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# KyivPost

24<sup>th</sup>  
Year

What to do  
in Kyiv

See Entertainment  
Guide on pages 12, 13

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UKRAINE'S GLOBAL VOICE

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July 5, 2019

BUSINESS WITH A HUMAN FACE  
AND GOD'S BLESSING!

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## World in Ukraine: USA



# Cherish Freedom



People watch the Independence Day parade in Washington, D.C., on July 4, 2019. (AFP)

See World in Ukraine: USA on pages 6 – 19

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A soldier of Ukraine's National Guard Azov Regiment engages the enemy lines during nighttime combat duty near the town of Novoluhanske in Donetsk Oblast overnight into June 15, 2019. (Volodymyr Petrov)

# Trench warfare rages on Donbas frontline

**BY ILLIA PONOMARENKO**  
PONOMARENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

**NOVOLUHANSKE, Ukraine** — "Takho," a sergeant with Ukraine's Azov Regiment, leans over a PKM machine gun, holding his finger on the trigger.

As strained silence hangs over the battlefield, his gun's sight is aimed at an enemy strongpoint about 200 meters away, barely visible behind tall steppe grass. Drone reconnaissance has detected Russian-backed militants fortifying positions, and Azov soldiers now set off stealthily to get tough with them.

The militants have no idea what's coming.

"Takho" breaks the silence with sharp bursts of fire. All hell breaks loose as soldiers all along the line begin spraying 40-millimeter under-barrel grenades onto the targeted enemy post, with "Takho" relentlessly providing suppressive fire.

A minute-long brutal barrage foils all hostile engineering activities. But nothing is over yet: the enemy will answer later.

This is the essence of the grueling, endless war that has already taken more than 13,000 lives in the sixth year of Russia's military invasion.

While officials and experts in Ukraine and abroad talk peace, the two warring parties on the ground are still locked in a hateful, cut-throat struggle against one another to ensure, at the very least, no major changes in the 450-kilometer frontline.

In this bloodletting game, Azov opts to play rough — striking preemptively, offering a fight, and dictating its rules to the enemy.

## Back to the front

The Special Operations Detachment Azov, part of Ukraine's National Guards, has been thirsting to join the battle again for more than three years.

Despite its extensive combat history as a volunteer battalion in the early month of Russia's war in Donbas, the unit was effectively confined to its bootcamps on the Azov Sea coast near Mariupol since the summer of 2015. This exile ended only in early 2019, when the 1,000-strong regiment finally got a long-awaited deployment to the war zone in the Horlivka area, along with the army's 30th Mechanized Infantry Brigade.

But along with its reputation as one of Ukraine's best-trained forces, the regiment has proven controversial. It was repeatedly subjected to severe criticism for its widespread usage of Nazi insignia and even for including far-right and neo-Nazi combatants from all across the world. It was also banned from receiving military aid and training from the United States and Canada.

Nonetheless, the formation consistently denies embracing any racist and extremist beliefs, denouncing all accusations as part of a Russian propaganda campaign.

The Azov soldiers defending Novoluhanske, a frontline town of 3,000 people some 600 kilometers southeast of Kyiv, did not want their names revealed because of personal security concerns. They agreed to be identified only by callsign.

Their platoon strongpoint is surrounded by dense and muggy forest, infested with swarms of spiders, flies, and mosquitos. The surroundings evoke comparisons to the Vietnam War.

A narrow labyrinth of footpaths connects the dugouts scattered in this stifling jungle zone.

## 'Get some'

After a short pause, the scuffle continues.

"We made those bastards nuts," says "Takho." He's a skinny, pale, and tall man in his late 30s struggling with an occasional stammer. "Stay frosty," he says, ordering his men to remain alert.

Alarmed by the sudden assault, the Russia-backed militants take up arms and the forest is filled with crackling bursts of gunfire: they're trying to shoot down an Azov drone buzzing high overhead.

Ukrainian forces immediately retaliate for their "birdie."

A tightly built, bearded soldier going by the codename "Shapa" takes a firing position concealed behind dense foliage and starts raking the enemy lines from his customized AK rifle with scope sight. Spending magazines one by one, he

occasionally steps off his position and peeps out into no-man's land through binoculars.

Soon the skirmish gradually dies down, and fighters lay their smoking weapons down to rest. A drone operator sends aerial photos of the enemy strongpoint to the unit's Telegram chat: The militants have apparently stopped consolidating their firing positions, at least for now.

As their final word in the scuffle, the militants fire another long machine gun burst, with bullets whistling high above the Ukrainian trenches through the woods.

"Oh, you're my sweet darling!" says one of young soldiers, abruptly grabbing his rifle. He is 24 years old and a history teacher by training. Here, he goes by the codename "Tic-Tac."

Calm, cheerful, and prudent just a split second before, "Tic-Tac" becomes wildly furious and fires the whole magazine at the enemy line.

"Get some!"

## Camp in the forest

Lunchtime and afternoon is the calmest time here.

Those who have finished with their daily 4-hour watch duties return to the rear. With their heavy body armor and multicam fatigues off, the soldiers more resemble typical Ukrainian dacha picnickers in shorts and flip-flops.

It's time to have some rest: to enjoy a simple meat soup and ravioli, review all the freshest gossip, crack a few dirty jokes against each other.

In these blessed hours of quiet, it seems like there is no war at all.

more Donbas on page 24

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Editorials

# Dictators are obsolete

It is not easy to share a table with world leaders, and even harder to look malevolent and authoritarian power in the eyes — a stinging lesson learned by two editors of the Financial Times in Moscow last week.

Russian dictator Vladimir Putin is a notoriously hard man to interview. He is ideologically ambiguous, intellectually flexible and cunning. He is also well-prepared, well-trained by the Soviet KGB, and comes with a strong grasp of facts, fictions and outright propaganda that he can exploit.

While some world leaders are playing a game of chess, Putin is instead engaged in the judo martial art, especially seen in interviews, where he ducks and weaves around his opponent, looking for an opportunity to turn the tables and take control.

In their 90-minute, June 26 interview with Putin at the Kremlin, FT editors Lionel Barber and Henry Foy didn't appear to have control at any point. They were outmatched and outmuscled, ceding the floor to Putin as he transformed the interview into a largely uninterrupted chance to dissect Western values, demolish the idea of liberalism and champion anti-democratic, far-right ideologies in the West.

This so-called interview, filled with smiles, laughter, softball questions and sycophantic agreements was an embarrassment to journalism. It is not how world leaders, especially brutal tyrants, should be interviewed.

It was also an insult to countless Kremlin victims, and those struggling for liberty and life in the face of Russian aggression.

The interviewers would allow us to forget that Putin's hands are stained with the blood of thousands of Ukrainians, Syrians, Georgians and the passengers of Malaysian Airlines flight 17. Barber and Foy had nothing to ask about these issues.

Veteran journalists should know that an opportunity to interview Putin at length must be a chance to hold his feet to the fire and bring him to task. It is the moral and professional responsibility of journalists to speak truth to authority and hold the powerful to account. The FT failed.

But at least Putin did bring some of his toxic, corrupting philosophies more clearly into the light, declaring liberalism and multiculturalism obsolete — a lazy metaphor for what was really an attack on freedom, liberal values and Western-style democracy.

Unsurprisingly, the Kyiv Post — and most Ukrainians — do not agree with Vladimir Putin. It is tyranny, corruption and the oligarchy that is obsolete.

The truth is that Putin is fearful of progress, hateful and bitter towards the Western world — and more than anything he should fear his own people, whom the Kremlin machine relentlessly oppresses. But in the words of Charlie Chaplin: the hate of men will pass, and dictators die, and the power they took from the people will return to the people.

# Light & friendly

Ukraine and Canada love to talk about their deep ties, forged through generations of Ukrainian immigrants to Canada. And it's true: the North American nation of 37 million people includes 1.3 million Ukrainian-Canadians. However, the reality with immigrants is that, over time, they naturally become more focused on the country where they are living than the country of their birth or their ancestors.

So while the three-day Ukraine Reform Conference in Toronto delivered a strong show of support from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, the accomplishments of the meetings should have been more substantive.

The leaders dusted off a youth exchange program that has been stalled for years. It wasn't clear whether Canada has agreed to deliver armoured vehicles to Ukraine. No big investments were announced.

At this stage in the relationship, more is expected: visa-free travel, extensive military support and deeper integration of the two economies.

Toronto Globe & Mail columnist Doug Saunders on July 4 described the mixed feelings of Canadians: "So many investments in Ukraine have disappeared into a fog of corruption that they want to see real reforms first, before any discussions of a greater role for Ukraine can begin."



NEWS ITEM: Several hundred people rallied in Kyiv on July 2 to protest the registration of two controversial candidates for the upcoming parliamentary election. The candidates didn't fit the criteria, but the Supreme Court sided with them. Ex-President Petro Poroshenko, who is campaigning to take his European Solidarity party to parliament, tried to support the protest but was met with rebuke. Many blamed his presidency for failing to prosecute the politicians associated with Viktor Yanukovich's regime, who now try to return to politics.



NEWS ITEM: Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, a singer leading the Voice party into the election, got cornered during a live talk show on June 28, when his competitor, leader of Batkivshchyna party Yulia Tymoshenko, asked if he knew the price of gas for households. Vakarchuk struggled to remember it, and ended up getting it wrong. Tymoshenko, for whom utility tariffs are a key component of the campaign, triumphed.



NEWS ITEM: Financial Times faced criticism for publishing on June 28 a softball interview with the Russian President Vladimir Putin. The interview was full of laughs and smiles, and avoided many of the hard questions, such as Russia's aggression towards Ukraine and human rights violations.



NEWS ITEM: Andriy Klyuyev, who held several top government jobs under ex-President Viktor Yanukovich, almost got to run for parliament in the July 21 election. He was registered as a candidate on July 2 and turned down a day later. He hasn't been living in Ukraine since 2014, meaning he doesn't fit the criteria to run for parliament. Klyuyev has been wanted in Ukraine for abuse of office, leading many to wonder how he would perform his duties in parliament if he was elected.

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## Reformer & Anti-Reformer Of The Week



**Andriy Kozlov**  
Reformist judicial official fired for his independent stance on vetting of corrupt judges



**Nadiya Danylevych**  
Judge defies common sense in ruling on controversial ex-official

## Ukraine's Friend & Foe Of The Week



**Jeremy Hunt**  
UK foreign secretary is backing independent media in Ukraine



**Lionel Barber**  
FT editor missed an opportunity and failed to hold Putin accountable

## VOX populi:

What are your summer vacation plans?

## Feel strongly about an issue? Agree or disagree with editorial positions in this newspaper?

The Kyiv Post welcomes letters to the editors and opinion pieces, usually 800 to 1,000 words in length. Please email all correspondence to Brian Bonner chief editor, at [bonner@kyivpost.com](mailto:bonner@kyivpost.com). All correspondence must include an email address and contact phone number for verification.



# Global experts on Naftogaz

Ukraine's energy industry has gone through huge changes since new management took over national energy company Naftogaz in 2014. Market reforms were implemented, governance became more transparent and financial performance improved dramatically.

This has gone a long way to lift both the company's and Ukraine's image among international experts and potential investors. But political roadblocks and a lack of decisive steps in areas like unbundling or boosting domestic extraction have tempered optimism.

The election of President Volodymyr Zelensky, and upcoming snap elections, have raised expectations for a fresh start. Successful reforms could open Ukraine's energy market to international firms and integrate the country into the European gas market. Yet some experts fear the temptation to return to bad old ways.

## A bumpy road to accomplishments

The management team that came in after the 2014 revolution inherited a company with a complicated legacy – for years Naftogaz was used by Ukrainian politicians for personal enrichment and political horse-trading.

The turnaround started after CEO Andriy Kobolyev and Executive Director Yuriy Vitrenko took over in 2014. The company soon became profitable (by 2018 taxes paid accounted for 19 percent of the state budget), and key internal policies, anti-corruption regulations and a code of ethics were adopted.

Naftogaz started publishing comprehensive annual reports with detailed financial statements. Corporate social responsibility came next, with support for charities and local communities (in 2018 a Naftogaz subsidiary spent \$1.5 million on rural infrastructure development).

"Naftogaz changed heavily since 2014," said Wojciech Jakobik, an analyst at the Warsaw-based Jagiellonian Institute think tank and chief editor of BiznesAlert.pl. "We see greater transparency, communication activity. It's easy to get information about the company, and this is crucial for potential western partners."

