Maaherrantalo. Vaasa is getting ready for a royal day to remember!

Source: STT Info / City of Vaasa

OSTROBOTHNIA

Rising Unemployment – Yet Ostrobothnia Still Leads Finland

While unemployment increased across Finland in June, Ostrobothnia once again proved to be the country's strongest labour market. According to the latest employment review, the region recorded the lowest unemployment rate in mainland Finland – just 7.8 percent, compared with the national average of 12.8 percent.

At the end of June, 6,678 people were registered as unemployed jobseekers in Ostrobothnia, an increase of 139 compared with a year earlier. Even so, the region continues to outperform the rest of the country. Strong export industries, the internationally recognised energy technology cluster around Vaasa, and growing investments in battery manufacturing continue to support employment and create demand for skilled workers.

There are significant local differences. Larsmo remains among the municipalities with the lowest unemployment, while Vaasa and Pietarsaari report higher figures than the regional average. Encouragingly, employers advertised more new vacancies than a year ago, suggesting that recruitment could strengthen later this year.

Central Ostrobothnia also experienced a rise in unemployment during June, but its unemployment rate remained below the Finnish average.

VAASA

Rents rose in Vaasa – while Helsinki residents save

WELLBEING AREAS

OWN DOCTOR

Millions Invested to Give More People Their Own Doctor

OULU, FINLAND – A major healthcare investment aims to make seeing a familiar doctor the norm rather than the exception. Northern Ostrobothnia's wellbeing services county Pohde has received €3.24 million in government funding to strengthen continuity of care by expanding its personal doctor and personal nurse model during 2026–2027.

The project will extend the existing model across the region, improve digital services, and introduce a pilot scheme using independent medical practitioners in areas struggling to recruit doctors. The goal is to ensure that patients can repeatedly meet the same healthcare professionals instead of starting over with someone new at every visit.

The programme has already shown encouraging results. Around 70 percent of Pohde residents have already been assigned a personal doctor and nurse. Research consistently indicates that long-term doctor-patient relationships improve health outcomes, reduce hospital admissions, lower healthcare costs, and increase patient satisfaction.

For many patients, knowing who will greet them at the next appointment could become one of the biggest improvements in Finnish primary healthcare.

Source: Pohde

WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY OF OSTROBOTHNIA

Patient records found in garbage container – outside the hospital

"Oh, what if someone sees!" That was probably not what a passer-by was thinking when he discovered piles of paper in a waste container outside Malmska Hospital in Jakobstad on Thursday evening. The problem? The papers contained real patient information.

The wellbeing services county quickly collected the documents and is now investigating how they ended up there. After all, there are clear instructions for how confidential information should be destroyed. Administrative Director Linda Jakobsson-Pada promises that the data protection officers will contact the affected persons next week if necessary.

"We have an eye on the situation, but we will find out how this could happen," she says.

Tip for healthcare: maybe it's time to invest in a proper shredder?

Source: Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia, 10.7.2026

SCAM MESSAGES

Scam text message: "You have an appointment – and a fee to pay"

Just when you thought that the queues for healthcare were the worst – now the scams are coming too.

ming too.

The Western Uusimaa Wellbeing Services County warns against fraudulent messages sent in their name via text messages, e-mails and possibly also via Suomi.fi. The messages claim everything from booked appointments to fictitious child welfare reports. In some cases, the recipient is asked to pay a fee for a service. The real goal? Online banking codes and personal data.

The scams have reached both residents of Western Uusimaa and elsewhere in Finland.

Remember: authorities never ask for your online banking credentials via text, WhatsApp or email. Have you accidentally clicked? Call the bank immediately and file a police report.

And delete the message. It is the only "toll-free" option.

Source: Western Uusimaa Wellbeing Services County, July 2026

LANGUAGE IN HEALTHCARE

Ostrobothnia has the country's most bilingual healthcare staff – and is proud of it

Is there hope for the Finnish-speaking patient who meets Swedish-speaking staff in Ostrobothnia? Absolutely, according to the Chairman of the Communist Party's group Kim Yli-Pelkola. In the council, he stated that the area has "the most bilingual staff in the whole country".

And the complaints? Few," he says. Those who come are distributed fairly evenly between the languages. Johanna Holmäng (RKP), a midwife with experience from several hospitals, testifies to a work culture where the staff change language as soon as the patient is in the room – even in the break room.

"It makes new employees feel welcome regardless of their mother tongue," she says.

And the future? Digitalisation helps – AI is used as an interpreter in pilot projects, and staff can practise technical language on the hoitokieli.fi platform.

Bilingualism as wealth, not contradiction. What refreshing news!

THE WELLBEING SERVICES

Fewer sexually transmitted diseases in Ostrobothnia – at the same time more people dare to talk about sex

There is good news from the Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia. The number of cases of multiple sexually transmitted infections has decreased, while residents are increasingly seeking advice and help on sexual health.

According to the wellbeing services county, a good sex life is not only about preventing diseases, but also about well-being, relationships and quality of life. That is why health care is investing in easily accessible advice, testing and information for people of all ages.

Experts emphasize that regular testing is still important in the case of unprotected sex or changing partners.

NEWS

Vaasa tenants saw their rents skyrocket by 1.3 percent in the second quarter of the year – the second most in the whole country. At the same time, rents in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area continue to fall, according to recent statistics from Statistics Finland.

Rovaniemi tops the list with a rent increase of as much as 2.0 percent, closely followed by Vaasa (1.3%) and Joensuu (1.1%). At the other end of the scale, we find Porvoo (-1.9%), Kerava (-1.6%) and Vantaa (-1.2%). Helsinki residents can breathe a sigh of relief – here rents fell by 0.2 per cent. Oulu also recorded the same negative figure.



"In the rental market, right now it's about supply and demand, not about the size of the city or promises for the future," says Eemeli Karlsson, economist at the Finnish Landlords' Association. While tenants in the Helsinki metropolitan area can pick and choose from dozens of options, there is fierce competition for good housing in several other cities – especially now during the hottest moving season of the summer. Karlsson also reminds students to take the opportunity: the best apartments in the study areas are already rented.

"The same cities are peaking quarter after quarter. It's not about chance," says Karlsson.

Facts: Statistics Finland's rental statistics for the second quarter of 2026. Vaasa recorded the second highest rent increase in the country at +1.3 per cent, while Helsinki's rents fell by 0.2 per cent.

Source: Suomen Vuokranantajat ry

HUNTING

More moose may be shot this autumn – hunting licences increase in Coastal Ostrobothnia



This autumn's moose hunt looks set to be more intense than last year. The Finnish Wildlife Agency has granted 2,398 moose hunting licences, an increase of about 12 per cent compared to the previous hunting season. The number of licenses for white-tailed deer is also increased – to 310 licenses, which corresponds to an increase of about 20 percent

WASA DAILY

Nearly everything You need to know on 12 pages

vpress.fi

NEWS

KORSHOLM MUSIC FESTIVAL

Korsholm Music Festival Off to a Brilliant Start – Now Comes Brush, Pipe and Soulful Melodies



The Korsholm Music Festival is in full swing – and the opening has been anything but weak.

