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vol. 22, issue 24

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**June 16, 2017**

## Feeling Sky High

### Guide To Kyiv Rooftops Worth Exploring In Summer



Kyiv's summers are great for enjoying views from rooftops. This photograph taken by a drone, courtesy of Intercontinental Hotel in Kyiv, shows guests on the terrace of the 11th-floor B-Hush Lounge Bar. It offers 270-degree panoramic views from a height of 40 meters. The Kyiv Post identifies some of the best rooftop locations on page 10.

**See story on page 10**

## Groysman plays role of 'Father Czar,' just like prime ministers before him

**BY JOSH KOVENSKY**  
[KOVENSKY@KYIVPOST.COM](mailto:KOVENSKY@KYIVPOST.COM)

When the European Business Association hosted Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman on May 18, he came with a message: the Ukrainian government supports business.

"The Ukrainian government stands for business," he said. "Decent conditions for business are a priority for us."

What unfolded during Groysman's visit showed that his "support for business" is personal and manual, belying the high

rhetoric about a "new Ukraine" of reformed law enforcement and less corruption.

Businesspeople ranging from Dragon Capital CEO Tomas Fiala to Odesa importers used the meeting

more **Groysman** on page **3**

## Swedish foreign minister: Ukraine needs rule of law to win investors

**BY BRIAN BONNER**  
[BONNER@KYIVPOST.COM](mailto:BONNER@KYIVPOST.COM)

In an interview with the Kyiv Post, Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom said on June 15 that Ukraine needs to combat corruption and establish rule of law if it wants more business investment from the

Nordic nation.

"There is no trust in the institutions or in the rule of law here," Wallstrom said on the sidelines of the 6th annual Sweden-Ukraine Business Forum in the Hyatt Regency hotel. "This what you have to establish fully

more **Minister** on page **8**

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June 15 market rate



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Засновник ТОВ "Паблік-Медіа"

Головний редактор Брайан Боннер

Відповідальний за випуск

Люк Шеньє

Адреса видавця та засновника

співпадають: Україна, м. Київ, 01004,

вул. Пушкінська, 31А, 6-й поверх.

Реєстраційне свідоцтво

Кв № 15261-3833ПР від 19.06.09.

Передплатний індекс ДП Преса 40528

Надруковано ТОВ «Новий друк»,

02660, Київ, вулиця Магнітогорська, 1,

тел.: 559-9147

Замовлення № 13-8040

З приводу розміщення реклами

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# 'Black ledger' investigation appears to come to a halt

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA  
MELKOZEROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

After a year of investigation by Ukrainian law enforcement, the case of the black ledger — a secret, handwritten list of \$2 billion in shady payments by the political party of ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich — appears to have stalled.

When reports of the finding of the ledger first surfaced last year, the scandal led to the resignation of the chairman of Donald J. Trump's presidential election campaign team, Paul Manafort, whose name was found in the ledger next to sums of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

But the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine has now passed the black ledger documents to the Special Investigations Department of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, according to a report published by the office on June 9.

Furthermore, due to a lack of evidence, anti-corruption prosecutors have officially stopped the pre-trial investigation into Mykhailo Okhendonvskiy, the head of Ukraine's Central Election Commission and the only person in the black ledger case to be given notice of being a suspect.

"The fact that the black ledger case was passed to the Prosecutor General's Office means it will from now on be under political control," Viktor Trepak, the former deputy head of the Security Service of Ukraine, wrote on Facebook on June 11.

The documents show that the party paid bribes worth \$2 billion, Trepak said in a May 28 interview.

"This case is dangerous not only for Yanukovich allies, but also for the current Ukrainian government, as it proves they had secret ties. It is clear for me that somebody gave an order to bury the black ledger, which I consider the most important high-profile corruption case in Ukraine," he added.

But Sergii Horbatuk, the head of Special Investigations Department of Prosecutor General's Office and also the main investigator of the EuroMaidan killings, told the Kyiv Post on June 14 that detectives from the National Anti-corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU), a supposedly politically independent agency, will continue to work with his department on the black ledger materials.



Ukrainian journalist and member of parliament Sergii Leshchenko holds pages showing alleged payments to Donald Trump's then-presidential campaign chairman Paul Manafort from a secret ledger of the political party of ex-Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich on Aug. 19. The ledger contains handwritten notes of \$2 billion in bribes or under-the-table payments. The investigation has stalled. (AFP)

"The black ledger was passed to us, as it is an important evidence base in several investigations of our department, in particular, the case of the usurpation of power by Yanukovich, and the supposed creation of a criminal gang on the basis of the Party of Regions," Horbatuk said.

But the prosecutor said he understood Trepak's concerns and didn't exclude that somebody might indeed try to influence or slow down the investigation.

"There are some risks of possible political influence in the case, but this could only happen if public interest in ... the black ledger case falls," Horbatuk added.

## Much noise, little sense

Sergii Leshchenko, a Bloc of Petro Poroshenko lawmaker and former journalist, obtained the black ledger documents together with Trepak last year. On May 30, 2016, Trepak passed them to the NABU.

The Ukrainska Pravda news website published an article on May 31, 2016, about the Ukrainian Party of Regions making shady payments to top Ukrainian officials.

The black ledger is alleged to show how a Kremlin-backed oligarchic

political force gained absolute power in Ukraine.

Ukrainska Pravda has reported that the Party of Regions spent more than \$66 million on paid PR on Ukrainian TV channels, radio, and the regional press, as well as paying for services from people whose names and initials were identical to top Ukrainian officials, such as Okhendonvskiy, former Justice Minister of Ukraine Olena Lukash, Odesa Oblast Council Head Mykola Pundyk, former Foreign Minister of Ukraine Leonid Kozhara, and many others.

In August, the NABU published a report on Manafort's name being found in the black ledger alongside a list of payments, sparking suspicion that the former adviser to Yanukovich had been involved in bribery, receiving an undeclared \$750,000 payment from Yanukovich's party.

Soon after, Manafort was forced to resign from the Trump campaign amid an international scandal.

However, after Trump was elected U.S. president in November, Nazar Kholodnytskiy, the head of the Anti-corruption Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine, told the zn.ua news website there were no grounds to press

charges against Manafort.

He said only Manafort's last name was found in the Party of Region's black ledger, and the investigators were unable to prove the authenticity of the signature in the ledger.

In January, the international news website Politico claimed that via the black ledger case, Ukrainian officials had been attempting to aid Hillary Clinton's presidential election campaign.

"Ukrainian government officials tried to help Hillary Clinton and undermine Trump by ... (disseminating) documents implicating a top Trump aide in corruption and suggested they were investigating the matter, only to back away after the election," the article read.

Yaroslav Hordiyevych, the Special Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office spokesperson, in an email to Kyiv Post on June 15 said that the office would not speculate about the political implications of the case.

"We didn't support the (release of information) by Leshchenko and the NABU," Hordiyevych wrote.

"Moreover, during a meeting with NABU detectives on the second day of the investigation, the head of the anti-corruption prosecutor's office strictly forbade the release of any details of the investigation," Hordiyevych wrote.

Hordiyevych added that the NABU had no jurisdiction to investigate Manafort's involvement in the black ledger, as he is a foreign citizen.

## Stopped, not closed

The Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office said in a message published on June 9 that the pre-trial investigation against Okhendonvskiy had officially been halted.

more Ledger on page 7

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# Weak institutions force top politicians to fix problems

Groysman from page 1

to lobby Groysman directly over their own private business problems.

"Except for you and the president, nobody can influence this situation," said one entrepreneur who complained of harassment from local law enforcement.

Groysman appeared visibly displeased.

## Frustration

The business community's continued reliance on prime ministers, including the current one, as a "fixer" of specific problems shows how much distrust remains in Ukraine's public institutions, especially law enforcement.

The tradition reaches back deep into Slavic history: in medieval Muscovy, peasants would travel to see the czar for supplication by beating themselves over their foreheads in a practice called "chelobitnaya."

Oleksandr Banchuk, a criminal justice expert at the Center of Policy and Legal Reform, said that similar practices continued through to the Soviet Union. There, the General Secretary of the Communist Party would forward appeals to lower-ranking government officials with threats of results or punishment.

Banchuk added that the late 1980s "Glasnost" policy became another vehicle for the practice.

"One of the main principles of Glasnost was publicly airing problems," Banchuk said. "It would force society to draw its attention to a certain problem."

## Prime fixer

Fiala was onstage with Groysman at the EBA meeting, and asked the prime minister two questions early on: one about pension reform, and another about an April 27 Security Services of Ukraine raid on Dragon Capital's headquarters.

The SBU cited the cause of the inves-

Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman gestures during a May 26 Rada sessions devoted to questions for the government. Members of the business community frequently rely on personal intervention from Groysman to resolve legal disputes. (Wladyslaw Musiienko)



tigation as the use of illegal computer programs, while others saw it as the result of an ongoing conflict between the investment fund and a close ally of President Petro Poroshenko.

