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January 13, 2017

Bracing For Uncertainty

Donald J. Trump's inauguration as US president on Jan. 20 unnerves many in the world, especially Ukrainians. Fears are high that he will sell out Ukraine in a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump has already made a lot of enemies, who are firing back with what he dismisses as a vile smear campaign.

The geopolitical chessboard is moving in favor of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, who favored Donald J. Trump over Hillary Clinton as U.S. president. His aims this year may include getting a pro-Russian president elected in France and ousting Angela Merkel as German chancellor. (Kyiv Post)

Will Trump do Russia's bidding as US president?

**BY ISOBEL KOSHIW
AND VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA**
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Reflecting Ukraine's sense of isolation, confusion and worry over President-elect Donald Trump's Jan. 20 move into the White House, the Ukrainian presidential administration hired the Washington-based public relations firm BGR to help build ties with the new president's team.

It will take some effort, since Trump's admiration for Russian President Vladimir Putin and his seeming approval of Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea led many senior Ukrainian politicians to openly support Trump's Democratic

rival Hillary Clinton in the Nov. 8 presidential election. Ukraine may now have to pay for taking sides.

While several foreign leaders have been invited to Trump's inauguration, no top Ukrainian officials have received an invitation so far. Only Mykola Malomuzh, an adviser under disgraced former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, is reported to have been invited.

The contract with BGR, worth \$50,000 per month according to Reuters, is the first of its kind to have been signed between a

more **Trump** on page 8

What is behind calls to trade Crimea and Donbas for peace?

**BY OLEG SUKHOV
AND OKSANA GRYTSENKO**

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When U.S. President-elect Donald Trump takes office on Jan. 20, Ukraine will find itself in a more hostile international environment – one that could force Kyiv to take a more flexible stance on relations with

Russia, analysts say.

With Trump openly flirting with Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, the Kremlin could be emboldened to step up its war against Ukraine this year, and push for more concessions. Worse still, if Kremlin-friendly candidates win in the French and German elections, which are scheduled for this year,

more **War** on page 7

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Ukraine starts 2017 insecure about its European future

BY BERMET TALANT

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Three years after the EuroMaidan Revolution, Ukraine is not as close to Europe as most of its citizens would like to be. A free trade deal with the European Union is provisionally operating, while an association agreement is not fully ratified. Moreover, the E.U. still has not granted visa-free travel for Ukrainians.

Added to that, political developments in the United States and the E.U. could see a weakening of Western support for Ukraine, worsening the country's position in its ongoing war with Russia.

Free trade, open skies

The latest joint report by the European External Action Service and the European Commission, which was released in December, praised the progress that Ukraine has made over the last two years under very difficult circumstances. In particular, the commission lauded the reforms Ukraine carried out to tackle corruption, clean up its banking sector, secure energy independence and strengthen democracy and the rule of law.

As an acknowledgement of the success Ukraine's efforts, the E.U. pledged to continue to invest in its ongoing transition.

"We are hopeful that the next 600-million-euro tranche of macro financial assistance will be unlocked in early 2017 after Ukraine agrees to meet the remaining reform criteria," wrote Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission, in an article for the Baltic Rim Economies journal, which was published on Dec. 19.

Juncker also assured that he had been working with European Council President Donald Tusk to conclude the E.U.-Ukraine Association Agreement, which was rejected at a referendum in the Netherlands last



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (C), French President Francois Hollande (L) and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko (R) address a press conference following talks at the chancellery in Berlin on Aug. 24, 2015. (AFP)

April, putting it on hold indefinitely.

At the end of 2016, E.U. leaders in Brussels reached consensus on how to save the Association Agreement with a bill that Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte will be able to submit to the Dutch parliament, in return for the ratification of the agreement with Ukraine. The Netherlands wants to make it legally binding that the deal with Ukraine wouldn't oblige them to provide financial or military support, or guarantee its future membership in the E.U.

Taras Kachka, deputy executive director at Kyiv-based International Renaissance Foundation and former member of the Ukrainian negotiations group to the E.U., is optimistic that the deal will be ratified by the Dutch parliament this year. He believes a decision will be made before the general elections to the House of Representatives of the Netherlands in March, and then move to the Dutch Senate.

"The Netherlands took the responsibility of finalizing the ratification of the association agreement, and so far it can be safely said that it will be done," Kachka told the Kyiv Post. "From our side, we have to continue with the reforms stipulated in the agreement as well as approving the technical regulations and standardizations necessary for the integration of Ukrainian products and services in the European market."

Another accord that Ukraine has been waiting to be signed by the E.U. is the Common Aviation Agreement. The process has been delayed by a political dispute between the United Kingdom and Spain over Gibraltar's remaining in the E.U. after Brexit, the referendum that will lead to the U.K.'s withdrawal from the E.U.

Visa liberalization

Although 2016 ended with a big step forward in the announcement of agreement on a visa-free deal, it appears that Ukraine will have to wait another six months before it is

finalized.

The Dec. 15 vote in the European Parliament approved a mechanism for the suspension of visa-free regimes with Ukraine and Georgia – a necessary condition for the regime to come into effect. However, a date for final approval hasn't been set yet. Latest reports indicate it might not happen before summer.

Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty Brussels reporter Rikard Jozwiak wrote on Jan. 11 that Brussels expected Georgia to be granted visa-free travel by April-May, and Ukraine by May-June.



Marine Le Pen

This information corresponded with the words of Olena "Lana" Zerkal, Ukraine's deputy foreign minister for European Integration, who said a final decision on visa-free travel would be made before the presidential elections in France (first round set for April 23, with a run-off vote on May 7), and would come into effect after them.

"For us it's a matter of honor. Our ability to fulfill our obligations in the future depends on this decision," Zerkal said in an interview to European Truth website published on Jan. 10.

Political shifts in EU

Over the past two months, Ukraine, like pretty much the most of the world, has had to come to terms with the reality of Donald Trump, who has expressed admiration for Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, taking over the White House.

France, in particular, could weaken its support for Ukraine. One of the front-runners in the presidential race is far-right leader Marine Le Pen, whom Ukraine last week warned may be barred from entering the country for her comments about the legitimacy of Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Le Pen has repeatedly endorsed Putin's views. Moreover, she sees no future for France in the E.U., despite the country being one of its founding members. She has called for a return to a national currency for France and holding a referendum on leaving the union.

Another French presidential candidate, Francois Fillon, has been a longstanding supporter of Putin and favors lifting the E.U. economic sanctions imposed against Russia after the Kremlin's land grab in Crimea and war against the Donbas. The sanctions will stay in place at least until July 31, 2017.

Andreas Umland, senior research fellow of the Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation in Kyiv, thinks a Fillon presidency is more likely than a Le Pen one.

"The crucial question will be whether Fillon will succumb to the E.U.'s position on sanctions against Russia or try to change that position, and be ready to get into a confrontation over this issue with countries like Germany, Poland and Sweden," Umland told the Kyiv Post. "In the worst case, France could lead a group of countries like Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Slovakia, and Austria that will argue for a softening of the sanctions. A lot will depend on the position of the Trump administration on this issue." ■

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Biden to visit Ukraine again on Jan. 15

BY ALYONA ZHUK
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U.S. Vice President Joe Biden will visit Ukraine on Jan. 15 to meet Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko. His visit will come five days before the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 45th president of the United States.

The last time that Biden came to Ukraine was in early December 2015. He met Ukrainian leadership and addressed the Verkhovna Rada, giving a passionate anti-corruption speech.

During his tenure, Biden has shown support for Ukraine in countering Russia's war. He has also regularly urged Ukrainian officials to proceed with reforms and crack down on corruption.

President Petro Poroshenko's administration, in announcing Biden's visit to Ukraine, did not reveal any details about the visit.

Political analyst Taras Berezovets

told the Kyiv Post that Biden's visit would have two main tasks: summarizing the cooperation between Poroshenko and Obama administrations, and instructing Ukraine's leadership how to build relations with Trump's team. Berezovets noted that Biden was one of only two recent U.S. vice presidents (the other being Al Gore) to devote a large amount of time to U.S. relations with Ukraine. He also said that Biden would meet Poroshenko behind closed doors, and details of most of their discussion won't be made public.

The last high-level U.S. official to visit Ukraine was Republican U.S. Senator John McCain, who came in December, a year after Biden, and spent New Year's Eve in Ukraine's eastern war zone with President Petro Poroshenko. After visiting a military base in Shyrokyne, a town in Donetsk Oblast 800 kilometers southwest from Kyiv, McCain said that "in 2017 we will defeat the



U.S. Vice President Joe Biden waves ahead of his meeting with President Petro Poroshenko Kyiv on Dec. 7, 2015. He will make his 5th visit to Ukraine on Jan. 15 since the 2013-14 EuroMaidan Revolution. (AFP)

invaders and send them back where they came from." "To Vladimir Putin – you will never defeat the Ukrainian people

and deprive them of their independence and freedom," McCain said.

While Biden's visit to Ukraine will be one of his last foreign trips as vice president, President Barack Obama is the first U.S. president not to visit Ukraine since it became independent in 1991.

President-elect Donald J. Trump had not been especially favored by Ukrainians due to his sympathy for the Russian president and allegations of Kremlin interference to help his victory in the Nov. 8 election. Trump himself made numerous statements throughout the election race that appeared to put Russia's interests ahead of Ukraine's.

After Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20, Biden will be replaced by Mike Pence. During the vice presidential debates with U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine, Pence blamed former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's and Obama's weak foreign policy for Russia's invasion of Ukraine. ■

At least 22 Ukrainian soldiers killed in Russia's war in December-January

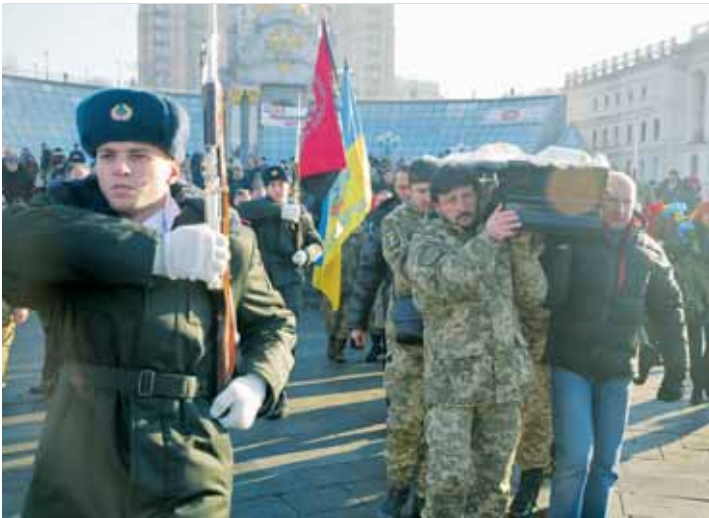
BY OLENA GONCHAROVA
GONCHAROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

The Ukrainian army captured new positions in the rebel-held parts of Donbas over the last month, while suffering many casualties in the last days of 2016.