Several concerts have already drawn large audiences and sold out. But now the festival is taking a bold step into uncharted territory.

The Festival theme composer is Nicky Sohn who visited us in Vaasa. Her work Cynthia is a quiet tribute to a woman who passed away from breast cancer – one of Sohn's most personal pieces. In Deer Friend, she draws inspiration from Wyoming, where deer and foxes became her companions and she rediscovered a sense of calm.

The evening concluded with Michael Bleu – back home in Ostrobothnia with soul, rhythm and heartfelt stories.

Saturday offered tango at Salteriet, oriental tones at Replot Church, and bluegrass at the Doo-Bop Club. The days ahead are crowned with the Stenhammar Quartet at Stundars, the grand festival concert at the Stadshuset, and a atmospheric finale on the Stadshuset steps.

The festival has only just begun – and the best is yet to come.



The decision is based on the latest estimates of cervid populations and the goals set by the Regional Wildlife Council. The ambition is to keep the populations viable while limiting damage to forests, agriculture and traffic.

During the last hunting season, 2,235 moose and 157 white-tailed deer were killed in Coastal Ostrobothnia. A hunting licence usually entitles you to kill one adult animal or two calves. The hunting season will begin with guard hunting on 1 September 2026, when thousands of hunters are expected to venture into the forests from Kokkola in the north to Kristinestad in the south.

For motorists, it also means a reminder to pay extra attention to the roads during the autumn dawns and dusks – as we know, moose do not read traffic rules.

Reference: Finnish Wildlife Agency, Coastal Ostrobothnia

KORSNÄS

The World Heritage Site celebrates 20 years – all week long in Korsnäs

This summer, we celebrate the Kvarken archipelago – and with good reason. When the UNESCO World Heritage Site turns 20 years old, Korsnäs will be in full swing in week 32, 3–9 August. The program offers everything from art to sea winds. On Monday evening, Jon Gredmark's library mural (Silverbergsvägen 9, at 17.00) will be unveiled. On Thursday, Harri Ahonen will give a lecture on Finland's coastal routes – 220 destinations from the Sea of Bothnia to Satakunta. On Saturday, there will be a party at Molpe pavilion with children's entertainment, music, speeches and the World Heritage Site's very own anniversary cake. On Sunday, it all ends with a guided hike along Waterloo-Lisasgrynnan with a nature guide – new works of art along the trail and a maximum of 30 places. Registration for the hike via the Malax-Korsnäs Adult Education Centre. Fee 15 euros. The rest? Just show up – and enjoy.

Source: Korsnäs municipality, July 2026

PHOTO CONTEST

Capture the World Heritage Site – win €500!



Do you have a mobile full of pictures from the archipelago? Now they can be worth money. The Kvarken World Heritage Site celebrates 20 years with a photo competition where everyone can participate. Take your best shot – whether it's sunset over the archipelago, a seal looking up or just that perfect archipelago atmosphere – and send it in. The winner takes home 500 euros.

NEW EURONOTES

Vote for Europe’s Future Money – The Next Euro Banknotes Are Taking Shape

FRANKFURT, GERMA-
NY, July 23, 2026 – Should Europe’s future banknotes celebrate Beethoven, Marie Curie and Leonardo da Vinci, or showcase the continent’s rivers and birds? The European Central Bank (ECB) is inviting people across the euro area to help choose the design of the next generation of euro banknotes through an on-line public survey running until 21 September 2026.

The ECB has unveiled ten shortlisted designs, divided between two themes: "European Culture" and "Rivers and Birds." The re-design aims to ensure that future euro banknotes remain highly secure while better reflecting Europe’s shared identity, cultural heritage and natural diversity. It is the first complete re-design since euro banknotes entered circulation in 2002.

Once the survey closes, the ECB’s Governing Council will consider public feedback before selecting the winning design around the end of 2026. Even after the final choice is made, it will take several years before the new notes appear in wallets, as extensive testing and production are required. The current euro banknotes will remain valid and continue circulating alongside the new series.

A proposal for the new banknotes has been made by Finnish graphic artist Ville Tietäväinen. His proposal can be seen on the European Central Bank’s page on the new banknotes, URL below, The images on this page show one of our editorial team’s favourite series, designed by Jan Robert Dünnweller.

Vote here before 21 September 2026. :
<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2026/html/ecb.pr260723~c2d43f9170.en.html>

Images:
Copyright 2026, European Central Bank

Source: European Central Bank (ECB), press release,



The exact rules and deadline for submission can be found on the website of the City of Vaasa. But one thing is certain: here you have to recharge – both the camera and the imagination. Send the photos by 31.8.2026. More information here:<https://www.vaasa.fi/sv/se-och-upplev/kvarkens-skargard/kvarken-20/fototavling-20/> And for those who don't win? At least you get an excuse to spend a day out in the World Heritage Site. That's a win too.
Source: City of Vaasa / Kvarken 20, July 2026

HEALTH

HEALTH
Could Your Family Dog Help Keep Your Baby Healthy? New Finnish Study Says It Might

HELSINKI – A family dog may offer more than companionship. According to a new publication by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), microbes carried by pet dogs could help protect babies under one year of age from respiratory infections and reduce the need for antibiotic treatment.

Researchers found that infants exposed to the diverse microbiome of household dogs developed a richer community of beneficial microbes. This appears to support the normal development of the immune system, making babies less likely to suffer from common respiratory infections during their first year of life.

The findings are consistent with previous international studies suggesting that children raised with pets or in farming environments often have stronger immune systems and a lower risk of allergies and asthma. However, the researchers stress that the results should not be interpreted as a recommendation to acquire a dog solely for health reasons. Vaccinations, smoke-free homes, and good hygiene remain the cornerstones of protecting children's health.

The study adds further evidence to the hygiene hypothesis, which suggests that moderate exposure to natural microbes early in life helps train the immune system and may provide long-term health benefits.

For many families, the household dog may turn out to be not only a loyal friend but also an unexpected ally in supporting a healthy start to life.