"Over the past few weeks, unfortunately, I've gotten to know Article 359 very well," Fiala said, citing the statute under which his company was investigated. He then called for Ukrainian law enforcement to be brought up to European Union standards, an effort that would cause "business to be satisfied, no more, no less."

Groysman replied that "we will always insist" on the defense of business.

"We're reviewing the law enforcement system from the perspective of competency, but we think that their actions should first of all be reasonable," he added.

Then he changed the subject to tax reform.

## Dirty laundry

Not only influential members of the business community like Fiala complained.

Another conference-goer, who identified himself only as Vitaly from an Odesa telecommunications company, complained that his company had "run up against the illegal actions" of law enforcement.

"Respected Volodymyr Borysovich (Groysman), why is the reason for raiding a business... an anonymous phone call, and a paid-for article on the internet?" he asked.

Groysman replied that he would look into it.

Such problems are widespread. Western ambassadors stationed in Ukraine frequently complain that they spend an inordinate amount of time trying to fix abuses against companies from their nations doing business in Ukraine.

"It's one way of defending your business when going to the courts or prosecutors are ineffective," said Banchuk. "It forces the top people to pay attention to the problem, and then maybe protect the investor."

## Public problems

The practice of appealing to top politicians persists because it works on a case-by-case basis, at least often enough. But it does nothing to solve the systemic problems hampering Ukraine's investment climate.

In some ways, both sides win: Politicians feel more powerful because they can solve problems while aggrieved victims understand they can bypass abusive government bureaucracies if they go high enough up the political ladder.

Groysman has been successful in the past.

In September, Groysman inter-

vened with customs authorities to allow a shipment of chemotherapy drugs to enter Ukraine after complaints from British nongovernmental organization Crown Agents that the cargo was being held up as part of a smear campaign orchestrated by a supplier.

In another, more recent case, a Naftogaz subsidiary responsible for managing a \$3.65 billion loan offer from a Chinese state bank appealed to Groysman regarding inaction by other government ministries, causing the prime minister to demand that plans for the money be finalized in March.

Last April, after Ukrainian truckers blockaded the Odesa-Kyiv highway in protest over stricter load requirements, Groysman broke the strike in a day by ordering law enforcement to the site.

## No big fix

Other institutions, like Ukraine's business ombudsman, offer case-by-case fixes without addressing the corruption and impunity that cause the problems in the first place.

Banchuk blamed the issue on the lack of an effective legal system.

"It's because of the weakness of the legal system in general and the inability of legal processes to solve problems," Banchuk said. "It's a way of making it a public problem, and not necessarily a legal problem."

Banchuk added that the tactic essentially goads top officials into action by exposing the faults of government institutions.

"It's a peculiarity of post-Soviet societies that when it's clear someone won't get a result through a weak legal system, they then use political or PR means of defending their rights," he added.

At the meeting, Groysman put a bright spin on the situation.

"It's important for us to engage with business," Groysman said. ■

# World in Ukraine:

# USA

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Editorials

Doing Business



The 100-page Kyiv Post Doing Business magazine features opinions from key leaders, analysis of 11 sectors and interviews with newsmakers.

The Kyiv Post's Doing Business magazine is out today — June 16. It is 100 pages. It turned out that we had a lot to say.

Ukraine is close to making an investment breakthrough that will boost the nation's prosperity. The three key sectors where the breakthrough is likeliest are agriculture, information technology and export-oriented manufacturing.

For agriculture, Ukraine needs to drop its 26-year ban on the sales of agricultural land. This would not only stimulate investment in agriculture and the banking sector.

For IT, rule of law as well as protection of investor and property rights continue to slow down a growing and promising sector. It's sad to say, but when Ukrainian start-up businesses get big and successful, they end up going abroad or registering

abroad. What's left all too often are the workers engaged in outsourcing for clients abroad. They're here because of cheaper wages.

For export-oriented manufacturing, on the surface it seems so simple — Ukraine's wages are 5 to 8 times lower than European Union countries. So why wouldn't manufacturers relocate to or start in Ukraine, especially now that a free-trade agreement exists with the EU?

Greater success in all three sectors will spread to other sectors — retail, restaurants, real estate — and a host of supporting activities.

Unfortunately, the answer comes back to the same in all sectors: Inability or unwillingness to fight corruption, lack of rule of law, no independent judiciary or law enforcement system, and on and on. In short, the twin diseases stifling Ukraine's development as an independent nation are in remission, but persist: the oligarchy and Soviet-era bureaucracy/business practices.

This is why it is unlikely that Ukrainians will have the patience to accept growth rates of 2–3 percent per year. At this pace, it will take 20 years to catch up to the 2013 gross domestic product of \$183 billion. It is intolerable that Ukraine received only \$4 billion in foreign direct investment in 2016, most of it from the enemy — Russia — which remains Ukraine's largest export and import partner, despite impressive strides to reorient trade to other nations in recent years.

People are unhappy. The Population Research Bureau forecasts that Ukraine's population will drop to 35 million people by 2050. At least 1 million are working in Poland, another 2 million in Russia and probably at least another 3 million people everywhere else. Life expectancy remains at 71, a decade less than EU countries, and the birth rate is low.

Reversing these trends will require constructive action from the nation's political leaders. But they remain chained to the old ways of doing business, rather than heeding the clear calls for change from the public, business community and civil society.

A national public opinion survey of residents of Ukraine, taken from April 21-May 5 by the International Republican Institute with support from the government of Canada, is illuminating: 72 percent of Ukrainians said the nation is heading in the wrong direction; 73 percent say the nation's economic situation has worsened somewhat or a lot; 39 percent blame President Petro Poroshenko, followed by the Cabinet of Ministers, parliament and oligarchs. Only 4 percent blame Russia for today's situation, even though the same survey said the war is a major concern and that Russia is increasingly unpowerful.

In a danger sign to his re-election hopes in 2019, 76 percent disapprove somewhat or strongly of Poroshenko.

Also, the three most important issues for Ukraine, according to the survey Russia's war, governmental corruption and low industrial production. The three most important issues for people personally are inflation, unemployment and Russia's war. The most important tasks in the next 10 years: improve quality of life, economic development and get rid of corruption.

This discontent comes despite several recent, concrete achievements. But the mood is ugly despite the beautiful weather. It would be a mistake for Ukraine's leaders to ignore what the people are saying.



**NEWS ITEM:** Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko took an active part in celebrations on June 10 and 11 as Ukraine was granted a visa-free regime with the Schengen Area countries. However, many saw the visa-free concert in Kyiv, the hopak-dancers' performance at Kyiv Boryspil International Airport and the ceremonial opening of a giant door in the form of a biometric passport on Slovak border as PR stunts for Poroshenko. Visa-free travel was one of his promises during the presidential election campaign in 2014.



**NEWS ITEM:** Ukrainian boxing champion Wladimir Klitschko and Ukrainian TV host Oksana Marchenko, the wife of Ukrainian politician Viktor Medvedchuk, on June 10 became the godparents of the newborn daughter of Nestor Shufrich, an Opposition Bloc lawmaker, and close ally of ousted former President Viktor Yanukovich. In the Russian Orthodox Christian tradition, that makes them relatives. Medvedchuk became a relative of Russian President Vladimir Putin after Putin became the godfather of Medvedchuk and Marchenko's daughter.



**NEWS ITEM:** Serhiy Kussyuk, a former commander in the disbanded Ukrainian Berkut riot police, who is wanted by Ukraine for ordering the beating of activists during the EuroMaidan Revolution in 2013-2014 in Kyiv, directed a Russian riot police operation against anti-corruption protesters in Moscow on June 12, during which there were mass arrests. Kussyuk fled Ukraine in 2014, and in 2015 the Ukrainian government put him on the wanted list.

**NEWS ITEM:** Despite Russia's constant complaints and threats, NATO is continuing to grow, and now has 29 members — Russia's long-term Balkan stronghold Montenegro defied the Kremlin and joined the alliance on June 5, to threats of a counter-reaction from Russia. Then on June 8, Ukraine's parliament put the nation back on track to gaining NATO membership, making this a strategic foreign policy goal.



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**Reformer of the week**

**Ruslan Riaboshapka**

Ruslan Riaboshapka, a reformist top official of the National Agency for Preventing Corruption, resigned on June 9.

Riaboshapka said the agency had been completely discredited due to its failure to check the electronic asset declaration of a single official since the declaration system was launched in September. He called for the re-launch of the agency and the appointment of new leadership.

Meanwhile, all of the employees of the Security Service of Ukraine, or SBU, and hundreds of prosecutors and judges are refusing to disclose their declarations, saying the information is a state secret or an investigative secret. Ukraine's chief military prosecutor Anatoly Matios on June 14 also proposed legislation to block access to the declarations of all officials who have anything to do with security and defense. The bill would also exempt fired officials and officials' family members from responsibility for lying in declarations.