Heavy battles near the town of Svitlodarsk in Donetsk Oblast during Dec. 18-22 were dubbed the bloodiest in the past five months, claiming the lives of at least nine Ukrainian servicemen, and leaving some 35 soldiers wounded.

"Their infantry troops marched on our positions. It was a full-scale attack, not just a reconnaissance operation," Andriy Ishchyk, press officer of the 54th brigade, told the Kyiv Post about the fighting near Svitlodarsk. "Our guys started a counter-attack and attacked them from the flank. As a result, we captured new positions."

Read the full story at www.kyivpost.com



Men carry the coffin of Volodymyr Andreshkiv, a soldier of the 54th mechanized brigade, who was killed in fighting near the town of Svitlodarsk in Donetsk Oblast. People paid tribute to Andreshkiv on Kyiv's Maidan Nezalezhnosti on Dec. 22. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Roman Mamasuyev	Oleksandr Moroz	Sergiy Kabanov
Leonid Provodenko	Vitaliy Chystov	Ihor Klymyuk
Oleksandr Lukash	Mykhailo Pokydychenko	Andriy Lelyakin
Volodymyr Sholomynsky	Viktor Kliemenko	Mykyta Yarovy
Andriy Baibuz	Dmytro Klymenko	Serhiy Rubanchykov
Serhiy Stepanenko	Volodymyr Andreshkiv	Vasyl Panasenko
Vsevolod Ratushny	Oleksandr Vinyarsky	

Editorials

No appeasement

In late 2013, former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich tried to crush Ukrainians' dream of joining the civilized world by backing out of an association deal with the European Union. Since then, Ukrainians have been fighting for their European dream, first on the barricades in Kyiv, and then on the war front in the Donbas.

The war with Russia is not just about the technicalities of the association agreement. It is about a civilizational choice between being part of a murderous totalitarian empire, or part of the free world.

Three years after Yanukovich's downfall, billionaire oligarch Victor Pinchuk is proposing that Ukraine abandon its dream and drop plans to join NATO and the European Union. He says that Ukraine should appease the aggressor by recognizing its annexation of Crimea de facto, if not de jure, and agreeing to elections in the Russian-occupied Donbas, which would legitimize the Kremlin's puppets there.

Pinchuk's plan is not just a betrayal of those whose blood was spilled during the EuroMaidan Revolution of 2013-14 and the 10,000 who lost their lives in the war instigated by Russia. It is also utterly naive and illogical, despite its professed pragmatism and realism.

First: any deal with Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, a cynical and shameless liar, is not worth the paper it is written on. No amount of concessions or agreements will guarantee that Russia will cease its war against Ukraine and will not proceed to grab another piece of Ukrainian territory.

Second: as Benjamin Franklin said, those who sacrifice liberty for security will have neither. Abandoning the principles of Ukraine's territorial integrity and its uncompromising opposition to Russian aggression for the sake of pragmatic considerations entails the nation becoming morally bankrupt.

And if Ukraine gives up its moral integrity, it will only invite more bullying from the Kremlin. Historically, appeasement has never worked.

Third: Ukraine's realism should consist not in kneeling before the Kremlin but in becoming stronger in the face of aggression: further bolstering its military, building a sustainable economic base for the war effort through free-market reforms, introducing the rule of law, and driving out a corrupt, irresponsible and traitorous elite.

When Ukraine becomes stronger, it will not have to bow either to Putin or to incoming U.S. President Donald Trump. Neither will it have to beg for admission to the free world – it will have earned a place by right.

Hope for Ukraine

For optimists, Ukraine could find hopeful signs in the confirmation hearing of Rex Tillerson, the Exxon-Mobil chief executive who is U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's choice for secretary of state. If he follows through on his Senate testimony, it's possible – but not certain – that the U.S. policy of support for Ukraine and sanctions will continue against Russia for its war and annexation of Crimea.

No one knows, of course, because wild-card Trump is such a narcissist that he will likely base foreign policy on whether he likes a foreign leader or the foreign leader likes him, rather than national interests. And no one knows whether Tillerson means what he says.

But Tillerson at least said the right words when he condemned Russia for its military invasion and annexation of Crimea, his recognition that the peninsula belongs to Ukraine and his correct assessment of the West's weak response to Russian aggression. He said that the United States and NATO should have had a more muscular response to the Kremlin's land grab in Crimea. He said he would have advised Ukraine to mass their military might on the eastern border with Russia. He said he favored supplying Ukraine with modern defensive weapons, backed by air surveillance from the West. Instead, the West's weak response to the Crimean takeover invited Russia to instigate war in the eastern Donbas.

Seemingly in response, outgoing U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry spoke at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 11 and said that the Barack Obama administration responded much more strongly to Russia's war against Ukraine than the George W. Bush administration did to Russia's war against Georgia in 2000. Trump, in his Jan. 11 press conference, said it's far from certain that he and Russian President Vladimir Putin will get along. These may be thin reeds of hope, but that's what we have so far in 2017.



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Reformer of the week

Oleksandr Danyliuk

Finance Minister Oleksandr Danyliuk on Jan. 11 backed the liquidation of Ukraine's notoriously corrupt and repressive tax police.

The tax police, which had routinely cracked down on and blocked the operations of businesses, was liquidated on Jan. 1 due to a mistake in the text of a law passed last year. Danyliuk said that the mistake should not be corrected and that he would submit legislation to replace the Soviet-style tax police with a financial police force modeled on Western agencies.

Danyliuk was also one of the few members of the government to oppose the sabotage of electronic asset declarations for officials last year.

He has advocated reducing the size of government and is a co-founder of the Kakha Bendukidze Center, a free-market think tank.

Danyliuk has also promoted a reform that seeks to introduce tax breaks for businesses and reduce corruption in tax collection, including value added tax refunds.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian authorities have also introduced an anti-reformist taxation measure on Jan. 1, when a new tax was imposed for unprofitable sole proprietorships. As a result, more than 100,000 sole proprietorships have already been closed.

— Oleg Sukhov



Anti-reformer of the week

Maxim Stepanov

President Petro Poroshenko on Jan. 12 appointed Maxim Stepanov as governor of Odesa Oblast to replace ex-Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili.

Stepanov, who was allegedly chosen with procedural violations in the competition for the job, is an ex-deputy of Yuriy Kravchenko, a suspect in the murder of journalist Georgy Gongadze. Kravchenko was a former interior minister and former tax chief who died from two gunshot wounds to the head in 2005, the same day he was supposed to give testimony in the 2000 murder of Gongadze. Four police officials under Kravchenko's command are serving prison sentences for the assassination that ex-President Leonid Kuchma is suspected of ordering. The Presidential Administration could not be reached for immediate comment.

Odesa-based media have reported that Stepanov was set to win because he is a protégé of Poroshenko and his top allies and lawmakers Ihor Kononenko and Serhiy Berezhenko, and is also close to tycoon Ihor Kolomoisky. Critics, including Health Minister Ulana Suprun and Infrastructure Minister Volodymyr Omelyan, have dismissed ongoing competitions for state jobs under the new civil service law as rigged procedures used by corrupt vested interests to promote government loyalists. For example, Oleksiy Takhtai, an official who features in video footage where a corrupt deal is discussed, became the Interior Ministry's state secretary in November.

Odesa activists, including Pavlo Polamarchuk, argue that corrupt and pro-Russian officials are making a comeback in Odesa Oblast, while corruption schemes are being restored at the police, prosecution service and customs after the resignation of Saakashvili and his team in November.

— Oleg Sukhov



VOX
populi

WITH ELENA SERDYUK



Do you think that Ukraine should cede Donbas and give up its claim to Crimea to end Russia's war?



Ruslan Yablonsky,
chemical technologies student

"I'm undecided. If we give up Donbas, then should we, say, after Donbas

give up Odesa and Kharkiv as well? Should we give up all of the regions where we have problems, and then will everything be great? We always think that if there are any issues, they drag us all down, the entire country. I think Ukraine's problems won't be solved if we give up Donbas."



Nina Kovalevska,
state employee

"I think that we shouldn't give it up. Donbas is Ukraine as well, and people are dying there for us. I see so much suffering there on TV, how hard people's lives out there are, so I think we should bring (Donbas) back into Ukraine as soon as possible. By no means should we give it up."



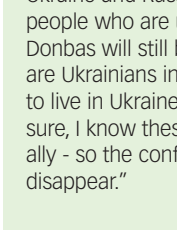
Kyrlo Kozytsky,
stock broker

"Ceding Donbas is a no. No way should we give up Donbas, but I don't think that it would be appropriate to support them economically after their scandalous referendum. If people decided they don't want to live in Ukraine, then they don't want to live in Ukraine, fine. However, economic support of these people should be terminated."



Kateryna Maynina,
painter

"(Ukraine's borders) should remain intact. And as far as I know, people in Donbas are tired. Of course there are differing opinions, but a lot of people want to return (to Ukraine) - a lot of people move here (from there)."



Anastasiya Gritsayenko,
finance student

"Even if Ukraine cedes Donbas to Russia, in general nothing will change. The conflict between

Ukraine and Russia will remain, people who are unhappy in Donbas will still be left there. There are Ukrainians in Donbas who want to live in Ukraine - I know this for sure, I know these people personally - so the conflict certainly won't disappear."

Ukrainians familiar with Trump-style politicians



VERONIKA
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While watching U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's press conference on Jan. 11, I finally understood why Americans voted for him as the 45th president of the United States. Trump attacked the "biased media" and made strange promises such as "Mexico will pay for the wall, but it will be reimbursed by the U.S."

I've heard odd rhetoric like this before.

When his attorney Sheri Dillon said that Trump was not going to sell his multibillion-dollar business empire, but will put it in a blind trust, as "selling (the businesses) would not eliminate possibilities of conflicts of interest," it all fell into place for me.

Trump is a typical Ukrainian-style politician - an emotional, rude, self-centered and charismatic populist. I see him as America's first oligarch.

In Ukraine, we keep electing populists and oligarchs and suffer the consequences later. We have already pretty good survival skills and have got used to tough living conditions and corruption.

I understood why Americans chose Trump. He wasn't a typical politician of the type that people have tired of. That's why they went for the candidate who promised to make America great again.

In 2014, I and millions other Ukrainians, made the same choice, and voted for a guy who promised the same for Ukraine.

"Live in a new way!" said the campaign slogan of Petro Poroshenko, a business mogul and billionaire - the



U.S. President-elect Donald Trump speaks at his press conference on Jan. 11 in New York. (AFP)

owner of the Roshen Confectionary Corporation, Channel 5, the Leninska Kuznya shipyard, an international investment bank, and much more.

As of May 2015, Poroshenko's net worth was about \$720 million, but back then he promised he would sell his businesses so that he could concentrate on making Ukraine prosperous.

