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September 2023

JAUNPIEBALGA

NEWBALGA

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the better you get

THE
UPCOMING
SCHOOL
YEAR

**IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF,
YOU CAN ACHIEVE
ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING.**

GREAT HOPES FOR
THE FUTURE OF OUR
COUNTRY

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September 1st

The 1st of September also known as Knowledge Day is a special day for every student. Students come back from summer break to continue to learn. On this day, they meet their friends and classmates and see their teachers. Every school has different celebrations. Our school has a little concert, the principal's speech, and congratulations. This day is most special for 1st grade students and 12th grade students. For 12th grade this is their last first day in school, but for 1st grade, this is their very first day of school. So, 12th grade students bring 1st grade students to the celebration event. We each got 1-2 first graders, and hand-in-hand we walked them to the stage.

They all seemed very excited to be there in front of so many students, teachers, and parents. We gave each of them a balloon (many were popped just moments later) and some motivating words to encourage their journey. After the event, all students go to their first class with their class teacher to discuss the summer and the upcoming school year. It's safe to say that the 1st of September is one of the most exciting and motivating days for lots of people.

Written by Zanda Loginova



The initiation ceremony

The initiation ceremony (Fukši) is an event held every year for the 5th and 10th graders to welcome them into the new phase of school.

The 10th grade initiation was very interesting because it started early in the morning when the 11th graders entered the classroom and painted their faces with markers.

In the second part of the day they had 5 tasks. The first one was to drink shots or disgusting liquids like oil and water, raw egg and pepper, and water with mayonnaise and spices.

In the second task, they were divided into pairs and painted each other's faces with paint, like turtles, spiderman, minions, or superheroes.

In the third task, they had a "little shower". Everyone lined up, took a bucket or bowl in their hands, got their eyes covered, and tried to get the water from the beginning of the line to the end, pouring it over their heads into each other's bowls.

The fourth task involved rubber boots with mud, old food, and water, which smelled very bad. They had to put on both boots and run a small distance.

In the fifth and final task, they had to walk across two slippery ropes while water balloons were thrown at them.

When all the tasks were completed, the ten graders knelt down in front of the school and they were finally initiated by the eleven graders, who made them sign a vow that included, wishing the 11th-grade good luck in their exams and giving them dark chocolate right before exams, organizing their graduation event, not using illegal substances, etc. Everyone swore together by putting their nose print on the vows, which will stay in their classroom.

In the end, the day was a success, and the 10th graders were happy, although dirty because the initiation was over and they were all accepted into high school!

Written by Evelina Brikmane



The new government of Latvia



The new government of Latvia - changes and challenges. After a strong election campaign and because of many discussions, on September 15th a new government was formed in Latvia. We will take a look at this government, what its goals are, and what impact it will have on the future of the country.

The new government has set some key priorities. It plans to improve the healthcare and education system, as well as promote economic growth and sustainability. Their goal is also to fight corruption and promote openness in public administration. Both politicians and citizens express their hopes for changes and improvements in the state administration. "The new government brings great hopes for the future of our country," says politician Jānis Bērziņš. "Their priorities are exactly the areas where we need change."

However, there are also skeptics who believe that the new government will have to get used to the responsibility of public administration and deal with complex economic and social issues. Compared to the previous government, the new government has the support of a large majority. Its political goals and priorities are different, and this inspires hope for changes in national policy. The new government faces many challenges but also offers great potential for improvement. Its actions and decisions will be important not only for this generation but also for future ones. As difficult as it may be, the people of Latvia hope that the new government will be able to solve the country's problems and ensure the progress and prosperity of the country.

Written by Evelīna Brikmane



Motorsport



Motorsport is a very popular and universal sport. Nowadays it is developing a lot, in Latvia as well. There are a lot of competitions and championships. In recent years mini rally has gained a lot of popularity. To find out more about it, we asked one of this season's participants Atis Grībergs.

How your interest in motorsport began?

"My interest in motorsport began when I had a lot of friends in my friend group, who already were involved in this sport. I spent a lot of time with them driving in winter evenings along forest roads and I enjoyed it. "

How did you decide to participate directly in the mini rally?