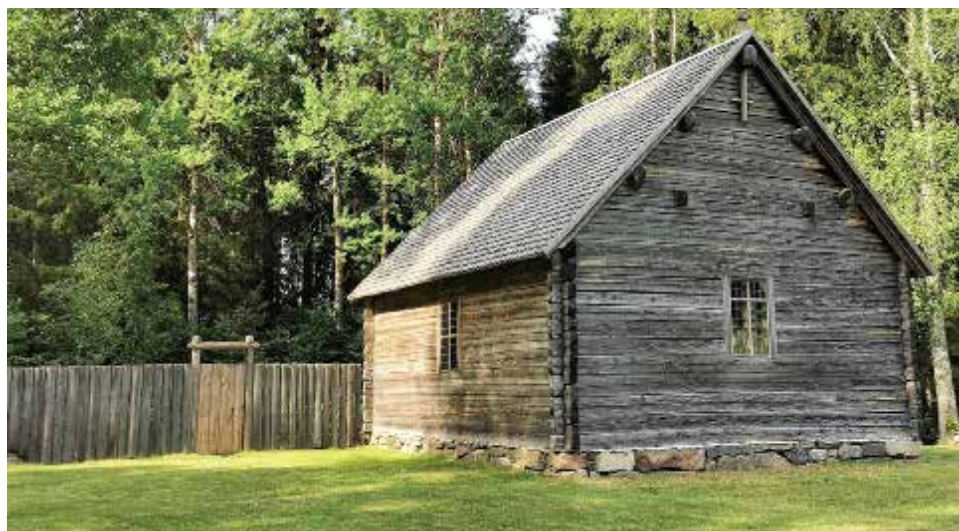
Source: Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), research release, 2026.

DIABETES
New diabetes studies at Tays – aiming to slow onset and progression of the disease

HISTORY

KORPHOLMEN

They lived and died on an island no one wanted to see – the story of Korpholmen's dreaded leprosy hospital



From 1628 to 1841, a small islet outside Kruunupyy was home to Ostrobothnia's most outcasts – the lepers, the insane, the blind and the homeless. Their story is one of Finland's most poignant and forgotten.

Less than a kilometre from Highway Eight, hidden behind a grove of trees at the old mouth of the Kruunupyy River, lies an islet that looks quite ordinary. The grass is green, the birds are singing and the summer wind moves quietly through the birches. But if you know what you're looking for, you'll find it: an old cemetery, a small museum, a reconstructed wooden church and a stone bell. That's all that's left of one of Finland's most horrific and inhumane places – Korpholmen Leprosy Hospital.

Here, on this small isolated island, hundreds of people lived and died for more than two hundred years. They were the most outcasts of society's outcasts: lepers, insane, blind, poor and forgotten. No one asked for them. Few remember them. But their story deserves to be told.

The disease that was feared more than death

To understand Korpholmen, you have to understand leprosy – and the fear of it.

Leprosy, or leprosy as the disease was called in the Nordic countries, is one of humanity's oldest and most talked about diseases. It is mentioned in the Bible, in Egyptian papyrus texts, and in Chinese writings from

thousands of years before our era. In Europe, the disease was at its most prevalent in the Middle Ages, and it created a collective psychosis of horror that has hardly been paralleled in history.

Leprosy was not necessarily more deadly than plague or smallpox. What made it so feared was its visibility and its cruel course. Mycobacterium leprae – the bacterium that causes leprosy – attacks the skin, nerves and mucous membranes. In severe cases, it caused open skin erosion, wounds that did not heal, loss of fingers and toes, blindness, and finally deformation of the face. The sick person saw his body slowly decay before his own eyes – and before the horror of those around him.

In Europe, there were 19,000 leprosy patients in 1220 – a number that reveals how widespread the disease was and how desperately societies were looking for solutions. The solution was always the same: isolation. The sick were excluded from society

and considered dead. The marriage was dissolved and the sick man's fortune went to his heirs.

A leper was legally a corpse. Alive, but already buried.

The County Governor's assignment

In 1628, County Governor Johan Månsson Ulfsparré received an assignment from Stockholm: he was to designate a suitable site for a leprosy hospital in Ostrobothnia. At the hospital that was founded at Korpholmen in Kruunupyy, sick people were received from Malax in the south to Hailuoto in the north.

The choice fell on Korpholmen – a small islet at the mouth of the Kruunupyy River, surrounded by water and separated from the countryside. The isolation was the point. The sick were to be kept away from the healthy, visible to no one, reachable to no one.

The hospital was built in 1628 on an islet at the mouth of the Kruunupyy River, and began opera-

tions in 1631. It was one of only two leprosy hospitals in the whole of Finland – the other was on the island of Sjalö in Nagu, in the Turku archipelago.

You can imagine arriving in Korpholmen. The boat that docked at the islet. Family members who left their sick – with tears, with shame, with relief, with despair. The sick person who stepped out of the boat and saw his loved ones rowing back towards land. Did they know that they would never come home again?

Life on the island – a community in miniature format

Korpholmen was not just a prison, although it sometimes functioned as one. It was a small community in itself, with all the structures that such a society requires.

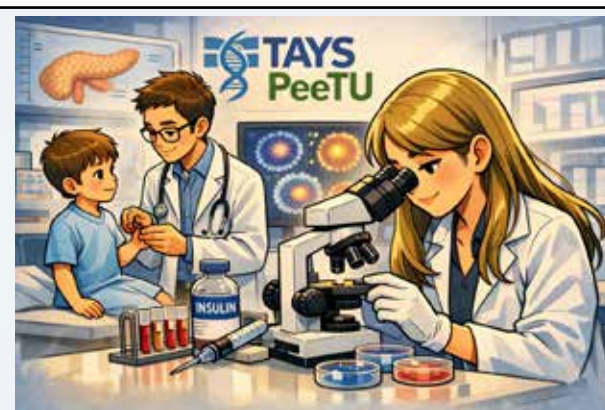
In the 1730s, the hospital area comprised about thirty buildings, including a church, a leper house, two lunatic asylums, as well as sheds and small cottages. So there was a church – a whole church, for the chosen few who lived on the island. A church for the living dead.

The church was completed around 1654 and was the heart of the hospital's life. The services were not just religious events – they were probably the only regular gatherings where the inmates could meet, talk and experience something other than the monotony and suffering of everyday life.

Archaeological excavations carried out on Korp-



NEWS



Two new clinical trials are about to begin at the PeeTU paediatric research centre at Tays (Tampere University Hospital), offering new hope for the future treatment of type 1 diabetes. The studies aim to delay the onset of the disease and preserve the body's own insulin production in those who have recently been diagnosed.

One study is targeting individuals in the prediabetes stage (stage 2) – people aged 1–36 who have an impaired glucose metabolism but do not yet have symptomatic diabetes. Researchers want to find out whether drug treatment can delay or even prevent the disease from developing. The other study is aimed at those who have recently been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes (stage 3), with the diagnosis made within the last hundred days. Here, the goal is to see whether the medication can protect the pancreas's beta cells and maintain the body's own insulin secretion. Both studies are testing the same drug, baricitinib, which is taken as a daily tablet – no injections required. The drug is already used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, alopecia areata and severe atopic dermatitis. It works by dampening inflammatory responses, and researchers believe it could also help control the inflammation that destroys insulin-producing cells in the pancreas in type 1 diabetes.