As a voter, I decided to vote for Poroshenko partly because he, as a successful businessman, seemed to be a good manager. His desire to sacrifice his cozy billionaire's lifestyle to serve the country, and his promise to end Russia's war against Ukraine in the Donbas within a year, as well as reclaim Crimea from the Kremlin, won over post-revolutionary Ukrainians.

Furthermore, we had no other options. His main competitor was the crooked Yulia Tymoshenko, an ex-prime minister, ex-gas queen and Batkivshchyna Party leader - a member of the very political elite

that Ukrainians had just overthrown.

But almost as soon as Poroshenko became Ukraine's fifth president, he forgot about most of his promises: while he indeed placed Roshen in a blind trust, it took him two years to confirm he had done so. Meanwhile, according to the Panama Papers leak, he started to use shady off-shore schemes, and he has publicly refused to sell his TV station, Channel 5.

He positioned himself a fighter against the oligarchy, but during his presidency his wealth has increased by more than \$100 million, to \$858 million, according to the Forbes.ua ranking of the wealthiest Ukrainians in 2016.

Then there's the wall.

Arseniy Yatsenyuk, the ex-prime minister, was "tough on Russia" to the point of promising to build a wall between the two nations.

Our wall would have been cheaper than Trump's proposed wall on the Mexican border, which would cost

\$12 billion, according to the BBC. It was estimated that Yatsenyuk's wall would cost only \$29 million. Construction started in 2014 on the three-meter high fence and deep trench along Ukraine's border with Russia, but the National Anti-Corruption Bureau has already opened up an investigation into a case of embezzlement involving funds to build it.

Trump has so much in common with Ukrainian politicians - not only in populist ambitions, but also in his contempt for free speech and journalists.

Sure we get facts wrong, and regret our mistakes. But top politicians should have respect for our role in democracy.

Instead, Trump argues with journalists and insults them, calls Buzzfeed "a failing pile of garbage" and, in general, denigrates those who dare criticize the great narcissist.

The same happens in Ukraine. I recall a Poroshenko press conference in 2015, when he noted that Hromadske.TV reporter Khrystyna Bondarenko, who used to work for the president's Channel 5, had had a bigger audience while working for his channel.

I could continue to draw parallels between Trump and Ukrainian politicians - such as hiring relatives and business partners for government posts, disrespecting women, and other outrages.

So: America will soon have its first Ukrainian-style oligarch president. Maybe the unpredictable Trump will surprise us all, keep his promises, and really make America great again.

But I doubt it. From Ukraine's experience, I know that when people elect an oligarch, they should be prepared for years of disappointment, shady deals and scandal. ■

Much more investment needed to reach Ukraine's 2020 renewable energy target

BY NATALIE VIKHROV
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In 2014, Ukraine set itself the target of generating 11 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.

With only three years left to deadline, Ukraine is not even halfway to that goal, even though experts say there has been promising development in the sector.

Renewable energy in the electricity sector accounts for only 1.22 percent of the generating mix. In total, renewables account for around 4.8 percent of the energy generating sector.

While the Ukrainian Association of Renewable Energy says foreign interest is there, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development believes the current investor climate needs improvement if Ukraine is to have any chance of hitting the 11 percent mark.

Oleksiy Orzhel, head of the Ukrainian Association of Renewable Energy, said that in the past year the association has met with potential Lithuanian, Armenian, Spanish and German investors interested in hydro and wind energy projects.

Crimea a big loss

Some of the talks were promising, Orzhel said, but the annexation of Crimea, which had vast wind and solar resources, has somewhat reduced Ukraine's renewable energy potential. The 2014 plans, he said, had failed to account for the annexation, and the 11 percent target has not been revised.

"Because Crimea is still Ukrainian territory... from a juridical point of view, we can't even change the numbers," he said.

At the same time, incentives for investors, such as green tariff rates to commission new projects

in the renewable energy sector, are decreasing each year, Orzhel said.

The incentive has been responsible for attracting the interest of foreign investors, including Turkish venture Atlas Global Energy. The investment company plans to inject 20 million euros into a wind power plant in Lviv Oblast.

Enis Fakioglu, one of the Atlas Global Energy's founding partners, said the appeal of the investment lay in the feed-in-tariff rates set for renewable energy investments in Ukraine, which will be paid until 2030.

The investment company expects to receive 10.14 eurocents per kWh.

"(That)... is (an) attractive amount, provided we have very good wind speeds at the Skole area," Fakioglu said. "And the local administrations are supporting us quite well,"

Tariff incentives

Marina Petrov, deputy country director for Ukraine of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, said the number of investors in renewable projects in Ukraine could be much higher if three key changes were made.

She said the current tariff scheme, set until 2030, was among a number of issues that stand in the way of attracting more foreign investors. Petrov said although 2030 appeared to be a remote date, most upcoming projects will require 10 to 20 years to implement.

The EBRD, which has invested more than 200 million euros in renewable energy projects in the country, is currently discussing with the Verkhovna Rada potential new regimes for future investors.

"In a nutshell, people who are looking at investing now, most probably will be looking at a regime that



A wind power plant in Crimea opened in 2006. Renewable energy experts say Russia's annexation of Crimea, which had great wind and solar resources, is a big loss for the industry. (UNIAN)

will replace the existing one," Petrov said.

She said other issues include the energy market's reluctance to sign long-term power purchase agree-

ments and difficulty in obtaining land and connection approvals.

Although the wind and solar industry tends to be more attractive to foreign investors, the country's bioener-

gy sector is currently the dominant one in terms of development.

Bioenergy to grow

Biomass was used in the heating of 13 percent of private housing in 2015, with that figure forecast to grow to 25 percent by 2020. For electricity production, however, it accounted for only 0.08 percent of the power generated in 2015.

Georgiy Geletukha, head of the Bioenergy Association of Ukraine, says the industry is primarily funded by domestic investors, but it accounts for more than 80 percent of the renewable energy sector.

Biomass is derived from organic materials, such as agricultural waste.

Geletukha said the use of biomass for electricity production in Ukraine is minuscule, with most of its potential being realized in the heating industry. He said that because of Ukraine's rich agriculture industry, the country has a higher proportion of bioenergy production in renewables than in most EU countries.

Bioenergy production in Ukraine already stands at the equivalent of around three billion cubic meters. And data shows that the total primary energy supply from biofuels and waste is increasing by 26 percent a year.

Geletukha said that although figures for 2016 are yet to be released, he expects that actual development of biomass will exceed the forecast growth due to the previous year's price increase on natural gas.

Geletukha agrees that the 2020 renewable energy target is unlikely to be reached, even at the current growth rate of biomass. But he believes that the resource could help the Ukrainian government stop importing natural gas – which would be vital in securing Ukraine's overall energy security. ■

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Few believe that Kremlin will live up to peace deal

War from page 1

Ukraine's position will be weakened further.

Perhaps in anticipation of such reversals, Ukrainian billionaire oligarch Viktor Pinchuk has already come up with a comprehensive plan of concessions: abandoning Kyiv's intentions to join NATO and the European Union, recognizing Russia's annexation of Crimea de facto, and agreeing to elections in the Russian-occupied Donbas.

But analysts argue that accepting Pinchuk's ideas would be suicide for Ukrainian authorities, and could even trigger a revolution or coup d'état. Critics have accused the oligarch of working for the Kremlin, which he denies.

"Kyiv will enjoy less priority and preferential treatment than under (incumbent U.S. President Barack) Obama's administration," Balazs Jarabik, a scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, told the Kyiv Post. "Thus, there will be more emphasis and pressure on reconciliation."

He added that thoughts about a "grand bargain" with Russia were far-fetched due to pressure from the U.S. political elite.

Pinchuk's plan

In a Dec. 29 op-ed for the Wall Street Journal, Pinchuk suggested that "Ukraine should consider temporarily eliminating European Union membership from our stated goals for the near future." He also argued that Ukraine should not "join NATO in the near- or mid-term."

Rolling back sanctions imposed on Russia for its war against Ukraine should also be part of the deal, according to Pinchuk.

Moreover, "Crimea must not get in the way of a deal that ends the war in the east on an equitable basis" — a proposal that would de facto recognize Putin's annexation of Crimea.

Pinchuk also suggested that Ukraine should accept local elections in the Russian-occupied Donbas even before Ukraine has full control over this territory. Pinchuk's critics say this is tantamount to Ukraine autho-



Welders fix a gas pipe in an apartment building in Svitlodarsk in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk Oblast on Dec. 24. This house was damaged by shelling on the previous day as a result of massive fighting between Russian-backed forces and Ukrainian soldiers. In April, Russia's war will be three years old. (Anastasia Vlasova)

rising Kremlin-orchestrated sham elections and legitimizing Russia's puppets in the Donbas.

"I do think Pinchuk was testing the waters," Jarabik said. "He understands that Ukraine needs to make some compromises, but I do also think he got those compromises wrong."

Pinchuk is the son-in-law of ex-President Leonid Kuchma, who represents Ukraine in the Minsk peace talks.

More details

Vasyl Filipchuk, head of the International Center for Prospective Research and an ex-diplomat under former President Viktor Yanukovich, put forward more detailed proposals on a deal with Russia in an article for the apostrophe.ua news website on Jan. 4. He suggested that Ukraine officially become a neutral, non-aligned country.

Other proposals by Filipchuk include introducing a free trade

and visa-free regime among the E.U., Ukraine and Russia, leasing the Sevastopol military base to Russia for 99 years, introducing joint Russian-Ukrainian governing of Crimea, and holding a referendum on whether it should be part of Russia or Ukraine in 20 years. He also called for stepping up economic cooperation with Russia and allowing Russia to buy Ukrainian defense and other firms.

Trump-Putin deal

Analysts argue that the proposals by Pinchuk and Filipchuk could have been inspired by negotiators in Moscow and Washington.

"Trump's administration is looking for opportunities to reset relations with the Kremlin," political analyst Taras Berezovets told the Kyiv Post. "They need any voices that would call for abolishing sanctions against Russia."

He also said that "there are some people in Russia who could have advised Pinchuk (on the plan), saying he could earn a pardon from the Russian authorities."

Poroshenko's response

Kostyantyn Yeliseyev, a deputy head of the Presidential Administration, responded to Pinchuk's op-ed on Jan. 4, saying that "reversal in European and Euro-Atlantic integration" would be a "surrender of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine."

He also said that "no trade in the territory of Ukraine, be it Donbas or Crimea" was possible, and that no elections could be allowed in the Russian-occupied Donbas "while Russian boots are on Ukraine's soil."

"The Kremlin would definitely like Ukrainian hands to legalize its hybrid occupation and puppet regimes in Donbas," he said. "No one should fall into this trap."

Though Poroshenko's administra-

tion has rejected Pinchuk's plan, the Ukrainian president's negotiating stance with Russia and the United States will have to be more flexible under Trump, political analyst Volodymyr Fesenko argued.