Instead of checking officials' declarations, the authorities in March introduced the same declaration requirements for anti-corruption activists as for government officials. The measure has no equivalents in the West and is widely seen as a major attack on civil society. Oleh Barna, a lawmaker from the Poroshenko Bloc, made the idea even more absurd on June 7, proposing that all Ukrainian citizens file e-declarations.

— Oleg Sukhov



**Anti-reformer of the week**

**Volodymyr Kistion**

Deputy Prime Minister Volodymyr Kistion and Nina Yuzhanina, a lawmaker from President Petro Poroshenko's Bloc, were photographed on June 2 together with ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's Ecology Minister Mykola Zlochevsky at a forum held by Zlochevsky's Burisma firm in Monaco.

Kistion and Yuzhanina claimed on June 9 they had not known that Zlochevsky would be there.

In January, prosecutors closed an embezzlement case against Zlochevsky. Fugitive lawmaker Oleksandr Onyshchenko, a suspect in a theft case, has claimed that Poroshenko had extorted \$80 million from Zlochevsky to unfreeze his assets — a claim denied by the president.

Meanwhile, Zlochevsky's Burisma group has supplied natural gas to firms owned by Poroshenko and his allies, according to Radio Liberty. Onyshchenko claims that the gas was supplied free of charge as payment for closing the Zlochevsky case.

In 2008 to 2014 Kistion was a deputy of Volodymyr Groysman, currently Prime Minister and then mayor of Vinnytsya, Poroshenko's main political base. Kistion reportedly initiated the allocation of city budget funds for Gepard, a security firm accused of organizing pro-government thugs, or "titushki", under Yanukovich. Kistion, who is alleged to be linked to the firm, denies the accusations.

— Oleg Sukhov



**VOX populi**

WITH BRIAN BONNER  
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The Kyiv Post attended the June 15 Atlantic Council conference, "The Ukrainian Economy: Challenges and Prospects," at the InterContinental Kyiv Hotel.



**Olena Bilan,**  
*Dragon Capital chief economist*  
"Ukraine's taxation system favors abuse of tax rules by big enterprises who register as many small enterprises."



**John Herbst,**  
*ex-U.S. ambassador to Ukraine*  
"Creating good institutions of the type you have in some Western

countries is expensive. In effect, you (in Ukraine) have to create wealth before you can" pay decent salaries to public employees.



**Timofiy Mylovanov,**  
*honorary president, Kyiv School of Economics*  
"I don't buy for a second that Ukraine can't

afford" to pay market salaries to public employees. "The amount of money laundered or diverted through the banking system is enormous."



**Morgan Williams,**  
*president of U.S.-Ukraine Business Council*  
"If you monopolize the railroad and

privatize land that will go all over the world as a major, major benchmark to move (investment) money into Ukraine."



**Daniel Bilak,**  
*director of Ukraine Investment Promotion Office*  
"Clearly Ukraine is a difficult

brand...Our strategy has been to target a very few global brands to come in this year (to send the message) that Ukraine is ready for prime time."



**Aivaras Abromavicius,**  
*ex-economy minister*  
"One area where not enough progress has been done is

anti-corruption."

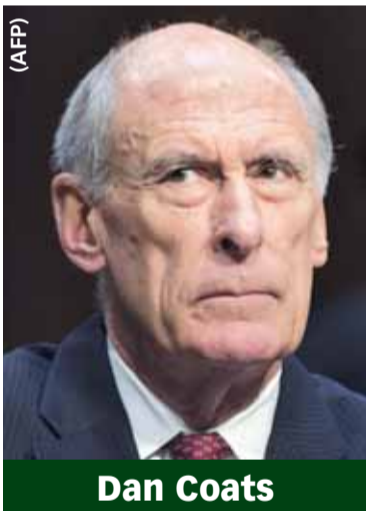


**Anders Aslund,**  
*Atlantic Council fellow*  
"We really have had a reform wave that brought about far greater

changes than we've ever seen before. Is it sustainable? Is it the real breakthrough? I don't think we can answer the question yet."

**Ukraine's Friend & Foe Of The Week**

*Editor's Note: This feature separates Ukraine's friends from its enemies. The Order of Yaroslav the Wise has been given since 1995 for distinguished service to the nation. It is named after the Kyivan Rus leader from 1019-1054, when the medieval empire reached its zenith. The Order of Lenin was the highest decoration bestowed by the Soviet Union, whose demise Russian President Vladimir Putin mourns. It is named after Vladimir Lenin, whose corpse still rots on the Kremlin's Red Square, 100 years after the October Revolution he led.*



**Dan Coats**

The Budapest Memorandum, the document signed in the Hungarian capital on Dec. 5, 1994 that gave security assurances to Ukraine in return for it giving up its nuclear arsenal, is rarely mentioned in the context of Russia's three-year war against Ukraine in the Donbas.

That's probably because the states that were to give those assurances, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Russia, would for various reasons rather that this document be forgotten.

Russia doesn't want to talk about the memorandum because it blatantly broke its commitments, stealing Ukrainian territory and starting a fake insurgency in the Donbas that it feeds with men, weapons and ammunition to this day.

The United States and the UK don't want to be reminded of not meeting their commitments under the memorandum. They didn't even hold official consultations with Russia regarding the Kremlin's violation of the memorandum, as point

six of the document demands.

But the most significant reason these countries would rather the Budapest Memorandum be forgotten is that it sets a dreadful precedent for the world. It teaches all states that, given that nuclear powers will not guarantee another country's sovereignty and can steal another country's territory with impunity, those that have nuclear weapons would be foolish to give them up, and all states that want to protect themselves should acquire nuclear weapons as soon as they can.

So it is refreshing to see the U.S. director of national intelligence, Dan Coats, draw attention to some of the most serious fallout from Russia's war against Ukraine. Speaking at the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee in May, Coats warned that the main lesson from the Budapest Memorandum debacle would not be lost on North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, who has already acquired a nuclear bomb and is now scrambling to develop missiles to deliver it.

"And so we see what's happened in Ukraine probably would not have happened if they had maintained a nuclear weapons capability," Coats told the committee.

But the Budapest problem goes further, as Coats pointed out: States that have acquired nuclear weapons for protection may also be tempted to threaten other states with them. Some states might even be tempted to use nuclear weapons offensively, Coats warned.

So Coats wins the Order of Yaroslav the Wise this week. Ukraine must be supported, Russian aggression brought to an end and the Budapest Memorandum upheld, for the good of the entire world.

— Euan MacDonald



**Order of Yaroslav The Wise**



**Jesse Ventura**

Former U.S. Navy SEAL, professional wrestler, actor and Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura is rebooting his career as a TV host at the Kremlin's main propaganda outlet, RT, it was reported this week.

Plugging his new show, "The World According to Jesse," Ventura told the Minneapolis Star Tribune he had been assured by RT that it would not censor him.

He, and his potential viewers should have no concerns on that front — Ventura already has a history of venting anti-American conspiracy theories, which are bread-and-butter fare for RT.

Previously, he hosted a TV show called "Conspiracy Theory with Jesse Ventura" on a U.S. cable channel. He co-wrote a book called "American Conspiracies" and another called "63 Documents the Government Doesn't Want You to Read."

His latest book is called "They Killed Our President: 63 Reasons to Believe There Was a Conspiracy to Assassinate JFK."

"I have total artistic control and

I can talk about anything I want," Ventura also told the Star Tribune. "We're more interested in talking about our country. I didn't join RT to report on Russia."

There you have it: RT won't censor Ventura — he'll censor himself just fine.

Don't expect to see Ventura on RT investigating Russia's supplying a BUK missile launcher to its proxy forces in Ukraine, the weapon later being used to shoot down Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014, killing 298 passengers and crew.

Don't expect to hear him report on Russia's organizing a sham referendum as cover for its illegal annexation of the Ukrainian territory of Crimea, or give details of Moscow's covert operation to foment a fake "civil war" in Ukraine, or discuss the Kremlin's operation to fund and equip its proxy forces in the Donbas.

And don't expect him to mention how the Kremlin has financed parties in Europe on the extreme left and extreme right to undermine the European Union, or how it has interfered in democratic elections in both Europe and the United States.

Those facts, not theories, aren't the kind of things he's interested in reporting on, as he said.

"I'm working for the enemy of the mainstream media now," Ventura told the Star Tribune.

Quite. And for a mouthpiece of the enemy of Ukraine.

So, for taking a job with the Kremlin's main propaganda outlet to help it pursue its goal of misinforming the world about Ukraine and the West, Ventura wins this week's Order of Lenin.

— Euan MacDonald



**Order of Lenin**

# Drive stalls to create an agricultural land market

**BERMET TALANT**  
BERMET.TALANT@GMAIL.COM

Alim Mishchuk is a farmer from Khmelnytskyi Oblast in western Ukraine. There, in the small village of Zelena, located between Lviv and Vinnitsya, some 400 kilometers southwest of Kyiv, he grows grain crops, soy, flax and legumes on 1,400 hectares of leased land.