"This idea was kind of spontaneous. My friend Mārcis and I were just driving around and then he asked me why don't we try participating in this mini rally. I said why not? His friends were already participating so they encouraged us. Mārcis already had driven in some competitions but alone, so he asked me because in mini rally there needs to be two people: one who drives other who reads the road. So, we started to look for the information, how to apply, what we have to do, and other stuff. "

What is the preparation process for the competition?

"The most important thing for preparation is to get the car technically ready. Before the season the engine must be serviced, and tires must be prepared. Participants must pass licenses and need a doctor's certificate that they are healthy. Also, you need equipment. In this mini rally, the only must is a helmet that is suitable. It takes a lot of time and money. You can practice driving on all kinds of roads to get a better feel for the car. As in any sport, the more you do, the better you get."





How did the competition go, what was the easiest and what was the hardest part?

"The competition took place in 5 separate stages in the 2023 season. There were Liepāja, Ropaži, Gulbene, Cēsis and Riga. There weren't really any easy things, because all the time there were some small problems and complications. The hardest part was to support all of it financially. Autosport, although this is only at the amateur level, is really expensive."

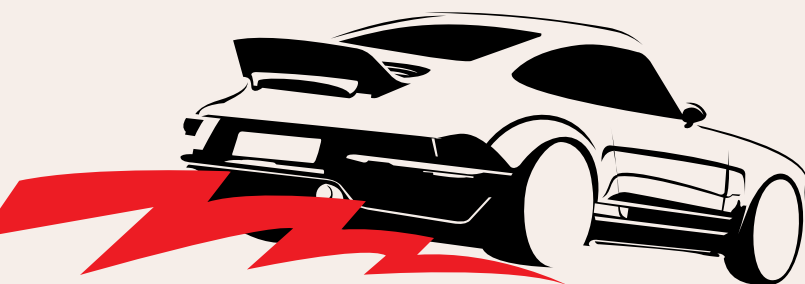
What was the most difficult part of the competition itself?

"In the competition, the hardest part is how long the day is, just in terms of waiting. It's hard because you have to get up early around 6.00 am and competitions end late. If you also have to wait for the podium, then it gets even more late. For example, in Cesis we had to wait for awards in the rain. It ended around 21.00 pm so it was a long day."

What do you plan to do in the future with motorsport?

"In the future, we will continue to compete in mini rallies. Also, will try to go outside of Latvia, for example, Estonia, Lithuania, and Poland, because there mini rallies are faster, more dangerous, and more interesting. The big dream is to compete in some bigger Latvian rallies and in the Latvian Championship. There's more money and also the car must have a secure framework. Motorsport is a very exciting and thrilling sport it is also very expensive."

Written by Zanda Loginova



Basketball World Cup



Latvia's Recent Basketball World Cup: A Journey of Determination and Hope. Basketball is a very common sports game in Latvia. But after this year's event, it will certainly be even more common. This is the first year the Latvian team got this far at the World Championships. We proved that a small country like ours is capable of everything by securing 5th place. During the tournament's group stage, Latvia displayed remarkable teamwork and individual skills. Dāvis Bertāns - is a brilliant shooter with a very accurate throw from a far distance. Jānis Timma - He's a fast and energetic player who can score with both throws and trips to the basket. Rolands Šmits- He's an experienced player who can lead the team and get points.

Anžejs Pasečņiks- He is a talented center player with great potential and the ability to block throws opponents. We were missing our biggest name, Kristaps Porzingis, our most famous Latvian basketball player, with outstanding height and strength, (but did not play this year, due to a foot injury). These are just some of the players who make up the Latvian national team. Together they make a strong and united team! But this year everyone's favourite player was Artūrs Žagars. Because he is a very young and talented player and he got the most performance matches of all championships! But we wouldn't have got that far without our coach! His name is Lukas Banki, he is Italian. He saw potential in Artūrs Žagars, while no one believed he was that good. When the championship started, in the first game we played, everyone saw how skillful is Artūrs, and started to respect the coach for his choices! And that is how we got that far this year! But in my opinion, our team would not have gotten this far if Latvian fans hadn't supported the team morally. We demonstrated our commitment to excellence. Enthusiasts eagerly anticipate their future moves on the international scene. I learned that if you believe in yourself, you can achieve absolutely anything.