Berezovets said that "we can't rule out that Ukraine will be forced to take back (the Russian-occupied Donbas) under unfavorable conditions."

Third Maidan

Analysts argue that Poroshenko is unlikely to agree to Pinchuk's proposals because their implementation could trigger a major backlash from society, possibly even leading to his overthrow.

"There are many people in the Ukrainian establishment who support Pinchuk's ideas," Berezovets said. "But any politician who says this publicly will become a political corpse."

He argued that following Pinchuk's plan could "trigger a third Maidan (revolution) or a military coup attempt by volunteer units and war veterans."

The proposals have already prompted a negative reaction from the public.

Pinchuk's plans "have always been Putin's main ideas in promoting the 'Russian world,'" Aider Mudzhabayev, a vice president of the ATR Crimean Tatar channel, said in his blog on Dec. 30.

Frontline mood

Ten days before Pinchuk offered his plan, fighting abruptly escalated near the town of Svitlodarsk in Donetsk Oblast, killing five Ukrainian soldiers just in one day on Dec. 18. The increase in fighting showed how shaky the situation is on the war front. Up to 20 soldiers were killed in combat December, with about half of them in the Svitlodarsk area.

Soldiers at the war front have

started comparing those events with Ukraine losing the city of Debaltsevo and more than 100 of its soldiers in February 2015.

And civilians who had to spend their Christmas holidays repairing damage from shelling to their houses were adamant that the war would not end soon.

"It's hard, it's unpleasant to hear these boom-boom sounds, but what can we do until those at the top reach agreement?" Kateryna Kovalchuk, a 54-year-old mother of many children in the village of Luhanske, told the Kyiv Post.

Both soldiers and civilians shared the belief that Russia could escalate the war before Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration in order to get a better bargaining position.

Likely escalation

A Dec. 21 report by the Ukrainian Institute for the Future outlined three possible scenarios for U.S.-Russia relations this year. If Trump trades Ukraine in exchange for agreements in the Middle East, Ukraine may lose some of its financial support from the United States, and face more pressure to fully implement the Feb. 11, 2015 Minsk ceasefire deal - on Russian terms. If they don't come to an agreement, Russia may launch a full-scale attack to capture the whole territory of the Donbas, the report said.

The Ukrainian authorities may also want to see a limited escalation in the war zone to unite society, distract it from corruption scandals, and get more financial support from the West, the report said.

Still under-equipped

Almost three years since Russia started its war against Ukraine, the Ukrainian military is much better organized, trained and equipped than it was in 2014. Still, many Ukrainian soldiers have low motivation and discipline and are using obsolete Soviet weapons, said Vyacheslav Tseluiko, a military expert at the Center for Army, Conversion and Disarmament Studies.

In 2016 more than 50 percent of Ukraine's war casualties were caused not by fighting but by servicemen stepping on their own mines, careless handling of weapons, car accidents, suicides and alcoholism.

Tseluiko said that the Ukrainian forces would be able to defend their positions in the Donbas for quite a long time, but if Russia decides to attack across the border in other places, it would be much harder to defend the country.

There are signs that the Kremlin could be preparing for just such attacks: Russia has finished the construction of a military base in Belgorod Oblast, about 100 kilometers from Kharkiv, a Ukrainian city far from the war zone.

"In the case of a full-scale invasion from all sides, Ukrainian troops will have big problems. It will be not a continuous front-line, but rather a focal defense of some places like Kharkiv," Tseluiko said. ■



Billionaire Victor Pinchuk, founder of Yalta European Strategy, and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton attend the YES conference in Yalta, Ukraine in 2013. Donald Trump spoke by video link in 2015. (YES)

Ukraine worries about Trump’s admiration for Vladimir Putin

Trump from page 1

Washington-based firm and the current Ukrainian presidential administration, which seeks to retain America’s support for Ukraine in defending against Russia’s war.

The Trump administration could usher in a new era for U.S.-Ukraine relations – and possibly a sharp break from the close relationship that Ukraine enjoyed with the Barack Obama administration, when U.S. Vice President Joe Biden played a key role in fostering the bilateral relationship. Biden will make his final visit to Ukraine as vice president on Jan. 15.

Meanwhile, Trump’s relationship with Russia came under further scrutiny this week when a document allegedly written by an ex-British intelligence highlighted allegedly compromising material against Trump when he stayed at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Moscow in 2013. The document claimed that

Russian secret services may have filmed Trump engaging in kinky sex acts with prostitutes to potentially blackmail the president-elect. Trump tweeted that the document was “fake news.”

It won’t be same

Anton Sestritsyn, a political analyst and the acting director of the International Council in Support of Ukraine, described the contract with BGR as a positive but tardy development.

Sestritsyn said Ukraine’s Foreign Ministry now has much to do. It has to “do its homework and search for ways to connect with the new U.S. administration,” he said.

“The prolongation of U.S. sanctions against Russia fully depends on the Ukrainian government’s capacity to mend relations with the new U.S. president and his team.”

Mariana Betsa, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesperson, told the Kyiv Post on Jan. 11 that the min-

istry would not comment Ukraine’s efforts to build ties with the new U.S. presidential administration until after Trump’s inauguration.

Brian Mefford, a U.S. political consultant working in Ukraine, told the Kyiv Post that “before (Poroshenko’s team) didn’t need the extra help, because U.S. President Barack Obama and Biden “took an active interest in Ukraine. They could always get Biden on the phone.”

But President Petro Poroshenko insulted and angered Trump during the campaign, Jason Smart, an international political consultant working for an anti-corruption nongovernment organization in Ukraine, told the Kyiv Post. Smart was referring to the “Black Ledger” - an alleged record of off-the-books payments made by Yanukovych’s Party of Regions. It included the name of Trump’s former campaign manager Paul Manafort, who resigned shortly after the public release of the alleged multimillion-dollar payments to him.



Russia’s President Vladimir Putin and ExxonMobil chairman and CEO Rex Tillerson (L) attend at a signing ceremony of an agreement between state-controlled Russian oil company Rosneft and ExxonMobil in the Black Sea port of Tuapse on June 15, 2012. (AFP)

“Trump doesn’t care what happens in Ukraine. He cares about what (they) did to him. About how (they) tried to stop him becoming president,” Smart said.

Trump’s circle

Trump has continued to praise Putin since the election, tweeting on Jan. 7 that “only stupid people or fools” would think that having a good relationship with Russia was a bad thing.

His nominees for posts in his cabinet and the presidential executive office comprises a mixture of Putin and Ukraine supporters, as well as those who have only hinted at where they stand.

General James Mattis has been put forward as secretary of defense. Mattis has said that Russia’s actions in Ukraine are “much more severe” and “more serious” than viewed by the U.S. or Europe. Also, there is “Russia hawk” Dan Coats, a nominee for director of national intelligence whom Russia banned in 2014, and John Kelly, nominee for secretary of homeland security, who has singled out Russia as a threat to the United States for its cold war tactics.

Less influential potential cabinet members who are pro-Ukraine are Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, and Secretary of Energy Rick Perry.

However, plenty of nominees for arguably more powerful positions have expressed their support for rebuilding ties with Russia and their general admiration of Putin and his style of leadership.

These include the nominee for U.S. secretary of state, Rex Tillerson - the former CEO of U.S oil company ExxonMobil. He is said to be personally close to Putin and has advocated the removal of U.S. sanctions against Russia over the war in Ukraine. Tillerson’s nomination is coming under resistance from U.S. Republican Senator Marco Rubio, who has said he has not decided whether to support Tillerson. Republicans have a one-vote majority on the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee.

Other pro-Putin heavyweights are Ryan Zinke, nominee for secretary of the interior, and Senator Jeff Sessions

as attorney general. Zinke has said that Putin is a stronger leader than outgoing U.S. President Barack Obama, and cited as Putin’s successes the illegal annexation of Crimea and spreading Russian influence in Ukraine. Sessions has also advocated mending diplomatic relations with Russia.

General Michael Flynn, Trump’s nominee for national security adviser, was reportedly paid to speak at Kremlin-controlled Russia Today’s 10th anniversary celebration dinner, where he sat next to Russian President Vladimir Putin. He has stated he wants the United States and Russia to be partners in fighting Islamic extremism. Flynn also appears regularly on Russia Today, a Kremlin-funded propaganda TV network.

Either way, the backbone of Trump’s far-right, “traditionalist” ideology is closely aligned with that of Putin. The masterminds behind the Trump credo are advisers Stephen Miller and Steve Bannon, who are both closely affiliated with the far-right website Breitbart News. The website is known for its pro-Putin and far-right editorial viewpoint.

Democrats are anti-Putin

There are only a few vocal Republican hawks on Russia, such as U.S. Senator John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, according to Smart. The majority of Republicans are interested in free trade and fighting terrorism - two areas where Russia is viewed as useful, said Smart.

The Democrats will support Ukraine, but mostly “to punish Russia over the hacking,” said Smart. “Belief in Ukraine has almost disappeared in Washington.”

According to Smart, Poroshenko’s corruption and mismanagement are to blame for “Ukraine fatigue” in Washington, D.C. The U.S. has a “real belief” in the Baltic states, which are functional democratic countries, said Smart, but Ukraine has not proven itself to be a real partner.

“It’s not ‘Ukraine - our friend,’ it’s ‘We should stop Russia,’” he said.

more Trump on page 9

Pro-Putin

Rex Tillerson, secretary of state
In 2013, Tillerson, then CEO of U.S oil company ExxonMobil, was awarded the Russian State Order of Friendship, the highest award for foreigners, for his contribution to the Russian economy and investment. ExxonMobil has a 30 percent share of Russia’s Sakhalin-1 oil and gas production project. After the launch of sanctions against Russia in 2014 by the U.S., Tillerson said he didn’t support them and asked the U.S. to consider who the sanctions were really harming.

Ryan Zinke, secretary of the interior
In September, the Washington Times reported Montana Representative Zinke agreed with Trump that Russian leader Vladimir Putin was a stronger leader than U.S. President Barack Obama. He named Putin’s successes as being the annexation of Crimea, the spread of Russian influence in Ukraine, and the planting of the Russian flag at the North Pole to claim sovereignty over a large portion of the Arctic Ocean.

Jeff Sessions, attorney general
In 2015, the Alabama senator said at a conference in Brussels that if the Minsk Agreements failed, the U.S. and Europe would have to unite and push back more strongly against Russian overreach. But in a 2016 interview with CNN, he changed his mind, and agreed with Trump that Russia and the U.S. should mend their diplomatic relations.

Steve Bannon, senior adviser
Bannon was the executive chair of far-right website Brietbart.com before taking leave to serve as a strategist for the Trump campaign. He has described Putin as a kleptocrat with good ideas. Brietbart takes a largely pro-Kremlin line on Ukraine.