But the busy harvesting season, which kicks off in about a month, wasn't the main issue on Mishchuk's mind last week.

Instead, he was in Kyiv to join hundreds of others protesting in front of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, against plans to finally allow the sale of the country's farmland.

The creation of an agricultural land market has gone nowhere since Ukraine regained independence in 1991. A moratorium on sales, first introduced in 2001 for three years, has repeatedly been extended.

It is set to expire on Jan. 1, but many want it extended yet again.

Ukraine's inability to allow for the buying and selling of agricultural land has stifled foreign investment and slowed the nation's progress in becoming an agricultural powerhouse that not only feeds Ukraine but also much of the world.

The political sclerosis is also putting at risk another installment of a multibillion-dollar stabilization loan from the International Monetary Fund, now stuck at \$8.38 billion out of a possible \$17.5 billion by the end of 2018. Lifting the moratorium on the sale of agricultural land and launching a land market are requirements of the international lender.

But there's no consensus among the major stakeholders: agribusinesses, farmers, government and lawmakers. Consequently, the latest attempt may derail again.

## IMF and investment

While an IMF staff report noted



A farm tractor plows a field in Kyiv Oblast on May 31. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Ukraine's achievements in the energy and financial sectors, it emphasized that the nation must accelerate the privatization of state-owned enterprises, create an anti-corruption court and cut the pension deficit, besides the land reform issue.

The IMF's position is logical. Agriculture, which accounts for between eight and 14 percent of Ukraine's economic output, is potentially one of the most attractive for foreign investment. The moratorium is a big brake on development because foreign creditors are reluctant to invest and banks are reluctant to lend unless land can be used as collateral. Also, disputes between landowners and leaseholders are common, and sometimes involve violent raider attacks.

With 70 percent of its territory suitable for agriculture, Ukraine is already a farming superpower.

According to official data, 75 percent of the country's 32 million hectares of arable land is currently in private ownership. In 2016, half

of it was leased, while the 10 largest agrohholdings control only just over 2 million hectares. Because of the moratorium, big agricultural companies can only lease farmland,

## Farmers' fears

The nation's small farmers, in contrast, see the moratorium as a guarantee of their livelihoods, rather than a restriction to growth.

"No ordinary farmer has money to buy land, and there are no cheap bank loans," Mishchuk, the farmer from Khmelnytskyi Oblast, told the Kyiv Post. "So the land will eventually be bought by rich landlords, who have nothing to do with agriculture, and corporations."

Mishchuk is happy to pay \$100 a year per hectare to lease the land he farms, and is afraid he may lose it if the land's owners decide it makes more sense to sell their land plots.

This fear was on display at the protest on June 7.

On an improvised stage, actors wearing masks with the faces of

Ukrainian politicians ate a big cake in the shape of Ukraine greedily cutting away chunks of "land" with large spoons. At another stand "a politician" was using shop scales to sell off Ukrainian "chernozem" — or black soil.

Meanwhile, the Agrarian Party of Ukraine, which doesn't have any seats in parliament, has launched a campaign #НеДамовКратиЗемлю (We won't let our land be stolen) and claims to have gathered 3 million signatures. "The main goal of land reform should be to make speculation impossible and prevent the concentration of land in the hands of people who want to speculate on it and resell it," Vitaly Skotsik, the leader of the Agrarian Party, said in a recent television interview.

He said that the sale of agricultural land should not start without a proper inventory of farmland.

Second, the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre (StateGeoCadastre) should be liquidated. Skotsik said

it is a corrupt and unnecessary institution.

Third, only people who live in a given locality and do farming should be allowed to buy farmland, according to the Agrarian Party.

"The risk is very high that Russians will buy Ukrainian land through local nominees," Skotsik said.

The party's model echoes a new Polish law passed in April that banned foreigners from buying farmland for five years. The new law also restricts Polish citizens, since they now have to live in a locality for five years before they can buy farmland there, and they must pledge to work the land they buy for a decade.

## Officials bicker

The end of May deadline set by the IMF was not met. On May 18, the Verkhovna Rada rejected a draft decree on creating a roadmap for regulating the land market. Days after the vote, Agriculture Minister Taras Kutoviy resigned, allegedly over the issue. In interviews, Kutoviy said the land reform envisaged by Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman might never be accepted.

Groysman has proposed that only private individuals with Ukrainian citizenship be allowed to buy or sell farmland plots, and then no more than 200 hectares.

"At this stage we are against sales of agricultural land to foreigners and legal entities," he said at a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on May 29. Unlike Groysman, Kutoviy supported the sale of leasing rights, which could be used as collateral, instead of granting land ownership rights.

Lawmakers from the pro-presidential Bloc of Petro Poroshenko faction in parliament have another plan.

But with the minority Batkivshchyna Party, led by populist lawmaker Yulia Tymoshenko, proposing a national referendum to ban the sales of agricultural land, the issue looks set to drag on. ■

## World in Ukraine: Canada

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Keith Farlinher for many years has served as CEO of BDO Canada. Alongside that role he is heavily involved in the multiple audit innovation and IT developments within the BDO network. Keith is a big supporter of innovation at the BDO globally. BDO in Ukraine in its turn actively participates in this process.

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# 'Black ledger' investigation flames out after 1 year

Ledger from page 1

In December 2016, Okhendonvskiy was given a note of suspicion on charges that he had received \$16,000 in illegal compensation for working trips abroad, and \$145,000 in unverified payments from the Party of Regions.

NABU detectives said they had gathered enough evidence to prove Okhendonvskiy had received at least \$16,000 from the Party of Regions. A handwriting forensic examination had proved the authenticity of his signature under the payment in the ledger, detectives said.

However, that's not enough to convict him of bribery, the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office said in a message published on June 9.

"To bring a supposed bribe-taker's case to the court, it is still necessary to prove not only the fact of him getting the money, but also the fact of using his position to act in the

interests of the bribe giver," the message read.

The investigators still have to prove what concrete actions Okhendonvskiy took in the interests of Yanukovich's party during his foreign trips.

The documents that Ukrainian diplomats provided to investigators had many mismatches, the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office message said. Foreign diplomats are the only reliable source left, so it was decided to stop the case against Okhendonvskiy until the investigators get documents from foreign partners.

## Important evidence

Meanwhile, the NABU has said it has gathered enough evidence to press charges not only against Okhendonvskiy but also against at least one more official named in the ledger, although it didn't reveal the official's name.

"However only Kholodnytskiy, (the head of the anti-corruption prose-



## Indian Embassy invites Kyivans to mass yoga session

The Indian Embassy in Ukraine will hold a yoga meditation session June 18 on Kyiv's main Khreshchatyk Street at 8 a.m. to mark International Yoga Day and the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and India. The organizers hope 10,000 people will attend. The embassy has invited an Indian yoga instructor who will lead a meditation session with Ukrainian yoga teachers. On June 21, the embassy will hold another yoga festival in Mariyinsky Park from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Khreshchatyk Street in front of the TSUM shopping mall, 38 Khreshchatyk St., on June 18 at 8 a.m. Free. Mariyinsky Park, next to the stage of the "Rakushka" ("Sea Shell") outdoor theater. June 21. 4 p.m. Free. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat. (UNIAN)

curator's office), could make such a decision (to press charges), as he was the one who signed the note of suspicion," the NABU said.

Hordiyevych said the case against election commission head Okhendonvskiy is not closed, and he remains a suspect. But the pre-trial investigation has been halted as Ukrainian investigators are waiting

for international legal cooperation.

And unlike other black ledger materials, Okhendonvskiy's case wasn't passed to Horbatuk's department.

Horbatuk said that after Trepak passed the black ledger to the NABU in 2016, the Special Investigations Department immediately made a request to create a joint group of investigators.

"At first we just exchanged the materials and information, but then we decided to create a joint group of investigators, as these materials are important evidence in our department's cases," Horbatuk said.

"The black ledger documents prove secret payments and bribes were given to officials." ■

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# Wallstrom: 'Nobody threatens' Sweden; tougher sanctions on Russia 'not realistic'

Minister from page 1

before you can see an even bigger inflow of investors."

Wallstrom said Swedish investors and companies tell her they "need reforms. They want to see rule of law. They want to see democracy strengthened. They want to see that there is respect for these provisions. Fighting corruption would be the highest up on their list."

Ukraine, she said, could imperil recent advancements with the European Union — including a free-trade agreement and visa-free travel — if it doesn't uphold democratic principles. That is a message she planned to deliver to President Petro Poroshenko and other Ukrainian leaders at meetings later in the day.

"They have to fulfill those commitments," Wallstrom said. "We will remind them there is a suspension clause. If we see that reforms do not take shape as planned or as promised, we can suspend (visa-free travel)." Ukrainians on June 11 won the privilege to travel up to 90 days throughout most of Europe without needing visas.

Sweden has much bigger influence on Ukraine than most nations.