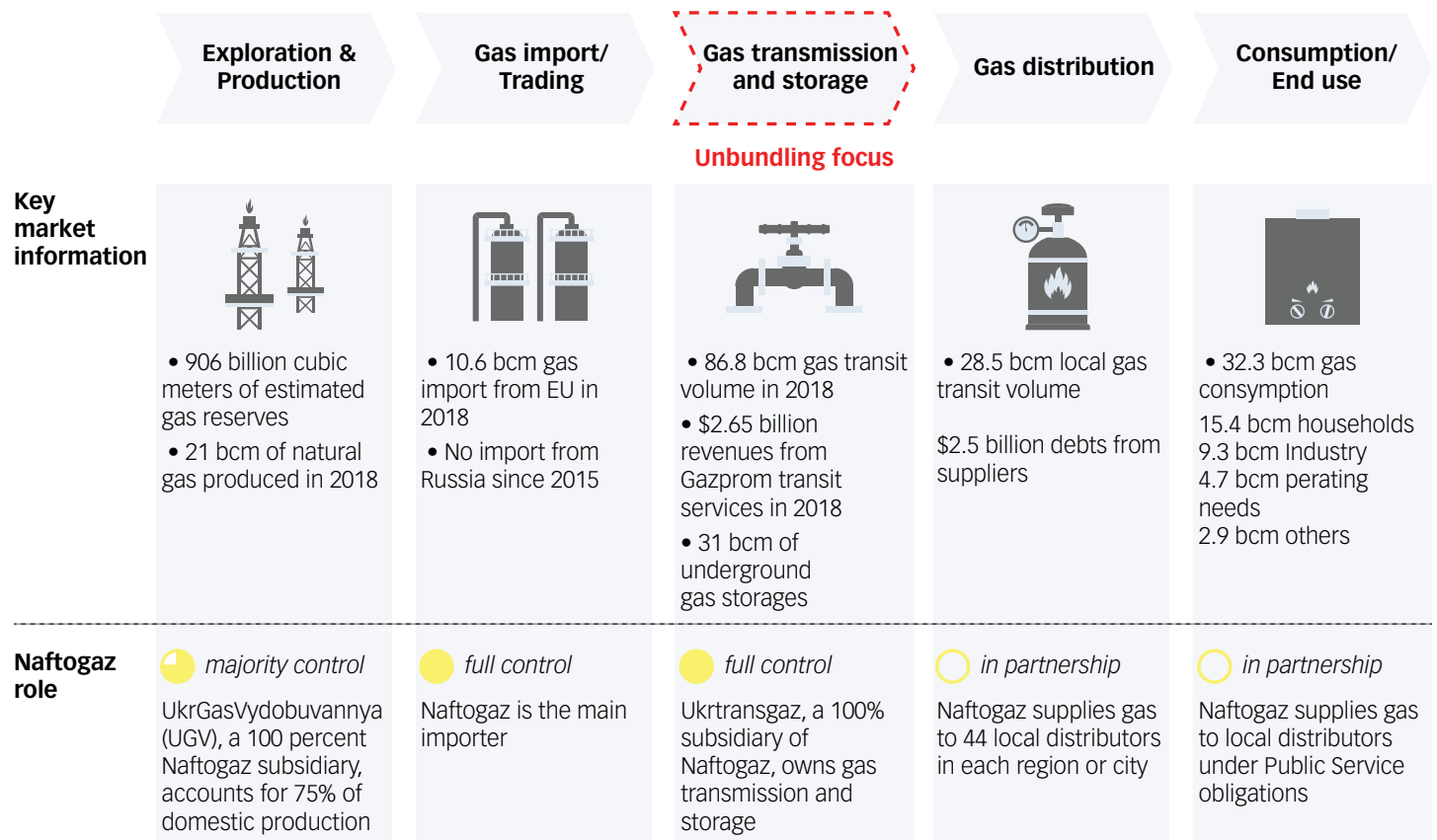
European gas through reverse flows, together with efforts to reduce local consumption, helped Naftogaz deliver independence from Russian gas in November 2015. One victory followed another, when Naftogaz won a four-year arbitration battle with Gazprom for failing to deliver gas to Ukraine for transit to Europe (among several other rulings). Russia's energy giant was required to pay almost \$2.6 billion to Ukraine.

"[The] Naftogaz team presented clear ways to beat Russia in court in line with European rules," Oleksandr Kharchenko, head of the Energy Industry Research Center, summed it up.

## Political roadblocks

The initial strong pace of reforms, however, soon slowed. The international community expected demonopolization and retail

## Unbundling gas transmission and storage is a top priority for international experts



Source: Naftogaz, PwC Ukraine, Ministry of Energy and Coal of Ukraine

market liberalization to quickly follow 2015 reforms aimed at creating a competitive gas market based on European legislation. Instead progress stalled.

"Gas reform and reform of Naftogaz is an unfinished process," said Wojciech Kononczuk who heads energy in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus at Poland's Center for Eastern Studies.

Despite the unprecedented transparency and wide range of achievements, Kononczuk said it's not all up to management. The biggest open question is the new government's view on energy sector reform.

"This is probably the most professional management Naftogaz has had," said Edward Chow, an expert at the Washington DC-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. "But there has never been a unity of purpose inside the Ukrainian government on energy reform," Chow noted.

Chow highlighted the long-standing disagreements between Naftogaz and the cabinet of ministers, particularly regarding the choice of unbundling model. Naftogaz needs to separate its gas transmission activity from gas production and supply to comply with the requirements of Europe's Third Energy Package by January 2020.

European rules allow for three options, two of which are feasible under Ukrainian legislation. But Naftogaz complains the government is not giving it a chance to choose, instead insisting on a third option that doesn't fully comply with European rules, particularly regarding investor protection (making it difficult to create an international consortium, a standard practice).

Naftogaz also claims the government option threatens the company's legal

position in new arbitration cases, recently initiated by Gazprom, and where counterclaims of Naftogaz depend on the choice of the unbundling model.

Jakobik says this conflict leaves foreign partners uncertain about whether Naftogaz and government present the same line of development as they communicate different messages.

"Until it's (unbundling) completed, we won't see any investments from Western companies," Jakobik warned. "It's crucial for the modernization of gas pipelines, needed to be ready for a decrease in gas transit from Russia, which will happen eventually if Nord Stream 2 is built."

The arrival of a new government (expected after snap elections on July 21), presents an opportunity to reset relations, Chow said. To do so, Naftogaz invited international operators to advise on the independent transmission operator. The next step is to for the new parliament to make legislative changes to allow concession of the system in line with European rules.

## High expectations

The international community is now focused on boosting local production and securing transit of Russian gas supplies to Europe, which is threatened by the ongoing fight between Naftogaz and Gazprom. Gazprom's work on alternative pipelines meant to circumvent Ukraine and refusal to comply with the Stockholm arbitration has experts worried about a potential gas crisis this winter.

"[Signing a transit deal] is crucial for the image of Naftogaz and, first of all, the country," Kononczuk said. While Ukraine is interested in a long-term contract, Russia wants to finish the Nord Stream 2 pipeline to deliver gas directly to Germany.

Kononczuk believes a no-deal can happen in early-2020, and Gazprom would blame Ukraine for the failure of negotiations.

Conversely, potential increases in domestic production could boost Ukraine's energy self-sufficiency and the economy. But this requires a change in the old licensing system, Chow says.

State-owned UkrGasVydobuvannya (UGV), a Naftogaz subsidiary, accounts for 75 percent of domestic gas extraction. Domestic production has long been stuck at around 20 billion cubic meters a year, but experts believe the potential is much higher, partially due to so-far undiscovered reserves.

Chow recommends reforming UkrNafta, UGV and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. License holders, including UGV, should dispose of assets they aren't investing in to allow new investors to come in. For that, the government needs to liberalize the market, but Chow says he doesn't see Naftogaz pushing for this.

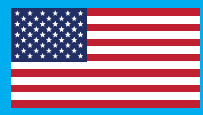
Regardless of disagreements with the government, Naftogaz needs to put out a plan on increasing domestic production and send direct signals to investors. For outsiders, it's hard to know if tenders are truly open for foreign investors or written under local players, Chow says.

"If you are a foreigner investor, you wouldn't dare enter the Ukrainian market unless you have an insider to help you," Chow says.

The success of Naftogaz will ultimately depend on the government's ability to resist temptations to tip the scales. Some experts worry it's in the interest of oligarchs to stop reforms aimed at building a modern rules-based company and market, and potentially even sign a deal with Gazprom.

"There is a huge temptation for Ukrainians to stop reforms," Jakobik concluded.





# 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](mailto:advertising@kyivpost.com) or call 591-7788.

In partnership with Delta

# US, Ukraine get benefit of Taylor's service once more

BY BRIAN BONNER  
BONNER@KYIVPOST.COM

He's been back on the job in Kyiv only since June 18, but already U.S. Ambassador William B. Taylor is shaping up as the comeback story of the year.

Taylor served as U.S. ambassador a decade ago, from 2006 to 2009, and is now officially charge d' affaires, a designation that allowed the U.S. government to swiftly put him in place with no U.S. Senate confirmation vote after Marie L. Yovanovitch left in May.

He is the first of America's nine ambassadors to Ukraine to make an encore performance. And he's enjoying every minute of it.

## 'I love being back'

"I love being back," Taylor told the Kyiv Post on July 2, ahead of America's Independence Day holiday. "You don't get a chance to come back very often."

Since returning, he's made introductions to a new batch of Ukrainian leaders, given a press conference, heard from the business community, and reacquainted himself with embassy personnel.

And, of course, he was putting the

finishing touches on plans for the Fourth of July backyard barbeque (taking place on July 5) at the U.S. ambassador's official residence in the Podil neighborhood.

This year's theme is an inspired one: The U.S. mission will honor great American and Ukrainian women, past and present, from all walks of life. Taylor credits Yovanovitch and embassy staff with the idea.

After the Independence Day festivities, he will go to Odesa, the southern city of 1 million people, where the USS Carney will dock at the Black Sea port as part of the annual Sea Breeze exercises, part of Western deterrence against Russian dominance of the sea.

## What's changed?

Much has changed and much remains the same as when Taylor, 72, left a decade ago.

He served as ambassador when Ukrainians became disillusioned with President Viktor Yushchenko for the unfulfilled promises of the 2004 Orange Revolution that overturned a rigged presidential election. The disappointment was so deep that Yushchenko lost his re-election bid,

U.S. Ambassador William B. Taylor, now serving as the charge d' affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, speaks with members of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council on June 26 in Kyiv. (Oleg Petrasuiuk)



getting only 5 percent of the vote on Jan. 17, 2010. By the time Taylor left, Ukraine was also several months into a deep recession amid the global financial crisis.

In the intervening decade, Ukraine had its EuroMaidan Revolution to depose Yushchenko's successor, Viktor Yanukovich, in 2014 and promptly thereafter was invaded by Russia — losing 7 percent of its territory in a war that continues today.

## Stayed in touch

From Washington, D.C., Taylor stayed in touch as executive vice president of the U.S. Institute of Peace, where he wrote and spoke on Ukrainian issues.

While much has changed, other things have stayed the same — "wonderful weather, beautiful Kyiv," as Taylor noted during a June 25 press conference at America House.

But not all of the constants are good, as Taylor learned from a June 26 meeting with U.S.-Ukraine Business Council members.

In fact, the discussion must have given him a strong sense of déjà vu as business leaders called for the same changes they've been seeking unsuccessfully for years: rule of law, de-oligarchization, de-monopolization, privatization, an end to law enforcement's harassment, creation of a private land market and more.

"There's a constant interest in anti-corruption, a more competitive economy, rule of law, a better court system," Taylor said.

But he returns with optimism that President Volodymyr Zelensky will deliver on the reform agenda along with a new parliament that will be elected in the July 21 snap election.

## New energy, optimism

He likens the presidential election that Zelensky won in a landslide on April 21 to a third revolution.

"This time people went to the ballot box instead of the streets," Taylor said. "They had the chance and they took it."

Despite uncertainties about Zelensky, Taylor senses a new energy created by the 41-year-old president. "It feels new, exciting. It feels like there's a real chance for progress," the ambassador said.

Taylor found it encouraging that the president has publicly distanced himself from billionaire oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky, who aired Zelensky's comedy shows on 1+1 TV, and by his insistence that he will govern independently from any oligarchic forces.

In looking at his appointments and candidates on his party list running for parliament, "I don't have the sense there's a strong influence from any of the forces that people worry are going to guide him."

## Fighting corruption

He also thinks that Zelensky will have to deliver results. While corruption is a problem everywhere, including the United States, "the difference is that we put people in jail and pretty regularly we put people in jail" in America. "Not so in Ukraine." Taylor says that Ukrainians and Americans can count on him to speak out if he thinks that Ukraine's leaders are moving away from bedrock democratic principles.

"If the U.S. ambassador here never has a bad word to say about what's going wrong, then he or she is not doing their job."

## Results matter

Results matter. "It's the integrity of

the policy which is important," Taylor said. "People are going to have to go to jail for breaking the law."

The last two ambassadors, Yovanovitch, who served from 2016 to 2019, and Geoffrey R. Pyatt, who held the post from 2013 to 2016, came under criticism from Ukrainian officials when they attacked the lack of progress in fighting corruption. Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko, who has a dismal record in prosecuting corruption, made false accusations against Yovanovitch shortly after her landmark March 5 speech in which she called attention to harassment of independent media, the failure to create rule of law and other critical shortcomings. Lutsenko accused her of giving him a list of people who should not be prosecuted — only to be forced to retract the bogus accusation later.

There also may be another threat to US-Ukraine relations: President Donald J. Trump and his legal attack dog, ex-prosecutor Rudy Giuliani, have accused the Poroshenko administration of overlooking corruption allegations involving Hunter Biden, the former vice president's son, and with trying to influence the 2016 presidential election in favor of Trump's challenger, Hillary Clinton.

Ukrainian officials have said there's no truth to any of the accusations. They claim Ukraine is being used as a political punching bag to help Trump's 2020 re-election bid.

Taylor said the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine will not "get involved in domestic politics" either in the United States or in Ukraine.