Stephen Miller, senior adviser
Miller is a political consultant, and is described as Trump’s “ideologue.” He is known for his close relationship with the far-right website Breitbart.com, which has published fake news relating to Ukraine in a pro-Kremlin vein, and which is known for it’s pro-Putin stance

Michael T. Flynn, national security adviser
Flynn has stated that Islamic extremism is the greatest threat to the U.S. and advocates joining forces with Russia, Bloomberg reported in December. Flynn was also reportedly paid to speak at Russia Today’s 10th anniversary event in 2015.

Unclear

Mike Pence, vice president-elect
Pence has blamed Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama’s weak foreign policy for Russia invading Ukraine. Pence somewhat justified Russia’s war by pointing to the revolution that ousted Kremlin ally, ex-Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych in Kyiv, and also noted Russia’s historical ties with Crimea.

Reince Priebus, chief of staff
Priebus, former chairman of the Republican National Committee, told journalists that Trump has accepted Russia interfered in the U.S. elections. However, he down played the hacking, saying that this whole thing “started from the Russians 50 years ago.”

Jared Kushner, senior adviser
Kushner and his wife, Ivanka Trump, Trump’s daughter, were seen at a tennis match with Dasha Zhukova, the wife of Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich, a member of Putin’s inner circle.

Tom Bossert, homeland security
Bossert is a well-regarded Washington cyber security expert who has yet to publicly comment on Russia’s alleged interference in U.S. elections. Bossert served as deputy homeland security adviser to former U.S. President George Bush.

Sean Michael Spicer, director of communications
Spicer, a former chief strategist of the Republican National Committee, called Obama’s January sanctions over Russian hacking interference “out of proportion” and has denied there are links between the Kremlin and Trump.

Donald F. “Don” McGahn II, White House counsel
McGahn is notorious in Washington circles as the lawyer who defended then-U.S. Representative Tom DeLay in the late 1990s pay-for-play scandal in Russia, and the Koch Brothers’ Freedom Partners, which bankrolls a large number right-wing groups and political campaigns.

Nikki Haley, United Nations ambassador
The United Nations has been one of the main forums for U.S.-Russia confrontation under the Obama administration. As South Carolina governor, Haley has no background in foreign policy, so is widely expected to follow Trump’s lead.

Mick Mulvaney, Office of Management and Budget
The representative for South Caronlina has not commented on Ukraine or Russia, but he voted against aid for Ukraine in March 2014.

Pro-Ukraine

James Mattis, nominee for secretary of defense
Business Insider reported on Jan. 5 that Mattis said Russia’s aggression in eastern Ukraine and Crimea was “much more severe” and “more serious” than implied by the response from either Washington or Europe, adding that the most dangerous near-term security threat facing the United States “might be Russia.”

Ben Carson, secretary of housing and urban development
In 2015 Carson told Bloomberg Politics that the best way to stop Putin’s expansionist ambitions is to ensure that all the former Soviet republics are involved in NATO. “Remember, Ukraine was a nuclear-armed nation,” he said. “They got rid of their nuclear weapons with the understanding that we would back them up. The least we can do is keep that promise.”

Elaine Chao, secretary of transportation
Chao has not made comments on Ukraine or Russia. However, her husband, United States Senate Majority Leader, Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, supported congressional probes into Russia’s cyber security activities that involved Russian interference in the U.S. election. He also told reporters he believed that “the Russians are not our friends” and “invaded Crimea.”

Rick Perry, secretary of energy
Perry was 47th governor of Texas from December 2000 to January 2015. In February, 2015, he urged the United States to provide Ukraine with lethal aid and increase sanctions, including denying Russia access to the SWIFT international banking system.

John Kelly, secretary of homeland security
As commander of the United States Southern Command from November 2012 to January 2016, General Kelly has called Russia a threat to United States leadership in the western hemisphere. He has argued that under Putin, Russia had returned to Cold War tactics to challenge the United States in Central and South America

Dan Coats, director of national intelligence
Coats, a former Indiana senator, is known as a staunch anti-Russia hawk and was banned from travelling to Russia in counter sanctions imposed by the Kremlin in 2014.

Trump: Putin will respect US with him as president

Trump from page 8

"That's not such a good relationship to have."

Ukraine's backtrack

In an interview on Nov. 18, after Trump's election, Nazar Kholodnytsky, the chief of the special anti-corruption prosecutor's office told Ukrainian news website Zn.ua that no evidence had been found by investigators to press charges against Manafort for allegedly receiving illegal payments from Yanukovich. He said investigators had been unable to prove the authenticity of his signature.

Kholodnytsky said that he was surprised by the decision of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) to publish the Party of Regions' "Black Ledger" documents, and unhappy at the decision of other prominent Ukrainian politicians to spread the information.

NABU spokesperson Svitlana Olifira told the Kyiv Post on Jan. 11 that they are not investigating a separate case relating to Manafort, but a general pre-trial investigation into the "Black Ledger" case is continuing.

Ukraine 'not a priority'

Peter Zalmayev, Eurasia Democracy Initiative director and international political expert, told the Kyiv Post that Trump's rhetoric about Russia shows that in his foreign policy he would concentrate on relations with major states over smaller nations.

"Although Trump denied the fact that Russia has some damaging information on him and called the intelligence report published by the BuzzFeed disgraceful, if Trump starts surrendering Ukraine to Russia that will mean Russia indeed has something dangerous against him," Zalmayev said.

As for whether Trump is going to fire back at Ukraine, after the Ukrainian government revealed the Party of Region's alleged payments to Manafort, Zalmayev said that it is unlikely Trump will seek revenge, since Ukraine does not rank as one of his top priorities.

Room for hope?

Sestritys said that Ukraine's leaders would have to cooperate with the new U.S. administration, whether they like it or not. He also said that fears surrounding Tillerson might be misplaced, as in his new position he



Retired Marine Corps general James Mattis testifies before the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee on his nomination to be the next secretary of defense in the Dirksen Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 12. (AFP)

will have to make decisions in favor of U.S. interests.

During his testimony before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Jan. 11, Tillerson said that Russia "must bear responsibility for its actions" and said he favored a tougher response to Moscow for its illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Phil Griffin, a Kyiv-based American political consultant, told the Kyiv Post that Tillerson's background at ExxonMobil should be seen as a plus as he's "run a very large organization." From what he'd

"heard" Tillerson had led "very tough" negotiations with Russia in the past. Griffin further said that the Trump administration could use the current dip in Ukraine-U.S. relations to push Ukraine to carry out further reforms.

Tillerson also said on Jan. 11 that Russia is unpredictable and the United States should respect its ambitions and seek partnership to fight radical Islam.

Trump said as much during his press conference in Trump Tower in New York on Jan. 11.

"I don't know that I'm going to get along with Vladimir Putin. I hope I do. But there's a good chance I won't. And if I don't, do you honestly believe that Hillary (Clinton) would be tougher on Putin than me? Does anybody in this room really believe that? Give me a break," Trump said.

The president-elect said that if Russians really had had some dirt on him they would have released it, and then said that if Putin liked him, it should be considered an asset, not a liability. ■

“

Top 10 Donald Trump quotes about Ukraine

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA

MELKOZEROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

- "The day after the Olympics, he (Putin) starts with Ukraine. How smart? You know, he didn't want to do it during the Olympics. And then – boom! You know when he goes in and takes Crimea, taking the heart and soul because that's where all the money is." – March 2014, at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington D.C.
- "So that means the rest of Ukraine will fall and it is predicted to fall very quickly. So when you see what they are doing in Ukraine - it is just a question of time." – March 2014 at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington D.C.
- "The U.S. has appealed for Russia not to intervene in Ukraine - Russia tells U.S. they will not become involved, and then laughs loudly!" – Twitter, February 2014.
- "He (Vladimir Putin) was doing an amazing job of taking the mantle. He's doing so smart. When, you see the riots in the country (Ukraine), because they are hurting Russians. Ok, we're taking over it. He really goes step by step, by step. And you have to give him a lot of credit." – From an appearance on Fox News in April 2014.
- "I wouldn't care. If (Ukraine) goes in, great. If it doesn't go in, great." – In August 2015 to NBC News, while responding to the question about Ukraine's possible membership of NATO.
- "Our president is not strong and he's not doing that he should be doing for Ukraine. So far all we have all lip service and nothing else. Part of the problem that Ukraine has with the U.S. is that Putin does not respect our president whatsoever." – Comment in video link from U.S. at YES conference in Kyiv in September 2015.
- "We're fighting for the Ukraine, but nobody else is fighting for the Ukraine other than the Ukraine itself, of course, and I said, it doesn't seem fair and it doesn't seem logical." – Interview with the New York Times in March 2016.
- "And now you have people in the Ukraine, who knows, set up or not, but it can't all be set up. I mean, they're marching in favor of joining Russia. The people of Crimea, from what I've heard, would rather be with Russia than where they were." – Speaking to ABC news in July 2016.
- "Putin is not going into Ukraine." – In an interview with ABC News. After journalist George Stephanopolous reminded him of Russia's annexation of Crimea and Russian troops fighting in the Donbas, Trump answered: "OK, well, he's there in a certain way, but I'm not there yet. That whole part of the world is a mess under Obama."
- "When I said in an interview that Putin is 'not going into Ukraine, you can mark it down,' I am saying if I am president. Already in Crimea! So with all of the Obama tough talk on Russia and the Ukraine, they have already taken Crimea and continue to push. That's what I said!" – Twitter in August 2016, apparently explaining his comments to ABC in July.