Even though it has only 10 million people, Sweden is one of the world's richest and most generous nations —

pledging 1 percent of annual economic output to foreign aid.

For Ukraine, this commitment has translated into annual, multi-year assistance ranging from \$22 million to \$28 million. The aid is largely carried out through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency to support democracy, energy efficiency, human rights, independent journalism, civil society and many other initiatives.

"That's why we keep coming back," said Wallstrom, whose visit on June 15 marked her fourth trip to the nation. "We keep being very, very active. We join forces with other member states and partners. We keep the pressure up. We are meeting with the president today. We are meeting with civil society. We insist on keeping control over what we do ourselves and with our investments here... We have to insist on reforms."

## Russian threat

Wallstrom also addressed the greater security threat posed by Russia. Like Ukraine, Sweden is not part of the 29-nation NATO military alliance. Unlike Ukraine, perhaps, Sweden doesn't want to be part of NATO.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has also threatened Sweden to stay out of NATO.

While denying that Russia would



ever invade Sweden, unlike Ukraine, Putin said in an interview earlier this month that the Kremlin "will interpret" Swedish entry into NATO "as an additional threat for Russia and we will think about how to eliminate it. If Sweden joins NATO, this will affect our relations in a negative way

because we will consider that the infrastructure of the military bloc now approaches us from the Swedish side."

Wallstrom said that, while Sweden will not be intimidated by any threats, Sweden has no intention of joining NATO.

"Nobody threatens us. Nobody should threaten us. We make our own decisions independently. We remain firm and we remain consistent," Wallstrom said. "We have been militarily nonaligned for 200 years. It has served us well and continues to serve us well. We will do what it takes to make sure our country is safe and our territorial integrity is respected... We think this is not the time to change our basic security policy. Absolutely not."

She said that Sweden is strengthening its own defenses. The nation has recently reintroduced military conscription. The foreign minister also said Sweden is cooperating more extensively militarily with other nations, particularly neighboring Finland, but also the United Kingdom, Germany and the entire NATO alliance.

"Security these days is more than a pure direct military threat, she said. "We also have to invest in peace and in preventing conflict."

## More sanctions?

As for pressuring Russia to end its war against Ukraine, in its fourth year, and return the Crimean peninsula, Wallstrom said that Sweden would be open to tougher economic sanctions against the Kremlin. But she doesn't believe that is politically realistic within the E.U.

"We know that it has been an effort to keep the sanctions that we have," Wallstrom said. "We would definitely be willing to discuss tougher sanctions, but that is not realistic today to introduce tougher sanctions. Now we have to insist on the realization of Minsk agreement, also not to accept that this slips off the agenda of the European Union or the international community. So I think that's most important now and to keep pressure on Russia."

The 2015 Minsk peace agreement calls for Russia to impose a ceasefire in Ukraine, withdraw its support and troops from eastern Donbas, return control of the 400 kilometers of eastern border to Ukraine and allow international monitors unfettered access. Russia has not lived up to any of those agreements. The war has claimed more than 10,000 lives and displaced more than 1.5 million people. ■



Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom speaks to the Kyiv Post on June 15 on the sidelines of the 6th annual Sweden-Ukraine Business Forum. (Volodymyr Petrov)

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TO: "Unknown" heirs of Nikolai B. Berezhnoy and Tatiana Grigorevna Nikitenko- Berezhnoy, (whose names and whereabouts are unknown), hereby intending to designate the distributees of the late Zoia Lytwynec, a/k/a Zoia Berezhnoy, legal representatives, assigns and all persons, who by purchase, inheritance or otherwise have or claim to have an interest in the estate of Zoia Lytwynec.

A petition having been duly filed by Elena F. Cariola, Esq.,  
 who is/are domiciled at 14 West Ham Circle, North Chili, New York 14514

YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Monroe County,  
 at 99 Exchange Blvd., Room 533, Hall of Justice, Rochester New York, on August 17, 2017  
 at 9:30 o'clock in the Forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of  
 Zoia Lytwynec lately domiciled at  
 26 Brookdale Park, Rochester, New York 14609  
 in the County of Monroe, New York, granting Letters of Administration upon the estate of  
 the decedent to Frank B. Iacovangelo, Esq., Monroe County Public Administrator  
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 Chief Clerk  
 Frank B. Iacovangelo, Esq.  
 Print Name of Attorney  
 (585) 454-7145  
 Telephone

Gallo & Iacovangelo  
 Firm  
 180 Canal View Boulevard; Suite 100, Rochester, New York 14623  
 Address

NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you.

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This year's Kyiv Pride, dubbed the Equality March, in support of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Ukraine, will start at the corner of Volodymyrska Street and Bohdana Khmelnytskoho Street in Kyiv on June 18 at 9 a.m.



## Kyiv Post's guide to top summer festivals

### Book Review



WITH MARIA ROMANENKO  
ROMANENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

### Art book explores Ukraine's Soviet past in mosaics

When Yevgen Nikiforov started taking photographs of Ukrainian Soviet-era mosaics at the end of 2013, he didn't know that more than three years later it would grow into a 255-page book titled "Decommunized: Ukrainian Soviet mosaics."

The book, published by Osnovy in May, includes photographs of 200 mosaics throughout Ukraine, including Russian-occupied Crimea and parts of war-torn Donbas. They are divided into seven chapters: people, labor and industrialization, history and ideology, sport and leisure, science and space, folk and national motifs, small architectural forms and mosaic ensembles.

"I thought it was important to bring people's attention to the fact that they're surrounded by art," Nikiforov said. "The art that is hidden by modern renovations, new tacky buildings and uncontrolled advertisements."

The project gained new meaning in April 2015, when the government passed laws that ban communist symbols. The laws spread to include art objects. Many mosaics have since been destroyed, painted over or covered.

"Back then it became clear to me that I had to hurry up because in a short space of time part of the works I shot and the ones I was about to shoot would be destroyed or obstructed."

Kyiv-born Nikiforov, who used to be a fashion photographer and worked in China, started documentary photography in 2013 when the EuroMaidan Revolution had just started.

"I was visiting Ukraine on vacation. But I couldn't leave the country, so I carried on my career in Ukraine and took photographs of the events that unfolded in Kyiv," Nikiforov says.

Around the same time, he was asked by Osnovy publishing house to shoot mosaics for their previous book "The Art of the Ukrainian Sixties," a task that inspired "Decommunized: Ukrainian soviet mosaics."

"I was inspired by the artists' life stories, how they created these works and what difficulties they faced in the process," he says.

Nikiforov says he had to start from scratch to find Soviet mosaics, as there isn't a univer-



Visitors of the Z-Games festival in Odesa Oblast cheer as they watch two women mud wrestlers on Aug. 6, 2016. (Vitali Yurasov)

BY TOMA ISTOMINA  
ISTOMA@GMAIL.COM

For those who find sightseeing trips or a weekend on the beach a bit boring, Ukraine's summer agenda is packed with live music events of all types, cinema festivals and opportunities to try out extreme sports. The Kyiv Post has picked out the most interesting and popular festivals being held in Ukraine this summer.

### Alfa Jazz Fest

For the last few years, every June, the western Ukrainian city of Lviv has gone mad for jazz. This year, for the seventh time in a row, the Alfa Jazz Fest will bring singers and bands to Lviv from all over the world.

This year's lineup includes jazz legends like Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band, Gregory Porter, China Moses and Herbie Hancock. Apart from concert shows, festival guests

will be able to visit jam sessions, workshops, film screenings and autograph sessions.

The fest has three stages, located in different parts of the city. Although seats for performances on the stage dedicated to Eddie Rosner are sold out, entrance to the park where the stage will be set up is free, so visitors can still listen to performances while standing. Apart from that, jazz fans can enjoy music for free at the two

other stages — on Rynok Square and Potocki Palace Square.

Nataliya Bolibrukh, a blogger who has lived in Lviv almost all her life, has attended Alfa Jazz Fest six times and is looking forward to the seventh. She says that when the festival is held, Lviv is even more charming than usual.

"The city turns into a place of jazz

more Festivals on page 12

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**KyivPost**

more Book on page 11

# Rooftop restaurants, clubs dazzle with picturesque, panoramic views

BY ANNA YAKUTENKO  
YAKUTENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

From street level, Kyiv is beautiful. From a bird's-eye view, it's even more breathtaking. With summer in full swing, the Kyiv Post has prepared a list of restaurants, bars and clubs where one can enjoy Kyiv's panoramic landscapes.

## Roof

Roof, a concert hall located on the rooftop of the nine-story building at 37/41 Sichovykh Striltsiv St., holds various concerts of classical, jazz and electronic music. The club works only during the summertime and offers a great view at the old buildings of Lukyanivska district.

The club shares the building with two other venues, Atlas Club and Barbara Bar, which is currently closed for reconstruction. The Roof has a minimalist design with a stylish wooden stage, bar and several couches and tables to sip a drink while listening to jazz songs. Tickets usually cost Hr 150 and more. To check the schedule, visit [www.facebook.com/Roof37](http://www.facebook.com/Roof37).

