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Russia Curtails Crimean Free Speech



Activists stand with posters that read '#Save ATR Lale Meydan' and 'Don't kill ATR' during a rally to support Crimean ATR TV channel on Independence Square in Kyiv on March 28. Their efforts were in vain, however, as ATR went off the air on March 31 after Russian authorities refused to license the news outlet popular among the Russian-occupied Crimean peninsula's 232,000 Crimean Tatars because of its independent editorial policy. (Volodymyr Petrov)

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA
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Many journalists of Crimea's independent television station ATR broke into tears on air during their last live show at midnight on March 31.

A year after Russia annexed Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula, a censorship and harassment campaign on the part of authorities has become a part of daily life in Crimea. The world's only TV channel that served Crimean Tatars, a native people, went silent on April 1 because it could not overcome the bureaucracy and other

obstacles to continue broadcasting.

Ostensibly, every news outlet had to re-register in Crimea by April 1, the deadline set by Russian regulators. Some 232 media outlets got the license, including the only Crimean Tatar newspaper Yeni Dunya.

Those who did not include FM radio stations Meydan and Lider, children's television channel Lale, news website 15 Minutes; Crimean Tatar news agency QHA, and newspapers Avdet and Yildiz.

ATR, which had broadcast in Crimean Tatar, Ukrainian and Russian languages since 2006, tried three

times to obtain licenses. Each time the regulator rejected the applications citing mistakes and inaccuracies.

Dunja Mijatovic the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe representative on media freedom, voiced concerns that Crimean Tatar media outlets are having their registration rejected for "subjective reasons."

In an emailed statement, Mijatovic said "this is yet more proof that the politically selective censorship of free and independent voices in Crimea is continuing.

For Lilya Budzhurova, deputy head of information policy at ATR, it was a

"political attack" since the occupying authority often blamed the channel for "giving hope for the return of Crimea to Ukraine."

Budzhurova said they had little hope of obtaining a license.

"We thought that the Crimean authorities would take into account the needs of Crimean Tatars, but we were too naïve," Budzhurova said, adding that the channel tried to be objective, a policy that rarely pleased the authorities.

ATR had revised programming by reducing political talk show and news content while increasing cul- →7

Kolomoisky's man stays in charge of state oil company

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
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Billionaire Igor Kolomoisky's ousted ally at 100 percent state-owned oil pipeline operator Ukrtransnafta still runs the company.

Oleksandr Lazorko says he has yet to receive documented notification following a March 19 vote by the pipeline operator's supervisory board to remove him as acting chief executive officer, according to a letter he wrote to the chairman of Ukrtransnafta's parent company, 100 percent state-owned Naftogaz Ukraine CEO Andriy Kobolyev.

Member of parliament Serhiy Leshchenko posted the letter as well as other correspondence between the ousted CEO, his first deputy and Kobolyev on his Facebook page on March 30-31. →6

Avakov says Firtash firms face probe on finances

BY ALLISON QUINN
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Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov has accused several chemical companies belonging to Dmytro Firtash of embezzling nearly \$100 million from the state.

Some companies in the Vienna-based Ostchem Holding, which encompasses six enterprises in the chemical and gas sectors, were engaged in activities that "led to the embezzlement from the state of more than Hr 2.3 billion," a statement released by the Interior Ministry on April 2 said.

Ostchem spokesperson Nataliya Ivanchenko didn't respond to a request for comment by the time the Kyiv Post went to print.

Company officials of the holding's four fertilizer producers – Azot, →11

Inside:

News → 2, 3 | Lifestyle → 12-14
Business → 6-11 | Opinion → 4, 5, 10
Employment/Real Estate/Classifieds → 15

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CURRENCY WATCH

Hr 25.5 to \$1

April 2 market rate



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No quit in Kvit on education mission

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Ukrainian Education Minister Serhiy Kvit is one of the few Cabinet members who has remained in his job since the end of the EuroMaidan Revolution last year.

Kvit says he's happy with the progress he's making in overhauling a system that remained stuck in the Soviet era too long. The nation's universities are good at pumping out graduates and diplomas every year, but not always as good at equipping students with knowledge most in demand in the modern world. Consequently, some employers don't give much respect to a degree from many universities in Ukraine.

But all that is changing for the better, says Kvit, the former president of Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

"Overall I'm satisfied, there have been results," Kvit told the Kyiv Post in a recent interview. "Maybe, for the public they will become visible a little later."

Under his watch, Ukraine has approved a new law on higher education, reached the Horizon 2020 agreement with the European Union that provided money to Ukrainian students and relocated 26 educational institutions from embattled parts of eastern Ukraine.

Law on higher education

The law, approved on July 1, cut the number of higher educational institutions from 802 to 317. By the end of 2015, the number might go down to 270, Kvit says.

Most of those institutions still exist, albeit in a different capacity, as technical or vocational schools. "Technical schools and colleges were transferred to a different category," Kvit explains. "These institutions are related to the labor market while higher education is related to scientific research."

The ministry is also unhappy with the quality of education and plans extensive inspections of 53 universities, mostly privately owned. Many of them are accused of selling diplomas and have less than 200 students, according to Kvit. By June, the end of the academic year, those universities might have their licenses cancelled, Kvit says.

Some in the education and academi-

ic communities, though, are skeptical about the minister's efforts.

Serhiy Babak, vice president of economics and future development department at Kyiv-based University of Emerging Technologies, says that the ministry should further reduce the number of state universities and cut subsidies to them. Currently there are 215 state universities in Ukraine, according to the state statistics committee.

"Since many students don't go to the public sector for employment, the number of state universities should be reduced and budget on free education revamped," Babak says.

He also says that state universities with identical curricula, such as the Kyiv National Economic University and Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics, should merge to ease the burden on the budget.

Budget cuts

The education sector suffered some of the smallest budget cuts when Ukraine's Parliament approved austerity measures for the nation earlier this year. Although the International Monetary Fund asked for a Hr 3 billion cut out of Hr 24 billion, the trim was only Hr 300 million. Kvit said the cut will be directed at unpopular schools and universities that the ministry plans to close anyway.

Kvit, however, convinced legislators that education should not be cut as much as the IMF sought.

"We convinced them that it's important, that education and science are not expenses but investments. Unfortunately, it's our major problem that there is no understanding of that among politicians and officials," he says.

Kvit has been cutting back the ministry. Several dozen employees have been fired so far, but it's not the right way to go, says the minister.

"I don't think it's good because we have more responsibilities, while salaries are very low," he says. A recently approved law set the ceiling for public sector employees wages at Hr 8,200 (\$316). "Salary and staff cuts should stop - at least in our ministry. Agriculture universities are now being transferred to our domain which means more work, while the number of employees is going down," he says.

Universities in Donbas

Most of the relocated 26 Donbas education institutions simply moved from separatist-controlled areas to Ukrainian government-controlled ones of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. "They didn't want to leave. They wanted to stay at home," Kvit says.

Donetsk National University, however, moved to the central Ukrainian city of Vinnytsia in November. Its teachers have complained about the ministry's passivity and slow pace of decision-making during the move.

Kvit recently visited some of the universities in Luhansk Oblast, and says that although much equipment and facilities were left behind, "all who wanted to continue studying in Ukraine are doing it now."

"Of course, we always keep in mind the problems of those people left on the occupied territories and try to address them," he adds.

The ministry also wants to create



Ukrainian Education Minister Serhiy Kvit, the former president of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, is one of the longest-serving officials in the Cabinet of Ministers that came to power after the EuroMaidan Revolution in February 2014. (Volodymyr Petrov)

a university for those who left the Crimea peninsula after the annexation.

Fighting corruption

Kvit says the ministry is doing a lot to shed corrupt practices which flourished under his predecessor, Dmytro Tabachnyk, who is accused by the Security Service of Ukraine and the General Prosecutor's Office of selling millions of overpriced school textbooks. Tabachnyk, who fled with most of the administration of overthrown President Viktor Yanukovich, is also suspected of fraud related to the Education Ministry's property and other crimes.

"One had to pay for everything, to get a stamp of approval or protection. This no longer stands at the central level but in the current economic circumstances when people receive pauper wages, such things are very hard to change quickly," Kvit says.

The ministry also has to adjudicate many allegations of violations by teachers and principals, including financial violations that involve the infamous "voluntary contributions" that parents are often asked to make to schools.

"While we formally don't have a right, when it gets to scandalous cases related to corruption or separatism, we work with local authorities and sometimes dismiss heads of schools or state officials," he says.

A recent case involves Volodymyr Onyshchenko, the dean of a Poltava university who used to be a member of the then-ruling Party of Regions. In a conversation leaked online recently, a man who sounds like Onyshchenko is heard threatening one of the teach-

ers with dismissal after her students welcomed him with the revolutionary greeting "Glory to Ukraine!" and then goes on to call the president "a moron."

The ministry asked the Security Service of Ukraine to check the recordings, Kvit says. "We know this person and know that this is true. As soon as we have confirmation, we won't tolerate him as dean."

Horizon 2020

On March 20, Kvit together with Carlos Modeas, the European commissioner for research, science and innovation, signed the Horizon 2020 agreement between Ukraine and the EU which allows Ukrainian students and researchers to apply for grants from the EU research fund, which has a budget of 70 billion euros. The areas of research include space and aeronautics, physics, nuclear research, food and materials.

"It's a big achievement for us," Kvit says. Ukraine was also given a 95 percent discount on taking part in the program. It will have to pay 35 million euros in membership fees in the next for years and it can still be halved, Kvit says. This year fees have been waived for Ukraine because of financial crisis. The program will run through 2020.

Kvit says his ministry is also drafting a plan to increase the use of English. As part of the plan, the ministry will set up three-week English summer courses for students. But the project, which is planned to run on volunteer basis, is still a work in progress.

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Students rally in front of a government building on Feb. 5 in Kyiv calling to take into account the problems in Ukrainian education. The poster reads "Don't bully a student." (UNIAN)

Nepotism receding in 'new' Ukraine?