"This is a relief, especially for paediatric patients," says Chief Physician Sauli Palmu from PeeTU.

Although insulin remains the only treatment available, the researchers are optimistic about future breakthroughs. "If ever, now is the time when we are close to being able to influence the course of the disease with medication," says research physician Salla Kuusela. Source: Pirkanmaa Wellbeing Services County press release

SAUNA

Steam increases strain – humid sauna raises heart rate

A new study from the University of Jyväskylä shows that humidity in the sauna has a significant impact on how the body responds to sauna bathing. The more humid the sauna, the more pronounced the rise in heart rate and body temperature.

The study was conducted by the University of Jyväskylä and the KIHU Research Institute for Olympic Sports in collaboration with sauna manufacturer Harvia, with data collection funded by Toyota Motor Corporation. Fifty healthy adults participated in four sauna sessions each, during which heart rate and body temperature were measured.

After ten minutes of sauna bathing, the average heart rate rose from 79 to 121 beats per minute – an increase of over 40 beats. Both temperature and humidity contributed to the heart rate elevation. "Although temperature remains the most significant factor, steam (löyly) also has a clear effect on heart rate and body temperature,"

HISTORY

KORPHOLMEN



holmen have given us an insight into everyday life on the island that is both touching and human. Ordinary utility items, seal bones and clay pipes have been found, which indicate that they were trying to create a fairly ordinary life for themselves on Korpholmen. Clay pipes – the sick smoked pipes. They cooked from seal meat. They lived their lives, in a way, behind the invisible walls of the water.

But life was not idyllic. Resources were scarce, supervision uneven and discipline was harsh. They were sometimes treated very harshly, and blows were used to drive "evil" out of them. The religious thinking about the disease as God's punishment permeated health care – if you can call it care.

The Great Period of Strife – The Darkest Chapter

During the so-called Great War, 1713–1721, when Russian troops occupied large parts of Finland and terrorized the population, Korpholmen experienced its darkest period. Many patients were admitted to Korpholmen at that time. When war and hunger drove people to flee and the structures of society collapsed, even more ended up in the hospital's gloomy arms. Poor, victims of war, those who no longer had a home or family – they all flocked to Korpholmen, the place where no one wanted to and where no one sought out voluntarily.

Changing assignments – when leprosy disappeared

During the 1700s, something strange happened:

leprosy slowly began to disappear from Ostrobothnia. The causes are complex – improved living conditions, natural immunity, the disease's own cycles – but the results were clear. Fewer and fewer leprosy patients arrived at Korpholmen.

But the hospital was not closed. Instead, its mission changed. From the 1700s onwards, the "mentally ill" and the blind were also admitted, and other poor and sick people. Korpholmen had become Ostrobothnia's gathering place for everyone who society did not know what to do with.

It is still said in Kruunupyy: "They scream like the madmen on Korpholmen" – a pro-verb that has survived centuries and testifies to how the mentally ill must have sounded, locked up on their island, their screams carried by the wind over the water towards the houses on the mainland where ordinary people lived ordinary lives.

It's a saying that rhymes with shame.

The first doctor – 183 years too late

In 1811 the hospital received a doctor – Johan Georg Staudinger. 1811. The hospital had existed since 1628. It thus took 183 years before someone with a medical education was responsible for the care of the sick.

What Staudinger found when he arrived can only be speculated. Patients who have never been properly diagnosed. Treatment methods based on superstition and religious fear. A building mass in disrepair. And people –

Denna sommar är Korpholmen ännu öppen dessa dagar:
Tänä kesänä on vielä mahdollisuus vierailla Korpholmenissa:
There is still a chance to visit Korpholmen this summer:
26.7.2026 kl 13.00 – 17.00
2.8.2026, 8.8.2026, 9.8.2026 kl 13.00 – 17.00
Plats/Paikka/Place
Hästövägen 100, 68500 Kronoby
Finland
Arrangör/Järjestäjä/Organizer:
Kronoby hembygdsförening/ Kruunupyyn kotiseutuyhdistys
Tel/Puh/Phone 0400442894
kronobyhembygd@gmail.com

living, feeling, suffering people – who deserved better.

His arrival was a small light in an otherwise dark chapter.

The decommissioning – an end with dignity?

When Finland fell to Russia after the war of 1808–09, mental health care was developed and the Lapinlahti Hospital in Helsinki was opened in the summer of 1841. The Senate decided to close Korpholmen, and the last couple from Korpholmen were moved to La-pinlahti Hospital or Själo Hospital the same summer.

In the summer of 1841. The last patient left Korpholmen. The buildings were empty. Nature slowly took back what humans had built.

Most of the buildings disappeared over the years – demolished, rotted, fell. Of those built over the years, most have disappeared; Among other things, the former doctor's residence remains, which serves as a manor house on a farm.

The place today – an open-air museum with heavy memories

Today, Korpholmen is an open-air museum that welcomes visitors. Today, the area is a peaceful place where the hospital's former church has been reconstructed and the old cemetery has been preserved.

Today, Korpholmen is an open-air museum, which includes a replica of the church that was built on the site in the 1700s, built in 2007. The bell tower rings again. The gates to the cemetery are open. And in a small museum, visitors can learn about the lives that were lived and died here.

A memorial stone was erected in 1956 on the site where a hospital church stood from about 1654 to the beginning of the 1800s. It took more than

a hundred years after the hospital's closure before someone put up a stone to remember those who had lived and died on the island.

Lolan Björkman's compendium In the Darkness Protected by Light: Personal Portraits from Korpholmen Hospital in Cronoby 1631–1848 (1998) tells of the individual fates that were lived through here – the many strange and tragic human lives that would otherwise have been lost forever.

What Korpholmen teaches us

Korpholmen's history is not only a story of illness and isolation. It is a story about how societies treat their weakest, their most vulnerable, those who deviate from the norm – those who you don't know what to do with.

The lepers in the 17th century were considered the living dead. The insane in the 18th century were considered to be owned by the devil. The poor and blind were hardly looked at at all. They all ended up on Korpholmen – for the same reason: they were uncomfortable for the society that sent them there.

But they smoked mud pipes. They hunted seals. They lived their lives, incomplete and limited, but lives nonetheless. And they were buried in Korpholmen's soil, one by one, their names engraved in the register of death.

The next time you drive along highway eight north of Kokkola, take a look to the left towards the forest. Somewhere in there, behind the trees, is Korpholmen. And in Korpholmen's soil rest the forgotten – those who lived and died on an island where no one wanted to come, but from which no one could escape.

They deserve to be remembered.

NEWS

says Iida Laatikainen-Raussi from the Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences at the University of Jyväskylä.