Roof, 37/41 Sichovykh Striltsiv St. +38-067-155-2255

## Solod Enjoy Bar

Solod Enjoy Bar has a stylish terrace on the rooftop of Silver Breeze shopping mall on the left bank with a view of the Dnipro River and golden domes of Kyiv's churches. The place focuses on smoked food, including grilled meat, fish and sausages for Hr 95-180. Solod Enjoy Bar even serves up ice cream with bacon for Hr 45. Live music is available from Wednesday to Saturday.

Solod Enjoy Bar, 1 Pavla Tychyny Ave. 11 a.m. - 12 a.m. +38-067-155-7744

## Avalon Terrace

One can enjoy a sunset in the heart of Kyiv at the terrace on the rooftop

of the Avalon entertainment complex, which includes two restaurants, karaoke, club, gym and beauty salon. Apart from a picturesque view of the houses' rooftops, Terrace restaurant offers a large choice of seafood from Hr 135 per 100 grams, including oysters and caviar, as well as meat dishes and sushi. The cocktails start from Hr 150 and a bottle of wine goes from Hr 925.

Avalon Terrace, 3 Leontovycha St. 24 hours. +38-044-234-7494

## Mr. Zuma

Located in the Gulliver shopping mall near Palats Sportu metro station not far away from the city center, Japanese cuisine restaurant Mr. Zuma has a luxury summer terrace with a view of Kyiv. One can find here various sets of rolls for Hr 96-695 and house cocktail to suit the dish from Hr 158. For those who want to try different dishes, Mr. Zuma offers several sets that include salads, sushi and dessert from Hr 1,478.

Mr. Zuma, 1 Esplanadna St. 12 p.m. - 2 a.m. +38-067-400-7552

## B-Hush Lounge Bar

B-Hush Lounge Bar on the rooftop of the Intercontinental Hotel offers a terrace with one of the most exciting views in the city: one can see the domes of St. Michael's and St. Sophia's cathedrals and most of the city's center from the top of the hotel's 11th floor on the height of 40 meters. The restaurant has an extensive choice of Japanese dishes for around Hr 200-400, several most popular Vietnamese dishes from Hr 185 and Hennessy-based cocktails for Hr 315-465.

B-Hush Lounge Bar, 2A Velyka Zhytomyrska St. 6 p.m. - 2 a.m. +38-044-219-1919

## Matisse

Matisse restaurant is not located on a rooftop, but high enough to



People rest at the Roof concert hall on top of the nine-story building in Kyiv on June 13. (Oleg Petراسиuk)



Visitors of the Panorama restaurant in Kyiv smoke hookah at a terrace with a city view on June 12. (Oleg Petراسиuk)

Panorama, 3 Sholudenska St. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. +38044-597-70 07

## Monaco

The summer terrace of Monaco restaurant of Mediterranean cuisine has a spectacular view of St. Andrew's Church and Peizazhna Alley. The place offers various delicacies, such as pasta with truffles for Hr 240, risotto with shrimps for Hr 240, octopus with potato and tomatoes for Hr 565 and scallops for Hr 320. Apart from a spacious terrace that can house 120 people, the restaurant has five other rooms for dining.

Monaco, 20A Velyka Zhytomyrska St. 12 p.m. - 12 a.m. +38044-279-0404

## Eliziy

Eliziy is a posh restaurant in the Tsarsky gym with a classy summer terrace, a swimming pool and a view of the Motherland monument and Botanical Garden. The place has an unusual design with tropical plants, an oceanarium, and cozy wicker nest chairs. One can order here various fish dishes (prices start from Hr 100 for 100 grams), sushi (a set of rolls goes for Hr 269-372) and even black caviar for Hr 3,400. Cocktails cost around Hr 180-250, a hookah starts from Hr 300.

Eliziy, 13 Staronavodnytska St. 10 a.m. - 12 a.m. +38095-277-1222

## G-Sky Lounge Bar

G-Sky Lounge Bar is located on a rooftop of a seven-story parking lot, so one can get by car straight to the bar's entrance. The place has a 30-meter bar where one can sip a drink while enjoying the view of the picturesque Rusanivska Embankment. The place has more than affordable bar menu with a bottle of wine from Hr 270 and cocktails for Hr 80-100.

G-Sky Lounge Bar, 25A Raiduzhna St. 5 p.m. - 5 a.m. +38063-123-4422 ■

offer an impressive view from 15th floor of the Cityhotel in the heart of Kyiv. The place has elegant design with light colors and panoramic windows that take up the entire wall of the restaurant. Matisse offers various dishes from Italian and French cuisine along with some traditional Ukrainian food options for around Hr 200-300 per dish. The restaurant also has an impressive wine choice from Hr 180 for a glass.

Matisse, 56A Bohdana Khmelnytskoho. 7 a.m. - 12 a.m. +38044-393-5929

## Panorama

The name of the restaurant at 3 Sholudenska St., Panorama, speaks for itself. It has a cozy terrace on the rooftop of the Cubic business center and offers dishes from Italian and Mediterranean cuisine. The restaurant's unusual design in art-deco style and live jazz music bring visitors back to the 1920s. The place has a great variety of salads and appetizers for around Hr 150, extensive wine options for around Hr 700 for a bottle, and 10 types of cigars available.



Guests of the Avalon Terrace restaurant on the rooftop of the Avalon entertainment complex in Kyiv enjoy their dinner. (Avalon/facebook)



A doctor examines a patient at the Eurolab medical center in Kyiv on June 5. (Oleg Petrasniuk)

## Some medical options in Kyiv for English speakers who need help

BY MARIYA KAPINOS  
KAPINOS@KYIVPOST.COM

In a health crisis, you don't need to speak Ukrainian to get help in Kyiv — just dial 103, give your address, and help will be on its way.

Private clinics in Kyiv also offer emergency medical aid, but there isn't a universal phone number, so a person in need of medical aid will need to look up the number of their chosen hospital online first.

But, thankfully, not all health problems require urgent care. Kyiv's numerous private clinics offer a wide range of medical services, use modern equipment, have English-speaking staff, and provide test results that are valid abroad.

### Diagnostics

Eurolab medical center has cardiologists, dermatologists, endocrinologists, and neurologists on staff, and offers a full range of medical diagnostics services, including MRI, X-Ray, mammography, and ultrasound scans. It also has a genetic research facility.

Iryna Talavira from Eurolab says that about 30 percent of their clients are foreigners, most of whom live in Kyiv.

Eurolab therefore has English-speaking doctors, and if English is not a patient's first language, the clinic can provide an interpreter in the required language to attend medical examinations. The results of the tests are always given to clients in two languages: English and Russian.

"Clients can go back to their own country and give their test results to a local doctor, and so would not have to undergo testing again," says Talavira.

According to Talavira, Ukrainians usually come to the clinic already knowing which specialist they need to see, while foreigners are more used to general practitioners. Talavira also says that Eurolab also has all of the vaccines required, according to European healthcare standards.

Average bill in Eurolab — Hr 1,700  
MRI — Hr 4,500

Eurolab medical center. 11A Solomianska St. +38044 2062000

### Dental help

Astra Dent clinic is proud of the quality of its services, as well as of its prices: while the quality is high, the cost is low — at least compared to those charged by dental clinics in other European countries.

The clinic, which opened in 2006, thus caters to Ukrainian and foreign clients.

Viktoria Konovalchuk, the CEO of Astra Dent, says that some patients even come to their clinic from abroad, from Israel for instance.

"It is literally cheaper to buy a plane ticket, pay for accommodation and come to Ukraine, rather than be treated in a dentist's chair in Israel," she said.

Cost of a filling — Hr 500

For tooth implant, the entire process costs Hr 13,200

Astra Dent has eight clinics in Kyiv. To locate the nearest one, go to [www.astradent.ua/contacts/](http://www.astradent.ua/contacts/). +38044 222 33 33

### Reproductive medicine

According to ISIDA, over 1,000 foreigners went to this clinic for the birth of their babies in 2016.

ISIDA has been on the market of reproductive medicine for over 25 years.

Oleh Petrenko, the deputy director general of ISIDA's strategic development department, says that Ukraine's liberal laws allow for a wide range of reproductive treatments, including surrogacy services.

Natalia Tulinova, the deputy director general of ISIDA's marketing and strategic department, says that it is very hard to attract clients through advertising — satisfied clients are the best advertisement for the clinic, she said.

A single consultation at the clinic costs Hr 390-975

An ultrasound scan costs Hr 242-728

ISIDA clinic has four facilities in Kyiv. To locate the nearest one, go to [www.isida.ua/uk/contacts/](http://www.isida.ua/uk/contacts/) 0800 60 80 80

### Urology, gynecology, eye, ear, nose and throat

Medicom doesn't have any extremely specialized services, but they do offer a range of basic surgical operations in urology, gynecology, and EENT (eye, ear, nose and throat).