"We go to great lengths to avoid being seen to be in favor of one



**USA at a glance**

Government type: **Federal presidential republic**

President: **Donald Trump** | Vice President: **Michael R. Pence**

GDP, PPP: **\$21.3 trillion (2018)**

GDP per capita, PPP: **\$64,767 (2018)**

Total area: **9,833,520 square kilometers** | Population: **327.2 million**

World Bank's Doing Business Ranking: **8** | Credit ratings: **S&P AA+ (strong credit quality) Fitch and Moody's AAA (stable)**

Main economic sectors: **real estate, finance and insurance, health and social care, manufacturing, information industry, construction.**

**Trade: \$4.1 billion (2018)**

Exports from Ukraine to US: **Iron and steel, inorganic chemicals, iron and steel products, agricultural products, ore, aircraft parts, agricultural products \$1.11 billion**

Imports to Ukraine from US: **Coal, machinery, agricultural products, aircrafts, fuel, industrial equipment, vehicles, pharmaceuticals, polymers and chemicals \$2.96 billion**

US foreign direct investment **\$517 million**

Source: IMF, State Statistics Service of Ukraine



# US pays tribute to outstanding Ukrainian and American women

*Editor's Note: The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, as part of its Fourth of July Independence Day celebration, is honoring 19 outstanding Ukrainian and 29 American women. A reception featuring an exhibit of the distinguished women, past and present, from all walks of life, will be presented by William B. Taylor, the U.S. charge d'affaires, on July 5. Taylor returned to Ukraine on June 18 after serving as U.S. ambassador in Kyiv from 2006 to 2009.*

## Ukraine

### LILIA PODKOPAYEVA



Lilia Podkopayeva is a gymnast and Olympic champion. She was the first athlete to win multiple medals while representing Ukraine. Born in Donetsk, she joined the Ukrainian national team in 1988 at age 11. Known best for her amazing floor exercise routines, Podkopayeva is the only woman in the world to execute an "Arabian double front brani out" in her routine. In 1995-96, she was the first gymnast in more than 20 years to hold the World, European & Olympic all-around title simultaneously. In 2005, Podkopayeva became a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador on HIV/AIDS in Ukraine. She is also an Ambassador of the Council of Europe for Sport, Tolerance, and Fair Play.

### ANNA PETROVA



Anna Petrova is a young Ukrainian entrepreneur and the founder of "Startup Ukraine." As a leader in the Ukrainian entrepreneurial movement, business mentor, and one of Forbes "30 under 30" in Ukraine, Petrova founded the business camp "Made in Ukraine." It was the first camp in Ukraine for entrepreneurs, managers and middle managers.

She also participated in the TV project "New Leaders" where she presented an ambitious entrepreneurship development program for Ukraine.

### OLEKSANDRA MATVIYCHUK



Oleksandra Matviychuk is a Ukrainian civil society leader and activist, chairwoman of the Center for Civil Liberties, and a member of the Advisory Board on Human Rights of the Office of the Ombudsman of Ukraine. She is the author of publications on human rights, and the co-author of an annual report on monitoring the political persecution of civil society in Ukraine. She coordinates the Euromaidan SOS civic initiative and authored several reports to various UN bodies, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the OSCE and the International Criminal Court. In 2016 she received the Democracy Defender Award for "Exclusive Contribution to Promoting Democracy and Human Rights" from missions to the OSCE.

more Women on page 7

### OLGA KUDINENKO



Olga Kudinenko is the founder of "Tabletochki," an NGO that helps treat children with oncological diseases. It is the first independent fund to create an educational program for doctors and nurses in order to improve service and treatment for ill children and is considered one of the most effective charities in Ukraine, having helped 2,500 children and raised more than \$5 million.

Kudinenko is included in Ukraine's "30 under 30" (a list of young professionals with outstanding achievements under the age of 30) by Forbes.

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Women from page 6

**EVGENIA ZAKREVSKA**



Yevhenia Zakrevska is a human rights activist and the lead lawyer for the Heavenly Hundred families. She is an advocate and lawyer who defends against persecution, intimidation and arrests of those defending the country's most vulnerable groups, and combats corruption in police and government.

**ELINA SVITOLINA**



Elina Svitolina is a Ukrainian tennis champion. Svitolina turned professional in 2010 and reached her career-high ranking of number three in the world in 2017. She has won 13 Women's Tennis Association (WTA) singles titles, her most significant coming at the 2018 WTA Finals. In February 2017, after winning the title in Dubai, Svitolina made history by becoming the first Ukrainian woman to break into the top 10 rankings.

**KATERYNA HANDZIUK**



Kateryna Handziuk was a political advisor and Ukrainian civil rights and anti-corruption activist. She worked to expose corruption in her hometown of Kherson and was attacked with sulfuric acid. She later died from her injuries. The First Lady and Secretary of State honored Handziuk's memory this year at the International Women of Courage Award Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

**NINA MATVIENKO**



Nina Matviyenko is a Ukrainian folk singer, born in Nedilyshche, Yemilchyn region. In 1968 she joined the vocal studio of the Ukrainian State Folk Choir named after Hryhory Veriovka and soon became a soloist. In 1988 she received the Shevchenko National Prize, Ukraine's highest state award for works of culture and art.

**YEVGENIYA SMIRNOVA**



Yevgeniya Smirnova is the chairperson for the NGO "Small Heart with Art." She was the first to initiate an educational program for children receiving long-term medical treatment in the hospital. She started the "School of the Superheroes" and contributed to a law that will take effect in September 2019 to ensure children in major regional hospitals receive an education. The organization is planning to open new schools at additional medical institutions throughout Ukraine.

**LINA KOSTENKO**



Lina Kostenko is a renowned author and poet. Her early works went unpublished until she participated in dissident movements in the 1960s, which spurred a literary revolution in Ukraine and led her to create more avant-garde and critical works regarding the then-totalitarian regime. Over the course of her career, she penned hundreds of poems and one novel, Notes of a Ukrainian Madman, which became an instant bestseller in 2010.

**MARIA BERLINSKA**



Maria Berlinska is chairperson of the Institute for Gender Studies. She is an ATO veteran who has made great strides securing equal rights and opportunities for men and women in the military. She was a co-author of the law establishing gender equality in the Ukrainian Armed Forces, and works to improve rehabilitation and re-integration programs for women who serve in the military. She is also a producer of the award-winning documentary film "Invisible Battalion" which describes the views and experiences of women combatants in the Donbas conflict.

**OLGA KOBYLIANSKA**



Olga Kobylinska was a key participant in the feminist movement in Ukraine. As an author, she portrayed the challenges faced by Ukrainian intellectuals of her generation. She was the first author to embrace feminist ideas in Ukrainian literature and to raise awareness in support of women's emancipation.

**LESYA UKRAINKA**



Lesya Ukrainka was a great poet, writer, activist, and interpreter. She devoted 30 years of her life to literature, and she is the epitome of female heroism and strength. Despite being bedridden during most of her youth due to tuberculosis, she inspired millions through her poems and literature and encouraged people to listen to their hearts and be brave. She was also engaged in folklore studies and played an active role in the Ukrainian national movement.

**NATALIYA POLONSKA-VASYLENKO**



Nataliia Polonska-Vasylenko was one of the foremost Ukrainian historians and teachers of the 20th century. In the 1960s, she took an active role in the establishment of the American-based Ukrainian Historical Association, later serving as its vice president. She influenced several younger Ukrainian historians in the west, especially the founder of the Ukrainian Historical Association, Lubomyr Wynar. After the proclamation of Ukrainian independence in 1991 and the subsequent growth of intellectual freedom, her major works were reprinted in her homeland, where she finally became widely known.

**OKSANA MASTERS**



Oksana Masters is a Ukrainian-born American Paralympic rower and cross-country skier from Louisville, Kentucky. At the 2012 Summer Paralympics, she won the first medal by a U.S. athlete in trunk and arms mixed double sculls. She was also a part of the U.S. Nordic skiing team, and won two Paralympic medals in 2014 and five Paralympic medals, including two gold medals, in 2018.

**OKSANA ZABUZHKO**



Oksana Zabuzhko is a leading novelist, poet, author, philosopher and intellectual. Her writing focuses mainly on national identity and gender, which earned her the Antonovych Prize for literary works written in Ukrainian and for research on Ukrainian studies in 2009. Her first novel, Field Work in Ukrainian Sex, was met with great controversy by both critics and readers alike. With its publication, the Ukrainian

readership and the intellectual community faced innovative, provocative and complex feminist writing. Zabuzhko became a U.S. Fulbright scholar in 1994.

**RUSLANA LYZHCHKO**



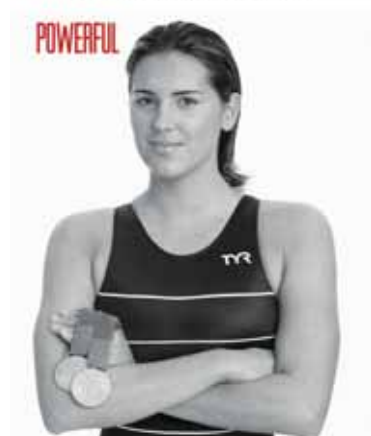
Ruslana Lyzhychko is a singer, songwriter, and civil activist. Ruslana was the winner of the Eurovision Song Contest in 2004. She writes, composes and produces her own songs and music videos. As an activist, Ruslana was a driving force during the Revolution of Dignity. She appeared regularly on the Maidan stage during the cold winter, inspiring crowds, speaking to the people, and singing the Ukrainian national anthem.

**SUSANA JAMALADINOVA**



Susana Jamaladinova is better known by her stage name Jamala. She is a Ukrainian singer of Crimean Tatar descent. She represented Ukraine in the Eurovision song contest in 2016, and won with her song "1944." The song is about the Stalin's regime's deportation of Crimean Tatars to Central Asia in 1944. Jamala wrote the song's lyrics in 2014 in the wake of the attempted annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation.

**YANA KLOCHKOVA**



Yana Klochkova is a Ukrainian swimmer who became the first woman to win consecutive pairs of Olympic gold medals in the same events — the 200-meter and 400-meter individual medleys in 2004. Known as the "Medley Queen," she lost just one medley race in international competitions between 2000 and 2004.



United States

ROSA PARKS



Rosa Parks was an American activist in the civil rights movement best known for her pivotal role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The United States Congress has called her "the first lady of civil rights" and "the mother of the freedom movement."

Secretary of State in the administration of President George W. Bush. Rice was the first female African-American Secretary of State. Rice was President Bush's National Security Advisor during his first term, and the first woman to serve in that position.

JACKIE MITCHELL GILBERT



Jackie Mitchell Gilbert was one of the first female pitchers in professional baseball history. At age 17, she struck out baseball giants Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig in an exhibition game against the Yankees in 1931 — a feat that, to this day, leaves many critics skeptical. Mitchell was the only female pitcher signed to a professional baseball team at the time. After the upset against the Yankees, it is believed the baseball commissioner voided her contract, perhaps embarrassed by the episode. It would be another nine years before the creation of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League.

RUTH BADER GINSBURG



Ruth Bader Ginsburg is the first Jewish woman to serve on the Supreme Court. She is an advocate for women's rights and civil rights, and was the first woman to earn tenure at Columbia University, where she co-authored the first law school case book on sex discrimination. She was confirmed by the U.S. Senate by a 96 to three vote and took her seat on August 10, 1993.

first six women to earn their wings as a United States Naval Aviator in 1974. She was the first female military aviator to fly a tactical jet and the first to achieve command of an operational aviation squadron.

GLADYS BENTLEY



Gladys Bentley was an American blues singer, pianist, and entertainer during the Harlem Renaissance. She belted gender-bending original blues numbers and lewd parodies of popular songs, in her top hat and tuxedo. By the early 1930s, Bentley was Harlem's most famous lesbian figure and among the best-known African-American entertainers in the United States. She was also the first prominent performer of her era to embrace a transgender identity. Her rise to fame demonstrated how liberated the Harlem Renaissance culture had become during the prohibition era in the United States.

BESSIE STRINGFIELD



Bessie Stringfield, nicknamed the "Motorcycle Queen of Miami," was a dispatch rider for the United States Army in the 1940s — at a time when motorcycle riding was considered "unladylike." When other women were relegated to housework, Stringfield revved and roared through Florida's palm-tree-lined streets on her Harley-Davidson, sharing stories with friends of being chased off the road in the Jim Crow South and doing carnival stunts on the Wall of Death. Today, hundreds of women motorcyclists make an annual cross-country trek in her honor.

CONDOLEEZZA RICE



Condoleezza Rice is an American political scientist, diplomat. She served as the 66th United States

CAPTAIN ROSEMARY MARINER



Captain Rosemary Mariner was an American aviator and one of the

more Women on page 10

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**ROBERTA "BOBBI" GIBB**

DEDICATED



Roberta "Bobbi" Gibb is the first woman to run the entire Boston Marathon. At the time, women were banned from entering the Men's Division Race. After being denied a bib by the 1966 Boston Athletic Association because women were "not physiologically able" to run long distances, she snuck into the race and competed alongside the men, finishing at 3 hours and 21 minutes and beating half of her competition. Gibb's run challenged prevalent prejudices and misconceptions about women's athletic capabilities.

and in 1931, she became the first American woman awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. She is generally recognized as the founder of the social work profession in the United States.