BY ALYONA ZHUK
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During his successful presidential campaign, Petro Poroshenko promised "to live in a new way." But when it comes to setting up relatives and friends for cozy jobs, Ukraine is still the same old place in some ways.

"Unfortunately, nepotism hasn't disappeared from Ukraine completely after regime change, though its scale is not the same as it was," says Serhiy Leshchenko, a member of parliament and a former journalist.

Former President Viktor Yanukovich's regime was infamous for monopolizing control over key government institutions and entire economic sectors during his four years in office that ended when he fled power last year during the EuroMaidan Revolution. Yanukovich escaped to Russia with his two sons, one of whom became a multimillionaire businessman while the other served in parliament.

Poroshenko's oldest son, Oleksiy, got elected to parliament last fall in a majority constituency in the city of Vinnytsia.

"The election of president's son in a constituency that was controlled by his father was a decision that did not play well for the rating of the party (Bloc of Petro Poroshenko), and has given reason to claim that the old practices prevail in new politics," Leshchenko told the Kyiv Post.

Oleksiy Poroshenko, who is now 30, picked a constituency that directly benefits from his father's confectionery

business, which is located there. In an interview with Day newspaper earlier this month, Oleksiy Poroshenko noted that he didn't hide behind the party electoral list and consciously decided to stand as a candidate on his own in a separate constituency.

"I think of the deputy's job as of the service to the state," he was quoted as saying. "And I'm sad when someone sees it as thirst for power, or compares it with the previous president and his family."

Another difference: Oleksiy Poroshenko is generally praised by his colleagues and observers in his new role in parliament.

Political analyst Taras Berezovets says that nepotism may not apply in the case of elected officials, but it becomes more obvious and potentially problematic in the case of appointed positions.

This seems to be the case with Anton Pashynsky, a 24-year-old son of the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security and Defense Sergiy Pashynsky. In February he was appointed as head of the contracts department in one of the subsidiaries of the state defense holding Ukroboronprom.

Both the father and the son deny that family played any role in his appointment. Serhiy Pashynsky told the Kyiv Post that his son Anton will "serve professionally" and has the required education and background, including service in the National Guard.

According to Anton's Facebook page, previously he worked in Avangardco agricultural holding as a market ana-



Oleksiy Poroshenko, member of Ukrainian parliament (C), talking to his colleagues after taking the oath on Nov 27. The son of Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko became a parliament member last fall after winning in a majority constituency in the city of Vinnytsia. (Ukrainian Photo Agency)

lyst. "I consciously changed the well-paid job for work at the state-owned enterprise," he wrote on March 6.

In his own words, he helps his country by looking for manufacturers of small arms, and recruiting engineers.

Penta think tank expert Volodymyr Fesenko says that nepotism has always been prevalent in Ukraine.

"The Ukrainian nation has no tradition of statehood, no state of consciousness, but has a social network of self-support," he says. "So family ties and nepotism have become a way of social self-organization."

In his words, it is a Ukrainian peculiarity to consider the godparent of your child as a relative. Both godparents who christened the same child are also considered related in God.

That's how Poroshenko is connected with Yuriy Lutsenko, the head of Poroshenko's Bloc in Parliament.

Poroshenko's wife Maryna and Lutsenko in 2013 became the godparents of Eva, the daughter of Yuriy Stets.

Stets was appointed minister for information in December, just two

months after being elected to parliament on Poroshenko Bloc's ticket.

In its answer to the Kyiv Post inquiry about why Poroshenko picked a lot of his friends for senior positions in the government, his press service said that "the president in his personnel decisions is mainly guided by competence."

The press service failed to comment on some individual appointments, though. For example, in late December, Poroshenko made 24-year-old Dmytro Vovk acting head of the National Commission of State Energy and Public Utilities Regulation, the main regulator in the energy sector.

Previously Vovk had worked for Roshen, the president's confectionery giant, as a development sales manager of retail chains in Russia. According to the company's official statement, Vovk was dismissed because he did not have the right management skills.

Berezovets says that friends and business associates seemed to be favored more than relatives today.

"Authorities appoint people they have known or worked with before,"

he says. "Professional qualities are not valued the most, but the fact that you know the person."

One example of that is Borys Lozhkin, the president's chief of staff and a former business partner of Poroshenko. They once owned shares in the Ukrainian Media Holding, sold prior to the EuroMaidan Revolution.

"It's true the president and I have known each other for a long time," Lozhkin said. "When he suggested to work together, he mentioned that his goal was to depoliticize the office of the president's chief of staff and to turn it into an effective management tool of the presidency."

Political analyst Vitaly Bala, head of the Situation Modeling Agency, says Ukraine's presidents have traditionally relied on close people.

"The thing is (Poroshenko's) campaign's slogan was 'to live in a new way'," he says. "His task now is to take a second look and start doing things in a really new way."

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Presidential chief of staff Borys Lozhkin (L) talks to President Petro Poroshenko during a meeting on July 9. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

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Editorials

AmCham's choice

The American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine's board of directors took a step in the right direction by appointing Andy Hunder as its next president.

Hunder, a British citizen born to Ukrainian parents, has to clean up the mess left behind by his American predecessor, Bernard Casey, who was fired in October after only nine months on the job.

The chamber's board of directors and its 15-year president, Jorge Zukoski, who had a big role in choosing Casey, have ducked questions about how Casey got the job in the first place. Casey was against the EuroMaidan Revolution, believes that Crimea belongs to Russia and considers Ukraine to be involved in a civil war rather than the victim of Russia's military invasion.

Hunder, 44, a skilled and multilingual public relations executive who leads the Ukrainian Institute in London, is thankfully no Casey when it comes to his grasp of Ukraine. Writing about the EuroMaidan Revolution that sent President Viktor Yanukovich running to Russia last year, Hunder wrote on Dec. 20, 2013: "The sense of belonging to this magnificent movement has spread across the world and Ukrainians and friends of Ukraine are supporting and helping the protesters in any way they can. Ukrainian society has shown itself to be in vibrant health, with righteous values and most of all -- human dignity. All are now clearly calling for a rejection of the current corrupt and putrid system."

Hunder also displayed strong character and courage during the revolution in leading protests outside the London homes of some of Ukraine's richest pro-Yanukovich oligarchs, including billionaire Rinat Akhmetov. Doing so both pressured the oligarchs who supported the corrupt regime and England, a haven for suspicious money from Russian and Ukrainian billionaires.

Hunder has worked for the Sayenko & Kharenko law firm, the former Magisters law firm, the former UMC (now MTC) telecommunications company, and Glaxo, Smith and Kline pharmaceuticals firm. He will now represent more than 600 companies, including the Kyiv Post, with sometimes conflicting interests.

While he obviously will be focused on lobbying Ukraine's leaders to improve the business climate and reduce corruption, his background and views suggest that he won't ignore human rights, rule of law, democracy and free speech.

All indications are that the chamber went off track by getting too close to the despised Yanukovich administration and by not operating transparently. The mistake of Casey's hiring was the natural outcome, causing a great organization to stumble badly and lose its way for a year.

Hunder and the rest of the chamber must move forward by putting the interests of Ukraine ahead of any particular government or any oligarch-owned companies that have benefited from a kleptocracy rigged against 45 million Ukrainians. If Hunder and AmCham are willing to fight for equal opportunity, fairness and rule of law in strengthening Ukraine's democracy and creating an economy that benefits all, they will deserve everyone's support.

Dangerous grounds

Parliament may soon enter dangerous territory if it decides to criminalize the public denial of military aggression that Ukraine is facing from Russia. Should the bill, co-authored by the buffoonish Radical Party leader Oleh Lyashko, be approved, the offender will receive up to five years in prison. A repeat offender will face 10 year in prison for denying the fact. The authors argue that this law will prevent the nation from breaking up and specifically targets local officials in Ukraine's east who refuse to use the word "aggression" in describing Russia's actions.

This infringement on freedom of speech is meant to stifle public discussion and lay the groundwork for political persecution and suppression of dissent.

Indeed, several European Union countries, such as Germany, France, and the Czech Republic, as well as Israel, criminally punish public denials of crimes against humanity, such as the Holocaust and other atrocities committed by the Nazi and communist regimes. Israel, the first country to pass such legislation, did it only in 1986, more than 40 years after the Nuremberg trials and painstaking documentation of crimes against Jews, including millions of victims and survivors of the Holocaust.

This brings us back to Ukraine, which doesn't criminally punish those who deny the Holodomor, the Josef Stalin-ordered famine to starve millions of Ukrainians. Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk acknowledged this week that the investigation into EuroMaidan Revolution mass shootings is complicated because key documents have been destroyed. And while the authorities claim to be collecting evidence for a future Hague tribunal against Russia's annexation of Crimea and instigation of the war in the Donbas, we are skeptical.

Instead of giving the country's law enforcement a complete makeover and strengthening its capacity to investigate, the bill to ban free speech makes Ukraine look like Russia itself. In Russia-annexed Crimea, for example, public denial that Crimea is part of Russia is punishable by up to five years in prison.

Restrictions on free speech must be limited and done for compelling reasons. Simply denying reality, as many Kremlin bootlickers love to do in this current war, is boneheaded and wrong, but it is not a crime.



NEWS ITEM: On March 25 Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko showed up in Boryspil International Airport near Kyiv to witness the landing of the first U.S. Air Force plane delivering Humvee military cars for Ukraine. Poroshenko was wearing a military uniform, as he often does, but this time he also had a gun holstered to his thigh.



NEWS ITEM: On March 31 Opposition Bloc, the party founded by former members of Party of Regions, the party of the runaway former President Viktor Yanukovich, announced the creation of the "Opposition Cabinet of Ministers." They appointed Borys Kolesnikov as the prime minister. Oleksandr Vilkul, Natalya Korolevska, Vadym Rabinovych are among the ministers of the "Cabinet," along with other politicians, many of who worked in the government of Yanukovich.

NEWS ITEM: On March 31, Ukraine's General Prosecutor's Office put two former top officials of the Kyiv police department on a wanted list. The officials are accused of ordering the police to storm EuroMaidan protesters camp on the night of Feb. 18, 2014.