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1. Ukrtelecom is lit with colors of the Ukrainian flag. 2. A girl stands near Santa's reindeer in Mariiivsky Park on Dec. 28. 3. Carolers gather at St. Sophia Square on Jan. 7. 4. People go sledding in Slavy Park in Kyiv on Jan. 9. 5. A woman marvels at the light show in Mariiivsky Park on Dec. 28. 6. Santa Claus works in Mariiivsky Park on Jan. 10 in Kyiv. 7. A woman passes by an angel on Dec. 28. 8. A couple kisses as at a Christmas exhibition in Mariiivsky Park on Dec. 28. (Volodymyr Petrov, Anastasia Vlasova, Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



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Aroma Espresso Bar (75 Zhylanska St.)
BAO (14/1 Mechnykova St.)
Babene (18/7 Zadniprovskoho St.)
Baraban (4-A Prorizna St.)
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Bigoli (7-A Klovsy Descent)
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Chashka Espresso Bar (1-3/2 Velyka Vasykivska St.)
Citronelle (23 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)
Coffee Tram (14 Tarasa Shevchenka Blvd.)
Come and Stay (23-B Velyka Vasykivska St.)
Cosmopolite Hotel (6 Hetmana St.)
Cup & Cake (27 Khreshchatyk St.)
Cup & Cake (57/3 Velyka Vasykivska St.)
Dom Bergonie (17 Pushkinska St.)
Druzi Cafe (5 Prorizna St.)
Fair Finch (45-49 Vozdvyzhenska St.)
Family House (25-A Dehtiarivska St.)
F-cafe «MAROKANA» (24 Lesi Ukrainky Blvd.)
Felinni (5 Horodetskoho St.)
First Point (14/20 Yaroslavskaya St.)
GastroRock (10-B Vozdvyzhenska St.)
Georgian House (36 Velyka Vasykivska St.)
Golden Gate Pub (15 Zolotovorotska St.)
Goodman (75 Zhylanska St.)
Gorchitsa (6 Pylypa Orlyka St.)
Himalaya (80 Velyka Vasykivska St.)
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Kava Like (30-A Honchara St.)
Korchma Taras Bulba (2-4/7 Pushkinska St.)
L'Kafa (116 Velyka Vasykivska St.)
La Casa del Habano (13 Klovsy Descent)
La Vaca Tapas (6 Petlury St.)
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Lytsky (15 Lypyska St.)
Mama Manana (44 Velyka Vasykivska St.)
Mangal (33-35 Saksahanskoho St.)
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Mimino (10-A Spasska St.)
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Mon Cher (11 Yaroslaviv Val St.)
Mon Cher (124 Zhylanska St.)
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Musafir (57-A Saksahanskoho St.)
Etazh (ex Music Bar) (16-A Shota Rustaveli St.)
Napule Pizza (9 Mechnykova St.)
Naturlich (3 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)
Nelson & Friends (4 Pugachova St.)
Tike (31-A Sahaidachnoho St.)
O'Brien's (17-A Mykhailivska St.)
O'Connors (15/8 Khoryva St.)
Oliva (34 Velyka Vasykivska St.)
One Love Espresso Bar (100 Velyka Vasykivska St.)
Viva Oliva (16 Pushkinska St.)
Oliva (25 Druzhby Narodiv Blvd.)
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Theatre "Chornyi Kvadrat" (5-B Artema St.)
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Attache Premier Hotel (26 Zhylanska St.)
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Dream House Hostel (2 Andriivsky Descent)
Express (38/40 Tarasa Shevchenka Blvd.)
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Gonchar Hotel (17-A Honcharna St.)
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Hotel Bontiak (5/24-B Irynynska St.)
Hotel Rus (4 Hospitalna St.)
Hyatt (5-A Tarasovoi St.)
Impressa (21 Sahaidachnoho St.)
Intercontinental (2-A Velyka Zhytomyrska St.)
Khreshchatyk (14 Khreshchatyk St.)
Kozatsky Stan (18 km Boryspilske Highway)
Opera (23 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)
Park-Hotel KIDEV (5 Boryspilska St.)
Premier Palace (5-7-29 Tarasa Shevchenka Blvd.)
President Hotel (12 Hospitalna St.)
Radisson Blue (22 Yaroslaviv Val St.)
Ramada (103 Stolychne Highway)
Ukraine (4 Instytutka St.)

BUSINESS CENTERS

- Cubic Center (1 entrance) (3 Sholudenko St.)
Cubic Center (2 entrance) (3 Sholudenko St.)
Europa Plus (120 Saksahanskoho St.)
Europa Plus (33 Tarasa Shevchenka Blvd.)
Gooioord (11 Mykhailivska St.)
Gooioord (34/33 Ivana Franka St.)
Gooioord (36 Ivana Franka St.)
Gooioord (52 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)

- Illinsky (8 Illinska St.)
Regus (4 Hrinchenka St.)
Regus Podil (25-B Sahaidachnoho St.)
Silver Breeze (1-V Pavla Tychyny Ave.)
Ukrainian Crisis Media Center (4 Instytutka St.)

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Kharkiv

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Chekhov restaurant (84/2 Sumska St.)
Chichikov Hotel (6/8 Hoholia St.)
Iris Art Hotel (6-A Sviatoduhivska St.)
Kharkiv Palace Hotel (2 Pravdy Ave.)

Kirovohrad

- Reikartz Kirovohrad (Hotel) (1-D Chornovola St.)

Lviv

RESTAURANTS

- Amadeus (7 Katedralna St.)
Atlas Deluxe (27 Tarasa Shevchenka Ave.)
Baczewski Restauracja (8 Shevska St.)

- Centaur (34 Rynok Sq.)
Chorny Kit (4 Heroyiv Maidanu St.)
Harmata (11 Hrabovskoho St.)
Hrushevsky cinema jazz (28 Tarasa Shevchenka Ave.)
iFest network (15-A Lemkivska St.)
Kumpel Gastropub (6 Vynnychenka St.)
Kumpel Gastropub (2-B Chornovola Ave.)
Stary Royal (3 Stavropigivska St.)
Strudel House (6 Shevska St.)
Tex-Mex BBQ (7 Johara Dudaieva St.)
Veronika (21 Tarasa Shevchenko Ave.)
Zukernia (3 Staroyevreyska St.)

HOTELS

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Chopin (7 Malaniuka Sq.)
Citadel Inn (11 Hrabovskoho St.)
George (1 Mitskevycha St.)
Leopolis (16 Teatralna St.)
Lion's Castle (7 Hlinky St.)
Nobilis Hotel (5 Fredra St.)
Reikartz Dworzec Lviv (107 Horodotska St.)
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Mukacheve

- Star (Hotel) (10 Myru Sq.)

Mykolaiv

- Reikartz River Mykolaiv (Hotel) (9 Sportyvna St.)

Odesa

RESTAURANTS

- Traveller's coffee (14 Derybasivska St.)
Terrace Sea View (1-5 Lanzheron Beach)
The Roastery by Odesa (1 Arkadia Alley)
Bratia Grill Restaurant (17 Derybasivska St.)
Benedikt (19 Sadova St.)
Fratelli (17 Hretska St.)
Ministerium (12, Hoholia St.)

HOTELS

- Otrada (11 Zatyshna St.)
Palace Del Mar (1 Khrustalny Lane)
Stella Residence (3 Vanny Lane)
Frapolli (13 Derybasivska St.)
London (95 Uspenska St.)
Bristol (15 Pushkinska St.)
Alexandrovskiy (12 Alexandrovsky Ave.)
Villa le Premier (3-A Vannyi Lane)

Zakarpatska Oblast

- Reikartz Karpaty (257 Tarasa Shevchenka St., s. Zhdeniyevy)
Reikartz Polyana (25 Zhovtneva St., s. Poliana)

Zaporizhia

- Khortitsa Palace Hotel (71-A Tarasa Shevchenka Blvd.)

Dnipropetrovsk

- Reikartz Dnipropetrovsk (12 Chervona St.)



On Jan. 14 Ukrainians will celebrate the Old New Year, or the New Year by the old Julian Calendar that was used in Ukraine until 1918.

Malanka, one of Ukraine's most interesting holidays



People in costumes participate in the Malanka celebration in Krasnosilsk village in Chernivtsi Oblast on Jan. 14, 2015. (AFP)

BY NATALIYA TRACH
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Every year on Jan. 14, Ukraine celebrates "the old New Year" – the New Year by the Julian Calendar, by which the country lived until 1918. This old holiday also coincides in Ukraine with Malanka, a traditional carnival-like holiday from pre-Christian times.

"It's a kind of a Ukrainian mas-

querade," says ethnologist Inna Kuklina, an employee of Kyiv's open-air Pyrohovo Museum of Folk Architecture and Life of Ukraine. "There was no hard work in winter, so young men could take part in this rite. The New Year wasn't as important in a religious sense as, for example, Christmas, so the old pre-Christian rituals were preserved in the Malanka celebrations."

Ritual and characters

The Malanka feast name comes from St. Melania Day, celebrated on Dec. 31, which by the old Julian calendar falls on Jan. 13.

The Malanka celebrations mark the arrival of the New Year and begin after sunset on the evening of St. Melania day on Jan. 13, which is also called the Generous Evening (Shchedryi Vechir) in Ukraine. The celebration's participants dress as

the characters involved in the ritual - Malanka, Vasyl, the She-Goat, the Old Man, the Gypsy, the Doctor, the Cat, and others - and hit the streets of Ukrainians villages and towns.

Malanka is usually portrayed by a young man dressed in a woman's clothes. His makeup is bizarre – the face is whitened with chalk, the eyebrows are darkened with soot, and

more **Malanka** on page **14**

Night Owl



WITH ANNA YAKUTENKO
YAKUTENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Barman Dictat welcomes guests at familiar space on Khreshchatyk

Art Club 44, opened by Kyiv's most celebrated restaurateur Eric Aigner in the 1990s, closed in 2015 after years of slow decline.

Nestled in a yard behind building 44 on Kreshchatyk Street, the club was a popular venue for live music.

But after almost a year of lying fallow, the premises have opened again under a new name and style - Barman Dictat.

Similar to its predecessor, Barman Dictat doesn't have a sign outside. To find the place, turn into the yard at 44 Kreshchatyk Street and look for a door on the left side of the yard that leads down to the basement bar. It's easy to recognize the right door because there are usually people smoking outside.

Barman Dictat's name gives a clue to its main feature: The first thing one sees on entering is a huge bar that runs along almost an entire wall for more than 10 meters. The guests can sit at it or at one of the tables. The place is usually busy in the evenings, even during the weekdays, so make sure to reserve a table by calling +38-050-346-1636.

The interior of the bar has changed from its Art Club 44 days: The only thing that left from the previous bar is the loft-style brick walls and columns. The new owners added massive wooden tables and leather sofas. The bar often hosts poetry readings and live music acts, starting from 7 p.m.

A wide selection of alcoholic drinks can be found behind the giant bar: The owners of Barman Dictat claim that the bar has the country's biggest selection of mescal - a distilled alcoholic beverage made in Mexico from agave plants.

Apart from mescal, the bar offers a wide range of drinks more commonly available in Ukraine - whiskey, bourbon, rum and gin. The alcoholic drink collection includes more than 400 types of tiple.

One of the Barman Dictat's strongest points is its cocktails: The bar offers its own takes on classic cocktails, such as Old Fashioned with spices (Hr 140) or house cocktails like Berry Mule for Hr 120 (vanilla and apricot vodka, ginger beer, lime

more **Food** on page **14**

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Kyiv's many ice rinks offer winter fun

Y ANNA YAKUTENKO
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Freezing winter weather has come to Kyiv, and residents of the Ukrainian capital are taking advantage of the city's snow-clad hills to get some exercise and fun – sledding, skiing, and snowboarding.

There are plenty of options in the city for skating too – not only frozen ponds and rivers, but outdoor rinks, and rinks in shopping malls that operate all year round. So here, the Kyiv Post lists the best rinks in and around the capital.

VDNG

Kyiv's biggest outdoor ice rink, 4,000 square meters in area, is located in the VDNG expocenter in the south-west part of the city. In the center of the rink there is a large Christmas Tree. Visitors can rent skates or bring their own. The lockers for keeping valuables safe are available too. After a skating session, visitors can have a snack at the large food court located nearby, visit the ice sculpture park, or go to see the animals in the petting zoo.