**ELLEN OCHOA**

AMBITIOUS



Ellen Ochoa is an American engineer, former astronaut and former Director of the Johnson Space Center. She was aboard the Discovery shuttle for a total of nine days while conducting important research into the Earth's ozone layer. Since then, she went to space three additional flights, logging 1,000 hours in space in total. In 2013 Ochoa became the first Hispanic director, and second female director, of the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

to the development of COBOL, an early high-level programming language still in use today.

**CHRISTINE MOSELEY**

INNOVATIVE



Christine Moseley is a social entrepreneur and the founder/CEO of Full Harvest, an online platform that works as a broker between farmers looking to maximize the value of their crops, especially produce considered too ugly for consumers to buy, and national food processors seeking more affordable sources of produce to turn into beverages, snacks and other processed foods.

**EMILY GREENE BALCH**

EFFECTIVE



Emily Greene Balch was an American economist, sociologist and pacifist. Balch combined an academic career with a long-standing interest in social issues such as poverty, child labor and immigration, as well as settlement work to uplift poor immigrants and reduce juvenile delinquency. She became a central leader of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) based in Switzerland, for which she won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946.

**MADELEINE ALBRIGHT**

CHARISMATIC



Madeleine Albright is an American politician and diplomat. She is the first female Secretary of State in U.S. history, having served from 1997 to 2001 under President Bill Clinton. Along with her family, Albright immigrated to the United States in 1948 from Czechoslovakia.

**JANE ADDAMS**

BENEVOLENT



Jane Addams, also known as the mother of social work, was a pioneer social worker and leader in women's suffrage and world peace. She co-founded Chicago's Hull House, one of America's most famous settlement houses, which provided community services to the poor. In 1920, she was a co-founder of the ACLU,

**GRACE BREWSTER MURRAY**

INVENTIVE



Grace Brewster Murray was an American computer scientist and United States Navy Rear Admiral. She was a pioneer of computer programming, who invented one of the first compiler tools. She popularized the idea of machine-independent programming languages, which led

**SHIRLEY ANN JACKSON**

PROGRESSIVE



Shirley Ann Jackson is an American physicist, and the eighteenth president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She is the first African-American woman to have earned a doctorate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She is also the second African-American woman in the United States to earn a doctorate in physics, and the first to be awarded the National Medal of Science.

**STEPHANIE LAMPKIN**

ENTERPRISING



Stephanie Lampkin is the CEO and founder of Blendoor, a "blind" recruiting app for job recruiters that hides the candidate's name and photo to circumvent unconscious bias and facilitate diversity. She was a web developer by age 15 and holds degrees from Stanford and MIT. Through her company, she works to highlight the information that's most relevant to a candidate being a "good fit," independent of race, gender, (dis)ability, military history, or sexual orientation.

**ESTHER ROSS**

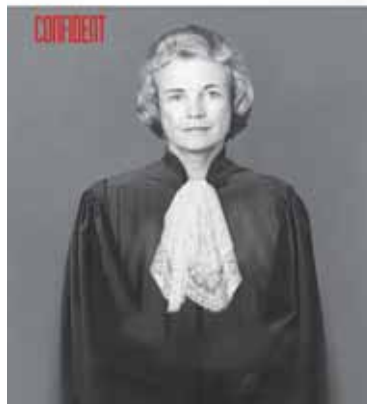
DETERMINED



Esther Ross was a member of the Stillaguamish tribe. She spent 50 years advocating for federal recognition of her tribe in the Puget Sound area of Washington State. She was elected secretary, a position she held throughout most of her life, and became one of the driving forces among the Stillaguamish to restore the vitality of the tribe, win compensation for lands taken by the U.S. government, and achieve formal recognition for the Stillaguamish from the federal government.

**SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR**

CONVINCING



Sandra Day O'Connor was the first woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court — appointed by President Ronald Reagan in 1981. Prior to O'Connor's tenure on the Court, she was a judge in Arizona and the first female Majority Leader of a state senate. Upon her nomination to the Court, O'Connor was confirmed unanimously by the Senate. She was known to approach each case narrowly without arguing for sweeping precedents and most frequently sided with the Court's conservative bloc.

**LUCILE ATCHERSON CURTIS**

DIPLOMATIC



Lucile Atcherson Curtis was the first woman in what later became the U.S. Foreign Service. Specifically, she was the first woman appointed as a United States Diplomatic Officer or Consular Officer. She supported women's suffrage, joining a five-thousand-woman march through Columbus, Ohio, in support of a constitutional amendment to give women the right to vote. She later became the first Columbus woman to join the National Women's Party and helped organize the Ohio Suffrage Association.

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Women from page 10



Shirley Chisholm was an American politician, educator, and author. In 1968, she was the first African-American woman elected to Congress and an outspoken advocate for women and minorities during her seven terms in the House of Representatives. She was known as a politician who refused to allow fellow politicians, including the male-dominated Congressional Black Caucus, to sway her from her goals.



Carolyn Shoemaker is an American astronomer and co-discoverer of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9. She once held the record for most comets discovered by an individual (32) as well as more than 800 asteroids. She took up astronomy at the age of 51. Shoemaker is credited by the Minor Planet Center with the discovery of 377 numbered minor planets made between 1980 and 1994.



Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper is a U.S. astronaut of Ukrainian descent. She orbited the earth on board the space shuttle Atlantis for its rendezvous with the International Space Station on mission STS-115 in 2006. During the flight that lasted for 11 days, 19 hours and 6 minutes, Piper performed two space walks with another astronaut, working quickly and efficiently enough to complete their mission ahead of schedule.



Helen Keller was an American author, political activist, and lecturer. She lost her sight and hearing due to a childhood disease, and became the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. She overcame her disabilities, worked with the blind, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964. A year later, she was elected to the Women's Hall of Fame at the New York World's Fair.



Martha Ellis Gellhorn was an American novelist, travel writer, and journalist. Considered one of the great war correspondents of the 20th century, she reported on virtually every major world conflict that took place during her 60-year career.



Amelia Mary Earhart was an American aviation pioneer and author. She was the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean and received the United States Distinguished Flying Cross for the accomplishment. She set many other records, wrote best-selling books about her flying experiences, and was instrumental in the formation of The Ninety-Nines, an organization for female pilots. During an attempt to make a circumnavigational flight of the globe in 1937, Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the central Pacific Ocean.



Susan B. Anthony was an American social reformer and women's rights activist who played a pivotal role in the women's suffrage movement. She collected anti-slavery petitions at the age of 17, and later became the New York state agent for the American Anti-Slavery Society. Anthony was harshly ridiculed and accused of trying to destroy the institution of marriage. Public perception of her changed radically during her lifetime, however, and she became the first American woman depicted on U.S. coinage.



Margaret Bourke-White was an American documentary photographer. She is best known as the first foreign photographer permitted to take pictures of Soviet industry under the Soviet's five-year plan, the first American female war photo journalist, and for having one of her photographs (the construction of Fort Peck Dam) on the cover of the first issue of Life magazine.



Patsy Takemoto Mink made history when she was elected to the United States House of Representatives, becoming the first Asian-American congressional representative and first woman of color in Congress. Mink was a trailblazer for women in politics and a strong advocate for women's rights, education, civil rights, and social welfare. Mink sponsored the first childcare bill and legislation establishing bilingual education, student loans, special education, professional sabbaticals for teachers, and Head Start.



Eugenie Anderson was a United States diplomat and the first woman appointed chief of mission at the ambassador level in U.S. history. Anderson helped create the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party in 1944, and she spoke frequently for the League of Women Voters, fighting the strong isolationist policies of the time. She was appointed by President Truman as U.S. Ambassador to Denmark (1949).

ON THE MOVE

Advertisement

PwC Ukraine announces new leadership appointments

PwC Ukraine is pleased to announce the appointment of two new partners across two lines of services: Maxim Vykhoanets (Audit & Assurance), Dmytro Nechytailo (Advisory), and the appointment of Partner Slava Vlasov as Tax & Legal Services Leader effective 1 July 2019.



Maxim Vykhoanets

Maxim Vykhoanets becomes an Assurance Partner with PwC Ukraine, and will focus on deepening the firm's cooperation and relationships with priority clients throughout the region. Maxim Vykhoanets has been with PwC for more than 15 years. Throughout his career, Maxim has been involved in the audits of the largest clients of PwC Ukraine in a variety of industries and will continue to lead the audit of their multinational operations while pursuing further value by involving the best experts from the PwC network. Drawing on Maxim's prior considerable experience, he brings a lot of value to the partner role, and a solid, business-focused perspective to the Assurance practice at PwC Ukraine.

Maxim is qualified as ACCA, as well as being a Ukrainian Certified auditor. He is a graduate of the Economic faculty of Kharkiv National University named after V.N. Karazin.



Dmytro Nechytailo

Dmytro Nechytailo becomes the Advisory Leader in Ukraine. After spending 5 years in industry, he rejoined PwC last year. As a Partner, Dmytro will continue developing the Advisory practice in Ukraine in a number of areas with primary focus on Operational Excellence, Forensic and Deals. He will also focus on investing in new areas such as IT Consulting.

Dmytro's professional background includes cooperation with multiple banks, the largest metals & mining holding, diversified industrial groups operating in agriculture, financial services, waste management, real estate, gas production and distribution, logistics and other industries. He holds a Master's degree in Corporate and Industrial Management (Kyiv National Economic University) and is a recognized expert in Lean Six Sigma. Dmytro is a frequent lecturer on Business Process Management for MBA students at International Institute of Business (Ukraine).



Slava Vlasov

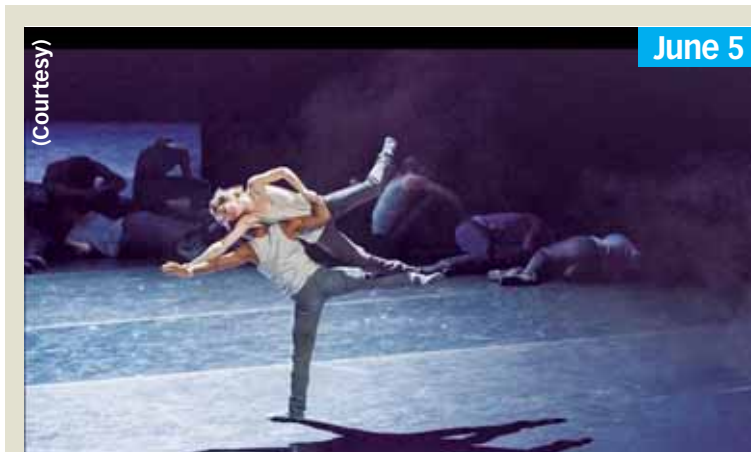
Slava Vlasov becomes the new leader of Tax and Legal Services at PwC Ukraine. In his new role, Slava will propel firm's team of 120 lawyers and tax advisors to a new level of success while helping our country build a fair, trustworthy, business and investor-friendly regulatory and tax environment, while providing our clients with the latest, best-in-class, transparent solutions to their tax and regulatory challenges.

A lawyer and American CPA by background, Slava is one of the most recognized tax professionals in Ukraine. Out of his 24 years of experience both in business and the consulting profession, he has devoted last 11 years to PwC Ukraine. Slava was admitted to the partnership in 2010 and has served key domestic and multinational market players in a variety of industries while supporting Ukraine's government on tax policy matters. For almost a decade he has been Co-Chair of the Tax Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce.

Ago Vilu, Country Managing Partner at PwC Ukraine, comments: "Our strong and talented cohort of new partners and the LoS leader is a reflection of our strategy of retaining and continued investing into the best professionals from across Ukraine and globally. We are committed to making PwC a place where anyone can succeed. I am convinced that the new partners will boost the capacity and profile of our growing team".







June 5

## British Royal Ballet recordings come to Kyiv

The recordings of three one-act plays of the British Royal Ballet from leading choreographers will run at Planeta Kino cinema in Kyiv. In "Within the Golden Hour" by Christopher Wheeldon, duets dance to the music of Ezio Bosso, dreamy and meditative, across a glowing stage. "Medusa," a new work by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, who worked with Beyoncé, retells from a feministic standpoint the Greek myth about Medusa, a woman with snakes for hair and a deadly gaze. Finally, the arresting "Flight Pattern" depicts the flight of refugees to the music of Henryk Górecki's "Symphony of Sorrowful Songs."