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Wesley Clark: 'I'm a believer in Ukraine and...its survival'

BY BRIAN BONNER
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Retired U.S. General Wesley Clark, who has taken an active interest in Ukraine since Russia's military invasion last year, held court for two hours on March 30 about his most recent trip to the nation – his seventh in the last year. The Washington D.C. event was livestreamed by the Atlantic Council, which sponsored his March trip.

Clark, a former NATO Supreme Allied Commander, said that Ukrainians he spoke with are predicting a renewed Russian military offensive after Orthodox Easter on April 12 and possibly before the 70th anniversary of Victory Day, which is celebrated on May 9. He said Russian President Vladimir Putin is clearly the military commander of the war against Ukraine.

Another Russian attack would mark the third distinct military offensive – the first from April 2014 through August, ending in the massacre of Ukrainian troops at Ilovaik and prompting the September Minsk I peace agreement. The second offensive came in January and led to Ukraine's surrender of the Donetsk airport that month and, in February, its surrender of the Donetsk Oblast city of Debaltseve after the Minsk II peace agreement on Feb. 15.

A third Russian military offensive, Clark predicted, would be the "tipping point" in changing U.S. policy to more actively support Ukraine financially and militarily, including providing lethal defensive weapons. Clark favors what he calls "a comprehensive package" of U.S. military and financial assistance to Ukraine.

Here are some highlights of the talk:

On Russia's mindset

"If it's not theirs, they want it. And if it's ours, it's hurting them. They view the world that way. We don't."

On Russia's attitude towards Ukraine

"In 1999, I came to the (President Leonid) Kuchma inauguration. Putin said words to the effect of 'Ukraine and Russia are more than brothers. We are in each other's souls.' Shortly after this, I was contacted by one of the high representatives of Poland who said this is code language for Putin attempting to try to take over Ukraine. This conflict in Ukraine goes back a long, long way. This is not something that emerged after (President Viktor)

Watch Wesley Clark speak at the Atlantic Council here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkQxQTf5qU>



A Ukrainian soldier launches an unmanned reconnaissance aircraft near the eastern Ukrainian city of Lysychansk in Luhansk Oblast on March 24. (AFP)

Yanukovich fled 14 months ago. This is a long process that's unfolding. It's had one single focus – to bring Ukraine back into the Russian orbit, either directly or indirectly."

On Ukraine's early war mistakes

During Russia's invasion of Crimea, a Ukrainian official told Clark that about the capture of 12 Russian spetsnaz (military special operations) teams in mainland Ukraine. "I asked 'What did you do with the Russian spetsnaz teams?' (The answer was) 'we didn't want to be provocative, so we let them go.' That was a year ago. Since then it's unfolded in nightmare-like fashion."

Russia's war plan

"There are four phases: 1. terrorism; 2. irregular forces; 3. Russian peace-keeping forces and then 4. a de-escalatory phase."

Russian control

"Today the separatist organizations

are 75-80 percent manned by Russians – Russian mercenaries, Russian thugs who have been let out of prison and Russian 'volunteers' who are their on leaves of absence from the armed forces."

On Russian hit lists

"When they started, it was the separatists under GRU (Russian intelligence service) leadership and there were a lot of independent organizations in there. There was a Russian hit list put out. They eliminated some of the separatist leaders by liquidation, I'm told, and now the Russians are moving into the separatist organizations from top to bottom, in positions of authority. So they are strengthening the ability of separatists to operate effectively."

On Russian military prowess

"Russians have proved very adaptive in their tactics. They're rotating commanders through the battlefield. It's not only a battlefield but a great training opportunity. They are innovating against us."

On Putin's role in war

"Based on all the information we have received, he is involved in the battlefield direction. Putin himself directed the focus in Debaltseve and in conversations with Ukrainian leaders was threatening them with destruction for their armed forces in Debaltseve and bragging about it in a very demeaning way...He's definitely the military commander."

On Putin's objective

"Putin's objective would be much broader than Ukraine. It would be to shatter the sense of wellbeing and confidence among the nations of Eastern Europe in NATO's protection and ideally to drive a permanent wedge between United States and European allies, have governments in Bulgaria and the Baltic states and some of the central European states collapse, quaking in fear, anxious to be on the winning side of history as they saw

lack of resolute will from the West and implacable force from the East. They've all seen this movie before. They know what can happen. We make a serious mistake if we think Putin's interests are only limited to the geography of Ukraine."

On OSCE's ineffectiveness

"The border with Russia is totally open. There are only a couple of OSCE observation points. This is the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is designed to monitor situations such as this. But unfortunately they cannot monitor the whole border. More than half of the makeup of the OSCE were Russian military who are free to go up to the Ukrainian positions and look and their disposition and their specific locations. They are on the honor code not to pass it back to Russian forces, if that, and maybe not even on the honor code. OSCE is essentially non-functional there. A couple of the OSCE were shot down by Russian anti-aircraft systems that were directed high-power electronic systems that brought down these drones. So the overhead imagery wasn't there...There's very limited overwatch by OSCE. What there is is compromised."

On Russian spring offensive

"What is happening now is preparations for a renewed offensive from the east. Every source we talked to cited the examples of it: the constant probing and harassment attacks along the lines and (Russian) spetsnaz trying to penetrate Ukrainian positions and seize Ukrainian bridges and road intersections. These are big spaces along the 400 kilometer front..."

"Ukrainians believe that if you look at the statement made by the separatists from Putin on down and look at the geographic anomaly and realize you cannot hold without controlling electric power and a (land) connection to Crimea. You then look at the previ-

ous pattern, you can predict the next Russian offensive. They are citing it as following Orthodox Easter and most probably before Victory in Europe Day on May 9 - maybe it's after VE Day – it is all political."

On need for urgent assistance

"We should be giving assistance to Ukraine now. This is the time they need the assistance. We should provide that assistance because a strong reliable defense to prevent a successful Russian military operation is the key to making the Minsk II agreement work. It's not provocative. It's stabilizing and that's why we should execute it."

On why he favors arming Ukraine

"I am in favor of changing the policy (against providing lethal weapons). If you cannot change it, at least you can have a package and promise it and promote and explain it and use it in deterrence. The fact that the United States is coming to the rescue will go like a shot of adrenaline from top to bottom of the Ukrainian armed forces at every level. They feel they are fighting what they consider to be the battle for Western civilization. They are fighting for us, for democracy, human rights, for freedom, for Western values. The U.S. has given them strong verbal support and is pushing to give them financial assistance. But we haven't given them sufficient quantities of military assistance, even of the non-lethal kinds of assistance that they need...It should get into the field quickly."

On degree of military aid

"The more comprehensive package we can give them, the better."

On Ukraine's military leaders

"I felt like they had a lot of credibility. They have been up against front-line Russian forces as well as the separatists. They've survived engagements in 21st century warfare, jamming that is unheard for American forces, overhead observation from UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) that we don't have awareness of and a lot of other high technology weapons that we haven't ourselves and our forces haven't faced in the Middle East. There is a lot going on in this battlefield. It seems that a renewal of a broader conflict there is imminent."

On Ukraine's soldiers

"They are well-educated, technically competent, literate, educated soldiers, highly motivated. You've got people who are pretty well-trained but they lack the equipment...I promise you that the soldiers on front line could shoot (Javelin missiles) with minimalistic training."

On NATO's role

"The impact of Putin's actions in Ukraine have already been felt in Eastern Europe. Nations there feel the hybrid warfare model directed against them. They see the Russian propaganda. They see the overflights. They see what's coming. Simply allowing Ukraine to do its best and start fresh after Ukraine fails is a fallacious assumption. You won't start fresh. You will start in a deep, deep hole."

"The real key to NATO's strategy in the Cold War was that of deterrence...We called it incalculability. We could match their escalation at every level. They understand that should they attack it could easily go strategic nuclear very quickly. Since the end of the Cold War, the logic, the politics of that has dissipated from the collective memories of NATO and from the mindset of the leadership of → 10



Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration Valery Chaly (L) and retired U.S. General Wesley Clark during their meeting on Sept. 13 in Kyiv. Clark said on March 30 that America should provide a comprehensive package of military and financial aid to Ukraine before Russia launches its next military offensive, which many believe will come after Orthodox Easter Sunday. (UNIAN)

AmCham taps Hunder for presidency

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
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After six months of searching, the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine has appointed British-Ukrainian Andy Hunder as president, the business association said in a statement.

His appointment to head the organization with more than 600 members takes effect on April 15. It comes at a time when the 44-year-old native Londoner will have to balance the various interests within the group while lobbying the broad interests of Ukraine. The members include small- and medium-sized businesses and big foreign investors, as well as companies owned by the nation's few yet still powerful oligarchs.

Hunder's selection also is in stark contrast to his last chosen predecessor.

Californian Bernard Casey's dismissal was announced by the group's board after less than a year on the job in October for unspecified reasons. A Kyiv Post examination of Casey's Facebook posts dating to 2009 found that he endorsed Russia's annexation of Crimea and regarded the EuroMaidan Revolution that ousted pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich as a Western-sponsored coup.

Born to Ukrainian parents, Hunder is considered a strong advocate of responsible business and a patriot of Ukraine and its international partners. He led the Ukrainian Institute in London since 2010 while handling government relations for law firm Sayenko Kharenko in London and Kyiv. He had done the same at the Magisters law firm. He also spent 12 years in Ukraine working in public relations for mobile operator UMC, now MTS, and pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline.



Andy Hunder, director of the Ukrainian Institute in London and son of Ukrainian parents, will take over as president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine on April 15. (Courtesy)

"I think that Hunder is an excellent choice for the chamber. The obvious focus of business associations at these times is providing for a meaningful dialogue with the state," his former employer, Michael Kharenko, co-founding partner of Sayenko Kharenko said in an emailed message. "We appreciate the contribution Hunder made into shaping and setting the standards for Sayenko Kharenko's government relations practice, which is now fully operational and successful".

Hunder used the Ukrainian Institute

as a platform to voice his support for the EuroMaidan Revolution.