Core body temperature rose modestly from 37.4 to 37.8 degrees Celsius – an increase of 0.4 degrees. High humidity prevents sweat from evaporating efficiently from the skin, weakening the body's primary cooling mechanism. This increases the heat load and forces the cardiovascular system to work harder to maintain body temperature.

According to the researchers, the importance of steam may have been underestimated in previous studies, as humidity variations have generally not been taken into account with sufficient precision. "In future sauna research and in practical sauna bathing, more attention should be paid to humidity and to a more detailed examination of sauna conditions," Laatikainen-Raussi comments. The findings confirm that the effects of the traditional Finnish sauna are not solely due to heat – the moisture from the steam is an equally essential part of the experience.

Source: University of Jyväskylä press release

INFECTIONS

The salmonella epidemic

In the spring of 2026, a total of 64 people were affected by a salmonella epidemic that is now traced to an unexpected food – sprouts that were eaten raw.

The Finnish Food Authority and the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) have investigated the outbreak of the bacterium Salmonella Bovismorbificans. After careful analyses, including whole genome sequencing, everything points to the fact that the uncooked sprouts were the likely culprit. The suspected sprouts are long gone from the market, according to the authorities.

The same strain of salmonella has also caused cases of disease in several other European countries during the first half of the year. Salmonella usually spreads through food contaminated by the feces of infected people or animals. The good news: heating kills the bacteria. So the next time you throw in a fresh sprouted mix – maybe you should consider stir-frying them instead?

The most common symptoms were diarrhoea and fever. The number of salmonella cases in Finland has decreased sharply over the past decade – in 2025, 712 cases were reported, of which only four were caused by this particular strain of bacteria. Facts: The outbreak occurred in the spring of 2026. The Finnish Food Authority and THL published the results of the investigation on 13 July 2026.

Source: Finnish Food Authority / THL

ÅLAND

ÅLAND

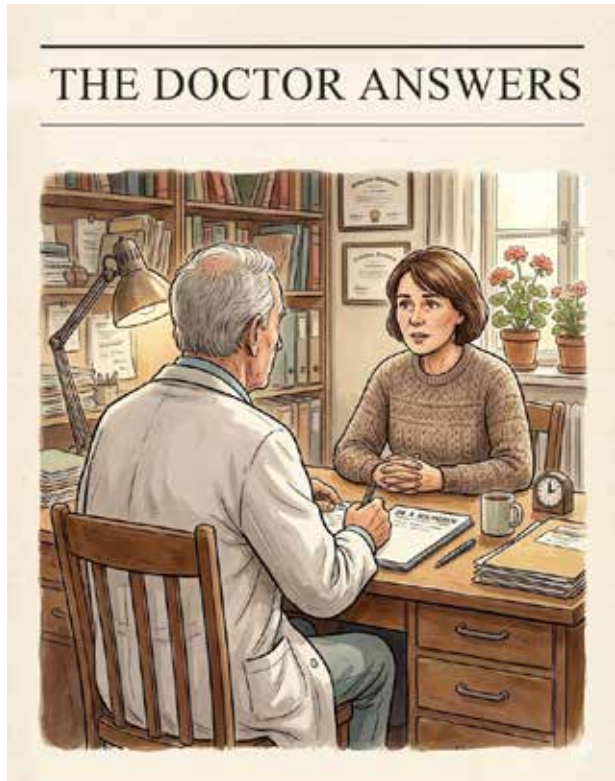
Music, freedom and Pippi – The Katrina Festival offers a total experience in Åland 5–8 August 2026.

During four intense August days, Åland will once again be transformed into a musical centre when the Katrina Chamber Music Festival opens its doors.

HEALTH

THE DOCTOR ANSWERS

Can dementia be prevented?



Dementia seems to be becoming more and more common. Is there anything we ordinary people can do to protect ourselves from this disease?

Yes – and there is actually more hope than many people think.

The fact that more and more people are affected by dementia is largely due to the fact that we are living longer. Old age is the most important risk factor, but dementia is not a normal part of aging. The good news is that the World Health Organization (WHO) now estimates that up to 45 percent of the risk of dementia could be prevented or at least postponed by influencing risk factors that we can do something about ourselves.

The WHO's new guidelines, published on 15 July 2026 in Geneva, highlight several simple but important pieces of advice. Exercise regularly – a brisk walk most days of the week is very beneficial. Keep blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol under control. Do not smoke and drink alcohol in moderation. Eat a healthy diet with plenty of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, fish, and healthy fats. Keep your brain

active by reading, solving crossword puzzles, learning new things, or playing an instrument. At least as important is meeting other people and avoiding social isolation.

The WHO also emphasizes some newer risk factors. Hearing should be checked and treated with a hearing aid if necessary, as hearing loss increases the risk of cognitive impairment. For the first time, it is also recommended to reduce long-term exposure to air pollution. However, there is no scientific support for healthy people taking vitamins or omega-3 supplements solely to prevent dementia.

The conclusion is both simple and encouraging: What is good for the heart is usually also good for the brain. Every walk, every smoke-free day and every social activity is an investment in the future. It is not possible to guarantee that dementia can be avoided – but there is a lot we can do to give the brain the best possible conditions to stay healthy well into old age.

Source: World Health Organization (WHO), New WHO guidelines: up to 45% of dementia risk could be prevented or delayed, published 15 July 2026, Geneva.

EXHIBITIONS

VAASA ART HALL

The Peace Progress 24.7. – 16.8.2026



Can art create peace? An appealing exhibition opens at Vaasa Kunsthalle. Peace, nature and the connection of people come together in the new exhibition The Peace Process, which will be on display at Vaasa Kunsthalle (Senaatinkatu 1 D) 24.7.–16.8.2026. The exhibition invites visitors to stop and reflect on current themes at a time when the importance of peace seems more important than it has been for a long time. The exhibition is produced by the Flora and Fauna Project, whose contemporary artworks deal with coexistence, dialogue and the importance of the environment, among other things. The works challenge the viewer to think about how art can build understanding and hope. Since 2024, Kunsthalle, which is maintained by the Vaasa Artists' Association, has become one of the city's most important contemporary art exhibition spaces. Admission to the exhibition is free. Opening hours: Tue–Fri 11 am–5 pm, Sat–Sun 12:00 pm–4:00 pm. Closed on Mondays.

Source: Vaasa Artists' Association.