Written by Kristers Ozols
and Artūrs Spiģis





Louis Tomlinson in Riga

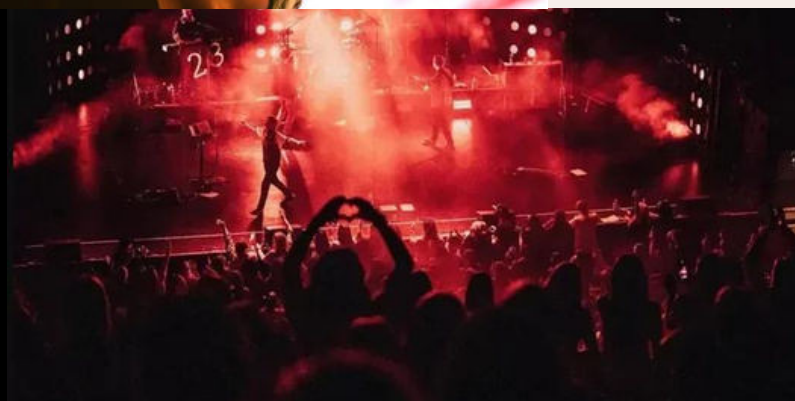
Louis Tomlinson is an English singer and songwriter. Tomlinson began his career appearing in television dramas before auditioning for the British music competition series *The X Factor* in 2010. After being eliminated as a solo performer, he was placed into a group with four other contestants, forming One Direction. One Direction became one of the best-selling boy bands of all time.

After the band went on a break, he didn't see himself as a solo artist, he still wanted to be a part of the band. For years he couldn't really find his place in the industry. Louis Tomlinson says his mission in music is not to write Hollywood songs about crazy love. He finds it boring. He grew up with bands like the Arctic Monkeys and Oasis, he believes they tell stories in an uplifting way. This is what Louis considers the fundamental value of music.

In 2020 he released his first solo album and it quickly became popular. During quarantine, he grew in popularity. Fans from One Direction days started to listen to his music, he also gained new fans, I also became a fan during this time. His fans are the most dedicated and passionate people ever, Louis is aware, he cares about his fans and is very thankful to them.

Tomlinson's second album, *Faith in the Future*, was released in November 2022. He went on a world tour for this album. I was shocked when I saw that he was coming to Latvia because not many artists come here. The odds that my favorite artist was going to perform here were small, but it did happen.

After almost a year of waiting since I bought tickets, the day of the concert has come. It's crazy that I will be able to hear my favorite songs live. I got to the venue an hour early to get a better view. I got closer than I thought I would. While we are waiting for Louis to come on stage, we hear the first beats of the opening song. Everyone is screaming! **WE FINALLY SEE LOUIS!!!** The concert was better than I expected. I never thought I would see my favorite singer at a concert, but I'm happy I did! After this concert going to concerts is one of my favorite things. So far this is my favorite concert that I have been to!



Written by Gerda Johansone

Hidden Knowledge

“Hidden Knowledge” is a fun trivia game that happens in person. The game is played in teams of 4-6 people. You can play with your family, friends, colleagues, or any other company you want. There are 10 themes, and each theme has 5 questions. The themes are very different in order to include more interests and people in one game the themes can go from fashion and music to basketball and geography. There also are some individual tasks as well. A family organizes this all they all are extremely enthusiastic about what they do, and I think that is the reason why people enjoy this game so much.

I (Gerda) have participated in this event multiple times. For the first 3 games I joined my dad and his colleagues, the fourth game I played with my grandparents and their friends, and the most recent time I played in a team with my friends, because we finally decided to participate together. In the first 2 games, we did very well and even got first and second place, the next ones we did not get a high place but it was fun anyway and that is the most important part of this event.

ATJAUTĪBAS UN JAUTRO MIRKĻU SPĒLE
APSLĒPTĀS ZINĀŠANAS

23.09. - JAUNPIEBALGĀ



For me (Līga), this was a totally new and different experience. This didn't have one theme so I got to experience what all the different themes are like. We invited one of our teachers Aiva Nebare to play with us so we would have at least one knowledgeable person. I feel like we got to know her much better during this game. My favourite theme was guessing classic Latvian songs written in emojis. I also enjoyed watching my teacher get on stage along with other people to fly a paper airplane as far as she could. Even though we scored 3rd from the bottom I still enjoyed spending my free time playing this trivia game. I definitely will participate again since the game made my whole evening!