"It beggars belief that in...Europe, an acknowledged beacon of civilization and equality, 45 million people must bear the injustices imposed on them by a corrupt and self-absorbed kleptocracy," he wrote on the Ukrainian Institute's website on Dec. 20, 2013. "The idea is that Ukrainian society, at its most organic and fundamental level, has demonstrated its refusal to accept kleptocracy as a form of government."

During the uprising, Hunder was integral in organizing numerous rallies in support of the peaceful uprising. They included those outside the London residence of Ukraine's richest businessman, Rinat Akhmetov, urging him to step up and stop the bloodshed in Ukraine since he was an ally of Yanukovich.

Another rally was held next to British Prime Minister David Cameron's home calling for sanctions on Ukrainian oligarchs and protection of Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Hunder also gave more than 100 live interviews on Ukrainian current affairs as director of the institute, including to the BBC, CNN, Sky News, Bloomberg TV, ITV, Al Jazeera and others.

Speaking to the Kyiv Post by phone in London, Hunder said he was "very happy and delighted to be going back to Ukraine...I've been very much focused on Ukraine; it's a challenging time, most for the opportunities, especially for the investment climate."

"The board of directors is pleased to appoint someone with Andy's experience and expertise as the new president of the American Chamber of Commerce," chamber chairman Graham Tiley said. "Following a rigorous selection process we are confident that Andy will lead this successful organization to continuously strive for improvements in the overall business climate in Ukraine."

In his new role, Hunder is charged with growing the organization in being the leading voice of the business community in Ukraine. He will be responsible to lead the business association during a challenging time advocating for the adoption of legislation and reforms in line with international standards, as well as bringing the world's best practices and innovations into doing business in Ukraine.

Hunder succeeds Taras Kachka, who has been interim president since November 2014 and who will continue as the chamber's vice president of policy. Hunder studied philosophy and theology in Rome, Italy, and speaks fluent English, Ukrainian, Russian and Italian. He is married and with his wife has two sons.

Kyiv Post editor-at-large Mark Rachkevych can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com. Kyiv Post chief editor Brian Bonner contributed to the article.

Ukrtransnafta head evades firing by taking sick leave

→ 1 The challenge means that the standoff between Kolomoisky and the government for control of the oil pipeline operator hasn't been resolved.

The former Dnipropetrovsk governor was accused of sending armed men in military fatigues into the offices of Ukrtransnafta on the day his ally was sacked. The same occurred at the offices of state-owned oil producer and retailer Ukrnafta on March 22 where Kolomoisky controls a 42 percent stake.

Parliament had passed a bill on March 19 that lowers the number of shareholders required to be present for a vote at a meeting. Before, Kolomoisky's so-called Privat Group had been able to block voting, such as on the disbursement of dividends and management changes.

The moves prompted President Petro Poroshenko to intervene and for the police to secure the Ukrtransnafta building on March 20 and culminated in Kolomoisky's resignation as governor of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. The two publicly said they made peace during a pro-government rally in Dnipropetrovsk on March 28.

Lazorko instead went on sick leave the day after being ousted and subsequently requested a 14-day vacation on



Ukrtransnafta chairman of the board Alexander Lazorko speaks during a press conference about his dismissal on March 19 in Kyiv. (UNIAN)

March 30 that he revoked the next day, according to the letters that lawmaker Leshchenko posted on Facebook.

Naftogaz spokesperson Aliona Osmolovska confirmed that the exchange of correspondence had taken

place in a comment provided to the Kyiv Post by phone.

In a letter dated March 31, Lazorko requests that Kobolyev cancel his vacation notice from the previous day because he "doesn't have documents

regarding my removal." The letter was in response to Kobolyev's acknowledgement in writing of having received and approved a vacation request from Lazorko as being the "ousted acting CEO" of Ukrtransnafta.

Lazorko went on sick leave starting on March 20, the day after the supervisory board removed him from office. He appointed first deputy company head and chief accountant Nataliya Parakhonyak as acting CEO in his absence, according to a company order he signed on March 19.

Lazorko and Parakhonyak had both worked together at two western Ukrainian oil refineries – Naftokhimik Prykarpattya and Halychyna – that were controlled by Kolomoisky's so-called Privat Group, according to Leshchenko, Dzerkalo Tyzhnia newspaper as well as other Ukrainian media reports.

According to Ukraine's labor law, employees cannot be dismissed if they are either on sick leave or vacation. The Ukrtransnafta website still lists Lazorko and Parakhonyak as CEO and first deputy head, respectively.

Parakhonyak, moreover, on March 26 filed a claim with a Kyiv economic court to annul the appointment of two supervisory board members at a general shareholders' meeting that

had taken place two weeks earlier. In the claim, Parakhonyak says her superior's removal isn't valid because the vote to appoint the two supervisory board members wasn't conducted in accordance with legislation. Thus, the supervisory board lacked a quorum on March 19 to sack Lazorko because two members didn't have the right to vote that day, according to the petition to sue submitted by Parakhonyak.

Ukrtransnafta manages oil transportation from the east to the west of the country, and from the north to the south, according to Natalia Slobodian, energy policy expert at the International Centre for Policy Studies in Ukraine.

"In addition, the company runs the full oil production cycle: production-maintenance-transportation. At the same time, Ukrnafta has a strong productive capacity, a wide network of petrol stations and is important for the Kremenchuk oil refinery. Thus the importance of UkrTransNafta and Ukrnafta for the Ukrainian economy and energy complex is beyond doubt," she wrote in an essay published on the policy center's website on March 24.

Kyiv Post editor-at-large Mark Rachkevych can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com.

Russia rejects TV license for Crimean Tatar station

→ 1 tural content to appease the authorities.

"Now all (in power) will be happy – there won't be any critical media. So Crimea would eventually turn into the so-called information death camp," Budzhurova said.

The license rejection is part of a gaping hole where independent media used to be as press freedom steadily eroded over the past year, according to experts.

Russia slipped four points to the 152nd spot out of 180 countries in terms of press freedom, according to the World Press Freedom ranking. Lower numbers indicate poorer state of press freedom. By comparison, Ukraine is ranked 129th on this list.

The Mejlis (assembly) of the Crimean Tatar People issued a statement on March 30, saying that the refusal of Moscow authorities to re-register Crimean Tatar media was a violation of legal rights.

There are some 232,000 Crimean Tatars among the two million population of the peninsula. After the annexation, some 10,000 of Crimean Tatars fled because they faced persecution along with pro-Ukrainian activists, according to Refat Chubarov, the leader of the Mejlis.



Valentyna Samar, head of the Center for Investigative Journalism that relocated from Simferopol to Kyiv, still keeps an eye on events in Crimea. (Courtesy)



A journalist works in the newsroom of the Crimean Tatar TV channel ATR on Aug. 5. The channel was shut down on April 1 after Russian authorities refused to license its broadcasts. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Chubarov also believes the shutdown of ATR is "killing the nation."

"For many years we didn't have any Crimean Tatar-language media," Chubarov told the Kyiv Post. "If a language is not used by any media outlet – it's a dead language."

Thorbjorn Jagland, the secretary general of the Council of Europe, urged Crimea's authorities and the operators of the channel to come to an agreement.

ATR's staff has no plan to give up and aims to find a legal way out of the situation. They're considering several options, including broadcasting in exile.

Some media outlets that used to be in Crimea, including Black Sea telecommunications company, a news

websites Black Sea News, Sobytiya Kryma (Crimean Events), and Crimean News agency (Qırım Haber Agentlicisi/Ajansı), have already relocated to mainland Ukraine.

The Center for Investigative Journalism, founded in 2008, was one of those who fled to Kyiv after a crackdown on their office in early March 2014, when camouflaged and armed men with no insignia flooded the peninsula.

The center's head, Simferopol native Valentyna Samar, says that the center's office was blocked and searched sev-

eral times. Her colleagues were also questioned by the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) and prosecutor's office. It was impossible for most of the staff to stay in Crimea.

"Crimea is turning into a huge military base, what freedom of speech could there be?" Samar says.

The center still keeps an eye on events in their native Crimea – with the help of staff journalists who've remained and work from home on the peninsula despite being closely watched by authorities.

On March 13, Natalia Kokorina, the

center's journalist and editor, was questioned by the FSB. The questioning was followed by a search of an apartment in Simferopol that belongs to the parents of another local journalist, Anna Andriyevska, a former editor at the center.

Samar believes it had something to do with Andriyevska's recent story on Crimeans fighting in Donbas and their hope for the peninsula return to Ukraine. Andriyevska is considered a suspect in a case of encroachment on the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation, according to Samar.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olena Goncharova can be reached at goncharova@kyivpost.com.

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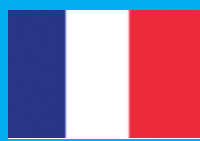
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World in Ukraine

Editor's Note: World in Ukraine takes a look at Ukraine's bilateral relations with different nations. To sponsor this news feature, please contact the Kyiv Post's sales team at advertising@kyivpost.com or call 591-7788.

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French do not want to say au revoir to Ukraine

BY ILYA TIMTCHENKO
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The number of French companies doing business in Ukraine has remained unchanged in 2013-2014. Some left, others have entered the market, but the French Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine still counts 120 members.

This commitment to the Ukrainian market is an indication of the country's potential.

"I don't know any company that has left Ukraine," says Alexis Struve, the director of Business France Ukraine, a French governmental organization that concentrates on attracting French businesses to Ukraine. "All of them want to stay here. They all built something here and somewhere deep inside they are confident that the potential of the market is realistic."

Thomas Moreau, president of the French Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine, says that there are more than 160 French businesses operating in Ukraine.

However, Ukraine's foreign trade turnover in goods with France fell in 2014 by 15 percent compared to 2013's \$2.4 billion.

This decrease is largely due to fluctuations in the hryvnia, making budgets and planning difficult. Moreover, the majority of French companies in Ukraine carry debt pegged to dollars or euros. But parent companies often kick in to provide financial support and to help through the challenging times.

"If the economic situation will be difficult, but if we know that the basics of the economy are stable and strong... it's not so bad," Moreau says.