ÖVERMARK

Echoes in an Abandoned Home: "The Hidden Spots"



In the quiet village of Övermark, art has taken over a century-old, derelict house. The site-specific exhibition, The Hidden Spots, invites visitors to wander through rooms where time seems to have frozen. Created by the artist duo Black Box Genesis, the installation blends soundscapes, poetry, and physical relics to explore memory and transience. As part of a multidisciplinary regional project, this evocative showcase encourages guests to interact directly with the layers of history hidden within the walls of a forgotten home. Regional Art Exhibition 4.7.–2.8.2026. Address: Dermossvägen 20, 64610 Ylimarkku. Opening hours: Wednesday–Thursday 12–17 Friday–Sunday 12–18 Image: Bekim Hasaj and Valentina Gelain

VAASA

Street Art Takes Over: Wasa Graffitilandia

Vaasa's most vibrant summer tradition is back in full force. Wasa Graffitilandia has transformed over 3,000 square meters into a sprawling, colorful maze of street art and urban culture. Now in its sixth year, this summer edition showcases a massive collection of works from local and international artists. The exhibition serves as a dynamic contrast to the region's traditional museum offerings, providing a gritty, energetic space for creative expression that continues to push the boundaries of what is considered "gallery art" in Ostrobothnia.

STUNDARS

Historic Charm: Stundars Open Air Museum



The Stundars Open Air Museum in Mustasaari has launched a pair of compelling exhibitions that dive deep into the region's heritage. With Paint and Bricks

explores the traditional decorative painting and fireplace artistry found throughout Ostrobothnia. Running alongside this are curated displays in the historic Hemmer's House and the local Stone Mason's Cottage, offering a glimpse into the craftsmanship that defined the area centuries ago. These exhibitions provide a peaceful, educational retreat for those looking to connect with the authentic roots of the coastal landscape.

VAASA

400 Years of Vaasa

The Ostrobothnian Museum's permanent exhibition, Vaasa 400 – Tales of a City, offers a captivating journey through the city's four-century history. From its founding in 1606 and 17th-century witch hunts to the devastating fire of 1852 and the rise of shipping and industry, the exhibition weaves together events that shaped society, education, and everyday life. Highlights include Ostrobothnian folk art, painted furniture, and reconstructed interiors of a burgher's home and a factory worker's dwelling. Old publicity films and scale models of the city's changing town plan complete this rich historical tapestry. Ostrobothnian Museum, Museokatu 3, Vaasa. Open Wed–Sun 10–17. Admission 15/9/0€. – Reference: museot.fi

VAASA

The Scavengers' Garden

Insects and invertebrates take centre stage at the Ostrobothnian Museum this summer. The nabbteeri artists' collective presents The Scavengers' Garden. Ostrobothnian Museum, Museokatu 3, Vaasa. Open 9 May – 20 September 2026. Wed–Sun 10–17. – Reference: vaasa.fi

VANHA VAASA

250 Years of Justice



The Old Vaasa Museum marks a significant anniversary with its exhibition on the Vaasa Court of Appeal, established in 1775 by King Gustav III. Running until 29 August, the exhibition sheds light on the court's early years, its activities, and its profound impact on the lives of people across historical Ostrobothnia. Through miniature models, visual material, and stories of officials and their families, visitors gain insight into the ceremonies, power, and everyday life of one of Finland's oldest judicial institutions. History buffs will find this a fascinating journey into the region's legal heritage. Museum of Old Vaasa, Wasastjernan kauppiastalo, Kauppiaankatu 10, Vaasa. Open 1 June – 29 August 2026. Wed–Sat 10–17. Free admission. – Reference: museot.fi

KRISTINESTAD.

The Splendid Villa's Dramatic Fall

Carlsro Museum in Kristinestad presents the gripping tale of Alfred Carlström, once the richest man in Ostrobothnia. The Splendid Villa exhibition recounts the opulent villa era and its dramatic collapse when an embezzler drove the ship-owning family into bankruptcy in 1910. Visitors can glimpse elegant celebrations, peacocks wandering freely, and the idyll that shattered, bringing an entire town to its knees. This summer's exhibition honours the villa's anniversary year and tells the full story of what became of Carlsro and its family. A captivating tale of wealth, betrayal, and ruin. Carlsro, Carlsrovägen 181, 64100 Kristiinankaupunki. Open 1 June – 31 August 2026, daily 11–17. Closed Midsummer 23–25 June. Admission 8/2/0€. – Reference: museot.fi

CLIMATE CHANGE

GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

Earth Hits Breaking Point Earlier Than Ever



THE CLOCK RUNS out. Earth Overshoot Day falled on July 30th this year – the earliest date humanity has ever burned through the planet’s annual resources. From here on, we’re stealing from tomorrow. If everyone lived like in Finland, this day would be as early as the first of April.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The choice cuts sharp. Dr. Mathis Wackernagel, who tracks these num-

bers, puts it plain: “Overshoot cannot last. It will end either by deliberate design or dumped-on di-saster.”

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

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

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

The debt clock ticks. Every day past July 30th, we borrow more from a planet that’s already overdrawn. The interest compounds. The damage spreads.

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

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

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

EVENTS

TODAY

KORSHOLM MUSIC FESTIVAL

A Night of Musical Magic: Vivaldi's Four Seasons Meets the Power of NOX



Sunday, July 26, at 6:00 p.m. One of the highlights of this year's Korsholm Music Festival will take place at Vaasa City Hall, where audiences are invited to experience the gala concert "Four Seasons & NOX." The evening promises an inspiring combination of timeless Baroque music and contemporary choral excellence.

The concert opens with Antonio Vivaldi's legendary The Four Seasons, one of the most celebrated violin concertos ever written. Composed between 1723 and 1725, the work revolutionized classical music by vividly portraying nature through sound—from birdsong and thunderstorms to autumn harvests and icy winter winds. Internationally acclaimed violinist Alissa Margulis will perform as soloist, accompanied by the festival's outstanding string musicians.

Following the intermission, the atmosphere shifts as the renowned Ostrobothnian choir NOX joins forces with soprano Angelika Klas. Their varied programme includes works inspired by the Kalevala, poetry by Edith Södergran, George Gershwin's beloved Summertime, and several modern choral masterpieces, creating an evening rich in emotion and musical colour.



The concert lasts approximately 100 minutes, including an intermission. Families are also welcome, as complimentary childcare is available during

the performance with advance reservation. With world-class performers and a programme spanning three centuries of music, this gala concert is expected to be one of the festival's unforgettable highlights

Source: : Korsholm Music Festival <https://www.netticket.fi/kmf-gala>
Imagessa Angelika Klas. Foro: Ville Paul Paasimaa

METEORIIHI

When space struck Earth – Meteorian open today



Dive into the story of a crater formed over 520 million years ago – from the meteorite impact to today's farmland and Natura 2000 area. Explore rare meteorites, old farming machinery, an astronomical observatory, and a bird tower in one of Finland's most important crane resting sites. A solar system model and crater scale model bring the cosmos down to earth. Don't miss this journey through deep time! Source: <http://www.meteorio.fi>

JULY

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

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

VASA FESTIVAL

A star-studded party by the water

Vaasa Festival opens its doors for the eleventh year in a row – and offers a cavalcade of artists that will make your mouth water. We have already seen names like Robin Packalen, Isac Elliot and Nordman. Three days of music, food and a great atmosphere in the inner harbor. Remember that the VIP area has its own entrance, toilets and the best view of the stage. Age limit 18 years.
• When: July 30 – August 1, 2026
• Where: Vaasa city center, inner harbora

VAASAN MARSSI

7-9.8.2026

42 kilometres, sea views and no stopwatch – Vaasa prepares for massive walking event

The city of Vaasa will once again become a hub for endurance walkers when the international Vaasan Marssi takes place from 7 to 9 August 2026. The three-day event begins daily from Market Square at Hovioikeudenpuistikko 15a and attracts participants from across Finland and abroad.