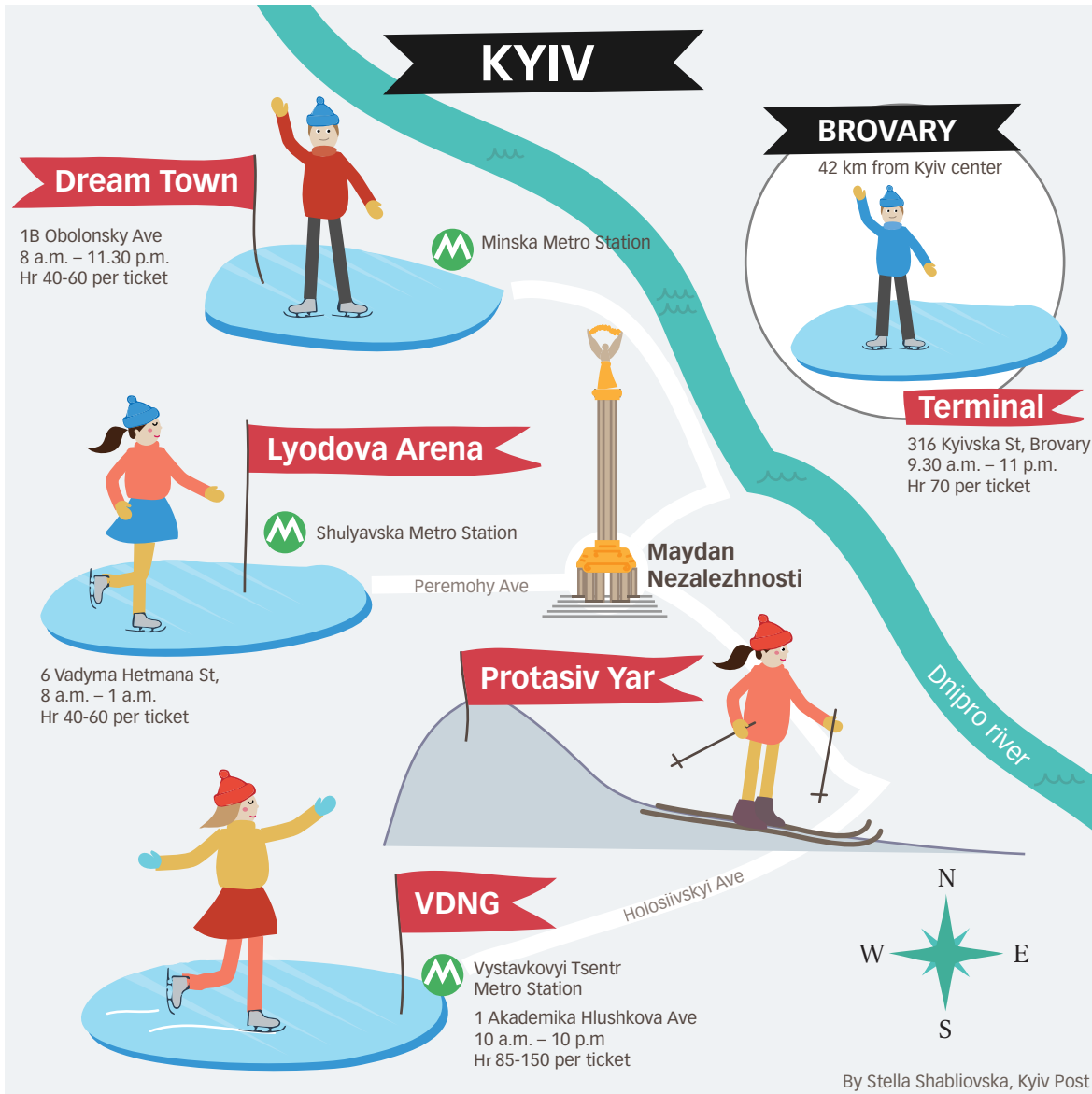
The ice rink opened on Dec. 10 and will operate until Feb. 28. Entry prices start from Hr 85 for an adult ticket from Monday to Thursday, and Hr 150 on Friday and weekends. Enrollment in the skating school (15 lessons) costs Hr 600.

1 Akademika Hlushkova Ave. 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Hr 85-150

Dream Town

Another popular ice rink is located in the Dream Town shopping mall near Obolon metro station in the west-north of the city. Despite the rink itself being quite large (1,200 square meters in area, according to the shopping mall's website), it's also usually very crowded, especially on weekends.

The ice rink offers lockers where visitors can keep valuables and belongings safe while skating. There



The map shows ice rinks in and around Kyiv. Most of the ice rinks are located in shopping malls and operate all year round. Prices start from Hr 40 per hour. (Stella Shabliovska)

is a café and food court right beside the ice rink, so visitors can enjoy meals and watch other people skating. The price for an hour on the ice goes from Hr 40 for morning skating sessions, to Hr 60 on weekends and holidays. The rental of the skates is

included in the entry fee.

1B Obolonsky Ave. 8 a.m. – 11.30 p.m. Hr 40-60

Lyodova Arena

This 1,800-square-meter ice rink is located in the Kosmopolit shopping

mall near Shulyavka metro station in the north-western part of the city. Until recently, the ice rink in Kosmopolit was the biggest in the city, until the VDNG rink opened last year. One possible drawback is that there are several support column that

→ When snow is on ground, it's time for the 3S season – skating, skiing and sledding. Here's some places for ice skaters to go.

hold up the mall's roof right in the middle of the skating area, but these are covered with soft padding to prevent injuries from collisions.

Tickets cost around Hr 60 and include the rental of the skates. There is no discount for those who bring their own skates.




6 Vadyrna Hetmana St. 8 a.m. – 1 a.m. Hr 40-60


Terminal

Another big ice rink, with an area of 1,800 square meters, is located in the Terminal shopping center, in the town of Brovary about 20 kilometers to the east of Kyiv. Unlike the rinks in Kyiv itself, the one in Terminal usually has fewer people, so there is much more space to skate. Terminal's website says that more than 200 people can use the ice rink simultaneously.

The rink is often used for ice hockey training, so it has a big changing room. The price of renting skates is included in the entry ticket. One can get to the terminal via a free mini bus that departs from Lisova metro station, or take private bus No. 404. For most skating sessions, the entry price is Hr 70. To check the session schedule call +38044-200-13-17.

316 Kyivska St. Brovary. 9.30 a.m. – 11 p.m. Hr 70 ■





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People in masks step into icy water during a celebration of Malanka in Vashkivtsi in Chernivtsi Oblast. (AFP)

Old New Year on Jan. 14 is reason for celebrations

Malanka from page 12

the cheeks are painted red with beet juice. Malanka is portrayed as a clumsy housewife whose house-keeping efforts make everybody laugh.

"It was a hint to young men that they should choose a good wife, since the New Year and Christmas celebrations were followed by the marriage season," Kuklina says.

The She-Goat

While the Malanka character is prominent in the masquerade, the She-Goat character also stands out: the goat is a symbol of wealth and prosperity.

The performers lead the She-Goat on a leash (in Ukrainian the ritual is called "vodyty kozu" – "walking the goat"). The Goat is played by a young man in a mask and a sheepskin coat worn inside out. A skit is acted out in which the Goat starts to hit everybody in the house with its horns. At the end of the skit, the goat is shot and dies. Its death symbolizes the winter period and the death of all the plants, according to Kuklina.

But the climax of the ritual is the Goat's resurrection. The Doctor and all the people present during the ritual try to bring the animal back to life. The doctor's unsuccessful methods make everybody laugh – he peeks into goat's ears, and counts its teeth to determine whether the goat is young or old.

When nothing helps, people even try to milk the Goat. Since it is played by a man, this trick usually "reanimates" the Goat quickly.

"The Goat's dying and revival is the ritual's central point, connected to agrarian cults symbolizing nature's death and resurrection," Kuklina says.

The Malanka ritual is also connected with the cult of the dead.

"Our predecessors believed that the beginning of a new life is not possible without the consent of the dead relatives," the ethnologist said.

Tradition's revival

The pre-Christian Malanka New Year celebrations faded away during the Soviet times as the atheist communist regime suppressed religious and national traditions.

But after Ukraine gained independence in 1991, the Malanka celebrations started to revive, especially in Western Ukraine.

Chernivtsi and Vashkivtsi in Chernivtsi Oblast are known as the some of the best places to go to see traditional Malanka celebrations.

But the citizens of Horoshova, a town of 2,000 people in Ternopil Oblast some 480 kilometers west of Kyiv, claim their Malanka is the biggest in Ukraine. Every year on Jan. 13, the town's residents prepare a new program of Old New Year celebrations, which thousands of people from the area come to see.

"All residents of Horoshova aged between 3 and 50 years take part in the Malanka celebrations," says 15-year-old Horoshova resident Viktoria Kozak. "People from the whole district come to see the Malanka Eve events. All our guests like our performances very much."

The people of Horoshova add modern characters to the Malanka performance – police officers, politicians, soldiers, and dictators. Russian President Vladimir Putin is sometimes featured in the performance.

It took Kozak two full days to prepare the costume of a mythical creature that she will to wear for this year's Malanka celebrations. She is looking forward to the Jan. 13 night.

"I like how the young men are funnily dressed as Malankas," she says.

To take part in Malanka celebrations, visit the Mamayeva Sloboda outdoor museum

On Jan. 14 at 12 p.m. the Mamayeva Sloboda museum invites everybody to celebrate Old New Year according to Ukrainian traditions. The festive program includes the Malanka ritual, as well as Christmas carols, traditional Ukrainian dances, and lots of tasty food.

Mamayeva Sloboda is located on 2 Mykhayla Dontsya St. and is open daily from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. To get there via public transport, take a trolleybus from Petrivka metro station or minibus No. 201 or No. 232 from Shuliavska metro station to Mykhayla Dontsya Steet bus stop. The entrance ticket is Hr 50 for adults, and Hr 35 for schoolchildren, students and pensioners. ■

Jazz show

The famous Ukrainian virtuoso jazz musicians "Jazz in Kiev Band" will perform their first show in 2017 on the stage of Kyiv's Caribbean Club. Quirky arrangements and jazz improvisations of famous rock ballads, passionate Latin American tunes, and Ukrainian folk songs will be featured among the show's highlights. "Jazz for Adults" jazz show. Jan. 19. 7 p.m. Caribbean Club (4 Symona Petrliry St.). Hr 180 – 580

Rock festival

The fourth annual rock "Winter Mass" music festival focuses on Ukrainian underground music. However, its visitors will have a chance to enjoy performances by artists from various music genres – from the post-punk City of Me band, to the alternative rock band Esquize, and hard rock band Kasu Weri.