Despite being in a country at war that is in economic turmoil, Struve believes that now is actually a good time for big companies to enter the Ukrainian market. He says that new companies are unlikely to see profits in the short term, but future gains could be enormous.

Struve says that French investors are drawn to the qualified staff in Ukraine, and their high levels of work performance. Moreau cited one French businessman who has been developing a video game for 15 years by hiring 70 Ukrainian IT specialists. The game is now being sold globally.

The biggest chunk of French business in Ukraine is in agriculture and comprises about 60 percent of French



The president of the French Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine Thomas Moreau (L), Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Oleksiy Pavlenko (C) and Credit Agricole board member Jean-Jacques Herve (R) shake hands during a business conference on agrarian policy in Ukraine at the capital's Radisson Blu Hotel on Yaroslaviv Val street, on March 20. (French Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine)

business. France exports machinery and technology to Ukraine, but invests in seed and livestock plants. Prominent French dairy companies also have a strong local presence: Danone, Lactalis, and Bel Shostka all have factories in Ukraine.

Jean-Jacques Herve, a board member and advisor in agricultural matters at Credit Agricole, spent the last 10 years in Ukraine. The global demand for agricultural commodities is still growing rapidly and the possibilities for Ukraine are wide open, he says. But investors that are eyeing the Ukrainian agriculture market need more than mere interest in order to start doing business here.

First, the European Union can help,

he says, if it eases the agrarian subsidies that give preference to European farmers. But responsibility also falls on Ukraine's own reforms.

Herve believes that the Ukraine's agriculture sector is perfect for environmentally friendly development. "We do not have to cut down forests or dry naturally wet areas," he says. "The land is prepared to produce. That is fantastic."

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine also provides serious challenges for French companies with operations in, and commitments to, both countries. The French are trying to find a compromise between all parties. But there is by no means a natural inclination by the French toward the larger markets of Russia. Ukraine is

one of their biggest markets in Europe, Moreau says.

Herve says that most French companies were surprised by Russia's aggression.

While some French businesses still prefer to do business with Russia, Business France's Struve says they are exceptions to the rule. "Most of the French entrepreneurs strongly support Ukraine," he says.

To win France's partiality, Ukraine needs to continue to focus on reforms. The ones put in place so far are not enough, Moreau says. Struve laments the new 5-10 percent customs tax on all imports, introduced on Feb. 16 by the Cabinet of Ministers. It confuses French companies. "No one understands why they did this," he says. "Who benefits from it?"

There is also concern about turnover within the government administration. Moreau worries that officials like economic minister Aivarus Abromavicius and agriculture minister Oleksiy Pavlenko will be replaced in the near future. "How can you build a future when the people are changing each day?" he asks.

But Moreau appreciates the direct dialogue that is now possible with government officials. Just two weeks ago,



Alexis Struve, director of Business France Ukraine, said that French companies do not want to leave Ukraine. But it's also hard to attract new ones, Struve said. (bc-club.org.ua)

officials hosted an event with Pavlenko and another with Abromavicius. This, he believes, builds the necessary trust between the business sector and the government.

"It is something that really changed in one and a half years," he says.

Kyiv Post staff writer Ilya Timtchenko can be reached at timtchenko@kyivpost.com.

France at a glance

Total area: 643,801 square kilometers

Population: 66 million (2013)

Chief of state: President Francois Hollande (since May 15, 2012)

Head of government: Prime Minister Manuel Valls (since April 1, 2014)

GDP: 2.8 trillion (2013)

GDP per capita: \$35,700 (2013)

Main exports: machinery and transportation equipment, aircraft, plastics, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, beverages

Ukraine-France relations

Trade turnover: \$2.4 billion (2014)

Exports from France to Ukraine: chemicals and pharmaceuticals, nuclear reactors and equipment, essential oils.

Exports from Ukraine to France: food waste and residue (biomass), seeds, animal/vegetable fats and oils, inorganic chemicals.

French investments in Ukraine: \$1.65 billion (from Jan.-Sept. 2014)

Main investors: Danone, Auchan, Credit Agricole, Lactalis

Sources: World Bank, Central Intelligence Agency, Embassy of Ukraine in France, Ukraine's State Statistics Services

French Spring festival begins in Kyiv on April 4

BY NATALIYA TRACH
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The 12th annual French Spring, a festival of French culture, will be held April 4-29. The festival will open with an outdoor light show, entitled "I Am a Dream" and performed by Spectaculaires Allumeurs d'Images. This 20-minute program is based on Martin Luther King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech and will be shown upon St. Sophia's Cathedral on April 4.

Freedom is the main idea, with a program that pays "homage to the courage and determination of the Ukrainian people during the last year and particularly during the Revolution of Dignity," says Eric Tosatti, adviser on cultural issues and cooperation of the French Embassy in Ukraine and director of the French Institute in Ukraine. This year festival's performances will have many references to Ukraine's contemporary struggles in becoming a democratic, free and prosperous society.

The festival will also take place in Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhya, Lviv, Odesa, Rivne and Kharkiv.

Organizers are seeking ways to reach people in the war-torn Donbas and Russian-occupied Crimea.

"This year we are not able to send any shows or people to Donetsk, Sevastopol or Simferopol because it's too dangerous and forbidden," Tosatti says. "However, we will try to connect with the Alliance Française's students in Sevastopol and Simferopol where we used to have our cultural centers via Skype. We want to stay in touch and keep solidarity with those people."

The festival started 12 years ago. Its popularity made it an annual event. Since 2004, the French Spring festival has been held every April and has become one of the most remarkable spring cultural events in Ukraine.

Veronika Makhnyla, 20, a French-language student at Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University, first attended the event at the age of 15 with her mother. Since then Makhnyla has not missed the festival. Her favorite is watching films that are not widely released in Ukraine.

The number of festival fans grows every year.

Tetyana Sichkarenko, advertising



Attendants look at the props for the outdoor performance by French street theater company "La Machine" in Kyiv Hryshko Botanical Garden on April 3, 2013. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

manager of the Kyiv movie theater, says that the numbers of people who come to her cinema during the festival are higher than other festivals. "People especially like French comedies, which sell well," Sichkarenko says.

The festival is supported by the French Embassy in Ukraine, the French Institute in Ukraine and the international organization Alliance Française. Credit Agricole Bank and the Premier Palace Hotel are major sponsors of this year's event.

"Many Ukrainian theatres and cinemas contribute to the event as well. We organize French Spring only in Ukraine," Tosatti says. "The organizing of such cultural events in times of war is very important for us as it is a sign of solidarity with Ukraine."

Kyiv Post staff writer Nataliya Trach can be reached at trach@kyivpost.com

Some events of the French Spring in Kyiv. See full schedule at institutfrancais-ukraine.com/ua/programmation/printemps-2015.

April 4	Opening performance (light show)	8:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m.	Sofiyivska Square	Free
April 5, 28, 29	"Antigone"	7 p.m.	Diya Art Center (44 Peremohy Ave.)	Hr 150
April 9 – May 31	"A Look at Paris" exhibition by Ukrainian artists	9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed on Mondays	Cultural Heritage Museum (40B Moskovska St.)	Free
April 10	"L'Auberge Espagnole" (2002) by Cédric Klapisch (in French with Ukrainian subtitles)	9 p.m.	Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasykivska St.)	Hr 40
April 11	"Borozny" hip-hop dance show by Zahrbat	7 p.m.	Ivan Franko Drama Theater (3 Ivan Franko Square)	Hr 50-400
April 15	Archimede (French brit-pop band)	8 p.m.	Atlas (37-41 Artioma St.)	Hr 120-200
April 17 – June 30	Exhibition of the photos by Francis Giacobetti	11 a.m. – 7 p.m., 12 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Sundays	Brucie Collections (35 Artioma St.)	Free
April 23	Performance by the winner of the Amateur French-language Theaters Festival	7 p.m.	Youth Theater (17 Prorizna St.)	Hr 60



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Teretschenko's grandson trades France for Ukraine

BY ILYA TIMTCHENKO
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Paris-born Michel Terestchenko doesn't plan to go back to France. In fact, the grandson of czarist Russia's last finance minister, Mykhailo Terestchenko, received a Ukrainian passport on March 23 from President Petro Poroshenko affirming that intention.

"I have been living in Ukraine for 12 years, happily and successfully," the 60-year-old flax and hemp cultivator said. "I only see fantastic development."

Terestchenko said he wants more, namely to vote and be elected.

Specifically, he wants to help the people of Hlukhiv, a city in Sumy Oblast where his Linen of Desna flax business is located on ancestral land. Six months ago, Hlukhiv residents had asked him to run for mayor in elections that are scheduled to take place this autumn, Terestchenko says. "I first took it as a joke because I hardly spoke Ukrainian."

His first visit to Hlukhiv was in 2002 with his father. The city of 35,000 people, located 400 kilometers from the eastern border with Russia, is where he found his Ukrainian ancestry, with its old buildings and hundreds of



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko (L) and Michel Terestchenko shake hands on March 21. Poroshenko handed Terestchenko a Ukrainian passport signifying citizenship to the former French citizen and grandson of Ukrainian philanthropist Mykhailo Terestchenko. (Mykola Lazarenko)



Mykhailo Terestchenko, the grandfather of Michel Terestchenko, was a sugar beet grower, philanthropist and one of the richest people in imperial Russia. (Courtesy)

hectares of land that once belonged to his grandparents. "I felt that it was my roots and that I could have an interesting life there," he says. "I could feel that I could be useful."

The hospitality of Hlukhiv's residents lured Terestchenko to Ukraine. "I was so intensely touched by the welcome of the people that I had the feeling that it was the son coming back to the family," he says.

The area is only a part of his family's legacy. As a successful sugar beet grower and maker, his grandfather was one of the richest people in imperial Russia.

The family also gained fame and admiration as philanthropists who founded hospitals, orphanages, universities and museums. After the Bolsheviks arrested Mykhailo and other ministers of the Provisional Government and placed into the Peter

and Paul Fortress in St. Petersburg, he was allowed to move to Norway in the spring of 1918. He eventually settled in France and died in on April 1, 1956 in Monaco.