Walkers can choose routes ranging from 10 kilometres to a demanding 42-kilometre challenge. The event features scenic routes through Strömsö, Old Vaasa and the UNESCO World Heritage archipelago area. Organisers stress that the event is not a race – there is no timekeeping – but the physical challenge is still significant, especially for those attempting several days in a row. Vaasan Marssi is also Finland's only IML-recognised walking event.

VASA FUTURE FESTIVAL

The future is here – and it is the New Nordic



Vaasa will once again become a center for future optimists when the Wasa Future Festival kicks off. For ten days, companies, decision-makers, researchers and artists will gather to build a better tomorrow under the theme "New Nordic". You will come here to network, be inspired and make a real difference. Expect both serious and crazy ideas – all on the same stage.
• When: 10–15 August 2026
• Where: Wasa Innovation Center & Bock's Village, Vaasa

NIGHT OF ART AUG 13

Night of Art: The whole of Vaasa becomes a big stage



Want to be part of creating the biggest cultural night in the region? Now is your

AUGUST

UKRAINE PRESIDENT

We Know from Our Intelligence and Our Partners That the Russians Have Readied Missiles for a New Massive Attack on Ukraine – Address by the President



July 24, 2026

Dear Ukrainians! Today, in broad daylight, the Russians struck Kyiv and the region with ballistic missiles. They targeted an event in the Bucha district that definitely should not have been there. Today, I spoke with Prosecutor General Ruslan Kravchenko and received reports from law enforcement. Criminal investigations have already been opened into what happened. Of course, the strike was caused by Russian missiles, by Russian terror, and nothing else. But we have already said a thousand times that, in these wartime conditions, with an enemy like this, you definitely cannot hold

any weapons exhibitions with large crowds of people, especially near residential buildings. As of now, ten people have been confirmed killed in this attack. My condolences to their families and loved ones. Many people were wounded and injured.

There were also extremely brutal Russian strikes on Slovyansk and other communities in the Donetsk region,

Kharkiv region, Kherson, Sumy region, Odesa, and the region. We know from our intelligence and our partners that the Russians have readied missiles for a new massive attack on Ukraine. The strike may take place today – we have preliminary information that it could happen within the next 48 hours. Please take care of yourselves and pay attention to air raid alerts.

Today, I held meetings with Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Mykhailo Drapatyi, Yevhenii Khmara was also there, as well as his Ministry of Defense team, other government officials, and Prime Minister of Ukraine Sergii Korynetskyi.

Read more: <https://www.president.gov.ua/en>

ART EXPERIENCE OF THE WEEK



Ferdinand Hodler
19.3.1822, Haminalahti
31.7.1906, Haminalahti
Pigs and Magpies, 1875
Finnish National Gallery Collection / Ateneum Art Museum
Photo: Finnish National Gallery / Hannu Aaltonen

George Orwell 1984 Part 37

'About fifteen. You may have to wait. I'll get there by another way. Are you sure you remember everything?'

'Yes.'

'Then get away from me as quick as you can.'

She need not have told him that. But for the moment they could not extricate themselves from the crowd. The trucks were still filing past, the people still insatiably gaping. At the start there had been a few boos and hisses, but it came only from the Party members among the crowd, and had soon stopped. The prevailing emotion was simply curiosity. Foreigners, whether from Eurasia or from Eastasia, were a kind of strange animal. One literally never saw them except in the guise of prisoners, and even as prisoners one never got more than a momentary glimpse of them. Nor did one know what became of them, apart from the few who were hanged as war-criminals: the others simply vanished, presumably into forced-labour camps. The round Mogol faces had given way to faces of a more European type, dirty, bearded and exhausted. From over scrubby cheekbones eyes looked into Winston's, sometimes with strange intensity, and flashed away again. The convoy was drawing to an end. In the last truck he could see an aged man, his face a mass of grizzled hair, standing upright with wrists crossed in front of him, as though he were used to having them bound

together. It was almost time for Winston and the girl to part. But at the last moment, while the crowd still hemmed them in, her hand felt for his and gave it a fleeting squeeze.

It could not have been ten seconds, and yet it seemed a long time that their hands were clasped together. He had time to learn every detail of her hand. He explored the long fingers, the shapely nails, the work-hardened palm with its row of callouses, the smooth flesh under the wrist. Merely from feeling it he would have known it by sight. In the same instant it occurred to him that he did not know what colour the girl's eyes were. They were probably brown, but people with dark hair sometimes had blue eyes. To turn his head and look at her would have been inconceivable folly. With hands locked together, invisible among the press of bodies, they stared steadily in front of them, and instead of the eyes of the girl, the eyes of the aged prisoner gazed mournfully at Winston out of nests of hair.

Chapter 2

Winston picked his way up the lane through dappled light and shade, stepping out into pools of gold wherever the boughs parted. Under the trees to the left of him the ground was misty with bluebells. The air seemed to kiss one's skin. It was the second of May. From somewhere deeper in the heart of the wood came the droning of ring-doves.

He was a bit early. There had been no difficulties about the journey, and the girl was so evidently experienced that he was less frightened than he would normally have been. Presumably she could be trusted to find a safe



place. In general you could not assume that you were much safer in the country than in London. There were no telescreens, of course, but there was always the danger of concealed microphones by which your voice might be picked up and recognized; besides, it was not easy to make a journey by yourself without attracting attention. For distances of less than 100 kilometres it was not necessary to get your passport endorsed, but sometimes there were patrols hanging about the railway stations, who examined the papers of any Party member they found there and asked awkward questions. However, no patrols had appeared, and on the walk from the station he had made sure by cautious backward glances that he was not being followed. The train was full of proles, in holiday mood because of the summery weather. The wooden-seated carriage in which he travelled was filled to overflowing by a single enormous family, ranging from a toothless great-grandmother to a month-old baby, going out to spend an afternoon with 'in-laws' in the country, and, as they freely explained to Winston, to get hold of a little black-market butter.