Most of their patients are foreigners living in Kyiv long term, according to Denys Tatarkin, the CEO and chief medical officer of Medicom.

"If a person suddenly has a problem like appendicitis — they could also be our client," he says.

To get a plaster cast — Hr 450-650

Treating a dislocated joint (forearm, shoulder, foot) — Hr 999

Medicom clinic has four facilities

in Kyiv. To locate the nearest one, go to [www.medikom.ua/ua/about/contacts/](http://www.medikom.ua/ua/about/contacts/). For an ambulance, call 15-55, +38044 503 00 00.

### Public medicine

Despite all the technical and professional progress achieved by the private clinics, there are certain services that only public hospitals can provide, including kidney transplants, heart transplants, and open-heart surgery.

According to Andriy Turchyn, the deputy chief doctor at the Kyiv regional Clinical Hospital, most of his colleagues know English.

"We don't do anything special. Our work is to operate at maximum capacity," he said.

He said sometimes foreigners come to this Ukrainian clinic to get medical help that is not available in their own country or that is too expensive. For instance, the hospital cooperates with the Libyan Embassy in Ukraine to provide Libyan citizens with medical help. Turchyn said that this year they have already helped two Libyans, and 17 are on its waiting list.

Kyiv Regional Clinical Hospital. 1 Bahhovutivska St. +38044 237 02 86. ■

## Book Review: Quest to document Soviet-era mosaics in Ukraine

Book from page 9

sal archive. He consulted periodicals and spoke to ethnographers and locals in different towns. "Eventually I had something like a tree which took me from big cities to smaller towns and villages," he says.

He traveled to Crimea, but Donbas was a harder catch. While he was planning his trip, Russian militants found out about Nikiforov's project and offered their help for \$300.

"I did not want to cooperate with local militants and some uncertain people and it was still dangerous. So I found three people via social media who agreed to photograph three mosaics in Donetsk and Krasnodon," Nikiforov says.

### Personal preferences

By the time the book was sent to print, Nikiforov had traveled around 120 places in Ukraine. Now the number is 170, as he still cannot leave his hobby behind. He also has a separate decommunization project that is almost done.

"Decommunization is still in process and maybe when it will be over that will be my stop in it."

Nikiforov says that his favorite piece is located in Ostrovskiy museum in Shepetivka. He is also impressed by the work inside the Molodaya Gvardiya museum in Krasnodon, Donbas.

"As to Kyiv, I really like the mosaics on Peremohy Avenue. It's a complex of six mosaics and the two in the middle, which are the oldest

among them, are my favorite," he shares.

The hardest one to shoot, Nikiforov says, was the one in Mariupol airport. The airport serves as a military base for Ukrainian soldiers fighting against Kremlin-backed separatists. Other places had limited access: in Pripyat (where the Chernobyl nuclear disaster took place in 1986), he had to persuade tour guides to show him where the local mosaics are because they are not a part of the tourist routes.



The book cover of "Decommunized: Ukrainian Soviet Mosaics."

### Sadness

With sadness, Nikiforov talks about the decommunization law. Although he agrees with the law, the removal of monuments "should have been carried out with greater attention and care. The mass-produced works aside, like the hundreds and thousands of similar-looking (Vladimir) Lenins in every town and village, there are some quite unique things that should have been transported to a territory that could eventually become a museum of totalitarian art."

The museum would serve an educational purpose, he says. "It would help people understand why the communist regime was bad and what crimes it was guilty of. So that we don't see anything like that in the future." ■

"Decommunized: Ukrainian Soviet mosaics" can be purchased online on <http://osnovy-publishing.com> or at all major local bookstores for Hr 1,200.

With the summer in the city, the Kyiv Post brings together the hottest trends of the season in its Special Summer Guide in the June 30 issue.

Find out about the best places to escape the heat, enjoy sun and fresh air, and the best travelling destinations within Ukraine.



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# Ukraine's summer festivals feature music, sports, film

Festivals from page 9

pilgrimage. Music is playing everywhere," she said.

*Alfa Jazz Fest. June 23–27. Lviv. Bohdana Khmelnytskoho Park (4 Bolharska St.), Rynok Square, Potocki Palace Square. Free*

## Atlas Weekend

Despite its short, two-year history, Atlas Weekend is already one of the main summer music events in Ukraine. This year's lineup is diverse: over the five days of the event more than 200 artists will perform on the eight stages at the VDNH national exhibition center in Kyiv.

This year music lovers will be able to hear music legends Kasabian, The Prodigy, John Newman, Three Days Grace, Alex Clare and Nothing But Thieves. Apart from the foreign acts, popular Ukrainian musicians will also perform, including Boombox, The Hardkiss, Onuka, Pianoboy and Monatik.

Maksym Serdiuk, the chief editor of Muzmapa, a website about Ukrainian music, says that Atlas Weekend is not an option for anyone who wants to escape the urban bustle, as there are always a lot of people there. He visited the festival last year and recommended it as the place to be to catch up with old friends.

"They're all going to be there," he said.

And Atlas Weekend has a special present for visitors this year — on June 28, Constitution Day, entrance will be free. The headliner of the day will be Verka Serduchka, who represented Ukraine at Eurovision Song Contest in 2007 and took a creditable second place. The lineup of the day also includes VV, Serhii Babkin, Skai, Green Grey, and Kozak System.

*Atlas Weekend. June 28 – July 2. Kyiv. VDNH (1 Hlushkov Ave.) Hr 300–5,000.*

## Odesa International Film Festival

One of the best film festivals in Eastern Europe is held annually



Boris Grebenshchikov, Russian rock musician and frontman of the legendary Russian rock band Aquarium, performs at the Atlas Weekend festival in Kyiv on July 9, 2016. (UNIAN)

in the southern Ukrainian city of Odesa. The festival aims to popularize art cinema in the country and support the development of the Ukrainian cinematography. And year by year, the festival is lengthening the list of its participants and the number of countries in which the films are produced.

Over the nine days, the film marathon will screen premieres of Ukrainian and foreign movies. The festival has two main locations — Odesa's Festival Palace and

the Rodina Festival Center. Like more famous film festivals all over the world, Odesa will also roll out the red carpet for celebrity guests. Apart from watching the exclusive premieres and special screenings, visitors will also have an opportunity to attend workshops and meetings with directors and actors by day, and party with them by night.

Mykyta Kozlov, a history student at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, has already bought a pass for the July festival. He has already attended the event twice

and loved living from film to film for nine days.

He likes the proximity the festival gives to actors, directors and visitors to the festival.

"There was one comic situation, when I was demonstrating my not-so-great dancing skills beside (U.S. filmmaker) Darren Aronofsky and the Belgian actor Ian Beivut," he said.

Kozlov says that another plus of the festival is the special atmosphere in the tent camp — night screenings, daytime lounge on hammocks, loud parties, and meeting lots of new people.

*Odesa International Film Festival. July 14–22. Odesa. Festival Palace (3 Panteleimonivska St.), Rodina festival center (104 Mechnykova St.) Nine days pass — Hr 1,200.*

## Faine Misto

Faine Misto is a four-day festival of music and fun. The festival got its name from the location where it is traditionally held — near Ternopil, a city Ukrainians call a "faine misto" (a good/fine town). The number of festival attendees has been growing every year due to its impressive and diverse lineup.

This summer it includes popular foreign bands Guano Apes, Poets of the Fall, Skindred, Bloom Twins, and On-the-Go, as well as Ukrainian musicians Druha Rika, Hadiukiny Brothers, Antytila, O. Torvald, TNMK, Khrystyna Solovii and many

others.

Apart from music stages, the festival this year has a new location — the Amphiteatre, which is a literature and theatre stage, platform for lectures, and a nighttime cinema. Among others famous Ukrainian authors Serhii Zhadan, Andrii Lubka, Yurii Izdryk will give their performances at Amphiteatre.

Natalia Mydliak, a history student from Ternopil Oblast who currently lives in Kyiv, can't imagine July without the festival. She has attended Faine Misto twice, and is keenly awaiting more fun this summer. She says that it is a unique event.

"You will remember the emotions you have at the festival as the best moments of the summer," she said.

Festivalgoers can either stay in nearby hotels or get a pass for a tent camp set up by Faine Misto, which includes a food court, showers and other necessary facilities.

*Faine Misto. July 20–23. Ternopil Oblast. Ternopil racetrack (7 kilometers from Ternopil on the Ho2 road). Four-day pass — Hr 820, three-day — Hr 720, two-day — Hr 620, one day — Hr 520, tent camp pass — Hr 200.*

## Impulse Fest

This festival was founded nine years ago in Kharkiv, the biggest city in eastern Ukraine, which is considered the capital of alternative music in the country. Kharkiv musicians usually



People rest in a tent camp at the Faine Misto festival near Ternopil city in July, 2016. (Courtesy of Faine Misto)

# Summer festivals in Ukraine offer entertainment options for all ages and tastes

Festivals from page 12

have individual styles and innovative sounds. Once a small event at a nightclub, Impulse Fest is now one of the most popular music events in the country.