After the visit, Terestchenko raised money from French investors and launched a small start-up flax crop business.

The Hlukhiv businessman now operates 3,000 hectares of leased land where he grows flax and technical hemp crops and employs about 300 workers. But it wasn't always an easy road. Terestchenko did not have much money when he first invested in Ukraine and starting a business was challenging.

The commitment, however, seems to have paid off. The week after Terestchenko announced that he is renouncing his French citizenship, his Facebook, email and phone were

flooded with more than 3,000 messages of encouragement and congratulations. "It gives some hope to many Ukrainians, an example that there is some future and prospects in Ukraine."

The passionate Ukraine-convert hopes that by giving up his French citizenship, he will also provide encouragement for those who have left Ukraine to start investing back into the country. Most importantly, he wants young people in Ukraine to think twice before emigrating. "The future that is waiting for them in Ukraine is by far nicer, more prospective and joyful than to live in the suburbs of Paris."

Very soon, he believes, Ukraine will develop along the same lines as many other European countries.

The EuroMaidan Revolution inspired him to obtain Ukrainian citizenship. He knew that Ukrainians had

ideals, but he wasn't sure how seriously Ukrainians took them. Being among those who stood next to the famous Lenin statue when it fell in Kyiv's center on Dec. 8, 2013, Terestchenko witnessed the uprising from its very heart.

Lawmaker and Maidan activist Olha Bohomolets helped him meet Poroshenko last week in order to exchange his French passport for a Ukrainian one. "I hope that the president had some encouragement to see that a French guy is able to leave his French citizenship because he trusts the president that Ukraine will be fine," Terestchenko says.

"I strongly cherish your willingness and deed to become a Ukrainian in these difficult times," Poroshenko told him.

Though Hlukhiv is close to the Russian border, Terestchenko doesn't worry much. "If you start thinking about what can happen all the time – the war – you don't do anything," he says. Instead, the entrepreneur finds that building the town of Hlukhiv is the best recipe for softening Ukraine-Russia relations. Perhaps those just across the border in Russia will come to see Hlukhiv and Ukraine as examples and start changing life in Russia, he says.

But Terestchenko doesn't see the people on the other side as necessarily Russians. Instead, he considers them as Ukrainians whose land was taken from them a long time ago. "They are on the other side of the border, and I am very sorry for them because life is not as interesting."

Hlukhiv is prepared in the event that Russia attacks his town "We have to defend our land, our families, our houses, and we will do it."

The town established a strong Samooborona, or voluntary self-defense unit. Terestchenko also initiated a project by which locals sew uniforms for the Ukrainian army. The project is made up entirely of volunteers, with about 150 taking part.

Terestchenko spends most of his time in the Sumy Oblast. On weekends he drives three hours on the Kyiv-Moscow Highway to visit Kyiv and to catch up on the capital's social life.

Kyiv Post staff writer Ilya Timtchenko can be reached at timtchenko@kyivpost.com.

Wesley Clark: US needs to provide arms, aid to Ukraine

→5 NATO. There are many things to be done there to put deterrence back in place."

On NATO's threat

"NATO is a good bogeyman if you're the Russian leader. You can say NATO's a threat, but you can't say it seriously. NATO has never ever had a plan to attack, not at any level, at the tactical level, not at the operation level."

On role of sanctions

"There's a limit to how far you can go with sanctions. For sure, some companies and individuals have been hurt but the Russian economy is doing just fine and Putin is doing just fine. Putin probably likes it when Russian businesses come to him and say, 'Vladimir we can't get the credit we need in

London; can you help me? He says 'I'm sure we can help you. He likes it because it gives him a greater grip on the economy...You need a balanced approach (to) strengthen the ability of Ukrainians to resist, to drive this back into the diplomatic channel and keep it there."

On Europe's energy dependence

"It's better for Europe to have an energy policy that is not connected to Russian political whim...they haven't yet...Germany has lost their energy policy gets rid of nuclear energy, burns coal, can't afford solar, says we've done enough on wind...they've gone in the reverse direction."

On investing in Ukraine

"The stronger you can tie the economy to the West, the more interest there

is, the better. If I had the resources I would find the right things to invest in Ukraine. There are a lot of opportunities in Ukraine from landing LNG (liquefied natural gas) to prospecting shale and energy, electronics and IT opportunities in Ukraine. I'm a believer in Ukraine and I'm betting on its survival and future."

On prospect for total war

"Poroshenko has to keep democracy going. He has to get rid of corruption. He has to work with parliament. He has to please the Europeans in terms of making economic progress to get the funding. There's a lot of constraint. He's not going to a total-war scenario; that opens up a vulnerability in the specter of conflict. I hope Putin is smart enough not to

take it. I hope he will recognize that where he is right now is the best place to stop and call off this crazy offensive. I don't think he will, but I hope he will."

On Germany's policy

"As far as half-measures, I would rather see full assistance. But I think when something happens, if we the United States have been self-deterred from helping Ukraine by encouraging Germany to take the lead, then I think the next round of the offensive invalidates the German analysis. (German Chancellor) Angela Merkel is a fine political leader and she can say again and again there's no military solution, but a third round of a Russian offensive means that at least Putin sees a military solution."

On comparison to 1990s Balkans

"The conflict in the Balkans was manufactured by outside forces, just the same way the conflict in Ukraine has been manufactured by outside forces."

On consequences for United States

"This is a real, highly significant, live foreign policy issue that has tremendous impact on the future of the United States. How we handle this over the next two months, four months, six months will determine a lot about our future relationships with Russia, Europe and the rest of the world. I hope we can make progress through the administration's efforts."

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Ukraine, France seek to intensify relations after year of hardship

BY BRIAN BONNER
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After more than a year in which Ukraine and France have been pre-occupied with one crisis after another, bilateral relations are set to accelerate with a flurry of high-level visits.

President Petro Poroshenko is due to visit France later this month followed by Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk in May. Economy Minister Aivaras Abromavicius just returned from Paris and Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin is due next week. At the parliamentary level of both nations, exchanges between both nations are ramping up significantly as France seeks to offer help and advice to Ukraine's new political leaders on decentralization and other issues.

France's overriding priority remains finding a lasting peace to end to Russia's war against Ukraine through the full implementation of the Feb. 15 Minsk II peace accords, brokered with the help of French President Francois Hollande.

France and Germany have worked closely to hold European Union unity on economic sanctions that punish Russia's annexation of Crimea and instigation of war in the eastern Donbas. France made a big unilateral economic concession by refusing to deliver two Mistral warships to Russia, a contract valued at \$1.6 billion.

At the same time, the two European powerhouses have lined up with U.S.



Ukrainian soldiers look at the French frigate La Fayette from a wharf in the southern Ukrainian port of Odesa on March 26. The stopover was aimed at exchanging between military personnel of the French Navy frigate and the Ukrainian frigate Hetman Sagaydachny. (AFP)



French Ambassador to Ukraine Alain Remy. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

President Barack Obama in opposition to supplying Ukraine with lethal defensive arms, fearing that Ukraine's fighting forces will never be a match for the Russian military.

French Ambassador to Ukraine Alain Remy, stationed in Kyiv for three years, said that his nation believes the Minsk peace agreement "is the only option" and one that is working well enough for representatives of all four countries – France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia – to keep talking with each other.

"It's certainly not a perfect solution," Remy said in an April 2 interview with the Kyiv Post. "It's not a settlement of the crisis. It's a step forward to enable reaching a settlement of the crisis."

As for the possibility of a Russian spring military offensive, Remy said "it's very difficult to make a prognosis."

While there has been a "significant reduction" in violence since the Feb. 15 peace accord, Remy also noted a worrisome "increase in terrorist acts in cities" such as Kharkiv and Odesa.

He said France will work until the end for "a stable and lasting cease-fire" so that Ukraine and Russia can "get as quickly as possible into the political phase" of ending the crisis.

When the shooting stops, France places decentralization of Ukraine's political system "at the top level of our priorities," Remy said. "I am not talking about federalization. I am

talking about decentralization." In this area, Remy believes France has a lot to offer Ukraine in light of France's landmark decentralization movement in 1982.

As for reforms to improve Ukraine's corrupt and uninviting business climate since Viktor Yanukovich fled the presidency in 2014, Remy said that "unfortunately not enough has been done during the last year." Encouragingly, he said the pace of positive change has picked up since the start of the year, but much remains to be done.

"We feel some progress on the ground," Remy said. "We still encounter many problems." French companies are taking a "wait-and-see attitude," he

said, nothing that none has left Ukraine in the past year.

Remy said that he welcomes the prospect of Ukraine and France focusing on renewing bilateral relations through the visits of Poroshenko and Yatsenyuk.

"The attention of the French public and French leaders has been drawn mostly to Maidan and the crisis in Crimea and then the war to the east," Remy said.

Crisis has, unfortunately, dominated perceptions of Ukraine, leaving many of the people in his country with "a distorted view of Ukraine," Remy said. "Ukraine is not just war."

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Firtash companies offer no immediate comment to Avakov's accusations of \$100 million embezzlement

→ 1 Rinezaot, Concern Stinol and the Severodonetsk association Azot – were involved in the scheme, according to Avakov's statement.

"It is impossible to tolerate such mockery of the government," Avakov was cited by the Interior Ministry as saying.

A criminal case has been opened on charges of embezzling large sums of money, he said, "and the materials will be passed on to the prosecutor general for procedural guidance and determination of investigative jurisdiction."

In an interview with the Ukrainian television channel 112 Ukraine, Anton Gerashchenko, a lawmaker and adviser

to the interior minister, said the companies had stolen undetermined amounts of natural gas.

"This is what the enterprises of Dmytro Firtash – who has tried to teach all of Ukraine how to live though the Inter channel, bought with money that came from who knows where – have done ... Used gas at the expense of the Ukrainian government and failed to pay for it for many years. Under the criminal regime of (Viktor) Yanukovich, they were able to not pay for as long as they wanted," Gerashchenko said.