**"Triple Bill: Within the Golden Hour, Medusa, Flight Pattern." Planeta Kino (34 Stepana Bandery Ave.) July 5. 7:30 p.m. Hr 170-230**

### Friday, July 5

#### Classical music

**Duetto Concertante: Handel, Bach and others** (Andriy Ostapenko on guitar, Yuriy Shutko on flute). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 200

#### Live music

**Jazz Arsenal: Gregory Boyd** (vocals and steelpan). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 8 p.m. Hr 350-450

**Music from 'The Lion King'** (by Gospel Company choir). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 150-350

#### Clubs

**Acid Love: DJ Wild, Cooper and others** (electronic dance music). UBK. 10 p.m. Hr 100-200

**Dog Days** (dance music party). Khvylovyi. 10 p.m. Free

**High-Jack Showcase: Animous, Nightcourier and others** (electronic dance music). River Port. 10 p.m. Hr 150-250

**Lesnoy Prichal: Moodymann, Vova KLK and Roman K** (electronic dance music). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Hr 670-870

#### Miscellaneous

**Museum. The Century** (art exhibition exploring the development of the Khanenko Museum since 1919). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free

**Big Circle** (contemporary art exhibition exploring the transformation of non-objective art). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100, Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

**Crash & Burn** (contemporary art exhibition by Darina Mikityuk). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**The Forbidden Image** (photographs by Boris Mikhailov and artists from the Kharkiv School of Photography exploring the forbidden). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free

**Photographs From the Past Year** (photo exhibition by Katya Buchatska exploring world history). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**Pidsumok** (photo exhibition featuring works by Yana Kononova, Pavel Borshchenko, Garry Efimov and Yulya Kisil). Bursa Gallery. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**Kupala** (street food and entertainment festival celebrating Ukraine's Ivana Kupala holiday). Platforma Art Factory. 6 p.m. - 6 a.m. Hr 200

#### Movies

**Independence Day** (action, adventure, science fiction). America House. 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID

**The Innocent** (drama in German with English and Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 7 p.m. Hr 85

**Triple Bill: Within the Golden Hour, Medusa, Flight Pattern** (one-act ballets recordings by the British Royal Opera House).

Planeta Kino. 7:30 p.m. Hr 170-230

#### Theater

**The Barber of Seville** (opera in Italian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600

### Saturday, July 6

#### Live music

**Jazz Stories in the Garden** (by Red Woods Trio and spoken word by Oksana Votum). Gryshko Botanical Garden. 8 p.m. Hr 250-450

#### Clubs

**HVLV Energy Session: Smereka Beats, Anastasia Koren, Frank Bilchik** (electronic music). Khvylovyi. 10 p.m. Free

**Laboratorium: Bolotin, Guy Richard and others** (electronic dance music). Otel'. 10 p.m. Hr 200-400

**Radio Silence: DJ Wild, Cooper and others** (electronic dance music). UBK. 10 p.m. Hr 100-200

**United: Fragmentor, Kichi Kazuko and others** (electronic dance music). River Port. 10 p.m. Hr 150-250

**Lesnoy Prichal: Spacetravel, Junki Inoue and others** (electronic dance music). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Price to be announced

#### Miscellaneous

**Museum. The Century** (art exhibition exploring the development of the Khanenko Museum since 1919). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free

**Big Circle** (contemporary art exhibition exploring the transformation of non-objective art). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100, Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

**Crash & Burn** (contemporary art exhibition by Darina Mikityuk). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**The Forbidden Image** (photographs by Boris Mikhailov and artists from the Kharkiv School of Photography exploring the forbidden). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free

**Photographs From the Past Year** (photo exhibition by Katya Buchatska exploring world history). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**Pidsumok** (photo exhibition featuring works by Yana Kononova, Pavel Borshchenko, Garry Efimov and Yulya Kisil). Bursa Gallery. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**Kupala** (street food and entertainment festival celebrating Ukraine's Ivana Kupala holiday). Platforma Art Factory. 6 p.m. - 6 a.m. Hr 200

#### Movies

**With the Wind** (drama in French with English and Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 6:55 p.m. Hr 85

#### Shows

**Indie Music Hippie Fest** (featuring Siberian Ambassador, The Edge, Blake Maloka bands). Mezzanine. 7 p.m. Hr 100

#### Theater

**Bohemian Life** (opera recording in Italian). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 3 p.m. Hr 190-240

### Sunday, July 7

#### Classical music

**Amadeus Orchestra: Mozart, Vivaldi, Bach and others**. St. Catherine Church. 7 p.m. Hr 130

#### Miscellaneous

**Museum. The Century** (art exhibition exploring the development of the Khanenko Museum since 1919). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free

**Big Circle** (contemporary art exhibition exploring the transformation of non-objective art). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100, Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

**Crash & Burn** (contemporary art exhibition by Darina Mikityuk). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**The Forbidden Image** (photographs by Boris Mikhailov and artists from the Kharkiv School of Photography exploring the forbidden). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free

**Photographs From the Past Year** (photo exhibition by Katya Buchatska exploring world history). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**Pidsumok** (photo exhibition featuring works by Yana Kononova, Pavel Borshchenko, Garry Efimov and Yulya Kisil). Bursa Gallery. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**All American Independence Day** (the U.S. Independence Day celebration with food, drinks and various entertainment). America House. 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Free. Register at www.allamericanindependenceday2event.com. Bring ID

#### Movies

**Happy as Lazzaro** (drama, fantasy in Italian with Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 6:55 p.m. Hr 85

#### Shows

**The Unsleeping** (alternative rock). UBK. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200

### Monday, July 8

#### Miscellaneous

**Crash & Burn** (contemporary art exhibition by Darina Mikityuk). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**Verbalization** (collective exhibition exploring modern communication). Lavra Gallery. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

#### Movies

**Aren't You happy?** (biography, comedy, drama in German with Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 5:30 p.m. Hr 85

#### Shows

**Maluma** (latin pop, trap). Palace of Sports. 7 p.m. Hr 1,200-4,000

**Andrey Chmut Band** (jazz). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 150-350

### Tuesday, July 9

#### Miscellaneous

**Big Circle** (contemporary art exhibition exploring the transformation of non-objective art). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100, Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

**Crash & Burn** (contemporary art exhibition by Darina Mikityuk). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**Verbalization** (collective exhibition exploring modern communication). Lavra Gallery. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**The Forbidden Image** (photographs by Boris Mikhailov and artists from the Kharkiv School of Photography exploring the forbidden). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free

**Photographs From the Past Year** (photo exhibition by Katya Buchatska exploring world history). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**Pidsumok** (photo exhibition featuring works by Yana Kononova, Pavel Borshchenko, Garry Efimov and Yulya Kisil). Bursa Gallery. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

#### Movies

**Apollo 11** (documentary, history). Multiplex (Atmosphere, Komod, Lavina Mall, Prospect, Sky Mall). 7 p.m. Hr 90-250

**Aren't You happy?** (biography, comedy, drama in German with Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 5:05 p.m. Hr 75

**Men in Black: International** (action, adventure, comedy). Cinema City. 7 p.m. Hr 120-130

#### Shows

**Atlas Weekend Free Day** (Sofia Rotaru, Onuka, Yuko and 45 other acts). VDNH. 3-11:55 p.m. Free

### Wednesday, July 10

#### Live music

**Jazz on the Roof of Tsum** (vocals - Olga Lukacheva, music - Rodion Ivanov Jazz Band). Tsum. 8 p.m. Hr 450

#### Miscellaneous

**Museum. The Century** (art exhibition exploring the development of the Khanenko Museum since 1919). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free

**Big Circle** (contemporary art exhibition exploring the transformation of non-objective art). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100, Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

**Crash & Burn** (contemporary art exhibition by Darina Mikityuk). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**Verbalization** (collective exhibition exploring modern communication). Lavra Gallery. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**The Forbidden Image** (photographs by Boris Mikhailov and artists from the Kharkiv School of Photography exploring the forbidden). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free

**Photographs From the Past Year** (photo exhibition by Katya Buchatska exploring world history). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**Pidsumok** (photo exhibition featuring works by Yana Kononova, Pavel Borshchenko, Garry Efimov and Yulya Kisil). Bursa Gallery. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

#### Movies

**Aren't You happy?** (biography, comedy, drama in German with Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 5:05 p.m. Hr 75

**Salvador Dali: In Search of Immortality** (documentary). Multiplex (Sky Mall). 7:30 p.m. Hr 190

#### Shows

**Atlas Weekend Day 1** (Black Eyed Peas, Little Big, Tom Odell and 39 other acts on nine stages). VDNH. 3-11:55 p.m. One day ticket - Hr 1,250-3,150, three-day ticket - Hr 2,500-6,250, full pass - Hr 3,000-7,500

**Kikagaku Moyo** (psychedelic rock, folk). UBK. 8 p.m. Hr 550

### Thursday, July 11

#### Live music

**Rock'n'Roll on the Beach** (Ruki v Bryuki band). UBK. 8 p.m. Hr 250-350

#### Miscellaneous

**Museum. The Century** (art exhibition exploring the development of the Khanenko Museum since 1919). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free

**Big Circle** (contemporary art exhibition exploring the transformation of non-objective art). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100, Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

**Crash & Burn** (contemporary art exhibition by Darina Mikityuk). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**Deeds of Riaska** (landscapes by Ukrainian artist Petro Riaska). Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**Verbalization** (collective exhibition exploring modern communication). Lavra Gallery. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**The Forbidden Image** (photographs by Boris Mikhailov and artists from the Kharkiv School of Photography exploring the forbidden). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free

**Photographs From the Past Year** (photo exhibition by Katya Buchatska exploring world history). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**Pidsumok** (photo exhibition featuring works by Yana Kononova, Pavel Borshchenko, Garry Efimov and Yulya Kisil). Bursa Gallery. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

#### Movies

**The Cure - Anniversary 1978-2018 Live in Hyde Park** (music show recording, documentary). Planeta Kino, Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 7 p.m. Hr 110-210

#### Shows

**Atlas Weekend Day 2** (The Chainsmokers, Chase & Status, Drowning Pool and 36 other acts on nine stages). VDNH. 3-11:55 p.m. One day ticket - Hr 1,250-3,150, three-day ticket - Hr 2,500-6,250, full pass - Hr 3,000-7,500

#### Live music

**The Best of Soul** (Old Fashioned Band). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 8 p.m. Hr 250-450

#### Clubs

**Dog Days** (dance music party). Khvylovyi. 10 p.m. Free

**Vlad Yaki, Alex Mur, Kinree** (dance music). UBK. 10 p.m. Free

**Rfrsh: Luis Malon, Opia, Slow Life** (electronic music). River Port. 11 p.m. Price to be announced

**THP Session: DJ Tree, Matthias, TripPsy, Püoro** (electronic music). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Hr 250-350

#### Miscellaneous

**Museum. The Century** (art exhibition exploring the development of the Khanenko Museum since 1919). The Khanenko Museum.



July 12-20

## Odesa International Film Festival kicks off on July 12

There are plenty of reasons to escape the Kyiv smog and travel to Odesa for a weekend, and one of them is Odesa International Film Festival. The annual nine-day event celebrates its 10th birthday this year with a full of premieres program. The festival will screen the dark comedy about modern social issues "Parasite" directed by South Korean filmmaker Bong Joon-ho, which won the main award, Palme d'Or, at this year's Cannes Film Festival. One of the top documentary premieres is "Untouchable" depicting the stardom and disgrace of movie mogul Harvey Weinstein accused of sexual abuse by dozens of women. The big Ukrainian hit is "Homeward" by Nariman Aliev, a Ukrainian-Crimean Tatar director. The drama spotlights the tragedy of a Crimean Tatar family, whose member dies at the war front in Ukraine's east, and which decides to head homeward, to Russia-annexed Crimea, to bury his body. Apart from all kinds of movies screenings, visitors to the festival will be able to attend meetings and workshops with film gurus, such as French actress Catherine Deneuve.

**Odesa International Film Festival. Locations in Odesa are to be announced. July 12-20. Regular pass - Hr 1,800, VIP pass with access to red carpet, opening and closing ceremonies - Hr 25,000. Get passes at www.oiff.com.ua**



10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free

Big Circle (contemporary art exhibition exploring the transformation of non-objective art). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100, Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

Crash & Burn (contemporary art exhibition by Darina Mikityuk). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Deeds of Riaska (landscapes by Ukrainian artist Petro Riaska). Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Verbalization (collective exhibition exploring modern communication). Lavra Gallery. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

The Forbidden Image (photographs by Boris Mikhailov and artists from the Kharkiv School of Photography exploring the forbidden). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free

Photographs From the Past Year (photo exhibition by Katya Buchatska exploring world history). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Pidsumok (photo exhibition featuring works by Yana Kononova, Pavel Borshchenko, Garry Efimov and Yulya Kisil). Bursa Gallery. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Movies

Odesa International Film Festival (nine-day festival featuring Ukrainian and foreign movie premieres, meetings with movie gurus, workshops). Several locations in Odesa that are to be announced. Regular pass - Hr 1,800, VIP pass with access to red carpet, opening and closing ceremonies - Hr 25,000

Shows

Atlas Weekend Day 3 (Splean, Unkle, Noisia and 33 other acts on nine stages). VDNH. 12-11:55 p.m. One day ticket - Hr 1,250-3,150, three-day ticket - Hr 2,500-6,250, full pass - Hr 3,000-7,500

Ploho (post-punk, new wave, lo-fi).