"Winter Mass" rock festival. Jan. 21. 5 p.m. Monterey Live Stage (8 Prorizna St.) Hr 100 – 250

'No Man's Land' (British Theater Live)

"No Man's Land," a play by English playwright Harold Pinter, gives a comic depiction of the bleakness of the Bohemian literary world, featuring actors Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen. The production became a Broadway hit and currently runs in London Wyndham's Theater. The screening is in English with Ukrainian subtitles.

"No Man's Land" (British Theater Live). Jan. 17. 7 p.m. Cinema Kyiv (19 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) Hr 175

Jan. 14



Ukrainian-style Old New Year celebration

Mamayeva Sloboda outdoor museum invites everybody to celebrate the Old New Year according to Ukrainian traditions. The festive program includes the staging of the traditional Malanka ritual (see story on page 12), Christmas carols, traditional Ukrainian dances, and food.

"Malanka and Vasyl Celebration." Jan. 14. 12 p.m. Mamayeva Sloboda Museum (2 Mykoly Dontsya St.). Hr 50 for adults, Hr 35 for schoolchildren, students and pensioners

Folk dance show

The world-renowned Virsky Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble will wow audiences with supreme folk dancing and adrenalin-fueled acrobatic tricks.

Virsky Ukrainian National Folk Dance Ensemble. Jan. 20. 7 p.m. Freedom Event Hall (134 Kyrylivska St.). Hr 250 – 1,000



Jan. 20

Compiled by Nataliya Trach

Night Owl: New bar in the heart of Kyiv replaces legendary Art Club 44

Food from page 12

juice and sugar syrup). The price for cocktails is a bit higher than average (Hr 80 – 160), but they're worth it.

If clients are overwhelmed by the large variety of beverages, the bar's friendly staff will be quick to help them choose the best option.

Barman Dictat's food menu is a fifth of the size of its drinks menu. All the same, there is an adequate range of snacks to go with the drinks (Hr 70 – 90) and some basic dishes such as pork medallions (Hr 140) and "Caesar" salad (for around Hr 100) for those who want something more substantial.

Unlike the more cozy Art Club 44, which used to be a haven for



A bartender mixes a drink in Barman Dictat bar, which has replaced Art Club 44 on Khreshchatyk Street. The bar offers more than 400 types of tipples, and delicious house cocktails. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Barman Dictat
44 Khreshchatyk St.
6 p.m. – 6 a.m.
+38050-346-1636

arty types, Barman Dictat is more commercially oriented. But the place retains its friendly atmosphere, which encourages visitors to strike

up a conversation with strangers sitting next to them at the bar. Art Club 44 may be long gone, but its spirit remains, it seems. ■



Embassy of India in Kyiv, Ukraine

Invites applications for the post of **Office Assistant / Interpreter** with immediate effect.

The candidates must have good command over English, Ukrainian & Russian and be able to interpret/translate between these languages.

Knowledge of trade laws, export/import regulations will be an added qualification. The candidate should have five years' experience in relevant field and also be efficient in use of computers and MS Office.

Bio-data/CVs may be sent not later than **20 January 2017** by **5 p.m.** preferably by e-mail or fax to:

Embassy of India

20-B, M. Berlinskogo Street, 01901, Kyiv

Contact : Mrs. Suman Sharma/Mr. Ashok Bhatnagar

Tel : 4686661 / Fax 4686619

E-mail : hoc.kyiv@mea.gov.in / admn.kyiv@mea.gov.in



The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is a non-profit organization working to strengthen democracy worldwide

NDI — Ukraine is currently seeking a
SENIOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANT
The position will be based in Kyiv

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- University Degree (economics, finance)
- Knowledge of Ukrainian accounting standards
- At least two years of relevant experience
- Excellent communication skills
- Fluent English
- Ability to work in a team and under pressure
- Knowledge of Quicken and is an advantage

Interested applicants should submit CVs and motivation letters in English by email to the following email address: ukraine@ndi.org.

Deadline for application is January 24, 2017

For additional information please see www.ndi.org

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs
is looking for a position of
RECEPTIONIST/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
for our office in Kyiv

Requirements:

- University Degree/last year of studies
- Excellent communication skills in Ukrainian and English
- Proven organizational skills
- Ability to work in a team and under pressure
- Excellent computer and typing skills
- Experience with an international organization is an advantage

NDI offers a competitive salary commensurate with experience. Candidates are encouraged to learn more about NDI through our website: www.ndi.org

Please send your CV to: Ukraine@ndi.org

Deadline for application is **January 20, 2017**. Successful applicants will be invited for a written test followed by an interview.



Data maintaining Analyst/Researcher

IFC is looking to recruit a short-term expert (STC) work with the Project Manager to conduct necessary research on agriculture insurance and related requirements in the preparation of desk studies, presentations, data mining and data manipulations, speeches, and promotional materials as required.

The duties of the Analyst will include: undertake researching and analysis issues, gathering statistics, and contributing to studies as required; facilitate the preparation of presentations and training materials; search for specific data, combine, organize and analyze big data; assist with actuarial sound calculations under coordination of lead specialists; support the public relations team and with the coordination of events and materials as required; and perform other duties as requested by the Project Manager.

Please follow the link to get more details on the assignment and apply for the position (Selection #: 1234563)

<https://wbgeconsult2.worldbank.org/wbgec/index.html>

Applicants must submit their CV and Cover Letter indicating their experience in one or more of the six key areas listed above.

Deadline for applications – January 30, 2017.



Transparency and Accountability in Public Administration and Services

Eurasia Foundation (EF), a US-based international development organization promoting good governance, civil society development and independent media, is accepting applications for **Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP)** for the USAID- and UK aid-funded Transparency and Accountability in Public Administration and Services (TAPAS) Activity.

The closing date for applications is January 27, 2017

Please send a cover letter and resume to jobs@eurasia.org with "DCOPTAPAS" in the subject line.

For more detailed information on job description and qualifications please visit web-site:

<http://tapas.org.ua/en/vacancy-deputy-chief-of-party/>

Or <http://eurasia.org/CareerOpportunities>



Professionals for Reform Support Mechanism (PRSM) provides human resource support – from managers to technical experts – to critical reform initiatives undertaken by national governmental agencies. PRSM is currently seeking candidates to fill the following expert positions for the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine:

- **Project Manager on Emergency Response** – will be in charge for designing an organizational model that would include opportunities for amalgamated communities to be able to retain basic services including fire safety and to ensure faster (maximum 20 minutes) response to emergency, increase number of Local Fire Teams in communities and engage Volunteer Fire Fighters.

For more detailed information about preferred qualifications and skills, indicative duties and responsibilities, as well as applying procedure, please visit web-site: <http://edge.in.ua/vacancies>



USAID/OTI Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative is looking for qualified individual to fill the position of **COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIC PLANNING SPECIALIST**. Chemonics International, an international development consulting firm, implementing USAID's Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative (UCBI) Project, solicits expressions of interest for a Communications Strategic Planning Specialist to work with the Luhansk Oblast Administration. UCBI will assist the Luhansk Oblast Administration in improving its external communication policy through a strategic planning process.

Send electronic submissions to ukrainelocalrecruit@gmail.com no later than **December 27, 2016**.

Interested prospective applicants are encouraged to visit UCBI's Facebook page

www.facebook.com/USAIDUCBI/

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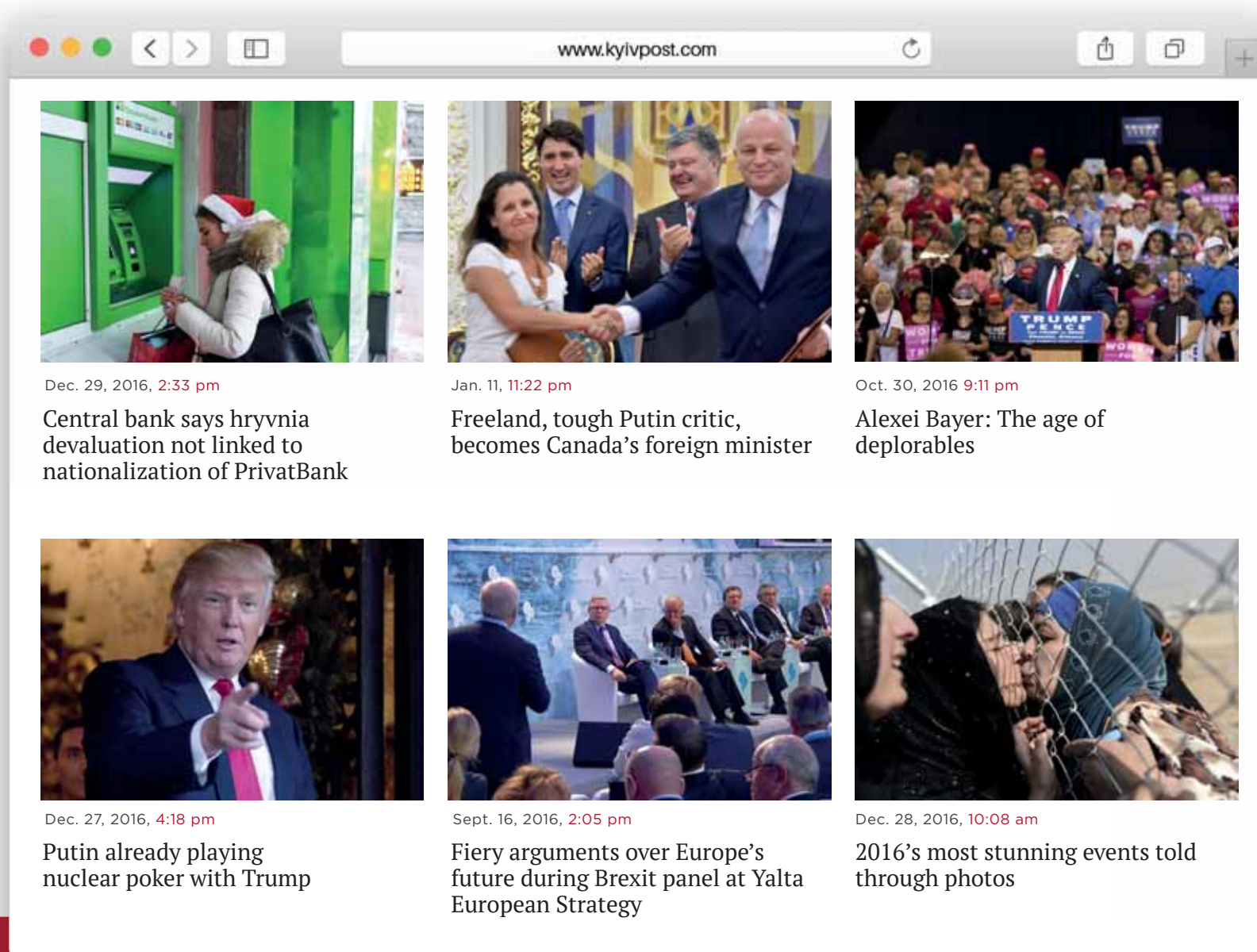
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