Authorities didn't provide a time

period for when the alleged crimes took place.

Firtash was arrested in Vienna a year ago on a warrant from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation. He faces criminal indictment in a U.S. federal court on charges that he and five other businessmen allegedly conspired to give an \$18.5 million bribe to an Indian politician in exchange for a license to develop oil fields in India. Firtash has denied the accusations and called the charges politically motivated.

He is currently fighting extradition

to America. He posted bail of \$155 million to get released from jail, while a court in Vienna is set to decide on the U.S. extradition request on April 30.

Estimated to be worth \$270 million by Forbes Ukraine, Firtash said in an interview with Euronews in March that he would return to Ukraine if the extradition request is denied.

On Nov. 26, a Reuters investigative report found that Firtash's rise from a former fireman and soldier to wealthy influential businessman was built largely on gas deals blessed by close allies of Russian President Vladimir Putin. He also was a back-

er of Viktor Yanukovich's successful Ukrainian presidential bid in 2010.

Russia's gas giant Gazprom – currently embroiled in a court dispute with Ukraine's Naftogaz – was found to have sold more than 20 billion cubic meters of gas below market prices to Firtash in the past four years, according to Reuters.

Companies owned by Firtash made more than \$3 billion from the deals, the report said.

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Discover Onuka, Ukraine's electronic wonder

Onuka's front woman Nata Zhyzhchenko sits for an interview with the Kyiv Post on March 23 in a cafe in central Kyiv. Onuka was only founded just over a year ago, but has already received critical acclaim in Ukraine and won over fans abroad. (Anastasia Vlasova)

BY YULIANA ROMANYSHYN
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The musical group Onuka was named the Discovery of the Year at the fourth annual Yearly Ukrainian National Awards in March. Although the experimental electronic band has only been around for a year and a half, it recently sold 1,300 tickets for a Kyiv concert – and it did so weeks in advance.

The band's founders, it turns out, have a rich musical legacy. Onuka's vocalist, Nata Zhyzhchenko, a young woman with style, used to be part of the Kyiv band Tomato Jaws. And Yevhen Filatov, who took up the role as Onuka's sound producer, is a front man for The Maneken band.

The unusual look of the band members easily captures viewers' attention – particularly that of Zhyzhchenko. Dressed in black and white, sporting a geometrical bowl cut, she almost looks like an alien on stage.

Offstage as well: She showed up for her interview with the Kyiv Post looking the same, all contrasts, sporting custom-made clothes by Kyiv designer Lesia Patoka.

Zhyzhchenko's look is as modern as the band's music – which is a combination of electronic and ethno sounds, played using traditional Ukrainian instruments.

The band's lineup includes four members, who play keyboard, percussion, trombone, French horn and the banudura, a Ukrainian folk instrument. Zhyzhchenko sings in English and Ukrainian. She is also writes the band's music and lyrics.

Their debut album, "Onuka," was the best-selling record in Ukrainian iTunes in October and is also being sold in the U.S. and Japan.

Foreign fans don't surprise her as much as Ukrainian ones. She says she didn't expect Ukrainians to value her work so highly. "It seems to me that someone took me for someone else and all this is happening with another girl, named Onuka, and I just play her role sometimes," Zhyzhchenko says.

Although Onuka debuted in 2013, Zhyzhchenko's musical career started long ago. Born in Kyiv, she often visited her grandfather, who made and restored Ukrainian folk instruments in a village in Chernihiv Oblast.

Paying tribute to her grandfather, Zhyzhchenko called her band Onuka, or "granddaughter" in Ukrainian. Another reason to name the band Onuka was the word's nice sound in many languages: Ukrainian, Russian, English, and Japanese.

In her teenage years, Zhyzhchenko played a sopilka, a Ukrainian folk flute pipe and sang in the youth folk ensemble Svitnok (Dawn). At the age of 15, she decided to escape from traditions and became a DJ. She soon founded the Tomato Jaws band with her brother. The electronic band lasted for 11 years, before Zhyzhchenko mixed electronic music with her folk music background in Onuka.

"I wanted to launch a project that could combine irreconcilable things, to amaze people, and I succeeded," Zhyzhchenko says.

She gets her inspiration from an unusual source.

"I'm interested in three things in life: dogs, old black-and-white films, and everything about the Chernobyl catastrophe," Zhyzhchenko says.

The Chernobyl fascination came from her father, who participated in

the cleanup of the 1986 nuclear power plant disaster. Even her diploma project was dedicated to the folklore of internally displaced people from the explosion.

Zhyzhchenko feels extremely attached to Kyiv and has no plans to move.

"I'm cozy here, good and bad at the same time," she says, adding that even if she has to move abroad once, she wants to come back to Ukraine when she's old.

She canceled planned shows in Russia due to the Kremlin's war against Ukraine. She also has no plans to write songs in Russian, despite the temptations of the more financially lucrative Russian music market.

At the same time she doesn't watch much news. Going to an interview with widely known TV presenter Michael Shchur, whose real name is Roman Vintoniv, she didn't recognize him.

In April Onuka will tour several Ukrainian cities and later in the year she will perform in Poland and the U.S.

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Film Critic

WITH ANNA YAKUTENKO
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Ukraine, Russia team up for WWII movie 'Unbroken'

Ukrainian film production has reached a milestone: for the first time ever, the legendary American studio 20th Century Fox is distributing a Ukrainian movie.

"The Battle for Sevastopol," released in Ukrainian theaters as "Nezlamna" ("Unbroken") on April 2, is a historical biopic about Liudmyla Pavlychenko, a Ukrainian sniper who was the Soviet Union's most effective dead-eye during World War II.

Pavlychenko was a 25-year-old student living in Kyiv when she volunteered to go to the war in 1941. In just one year that she spent on the battlefield, Pavlychenko killed 309 Nazis.

She was also a part of the Soviet delegation to the U.S. that persuaded politicians to open the second front and send American military to fight Nazis in Europe. Eleanor Roosevelt invited Pavlychenko to live in the White House during her stay – an exceptional honor for somebody from the U.S.S.R.

It is through the conversations between the two legendary women that the film touches one of its main points – the tragic fate of a woman in war times. Disparate as they were, the president's wife and the Soviet sniper both had to fight the enemy alongside the men – though in different ways.

By Hollywood standards, the movie's production was very cheap, costing its producers only \$5 million. But it is the biggest budget that a Ukrainian movie has ever had.

The film was co-produced by Ukraine and Russia because the project started before Russia launched its war against Ukraine last year with the forced annexation of Crimea. The Ukrainian government and TV provided 80 percent of the budget, with Russia picking up the rest.

20th Century Fox picked the film up for distribution in Asia and is considering bringing it to North and South America, Germany and France.

The film was originally named "The Battle for Sevastopol," in reference to the events of 1942. It was changed to "Unbroken" for domestic run to avoid associations with Russia's military invasion of Crimea in 2014. Foreign distributors, including those in Russia, will screen the movie under its original name.

Russia's involvement in production made some critics anticipate that the film will be full of nostalgia for the Soviet Union, part of Russia's propaganda machine.

This didn't happen in → 13

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Ukrainians take first steps in world of fantasy photography

BY VICTORIA PETRENKO
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Some photographers try to capture reality. Others run away from it. Fairy tale-inspired photography is a tricky new field, but several Ukrainian photographers are already nailing it.

Lviv photographer Oleg Oprisco, 26, stands out from the crowd of competitors. In his photos, he creates a whimsical world using only old Soviet-made analogue cameras: Kyiv 6C and Kyiv 88. Moreover, he uses Photoshop for color correction and dust removal only.

He makes his surreal shots using decorations and carefully chosen costumes that are almost always made especially for the photo shoot.

Young as he is, Oprisco already has 10 years of experience in photography. His career included a job in a photo lab, and commercial photography job in Kyiv, which he found boring.

When in 2009 he tried Kyiv 6C, a Soviet-made camera produced in 1970s. It was that very moment that gave Oprisco a direction he keeps till now.

Today the photographer has representatives who sell his works in France, the UK and the U.S. The prices start at \$149 for a printed photo of one square foot. In Ukraine he has nearly no sales.

Still, he doesn't consider leaving Ukraine.

"It is easier to shoot here," he says. "I regularly get requests from people willing to participate in my shootings, so I have a big database of models almost in every Ukrainian city".

Oprisco isn't the only fantasy photographer from Ukraine selling abroad.

Freckled bright-eyed girls with tree branches growing out of the heads are among the memorable characters created by 26-year-old self-taught photo artist Anita Stoyan from Dnipropetrovsk, known as Anita Anti. Thousands of people follow her work online.

Some of her surrealistic portraits of women look like scenes from "Alice in Wonderland" and "Maleficent," and



Ukrainian photographers make their way into the world of fantasy photography, with works like Anita Anti's "Tree" (L) and Oleg Oprisco's butterfly woman. (Courtesy)

others give the viewers the opportunity to imagine their own stories.

To achieve her trademark effect of a swirly blurred background, Stoyan uses an old Soviet manual lens Helios 77m-4, which she remodeled to make it compatible with a modern camera.

Many of the works are non-commercial, and even leave her in the red when she pays for decorations and cos-

tumes. Sometimes people pay her for a fantasy photo shoot, but these orders are not her preferred job.

Recently Stoyan has moved to the U.S., where she works for a postproduction photo studio. In her free time she does fine art photography, and dreams to make it her full-time job. In the U.S. she has more chances to pursue an art photographer career, she believes.

"If you want to become a photo artist

and create art projects, then be ready to look for a job outside of Ukraine," she says.

Experts agree. Little domestic demand for art photography makes photographers look for clients abroad, like Oprisco, or leave the country, like Stoyan.

"There are some Ukrainian photographers who do more than make technically correct shots, who seek to

develop the photo language, but so far it doesn't seem to be a general trend," says Maya Anchel, project manager for Ukrainian Association of Professional Photographers, the organization that represents Ukrainian photographers in the international photography community.

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Film Critic: Legendary Ukrainian sniper's story

→ 12 "Nezlamna." It shows the 1942 retreat of Soviet troops in the face of Nazi advances. One of its minor characters is a Ukrainian victim of Josef Stalin's repressions.