Mezzanine. 7 p.m. Hr 250

Saturday, July 13

Classical music

Italian Fantasy: De Lorenzo, Legnani, Giuliani (guitar - Andriy Ostapenko, flute - Yuriy Shutko). Maria Zankovetska Museum. 3 p.m. Hr 100

Clubs

East Kultur: Autarkic, DJ Bel and Bushiko, Ksenia Palfy and others (electronic music). Mezzanine. 11:30 p.m. Hr 300-350

Lesnoy Prichal: Sebastian Mullaert (electronic music). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Price to be announced

Miscellaneous

Museum. The Century (art exhibition exploring the development of the Khanenko Museum since 1919). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free

Big Circle (contemporary art exhibition exploring the transformation of non-objective art). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100, Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

Crash & Burn (contemporary art exhibition by Darina Mikityuk). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Deeds of Riaska (landscapes by Ukrainian artist Petro Riaska). Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Verbalization (collective exhibition exploring modern communication). Lavra Gallery. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

The Forbidden Image (photographs by Boris Mikhailov and artists from the Kharkiv School of Photography exploring the forbidden). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free

Photographs From the Past Year (photo exhibition by Katya Buchatska exploring world history). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Atlas Weekend

The second weekend of July will bring Atlas Weekend, an annual music festival in Kyiv. This year the organizers promise to attract a wide audience thanks to the headliners: A\$AP Rocky, The Chainsmokers, Black Eyed Peas, Liam Gallagher and a Russian rock band Splean. According to the festival's tradition, the first day is free for all visitors, and the line-up is mostly Ukrainian pop-stars. The headliner of the first day is Ukrainian music legend Sofia Rotaru, who is known for the songs like "Odna Kalyna" and "Chervona Ruta." Although the festival takes place within Kyiv, there is camping area for those who prefer to stay at the territory.

Atlas Weekend. VDNH (1 Akademika Hlushkova Ave.) July 9-14. 3 p.m. - 11:55 p.m. One-day ticket - Hr 1,250-3,150, three-day ticket - Hr 2,500-6,250, full pass - Hr 3,000-7,500



p.m. Free

Beach Market (beach hats and bags, summer shoes and swimwear from Ukrainian producers). Vsi Svoi D12. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Free

Pidsumok (photo exhibition featuring works by Yana Kononova, Pavel Borshchenko, Garry Efimov and Yulya Kisil). Bursa Gallery. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Movies

Odesa International Film Festival (nine-day festival featuring Ukrainian and foreign movie premieres, meetings with movie gurus, workshops). Several locations in Odesa that are to be announced. Regular pass - Hr 1,800, VIP pass with access to red carpet, opening and closing ceremonies - Hr 25,000

Shows

Atlas Weekend Day 4 (A\$AP Rocky, LSP, Our Last Night and 39 other acts on nine stages). VDNH. 3-11:55 p.m. One day ticket - Hr 1,250-3,150, three-day ticket - Hr 2,500-6,250, full pass - Hr 3,000-7,500

Make Like a Tree (indie, folk, experimental). UBK. 8 p.m. Price to be announced

Theater

The Audience (British National Theater recording, drama). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 3 p.m. Hr 190-240

Sunday, July 14

Miscellaneous

Museum. The Century (art exhibition exploring the development of the Khanenko

Museum since 1919). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free

Big Circle (contemporary art exhibition exploring the transformation of non-objective art). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100, Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

Crash & Burn (contemporary art exhibition by Darina Mikityuk). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Deeds of Riaska (landscapes by Ukrainian artist Petro Riaska). Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

The Forbidden Image (photographs by Boris Mikhailov and artists from the Kharkiv School of Photography exploring the forbidden). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free

Photographs From the Past Year (photo exhibition by Katya Buchatska exploring world history). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Beach Market (beach hats and bags, summer shoes and swimwear from Ukrainian producers). Vsi Svoi D12. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Free

Pidsumok (photo exhibition featuring works by Yana Kononova, Pavel Borshchenko, Garry Efimov and Yulya Kisil). Bursa Gallery. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Movies

Odesa International Film Festival (nine-day festival featuring Ukrainian and foreign movie premieres, meetings with movie gurus, workshops). Several locations in Odesa that are to be announced. Regular pass - Hr 1,800, VIP pass with access to red carpet, opening and closing ceremonies - Hr 25,000

Shows

Atlas Weekend Day 5 (Liam Gallagher, Michael Kiwanuka, The Hardkiss and 32 other acts on nine stages). VDNH. 3-11:55 p.m. One day ticket - Hr 1,250-3,150, three-day ticket - Hr 2,500-6,250, full pass - Hr 3,000-7,500

Venues

- Classical Music
National Philharmonic of Ukraine
St. Catherine Church
Liuteranska St.
Maria Zankovetska Museum
Velyka Vasylykivska St.

- Caribbean Club
Gryshko National Botanical Garden
Tsum
Clubs
Closer
Khvylovyyi Bar
Otel

- River Port
UBK Club
America House
Lavra Gallery
M17 Contemporary Art Center

- Mystetskyi Arsenal
The Naked Room
Platforma Art Factory
Triptych Global Arts Workshop
VDNH

- Vsi Svoi D12
Pinchuk Art Center
The Khanenko Museum
Bursa Gallery
Cinema City

- Multiplex Cinema
Multiplex Cinema
Multiplex Cinema
Multiplex Cinema
Multiplex Cinema

- Bandery Ave.
Zhovten Cinema
Odesa
Shows
Mezzanine
Palace of Sports
Theater
National Opera of Ukraine

POLO RALPH LAUREN

SYNONYM of the AMERICAN STYLE

THE MAN AS A SYMBOL HIMSELF

The date of "67" on the T-shirt refers back to the year, when Lauren opened his first store selling ties, without any formal education or experience in design. Below, Lauren is pictured at the peak of his success (he is now among the Top 100 richest people in America) against the background of the most important symbol of the country that brought him everything he had ever dreamt about. The autograph of the designer looking upward confirms that anybody, who is not afraid to dream, risk and work hard can achieve huge success.

ON JULY 4, THE USA - THE COUNTRY OF FREEDOM, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND 'SELF-MADE' PHILOSOPHY, ARE CELEBRATING 243RD ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE. FOR ABOUT A FIFTH OF THIS TIME, RALPH LAUREN, THE DESIGNER, WHO REALIZED THE AMERICAN DREAM, HAS BEEN CREATING THE AUTHENTIC AMERICAN STYLE. WHY DO THE CLOTHES FROM RALPH MAGICALLY CHARGE ACTIONS WITH AMERICAN DREAM? WE WILL EXPLAIN USING THE SYMBOLS OF THE BEST-SELLING ITEMS FROM POLO RALPH LAUREN.



THE FIRST-FLAG SWEATER

The US flag sweater first appeared in 1989 with RL initials in the place of the stars. In later collections, Ralph returned the 13 stars to the blue rectangle as a tribute to the first flag of the free America, which inspired poet Francis Scott Key to write the national anthem. Interestingly, ten years after the first flag sweater was launched, Lauren donated \$13 million to the Smithsonian museum for restoration of that 200-year old US flag.

THE WEALTHY PLAYER

Lauren explains that he achieved success because he never wanted to engage himself in fashion or in creating something brand new. The designer focused on creating a lifestyle that won over the hearts of risky and ambitious Americans. That is how the idea of the logo with a polo player holding his mallet high ready for the victory shot appeared. Why a polo player? 'Well, what kind of people play polo?' Lauren asks. 'Wealthy, cosmopolitan, chic. I wanted to create a concept for the name'.

- POLO RALPH LAUREN GULLIVER | 1-A, Sportyvna Square, 1st floor, t. 044 501 8110
OCEAN PLAZA | 176, Antonovycha Street, 1st floor, t. 044 501 8100
SKYMALL | 2-T, Henerala Vatutina Ave, 2nd floor, t. 044 501 8120
TSUM | 38, Khreshchatyk Street, 5th floor, t. 044 501 8130



# Ukrainian organization in America marks 125 years

BY ASKOLD KRUSHELNYCKY  
ASKOLDK@GMAIL.COM

WASHINGTON — The oldest Ukrainian diaspora organization in the United States, the Ukrainian National Association, is commemorating its 125th anniversary this year.

The UNA began as a self-help group that eventually forged Ukrainian-Americans

into a powerful force that performed a vital role in helping keep alive the idea of an independent Ukraine during the darkest times of the 20th century, when the nation's enemies were trying to eradicate the notion of a separate Ukrainian identity.

The beginning of mass Ukrainian immigration to the U.S. was in the late 1870s, although individuals had arrived in North America as early as in the second half of the 17th century.

Most of the first migrants came from Ukrainian ethnic lands that were then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and are now part of western Ukraine.

Many were recruited to work

as coal miners in the state of Pennsylvania, one of the new country's industrial powerhouses producing steel for constructing railroads, buildings and machinery that drove America's economy and opened up its territory.

Conditions for miners were often appalling and the risks of fatal accidents or maiming high.

Irena Yarosevych, a member of the UNA general assembly, said: "In 1894, the establishment of the association was driven by the need to help the thousands of new immigrants arriving from Ukraine who worked dangerous jobs in the coal mines of Pennsylvania. Deaths were frequent, and young widows did not have the ability to pay for a funeral, much less receive future income."

"From the original 'burial policies' that paid funeral expenses and provided income to the bereaved families, the UNA expanded into a full-service insurance provider with tens of thousands of members."

In November 1893, a Ukrainian-language newspaper, Svoboda (Freedom), published in the state of



Дітройтські українці протестують проти виголодження України більшовиками (1933 р.). Початок походу.

In an archive photo, Ukrainian Cossacks ride through Detroit, Michigan, in 1933, to call attention to the Holodomor, when Soviet dictator Josef Stalin deliberately starved to death at least four million Ukrainians. (Courtesy)

New Jersey, suggested in an editorial that Rusyns, a group name that previously referred to Ukrainians, should form a nationwide self-help association.

The editorial urged: "Ukrainians scattered across this land need a national organization, namely such a brotherhood, such a national union that would embrace each and every Ukrainian no matter where he lives. ...in unity there is strength, and it is not easily defeated."

In response, 10 of the brotherhoods pooled their assets, \$220, and formed the Ruskyi Narodnyi Soyuz (Rusyn National Association) with 439 members in the Pennsylvania mining town of Shamokin on Feb. 22, 1894.

Theodosiy Talpash became the association's first president at its first regular convention held on May 30, 1894, in Shamokin.

The association's primary task then was to provide insurance to pay for a decent funeral for its members.

The association quickly grew with the Svoboda newspaper becoming its voice. As more immigrants came to the U.S., they brought with them ideas about the rebirth of Ukrainian national identity that were sweeping through Ukrainian ethnic territories in both the Austro-Hungarian and Russian empires.

Most of the first members of the association belonged to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. They set about building places of worship.

## Evolving roles

The church, from its headquarters



The Transfiguration Of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shamokin, Pennsylvania. (Askold Krushelnycky)

in Lviv, sent priests to cater for the needs of the new parishes. Priests were in the forefront of educating Ukrainians in their homeland about their history and culture and some of those who came to the U.S. were equally zealous about spreading those ideas in the emerging, well-organized diaspora.

The association also organized reading rooms for adults and schools that used the Ukrainian and English languages for children of the immigrants.

The association's most active members, whether clergy or secular leaders, were Ukrainian patriots and patriotism was woven into the fabric of the entire organization.

World War I and its aftermath led to a short-lived independent

Ukrainian state and their kinsmen in the Ruskyi Narodnyi Soyuz tried to enlist American support for Ukraine.

In 1919, the organization's name was changed to the Ukrainian National Association.

After the war, most Ukrainians found themselves living either under the communists in the newly-formed Soviet Union or within the borders of a resurrected Poland. Both the Soviets and the Poles were hostile to Ukrainians' independence ambitions and suppressed them with brutality.

The UNA's first aim was to ensure the security and prosperity of its members and also to make them into "good" Americans and Canadians, where it has branches.

more Organization on page 15

**RHENUS LOGISTICS**  
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<p><b>INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High and Heavy cargo transportation</li> <li>- International deliveries via road / sea / air / rail</li> <li>- Consolidation of all European cargoes in Frankfurt for CIS countries</li> <li>- FTL/LTL</li> </ul>	<p><b>WAREHOUSE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cold warehouse 9 000 m<sup>2</sup> t +4°C and +16°C</li> <li>- Warehouses, class A for storage FMCG goods</li> <li>- Bonded warehouses, class A</li> <li>- Warehouse services: picking, FIFO/FEFO, shrinking, labeling, etc</li> </ul>
<p><b>DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Domestic Distribution all over Ukraine to more than 520 consignees, "door to door"; from one box to full truck;</li> </ul>	<p><b>CUSTOMS BROKERAGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All necessary services for import/export/transit procedures provided by Customs Brokerage Department</li> <li>- Consulting in Customs and bonded warehouse procedures</li> </ul>

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# UNA kept alive independence dreams, helped new immigrants

Organization from page 14

But increasingly the association realized that it also had an important role to play in supporting independence efforts by Ukrainians in the homeland.

The UNA had political influence because it could organize votes among its members for politicians who supported the association's aims.

An early political triumph for the UNA was when President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed April 21, 1917, as Ukrainian Day, when Americans were asked to make donations to help Ukrainians suffering because of war.

Svoboda newspaper was the main means to communicate with UNA members. But as the decades passed, many descendants of the original immigrants were more comfortable speaking English than Ukrainian. So in 1933, the UNA introduced the first English-language newspaper in the Ukrainian diaspora, The Ukrainian Weekly.

The UNA parleyed its political influence to make America and the world aware of Ukraine, even when Ukrainian voices were savagely silenced at home. During the interwar years, UNA members protested against Polish repressions of the

Ukrainian population within their borders.

## Holodomor alerts

The UNA told the world about millions of Ukrainians being starved to death by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin.

In 1933, some of its members, in cossack garb and carrying American and Ukrainian flags, rode on horseback through Detroit to draw attention to the Holodomor, then reaching its murderous peak.