The lane widened, and in a minute he came to the footpath she had told him of, a mere cattle-track which plunged between the bushes. He had no watch, but it could not be fifteen yet. The bluebells were so thick underfoot that it was impossible not to tread on them. He knelt down and began picking some partly to pass the time away, but also from a vague idea that he would like to have a bunch of flowers to offer to the girl when they met. He had got together a big bunch and was smelling their faint sickly scent when a sound at his back froze him, the unmistakable crackle of a foot on twigs. He went on picking bluebells. It was the best thing to do. It might be the girl, or he might have been followed after all. To look round was to show guilt. He picked another and another. A hand fell lightly on his shoulder.

He looked up. It was the girl. She shook her head, evidently as a warning that he must keep silent, then parted the bushes and quickly led the way along the narrow track into the wood. Obviously she had been that way before, for she dodged the boggy bits as though by habit. Winston followed, still clasping his bunch of flowers. His first feeling was relief, but as he watched the strong slender body moving in front of him, with the scarlet sash that was just tight enough to bring out the curve of her hips, the sense of his own inferiority was heavy upon him. Even now it seemed quite likely that when she turned round and looked at him she would draw back after all.

HUMOUR ONE HUND- RED YEARS AGO

FREE TELEGRAM

Mac Carty from Aberdeen is visiting the U.S.A. One day he has to send a telegram to a relative. When he asks about the price at the telegraph office, he is told that the sender's name costs nothing. — Magnificent, says the scout. I am descended from an Indian chief and my name is Iwillarriveto-morow.

ON THE BEACH

Him: A week ago you had no idea that you would now be sitting on the beach with a man you didn't know at all. Her: Well, I probably did. Him: But dear little friend, you didn't know me then. She: No, but I knew myself

WOMEN'S CLOTHING

Nothing dresses a woman better than nothing.

NERVOUS LADY

An anxious, nervous woman, accompanied by her husband, approached the station inspector at a small outlying railway station and asked: "Has the quarter-past train leaving already?" »Yes, ten minutes ago,« was the reply. "When does the four-and-twenty train come?" »It takes quite a while.« »And before doss there are no trains at all?» "No." »And not any passenger trains?» "No." »Some freight train then?» »No, no trains at all.« "Is it absolutely safe?" »Yes, absolutely sure!« "Then, John, can we cross the track."

Mrs. BROWN

The pastor's wife is visiting Mrs. Brown and tells, among other things: - I just received a letter that my son received a scholarship. - I am really very happy. I understand your feelings so well. I used to feel exactly the same way, when our pig won first prize at the farm meeting.

HE NOTICED THE ERROR.

In a grammar lesson, the teacher wrote a deliberately incorrect sentence on the board, asking the students to tell him where the error was. The sentence was as follows: "The horse and cows goes in at the gate." The manly little boy immediately raised his hand. "Well, tell me what is wrong with it," the teacher said. The boy: "The women should go

in first."

ON A SINKING SHIP

the captain shouted: Can any of the passengers pray? Yes, I am a priest, I can pray, a frightened voice was heard from the crowd of bewildered passengers. —All right! shouted the captain, you may pray ... the others will take these lifebelts, because there are just one too few of these.

PESSIMIST.

A hasty grandfather, starting work on his farm early on Monday morning, quite irritable: "Yeah, yeah. It's already Monday morning and tomorrow is Tuesday and the day after tomorrow is Wednesday . . . the whole week is almost half over, and God forbid a stick has been put on the cross on this farm."

Astronomic picture of the week:



The Antenna Galaxies

The Antennae Galaxies (also known as NGC 4038 and 4039) are a pair of distorted colliding spiral galaxies about 70 million light-years away, in the constellation of Corvus (The Crow). This view combines ALMA observations, made in two different wavelength ranges during the observatory's early testing phase, with visible-light observations from the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope. Credit: ALMA (ESO/NAOJ/NRAO). Visible light image: the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

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WASA DAILY

A modern newspaper with a layout with features of the press of the 1870s. Back then, newspapers had only 4-8 pages. Lots of text, but no images at all, so there's a lot to read on a few pages. Our paper is one of the very few newspapers in English serving English-speaking inhabitants in the Osthrobotnia region The magazine contains quotations from old daily newspapers taken from the National Archives (digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi). 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

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WASA DAILY

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HOROSCOPE FOR JULY 2026

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

Aries (March 21 – April 19)
You're ready to conquer the world – just remember to put on real pants first. June brings you adventure (or at least a new brand of toothpaste). Romance is on the horizon, possibly involving someone who thinks your sweaty gym look is "natural and compelling."

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)
You crave stability, snacks, and soft blankets – and not necessarily in that order. In June, you may feel a strong urge to impulse-buy a cactus. Do it. Financially, you're fine as long as you don't walk past any store that sells vintage mugs.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)
This month your mouth works faster than your brain. Great for party banter, less great for job interviews. Love is playful and possibly confusing. Is it flirting, or just a shared obsession with crosswords? Time will tell. Or not.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)
Home is where your heart – and probably your laundry – is. In June, feelings run deep. You may cry at an

ad for breakfast cereal. That's okay. Your emotional radar is strong; use it to sniff out both love and passive-aggressive neighbors.

Leo (July 23 – August 22)
June puts you center stage, even if the audience is just your cat. You radiate charm. Someone falls for you this month – possibly a barista who accidentally writes your name right. Fortune favors the bold, so dare to try karaoke again.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22)
You've got lists for your lists, and that's great – until you accidentally alphabetize your sock drawer. This month urges you to loosen up. Take a walk without counting steps. Eat a cookie without Googling the ingredients. You might enjoy the chaos.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)
Balance is your thing, but June throws in a few wobbly surprises. You'll face a dilemma involving brunch and loyalty to your favorite café. Love could blossom – or at least send you a weird emoji. Watch for signs. Or just interpret all signs creatively.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)
Mysterious? Always. Brooding? Maybe. Overthinking a five-word text? Definitely. June turns up the heat, romantically and otherwise. Let people in – not everyone wants to steal your secrets. Some just want to know your Wi-Fi password.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)
You're itching to travel – even if it's just to the fancy supermarket across town. A spontaneous decision this month could lead to greatness. Or minor confusion. Either way, exciting! Love may come from a foreign land. Or a friend-of-a-friend's dog walker.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)
You work hard, dream big, and sometimes forget to blink. This month, remember: even empires need coffee breaks. Someone sees your potential – probably someone in HR. Love's possible if you stop trying to impress people with Excel spreadsheets.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)
You're five steps ahead, which explains why no one knows what you're talking about. In June, weird is your superpower. Embrace it. Someone special may finally "get" you. Or at least pretend convincingly. That counts.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)
You're dreaming of far-off lands and deep conversations with your houseplants. June is rich in imagination, slightly short on practicality. That's okay. Channel your magic into a new hobby – interpretive dance, perhaps? The universe approves.