"The viewer overrates propaganda and expects to see the usual clichés – and there weren't any," said Makym Dankevych, the script author. "Instead, we tried to show that war isn't the right place for women to be on a deeper level."

One could argue the part about not having clichés. However, the plot is saturated with dramatic scenes that sometimes are personal and poignant. For example, the first thing a viewer finds out about Pavlychenko is her difficult relationship with her father, who wanted a son.

"Nezlamna" is strong visually, in the dynamic Hollywood-like tradition with lots of special effects.

The performance of Yuliya Peresild, who plays Pavlychenko, is persuasive, but her startlingly poor acting in a

scene where she shakes from terror, recalling how her battalion got bombed, wasn't her best moment.

A key part of the movie is Pavlychenko's speech during a press conference in the United States. The message she gave to U.S. journalists and governors in Chicago in 1942 resonates with today's situation, when Ukraine is seeking Western lethal weapons and peacekeeping forces to fight Russia's aggression.

"Gentlemen, don't you think you've been hiding behind my back long enough?" the tiny woman asks the American audience in the movie.

The movie runs in Ukrainian in theaters in Ukraine since April 2. The expanded four-series version will be screened in Russian by Ukraine TV station on May 9, the Victory Day. The distributors plan to release a DVD with English translation.

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Yuliya Peresild as famous WWII sniper Liudmyla Pavlychenko in "Nezlamna" ("Unbroken"), a Ukrainian-Russian movie. It will run abroad as "The Battle for Sevastopol." (Courtesy)

April 3



(Pavlo Podufalov)

Vopli Vidopliasova

Ukrainian band Vopli Vidopliasova will give fans a new dose of its trademark folk rock music. Formed in 1986, the band is a veteran of the Ukrainian stage with many familiar hits to please audience.

Vopli Vidopliasova show. Atlas Club (37-41 Artema St.). April 3, 8 p.m. Hr 170 – Hr 700

April 1 – April 14



(Nataliya Rahanska)

Art by Nataliya Rahanska

The works of Ukrainian artist Nataliya Rahanska can be found in the museums and galleries, as well as in the houses of the well-known people, like Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev. "Three Dimension," Rahanska's personal exhibition in Kyiv includes paintings from her series "Insects," "Life of Shoes" and "Scenes." **"Three Dimensions" art exhibition. Taras Shevchenko National Museum (Taras Shevchenko Blvd.). April 1 – April 14. Closed on Mondays. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Hr 20**

'Our Time' theatrical triptych

Theatrical triptych "Our Time" ("Ces Temp-ci"), performed by a mixed international troupe of actors, takes place in Kyiv as a part of the 12th annual French Spring Festival. The performance consists of three parts: "Vivre" ("To Live"), "Attention: Fragile!" and "En Miettes..." ("In Crumbles..."). Each lasts just slightly more than one hour. Tickets are booked in advance and sold on the evening of the show. To book a ticket, email to press.kurbas@gmail.com or call 279-5069, 050-385-2758.

Theatrical triptych "Our Time." The Les Kurbas State Center for Theater Arts (23B Volodymyrska St.). Part 1 on April 10-14, Part 2 on April 17-21, Part 3 on April 24-28. 7 p.m. Hr 200 for all three shows, Hr 100 for one show.

April 10-28



(kurbas.org)

April 7



(Caribbean Club/facebook)

Salsa from the Dominican Republic

This week offers a real treat for those who are into salsa: Tony Remol, a singer from the Dominican Republic, will perform with the Kyiv band Caffe Con Leche. Visitors are invited to dance under incendiary rhythms of salsa, bachata, kizomba, cha-cha-cha, son cubano, bolero and Latin jazz.

Tony Remol and Caffe Con Leche (latino music). Caribbean Club (4 Petliury St.). April 7, 8 p.m. Hr 70 – Hr 160.

Jay Jay Johanson

Jay Jay Johanson, the Swedish electronic performer known for his melancholic vocals, comes to Kyiv on the eve of the May 23 release of his new album "Opium." Ukrainian band Us will be the guest performer, presenting songs from their forthcoming debut record.

Jay Jay Johanson concert. Sentrum (11 Shota Rustaveli St.). April 10, 7 p.m. Hr 300 - Hr 600



(jayjayjohanson.tumblr.com)

April 10



(Best Food & Health Festival/facebook)

April 5

Best Food & Health Festival

This regular Kyiv festival celebrates healthy lifestyle and food. The program includes a fair of organic food, food court offering healthy snacks, lectures and master-classes from nutritionists, children entertainments, and outdoor sports activities. Tickets available at bff.kiev.ua.

Best Food & Health Fest. Olimpiyskiy Sport Complex (55 Chervonoarmiyska St.). April 5, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Hr 30 for tickets bought in advance, Hr 40 on the day of the festival

Easter market

The Easter Market is a good chance to buy Easter decorations and gifts for relatives. The market will feature artists and craftsmen from all over Ukraine selling their works: painted Easter eggs pysanka, willow baskets, pottery, jewelry, embroidered and woven clothing and more. Master classes on folk arts will be provided.

Easter Market. Ivan Honchar Museum (19 Lavrska St.). April 4-5, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Hr 30



(lubap)

April 4-5

International non-governmental organization is looking for accountant for its Kyiv office

Job responsibilities:

- Accounting in accordance with the organization's accounting policies and guidelines;
- Banking and local payments;
- Payroll and service contract payments for small office;
- Budgeting and budget tracking in coordination with program staff;

Qualifications:

- Higher education in accounting preferred;
- Minimum 3 years of accounting experience, preferably with non-profit organization
- Strong computer skills, with programs such as Quick Books
- Fluent in English, Ukrainian, and Russian
- Knowledge of international accounting standards is an asset;
- Strong social skills and ability to work collaboratively.

If you are interested please send your CV in English and a cover letter to: kyivngojob@gmail.com before April 17, 2015

TENDER

The University of Washington/International Training and Education Center for Health (I-TECH) is soliciting proposals from potential Vendors to provide Event Planning and Conference services from April 2015-March 2016 (12 months). I-TECH's key partners include the Ukrainian Center for Socially Dangerous Disease Control of the MoH of Ukraine (UCDC), NGO Chas Zhittya Plus, and the Bogomolets National Medical University (NMU). The current key focus of I-TECH's activities is strengthening capacity of clinical cadre in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

This solicitation is open to those Vendors that satisfy the minimum qualifications:

1. Vendor's primary business focus/expertise/background is in event planning and conference services related services;
2. Track record of providing successful event planning & management services for:
 - a. Public Agencies;
 - b. Non Profit Organizations, including international;
 - c. Other entities similar in size to the I-TECH
3. Four (4) years or more event planning & management experience;
4. Legal status in Ukraine;
5. Ability to act as "prime" Contractor for purpose of engaging & managing subcontractors

Vendors interested in providing the required services may contact tenders@itech-ukraine.org to receive the tender information packet.

Deadline of offer submission is April 15, 2015. Queries can be submitted by no later than 5 business days prior to submission deadline.



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A national **media specialist** with sound understanding of and a network of contacts with the national and regional media for a new **International Humanitarian Communications Project**.

The LML will

- advise aid organizations on ways to work with regional and national media;
- contribute to an increase in humanitarian reporting for and about Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine;
- strategize on how to address critical information gaps.

This position contingent on available funding.

For application details go to: www.kyivpost.com/employment/job/153/

Deadline: April 15, 2015



World Food Programme

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is providing food assistance to the most vulnerable population affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine supporting development and humanitarian assistance. As it scales up its emergency operation, WFP aims to reach about 190,000 people with food assistance.

UN WFP seeks interested qualified nationals to fill the following positions:

Deadline for submission of applications: 08 April 2015

1. Logistics Cluster Assistant — SSA-5. Duty station Donetsk
2. Logistics Assistant — SSA-5. Duty station Luhansk
3. Logistics Officer — SSA-8. Duty station Kyiv

For Detailed Terms of Reference please visit www.ua.undp.org.

Interested candidates are advised to apply on-line by emailing **English version** of their CV to HR.Ukraine@wfp.org. Applications received without position title or in any other language or after the deadline will not be considered. Hard copies will not be entertained.

We encourage all qualified men and women to apply for vacancies at WFP Ukraine. We value efficiency, competence and integrity, and hire staff with suitable qualifications without distinction as to race, gender, or any other discriminating factor.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites applications from highly qualified, energetic, proactive and experienced professionals for vacancies in the project

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DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 05 APRIL 2015
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DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 14 APRIL 2015

For detailed job descriptions and application for these and other UNDP vacancies, please visit <http://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/operations/jobs.html>, complete the UNDP PERSONAL HISTORY FORM* (P-11) and attach it to the on-line application.

UNDP Office in Ukraine, 1, Klovskiy uzviz, Kiev 01021



Eurasia Foundation seeks a Kyiv-based Program Officer to assist in the management of an initiative in Belarus.

Duties

- Provide program management support for all project activities
- Support the preparation of institutional development and sustainability plans
- Ensure adherence to donor requirements
- Provide support and guidance on annual implementation plans, including performance and monitoring plans
- Review and edit programmatic progress reports to donors

Qualifications

- A minimum of 5 years of experience managing and implementing USAID-funded programs
- Solid understanding of civil society development challenges
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Fluency in English required

Send CV to resumes@eurasia.kiev.ua. Deadline for submission: April 7, 2015. State job title in subject line of email. No phone inquiries, please.



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CONTACT: Brian Bonner, chief editor, bonner@kyivpost.com or call +38 044 591 33 44. The Kyiv Post office is at 31a Pushkinska St., Office 600, Kyiv, Ukraine, 01004.

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Holy Spirit thou who makes me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your Perpetual glory, Amen. Persons must pray this 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish. After the 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favours has been granted.

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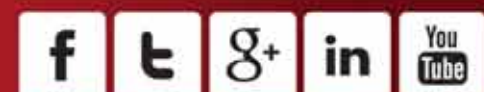
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