Written by Gerda Johansone
and Līga Kīne





Dons

‘Dons also known as Artūrs Šingirejs is a Latvian musician and songwriter who proved his talent for the first time in 2003 by winning the Latvian reality show “Talent Factory”. When he used to live in London and Los Angeles, he adopted different stage names - Art Green and Art Singer. Now he is back with a new powerful and personal ballad, Dons returns to the audience with the song “Kingdom of Broken Spears”.

Till now he's released 8 solo albums, won numerous awards including Latvia's Radios Musical Bank “Song of the Year” four times, and has attempted to represent Latvia in the Eurovision Song Contest twice, finishing in second place both times. To get to this point in his music career he's gone a very long, difficult, responsible, and decision-filled road.



"Time is the greatest and most divine gift we have been given. In times, when you feel crushed and bent under pressure, the belief that time will heal and allow you to get back up can be the only thing that gives you strength. My song "Kingdom of Broken Spears" was written with this eternal question in mind" says Dons. Dons is an idol for many of us and his talent is indescribable, so be sure, we will hear a lot more from him very soon!

Written by Eliza Seržāne

“Should everything built really be demolished?”



Emīlija Benjamiņa

Emīlija Benjamiņa was a Latvian journalist, publisher and social worker. One of the most influential women of interwar period in Latvia, the publisher of the most requested newspaper "Jaunākās Ziņas" ("Latest News") (1911-1940) and the family magazine "Atpūta" ("Relaxation") (1924-1940). She has also published children's books. She has received several foreign and Latvian awards for her social activities.

On September 20, 2021, the premiere of the multi-episode feature film "Emīlija. Latvijas preses karaliene (Emīlija. Queen of the Latvian Press)" took place, which reflects Emīlijas Benjamiņa's life from the beginning of the magazine "Atpūta" to her death.

Recently I also watched this series and it inspired me to learn more about Emīlija Benjamiņa. She was a bold, self-confident and fearless woman. These qualities were an asset, why, especially men, did not like her, but Benjamiņa earned the respect, trust and power of others. This was one of the best present day Latvian films I've seen, because the characters were very vividly portrayed, it was easy to get attached to them and sympathize with them.

The book "Mīla. Benjamiņa" ("Love. Benjamiņa") has also been written about Emīlija Benjamiņa.

An interesting myth about Benjamiņa's life is that a well-known fortune teller of the time, Eižens Fīnk, predicted that she would starve to death after her rich and famous life. After the occupation of Latvia in 1940., all Benjamiņa's properties were nationalized. During the June 1941. deportations in Latvia, Benjamiņa was taken to Russia and imprisoned in the Usollaga penal camp, where she died of starvation on September 23, 1941.

In my opinion, Emīlija Benjamiņa lived ahead of her time. In a man's world, she reached the very heights.

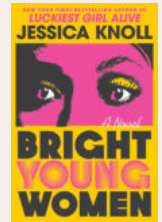
Written by Ance Rutka



Top 5 books and movies of September 2023



Things We Left Behind
(Knockemout, #3)
by Lucy Score



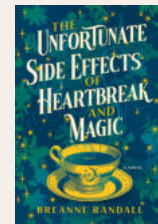
Bright Young Women
by Jessica Knoll



Assistant to the Villain (Assistant
to the Villain, #1)
by Hannah Nicole Maehrer



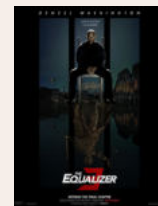
The Long Game (Long Game, #1)
by Elena Armas



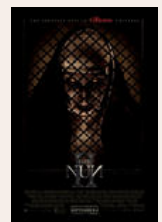
The Unfortunate Side Effects of
Heartbreak and Magic
by Breanne Randall



The Equalizer 3



The Nun II



A Haunting in Venice



My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3



Jawan