As World War II erupted and thousands of UNA members joined the American and Canadian armed forces, the association worked to ensure that Ukraine's interests were not forgotten.

A wartime editorial in The Ukrainian Weekly said: "Today, in exerting all their energies to help our country win this war against the Nazis and Japs, the UNA and its members find inspiration, too, in the cherished hope that when victory is won and tyranny dethroned, the Ukrainians over there will be given an equal right, with other enslaved peoples, to establish their own independent Ukrainian state. That is their inalienable right. And to the upholding of that right the UNA has been dedicated from the very first days of its existence."



Father Mykola Ivanov and parishioner David Kaleta stand outside the Transfiguration Of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shamokin, Pennsylvania. (Askold Krushelnycky)



Theodosiy Talpash was the first president of the Ukrainian National Association. He was elected on May 30, 1894.

Ukraine did not receive independence after World War II, but fell under Soviet domination and a Cold War standoff began.

A great achievement by the UNA during the 1940s was its campaign to prevent Ukrainian displaced persons in Europe being forcibly sent to the Soviet Union, where many would have faced persecution or execution. Instead huge numbers came to North America with the UNA playing a big part in bringing them over and helping them get settled.

The UNA, and other diaspora organizations, had to continue the work of ensuring that Ukraine remained a presence on the world stage. America was the key Western country that needed to be made aware of Ukraine's interests and the UNA performed that role diligently.

The UNA has many other achievements. It established the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University. In addition to publishing Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, it published a children's magazine, and sponsored Yale University Press' publication of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's seminal book "History of Ukraine."

It helped British historian Robert Conquest publish his book, "The Harvest of Sorrow," which brought the horrors of the Holodomor to the attention of an international audience.

The UNA donated funds for the U.S. Commission on the Holodomor and the Harvard Project on the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine. It has provided, and continues to do so, scholarships for college students in the U.S. and Canada.

The association organized the erection of a statue in Washington, D.C., to heroic poet Taras Shevchenko. Such monuments require government permission and the UNA used its political clout to gain a prominent area in the capital's embassy district for the statue unveiled in 1964 by former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower.

As different Ukrainian groups sprang up, the UNA helped form the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the largest diaspora organization in the U.S. It was instrumental in the creation of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians.

Its membership grew in the 20th century to number some 42,000 during World War II and peaked in the 1970s with 90,000 members. In 1994, it had 64,000 members and currently has about 50,000 members in the U.S. and Canada.

After Ukraine's independence, the UNA created a fund to support projects such as school textbooks and handbooks for businesspersons, and initiated projects to train English-language teachers. It had already opened a press bureau in Kyiv in January 1991.

UNA's national secretary, Yuriy

Symczyk, said that the UNA today has a two-fold mission: offering its members life insurance products and helping them "become better Americans and better Canadians in their new home countries while not forgetting about their homeland, Ukraine, and heritage."

He said the UNA, as a fraternal organization, has a responsibility to bring together the new waves of Ukrainian immigration with generations of Ukrainians living in U.S. and Canada and to support as many of the other Ukrainian community organizations and events as possible.

Symczyk said profits from UNA's insurance products go directly to provide benefits to UNA members and to Ukrainian communities. The UNA, he said, decided that it would focus on its publications and grow the endowment fund for them.

The UNA is holding events throughout the year at different branches to commemorate its anniversary. These started on Feb. 22 when the association's president, Stefan Kaczaraj, and other leaders visited Shamokin, where the UNA began. The events culminate in a grand concert on Nov. 2 in Morristown, New Jersey. ■



Dwight D. Eisenhower, the former U.S. president and military general, unveils a Taras Shevchenko statue before crowds in Washington, D.C., on June 24, 1964.

## ON THE MOVE

Advertisement

### Sayenko Kharenko boosts compliance capabilities with new counsel hire



Ario Dehghani

Sayenko Kharenko is pleased to welcome Ario Dehghani on board. Ario will further strengthen the firm's offerings in the compliance and white collar criminal defence areas.

Ario Dehghani has over 10 years of professional experience in the fields of compliance, data protection and privacy, white collar investigations and EU law.

Prior to joining Sayenko Kharenko, Ario worked for more than seven years at the Hogan Lovells' Munich office, where he focused on white collar, compliance and internal investigations. Ario Dehghani is one of the most experienced experts in Ukraine in preventing, identifying, eliminating and mitigating compliance risks at both national and global levels. He advises clients on all types of compliance matters and regularly handles sophisticated internal investigations related to, amongst others, FCPA and UK Bribery Act issues. His areas of expertise cover anti-bribery, anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, sanctions, data protection, regulatory and product compliance matters.

Partner Sergiy Pogrebnoy comments: "Ario is a well-known and prominent compliance expert in Ukraine, and I am happy to welcome him to the team. I am more than sure that his unique expertise and extensive experience will help us deliver greater value to our clients."



# PrivatBank case in Delaware highlights scourge of Ukrainian money laundering

BY JACK LAURENSEN  
LAURENSEN.JACK@KYIVPOST.COM

When the Ukrainian banking sector or the country's financial institutions take center stage in a foreign jurisdiction, it is usually for regrettable reasons.

That's certainly the case in Delaware, a small American state with a reputation as a tax haven.

There, Ukraine's largest bank finds itself at the center of a case that could expose the biggest money-laundering scheme in world history.

PrivatBank, currently state-owned, is suing its former owners, oligarchs Igor Kolomoisky and Gennadiy Boholyubov, as well as multiple business associates, in the Delaware Court of Chancery. Simultaneously, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or FBI, has opened a criminal investigation into Kolomoisky and his alleged co-conspirators.

PrivatBank is seeking to prove that, in the course of a decade, its former owners engaged in large-scale money laundering into the United States, parking hundreds of millions of dollars in various commercial real estate projects.

This is a civil suit, but many of its multiple accusations are fundamentally criminal in nature. If the civil case is successful, it could eventually lead to criminal indictments and extradition orders for the two oligarchs.

In 2016, the Ukrainian government nationalized PrivatBank after investigators discovered it had a \$5.5-billion hole in its ledger and faced collapse. Although financiers, international experts and Ukrainian civil society support the nationalization, Kolomoisky and Boholyubov are challenging it in the Ukrainian courts.

Both oligarchs have repeatedly denied all past and present allegations of wrongdoing.



Bohdan Sanin, speaker of the Kyiv District Administrative Court, talks with journalists in front of the courthouse on April 18, 2019. Earlier that day, the court ruled that the nationalization of PrivatBank in 2016 was illegal, sparking outrage from lawmakers and civil society alike. Appeals are ongoing. (Volodymyr Petrov)

## Capital flight

While PrivatBank and its ongoing cases in London, Geneva and now the U.S. tax haven of Delaware have become headline-grabbing examples of alleged fraud and money laundering, they are representative of a much larger challenge for Ukraine. Experts say that countless, smaller cases of laundering and illicit capital flight are still crippling the economy.

In one recent example, the Kyiv Post found that the founder of Ukrainian medical company Eurolab, broadcaster and businessperson Andriy Palchevsky, sits at the head of a Caribbean scheme that appears designed to launder money or avoid tax.

Palchevsky has 10 shell companies registered to a residential address

close to London where a local accountant admitted to the Kyiv Post that he was managing the books. Records show that those companies are registered to the well-known tax haven of Charlestown, Nevis in the Caribbean.

Experts from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have branded Nevis "non-cooperative" in its efforts to combat money laundering and it has become a haven for dirty money. Some of that money definitely came from Ukraine.

"This remains a problem for our country. In fact, the Ukrainian model currently seems to be capital exporting rather than capital importing," said Constantin Solyar, a banking lawyer and partner at the Asters law firm in Kyiv.

While Ukraine has made some efforts to adopt international standards, clean up its banking sector and recover capital and assets that have been plundered or otherwise moved abroad, much of it could be lost forever.

"Banks which were used specifically for money laundering operations were removed from the market with the cleaning up of the banking system by the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU)," said Oleksii Filipov, an expert with the KPMG accountancy and auditing firm.

"As a result, classic banks now face the risk that they could be used for such operations unwittingly," Filipov added.

Prosecution for financial crimes remain rare and the courts have failed to back lawmakers who attempted to clamp down. Judges and decisions are still up for sale and judicial reform remains stalled.

Viktoriya Fomenko, a tax expert at the Integrites law firm in Kyiv, said that laundering continues to take place, despite the NBU's efforts to clamp down: "Only during 2019, the regulator (the NBU) has imposed twelve sanctions on banks for viola-

tions of its money laundering rules."

"The effective implementation of anti-money laundering measures is not possible in Ukraine without anti-corruption regulations," Fomenko said, adding that the courts have been unhelpful on the issue. "By declaring unconstitutional the Criminal Code article on illegal enrichment (in February), the Constitutional Court gave a green light to such illegal funds and, consequently, their laundering."

The stakes are high for Ukraine and damage to the collective national wealth due to income and assets being shadily hidden in foreign jurisdictions is considerable. State coffers lose out on essential taxation revenue: some \$40-50 billion each year, according to multiple independent legal experts who have spoken to the Kyiv Post.

Experts attribute that loss to Ukraine's collective wealth — equivalent to nearly a third of the country's current total gross domestic product — to a combination of tax evasion, tax avoidance, aggressive tax planning practices and profit shifting.

The amount lost due to criminal money laundering out of Ukraine is much more difficult to estimate.

## Tackling laundering

While developed Western countries pressure Ukraine to reform its judiciary and tackle corruption, their own bankers, accountants and lawyers often play a part in money laundering.

The United States and the United Kingdom play a particular role in illicit capital flight, as do the low-tax jurisdictions where much of the laundered cash ends up, such as Delaware in the United States or Caribbean islands like Nevis, the Virgin Islands, and the Caymans.

Experts say that the National Bank of Ukraine, for its part, has been trying to stem the outflow.

"The NBU... has implemented a risk-based approach for supervision

to prevent money laundering," said Filipov of KPMG. "It includes remote monitoring of transactions and onsite inspections. The aim of the approach is to implement leading international practices in this area."

The Ukrainian government needs to implement rules on extraterritorial incomes and foreign entities that are owned by Ukrainians, legal experts say.

"These rules are... measures to combat tax avoidance when a taxpayer in one country establishes an entity in an offshore jurisdiction and diverts the income... to the foreign entity," Solyar said.

"Corruption and illegal economic activities put Ukraine among states with significant money laundering risks," adds Fomenko.

Strong ties with International Financial Institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development play an important role, she says.

"These institutions make Ukraine move down the path of reforms... and significantly and positively affect anti-money laundering in Ukraine."

## Massive fraud

In Delaware, PrivatBank would like to teach Ukraine and the bank's former owners a valuable lesson about oversight, transparency, and the rule of law.

American and Ukrainian investigators have alleged that a decade of embezzlement took place at PrivatBank, with the former owners and their associates using it as their own "personal piggy bank" for 90 percent of the bank's lending.

Now, investigators' attention is also shifting to what they allege was international money laundering on an unprecedented scale through PrivatBank's base in Cyprus, and ultimately into Delaware and the wider United States.

PrivatBank has assembled a cohort of lawyers and public relations specialists to fight Kolomoisky and Boholyubov. The bank's leadership is confidently on the offensive, but tight-lipped about details.

"The bank has developed its legal strategy with consultants and we are quite confident overall," Anna Samarina, PrivatBank's deputy chair and CFO, told the Kyiv Post at a banking conference in London.

"In the cases ongoing at the moment in various jurisdictions... there are evidences which have been proven by investigators, evidence of fraud, and the fraudulent schemes done through the bank," she added.

However, Samarina is not only referring to the alleged \$5.5 billion hole found in the bank's books back in 2016.

The latest case filed in the U.S. by PrivatBank's lawyers against Kolomoisky and Boholyubov also implicates three American co-defendants and 19 proxy companies in the States. It alleges that, during the decade spanning 2006 to 2016, \$470 billion was laundered through PrivatBank Cyprus, while "hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of

## ON THE MOVE

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Halyna Khomenko

Halyna Khomenko has been promoted to Associate Partner and takes up new position starting 1 July 2019.

Having previously worked for Arthur Andersen, Halyna joined EY in 2002. For more than seventeen years, she has been delivering a wide range of services in the area of human capital — from cross-border individual tax planning to outsourcing payroll and HR-admin services. Halyna is a Leader of Private Clients Services in Ukraine.

Halyna's personal involvement helped to create a strong and professional team, which has a proven track record in providing exceptional client service, developing people and winning in the markets.

EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the worldwide. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, our clients and communities.





# Moving Ukraine ahead

MORGAN WILLIAMS



Now is the time for Ukraine to move forward rapidly to accelerate economic growth through major, market-driven reforms. This is the number one priority for President Volodymyr Zelensky. Economic growth can be accomplished if the government will establish an effective program in cooperation with business and civil society.

Ukraine's best defense against Vladimir Putin is a strong, growing economy. Such an economy will also keep Ukraine's Western partners firmly engaged.

The areas that Ukraine needs to reform to accelerate economic growth include:

## Private land market

The president needs to move quickly to develop a program that establishes a commercial market for private land in Ukraine. The program must be adopted by parliament early in 2020. A market system for all private land should be in place by 2023.

Also, the government owns hundreds of thousands of hectares of agricultural and other land that should be privatized in 2019 and 2020. The government should no longer deny the owners of land their legitimate rights. The lack of a market

for private land is one of the most crippling impediments to economic growth.