Ihor Stupka, an IT-specialist who moved to Kharkiv two years ago, visited the festival in 2016. He loves Impulse because it not only has top Ukrainian artists, who rock the main stage, but also beginners, who perform on a small stage, which, he says, is literally tiny.

"The musicians didn't just perform, they communicated with the audience," he said. "I adore the small stage of Impulse."

This year the festival is maintaining its tradition of inviting Kharkiv musicians — including Serhiy Babkin, and Urbanistan — as well as bands from all over the country, including Boombbox, TNMK, Druha Rika, SKAI, Kadnay, Rozhden, and Bahroma.

*Impulse Fest. July 28–30. Kharkiv. Mehanika Art Factory (126a Plekhanivska St.) Three days – Hr 670, one day – Hr 350.*

## ZaxidFest

ZaxidFest is a great event for all those who want to take a break from the city and go to a remote place to enjoy music, surrounded by nature. The festival is held near the village of Rodytychi, which is 40 kilometers from Lviv. The organizers set up a tent camp in the middle of a forest, along with a parking lot, food court, showers and places for charging gadgets.

The festival's music program is full and diverse — visitors will be able to hear hard rock, metal, indie rock, hip-hop, electronics and other styles. The lineup includes foreign performers such as Editors, Enter Shikari, Breaking Benjamin, and In Extremo, as well as Ukrainian acts O. Torvald, Pianoboy, Vivienne Mort, 5 Vymir and others.

Oleksandr Protsenko, a sales manager, who has lived all his life in Sumy, a city in eastern Ukraine, recommends ZaxidFest for its special atmosphere. The majority of the festival's visitors are western Ukrainians, who, according to Protsenko, are very friendly, hospitable, kind and open-minded.

"Everyone is good-natured and loving," he said.

*ZaxidFest. August 18–20. Lviv oblast, Rodatychi. One day – Hr 660, three days – Hr 990, tent camp pass for three days – Hr 250.*

## Z-Games

The Z-Games festival is a perfect combination of extreme sports and music. The festival has been held in Ukraine annually since 2010, in recent years usually in Odesa, where it is being held this year again. Z-Games is great for all those who like to watch action sports competitions, listen to music and party by the beach. Visitors can also take part in extreme sports competitions themselves. The program includes skateboarding, MTB and BMX, rollerblading, kitesurfing, skimboarding, bouldering (rock climbing), slacklining, parkour, and breakdancing.

Wakeboarding world champion Anastasiia Ponomarenko visited the festival last year. She says that she enjoyed spending time with people who shared her interests in action sports. Ponomarenko also said she loved the festival's "energetic atmosphere and music."

Apart from watching the competitions, visitors can attend yoga and slacklining workshops, and even take windsurfing lessons with an instructor.

The team of Z-Games hasn't yet announced the lineup for this year's event. Previous headliners have included Xzibit, Tesla Boy, Brutto, Hardkiss, and O. Torvald.

*Z-Games. August 21–27. Odesa Oblast. Hr 799–1,100* ■



American jazz singer Dee Dee Bridgewater performs at Alfa Jazz Fest in Lviv on June 12, 2014. (PHL)



A crowd passes a woman overhead as they have fun at the ZaxidFest festival in Lviv Oblast in August, 2016. (Courtesy of ZaxidFest)



Alik Shpilyuk, program head of the International Odesa Film Festival talks to the press at the festival's opening ceremony in Odesa on July 15, 2016. (UNIAN)



Pianoboy performs at the Impulse Fest in Kharkiv on July 30, 2016. (Arsen Dzodzaev)



**Vsi Svoi Summer Market**

Ukrainian producers will present their summer collections at the Vsi Svoi market on June 17-18. The market's visitors can find light blouses, skirts, dresses, flip-flops and other types of shoes, along with accessories and lingerie from Ukrainian brands.

**Vsi Svoi. June 17-18. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. 12 Desyatylna St. Free**



**Charity run with dogs**

Dog owners and lovers can take part in a charity run and help the Happy Paw fund raise money to build dog training areas in Kyiv. People are encouraged to participate together with their four-legged friends. To register, visit [www.athletic-events.com/ru/events/402](http://www.athletic-events.com/ru/events/402).

**Run With Happy Paw. June 17. 10 a.m. VDNH (1 Academica Hlushkova St.). Hr 300**



**'Classic Music in the Garden'**

Kyiv Virtuozы orchestra will play the most famous classic compositions by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Schubert, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Edward Elgar and more in the Gryshko National Botanical Garden. During the concert on June 16, musicians will play romantic serenades, while the concert on June 17 will be devoted to compositions played on the harp.

**Classic music concert in the garden. June 16, 17. 8 p.m. Gryshko National Botanical Garden (1 Tymiriazivska St.) Hr 300**

**Charity market**

Kurazh Bazar is a monthly flea market that donates part of the money it raises to charity. Once a year, the organization holds a 100 percent charity market, with all profits going to a camp for children with disabilities. Visitors can buy various vintage and rare items, listen to a live music show, and enjoy a meal at a food-court at Platforma Art Factory, knowing that the money spent is going to good cause.



**Kurazh Bazar charity flea market. June 17-18. 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Platforma Art Factory (1 Bilomorska St.) Hr 70**



**'Berry Jam' party**

Yulia Savostina, a founder of the festival of local producers called "V Poshukah Made-in-Ukraine" (Looking for Made-in-Ukraine), is opening a new outdoor art center called Patio on Kyiv's main tourist drag, Andriyivsky Uzviz. On June 16, Patio kicks off a party entitled "Berry Jam" to mark its opening. The center will hold music shows, film screenings, food festivals, lectures and master classes about art. On the opening day, visitors can try Ukrainian-made berry jams while listening to lounge music.

**"Berry Jam" (party). June 16. 5 p.m. 9 Andriyivsky Uzviz St. Free**

**Music forum**

Those who love music and are interested in music production and the industry in general can listen to international producers at the Selector Pro music forum, which will take place on June 16-17 in Kyiv. Guests will be able to discuss the last trends of music production with co-founder of Welsh Music Prize and Swn music festival in U.K. John Rostron, as well as with British vocalist and musician Obaro Ejimiwe. Ejimiwe, who performs under stage name Ghostpoet, will perform after the discussion on June 17 (ticket cost Hr 200). To register, visit [britishcouncil.org.ua/programmes/arts/music/selectorpro](http://britishcouncil.org.ua/programmes/arts/music/selectorpro).

**Selector Pro (music forum). June 16-17. 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Istok Studio. (4G Valeriy Lobanovskiy Av.), Sentrum. 11 Shota Rustaveli St. Ticket for a concert - Hr 200**





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The Council of Europe is launching a Call for Tenders for the organisation of public events in different locations throughout Ukraine. These events may involve from 3 to 600 persons and aim at supporting the implementation of projects and activities concerning human rights, judicial reform, decentralisation, anti-corruption, freedom of the media, elections, education and others. The required services mainly cover provision of conference/meeting room and related materials and resources, catering, accommodation and transfer/transport services. Further information is available on the Council of Europe website at <http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/calls-for-tender> under “2017/AO/26 - Call for tenders - 7 July 2017 - Provision of event management services in Ukraine”.



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## International Business Community in Ukraine gathered at the Ramadan dinner

The Turkish Business Community gathered together with the International Business community at the traditional Ramadan dinner of the International Turkish Ukrainian Business Association (TUID), which was held at Kyiv's Turkish Mangal Restaurant on June 12 and honored by the Ambassadors of the Republic of Turkey to Ukraine H.E. Yönet Can Tezel and the Republic of Azerbaijan to Ukraine H.E. Azer Hudiyev. The event was sponsored by Turkish ready-wear company Colin's, law firm Integrities and the Turkish FMCG giant Evyap.

1. CFO of BAT Sedat Alkan together with CFO of Coca Cola Özgür Aktaş
2. Turkish Ambassador to Ukraine H.E. Yönet Can Tezel greets the guests "Ramazan is the month of peace, unity, prosperity and tranquility"
3. CFO of Lifecell Selçuk Şimşek, President of the German-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce Aleksandr Markus and deputy director of Ukrainian Business Omdusman Council Tatiana Korotka
4. The Chairman of TUID, Burak Pehlivan welcomes the guests
5. Guests are waiting the iftar time
6. From left to right Board member of Terrafood Fortunato Guadilipi, Country Manager of Budget Ukraine Murat Gürünlü and CEO of ENI Luigi Barberis
7. Chairman of TUID Burak Pehlivan and Chairman of Citibank Ukraine Steven Fisher before the dinner
8. Kyiv Post's Alyona Nevmerzhytska together with the new CEO of Lifecell İsmet Yazıcı
9. President of Canada Ukraine Chamber of Commerce Emma Turos with Ryosuke Ueno from Japanese Embassy