## Energy production

Production sharing agreements, or PSAs, are needed to boost private oil and gas exploration and production. The government must do more to attract private investors. This is critical to Ukraine's drive for energy independence and private investment.

The winning bidders in the present PSA program should be approved quickly by the parliament and contracts signed by the government by the end of 2019. This is critical. The program should be expanded and bidding for future land plots should be limited only to private investors.

The huge state monopoly, Naftogaz, is expanding and strengthening its powerful monopoly position. Naftogaz seems to be saying: "We love the private business sector as long as they work for us." The state-owned energy companies must be demonopolized in order to improve energy production and energy security.

## Ukrzaliznytsia

Ukraine should allow private companies to own locomotives and operate large commodity trains. The large state monopoly, Ukrzaliznytsia, is also working rapidly to expand and strengthen its powerful monopoly position. The president should recommend, and the parliament should approve, legislation allowing private



A locomotive travels along tracks in front of cargo cars at a depot in Kyiv on June 19, 2019. (Oleg Petراسиuk)

companies to invest and participate in the railroad industry.

The starting point is to allow private companies to own and operate locomotives to move grain and other commodities on the state railroad system. UZ, like Naftogaz, seems to be saying: "We love the private sector as long as they work for us." The state railways company must be demonopolized.

## Tax loopholes

The president and parliament need to close the many loopholes that allow for massive tax evasion at the expense of the state budget and private business. The government continues raising taxes on legitimate private businesses instead of closing loopholes that allow criminals, monopolists, and others to evade taxes.

## Privatize

Ukraine must sell off hundreds of state-owned companies. The government must establish an effective program to privatize hundreds of non-essential state-owned companies that are subject to massive corruption and inefficiency, use monopolistic privileges and practices, and generate losses for the state budget, while blocking private enter-

prise from entering the market and improving the business environment.

## Promotion

The economic and commercial staff of the embassies of Ukraine around the world are employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They should be employees of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. The economic and commercial staff of the United States embassies are not employees of the U.S. Department of State. They are employees of the U.S. Department of Commerce, whose job is not foreign policy but promoting trade and investment.

## Law enforcement abuse

The primary job of too many state law enforcement agencies seems to be to harass private business with endless investigations, seizure of assets, block operations, and other harassment activities. The Business Ombudsman Council has stated that law enforcement agencies' harassment of business is now the leading reason why businesses turn to the council for help. Legislation should be adopted to reform law enforcement agencies that harass business.

## Nuclear energy security

Nuclear energy produces over 55 percent of Ukraine's electricity. All nuclear fuel needed by Ukraine's nuclear reactors is purchased either from Westinghouse or the Russian government. Ukraine must improve its nuclear fuel security. To do this Westinghouse should be providing 55 percent or more of Ukraine's nuclear fuel, not Russia. The present program that allows Russia to continue to control 55 percent or more of the nuclear fuel purchased by Ukraine must obviously be changed.

## Other steps

There are many additional reforms that the new government must implement. These reforms have been clearly identified and promoted by other business trade associations and international institutions. Zelensky must aggressively advocate and lead a substantial program that will move Ukraine forward rapidly. Such a program should create a truly private, market-driven, competitive economy. After decades of delay, it's time now to go full speed ahead.

*Morgan Williams is the president of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council with more than 200 members, including the Kyiv Post.* ■

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

**William B. Taylor** – Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. of the United States Embassy in Kyiv, Ukraine

**Iryna Starovoyt, Ph.D.** – Literature Specialist, Poet, Associate Professor at Ukrainian Catholic University

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# Vakarchuk's Voice seeks to challenge old rules of game

BY BERMET TALANT  
BERMET@KYIVPOST.COM

**KYIV, KHARKIV, SLOVIANSK** — Before Ukrainians elected comedic actor Volodymyr Zelensky as their president, many favored rock musician Svyatoslav Vakarchuk as leader of the nation.

But the vocalist of popular rock band Okean Elzy decided to not run for president. Instead, he runs for parliament with his new political party, Voice.

Introduced just two months before the scheduled date of the snap parliamentary election on July 21, Voice is steadily climbing in the polls. It appears to have secured the 5 percent threshold to win seats in the future parliament.

With Vakarchuk at the helm, Voice is running with a pool of accomplished and mostly young — average age, 37 — professionals and activists. They are all political newcomers.

"I don't believe in professional politicians. It's a myth," Vakarchuk told journalists on July 1 after a campaign rally in Sloviansk, a city of 110,000 people in Donetsk Oblast.

The rock star said his goal now is to bring new people to the parliament. In the future, he wants the party to grow strong and not depend on his name.

"We have to end this practice of a one-leader party. It is harmful when the public knows only No. 1 on the list," Vakarchuk said.

Ukraine's personality-driven parties often lack clear ideological principles, serving only as vehicles for the prominent politician who leads them.

Vakarchuk is not a complete newcomer to politics. He briefly served as a lawmaker in the Ukrainian parliament in 2007–2008, but resigned in disillusionment. But he is willing to give it a second try. He says he prefers a lawmaker's mandate to the presidency because the parliament is where legal changes happen.

He says this time it will be different for him in parliament.

"It's one thing to go into parliament as part of a team whose words don't match their actions, to be a black sheep. It is another thing to have your own political party of like-minded people."

Vakarchuk says he returned to politics out of a sense of obligation to the nation, even as his rock band Okean Elzy celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and plays to full stadiums across Ukraine.

"The more I meet with people, the more I become convinced I did the right thing," he said.



Rock star and leader of the Voice (Golos) political party Svyatoslav Vakarchuk addresses the public during his campaign rally in Kharkiv on June 30, 2019. (Oleg Petrasjuk)

## Coalition with Zelensky

Voice, of course, isn't the only new party likely to enter parliament. The other such party is President Volodymyr Zelensky's Servant of the People, which polls around 40 percent, making it the leader.

One of the biggest questions is whether the two parties will form a coalition, thereby bringing together an unprecedented number of new faces in the Ukrainian legislature.

Vakarchuk is vague about the future coalition, only saying that Voice is ready to negotiate with other parties that support Ukraine's path to Europe.

Initially, Vakarchuk was unimpressed with the idea of Zelensky as president. During the presidential campaign, the musician called on Ukrainians to vote "not for a gag," which many viewed as a rejection of Zelensky.

Since then, however, Vakarchuk appears to have softened. Today, he says he wants Zelensky to succeed.

"The president was elected by the people," the singer said. "Being against the president means being against the people."

## New faces, new rules

Born into a family of university professors, Vakarchuk, 44, holds a doctorate in physics from Lviv University. He never put it to use. Instead, he focused on Okean Elzy, which he co-founded in college.

In 2015, he was selected as Yale World Fellow, a fellowship for mid-career leaders and distinguished professionals. In 2017, he spent two semesters as a visiting scholar at Stanford University's Center on Democracy and Rule of Law.

Vakarchuk also co-founded the Center for Economic Strategy, an independent think tank based in Kyiv, and co-sponsors the Ukrainian Emerging Leaders Program, which sends three outstanding Ukrainians to Stanford University every year.

Vakarchuk's biggest project, Okean Elzy, has released nine albums and many singles over 25 years and has amassed a huge fan base among several generations of Ukrainians. The band performed in the Ukrainian language even when many Ukrainian artists opted for Russian to appeal to a larger audience.

In the winter of the EuroMaidan Revolution in 2013–2014, which ended President Viktor Yanukovich's rule, Okean Elzy performed for free on Independence Square in Kyiv.

Many lines in their songs resemble political manifestos: "I will not surrender without a fight," "Will we have enough strength to make the wall between us fall," "We continue to carry our flag and not a cross, we keep walking to our own Everest," "Tired of wars and broken by no one, flourish, my land."

These days, Okean Elzy follows its lead singer around the country on the campaign trail. Sometimes, after rallies, the band gives free concerts, which Vakarchuk insists are not part of his campaigning. During the presidential campaign, Zelensky came under criticism for doing the same thing: touring the country with free comedy shows.

Vakarchuk says he will not give up music after he becomes a lawmaker.

After all, he and his party members are going to parliament for no more than two terms, or 10 years, he says. He believes this should be the rule for all parties.

Voice is also disrupting the Ukrainian political tradition by banning current and former lawmakers from its party list. Only a handful of current lawmakers stand as Voice candidates in single-member districts.

"People have this great rejection of the authorities. We decided that we can't do new politics with old faces," said Yulia Klymenko, former deputy minister of economy. She is second on Voice's party list and runs the party's campaign.

One of the newcomers is Kira Rudik, third on the party list and the chief operating officer of Ring Ukraine, an Amazon-owned tech company.

"Vakarchuk reached out to me and said we are a startup of talented people who want to change the country. It could be a once-in-a-lifetime chance. Let's take it together," Rudik told the Kyiv Post on the sidelines of Voice's rally on June 30 in Kharkiv, the second largest city in Ukraine.

Voice is striking a gender balance that is uncommon in Ukrainian politics. The top 10 tickets are equally distributed between men and women. Overall, there are 10 women out of the top 30 Voice candidates — more than in any other leading party.

Denying rumors he is backed by Ukrainian tycoon Victor Pinchuk, Vakarchuk said his party rejected any sponsorship from oligarchs and solely relies on public fundraising. He says this defies another practice in Ukraine, where politicians hide the identities of their real donors and conspire with oligarchs to gain access to media.

Vakarchuk says de-oligarchization of the country has to start with politicians.

"When we are talking about fighting against oligarchs, we don't mean taking their wealth away. Only Bolsheviks and communists did that," he clarifies. "Oligarchs are not simple businessmen. They use their wealth to influence politics. They buy media to promote politicians who help them become richer. We are talking about a level playing field. The laws have to be the same for everyone."

Voice only accepts donations from people who don't influence the party's independence and who share its values. On July 3, the party announced that it had rejected some Hr 2 million (\$76,700) in dubious donations.

## Tour to the east

At the moment, Voice is touring eastern and central Ukraine. The east is hardly the region that will guarantee the party its victory. It polls low in regions affected by Russia's war and is dominated by pro-Russian politicians.

On July 1, Voice and Vakarchuk went to Sloviansk, a city in Donetsk Oblast that was liberated from Russian occupation in July 2014, but now feels cut off from the rest of Ukraine.

Local billboards and campaign tents advertise two candidates: independent lawmaker Oleg Nedava, formerly with ex-President Petro Poroshenko's party, and businessman Yuriy Solod, who runs with the Russia-friendly Opposition Platform — For Life party.

Vakarchuk, as a Ukrainian-speaking native of western Ukraine, drew a small crowd on the central square of Sloviansk on a hot Monday afternoon.

"This is the pro-Ukrainian minority. Just as many people showed up for Vyshyvanka Day," said Iryna Plastun, a local who decided to vote for Vakarchuk because "he is patriotic, young, and educated." Vyshyvanka Day is a celebration of the traditional Ukrainian embroidered shirt.

"Why do people still vote for the Opposition Platform and (its leader Yuriy) Boyko? Because of poverty and (political) illiteracy. Most Sloviansk people have not traveled to other parts of Ukraine, let alone abroad," she said.

Another woman, Vira Yurik — originally from Mukachevo, Vakarchuk's hometown — happened to be in Sloviansk for her mother's funeral. She echoes Plastun's sentiments emotionally: "Everything to the west of Kyiv is already the Eurozone. Donbas doesn't see it and that's why it doesn't want to be in the European Union."

Vakarchuk wasn't discouraged by the small crowd in Sloviansk.

"I don't want to please everyone," he says. "When I'm in Donbas, I say the same things as in Lviv, maybe in a slightly different language." ■

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# America House in Kyiv shares US culture, builds bridges with Ukraine

BY ARTUR KORNIENKO  
KORNIENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Kyivans had the chance to join a call with outer space at America House on Oct. 25, 2017.

The U.S. cultural center in the Ukrainian capital organized a live web chat with NASA astronaut Randolph Bresnik as he floated in the International Space Station. Unsurprisingly, the event was packed.

This is just one of about 800 events that America House hosts every year, including lectures, workshops, film screenings, concerts and art exhibits, aimed to educate, share American culture and build bridges between Ukraine and the U.S. All of them are free.

In the spirit of building bridges, America House invited Leonid Kadeniuk, the first astronaut of independent Ukraine, to the meeting with Bresnik. Kadeniuk, now deceased, went to space on board NASA's Space Shuttle Columbia as part of a

scientific collaboration between the two countries in 1997.

What America House does is not as far-reaching as supporting Ukrainian astronauts, but it definitely inspires future ones, as well scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, activists and all kinds of young professionals since 2015.

"We opened in the sort of post-Maidan time as a way to support civil society and the emerging leaders of Ukraine," America House director Christi Anne Hofland told the Kyiv Post, referring to the EuroMaidan revolution, a popular uprising that drove Kremlin-backed President Viktor Yanukovich from power on Feb. 22, 2014.

America House Kyiv is a project administered by the international nonprofit organization IREX that specializes in global education and development, but it gets funding from the U.S. Department of State. It is one of the largest American outreach centers globally, and a flagship for the Ukrainian regional Window on America cultural hubs.

However, the team members of America House are mostly Ukrainians, with only the director and an English-language fellow being Americans. There is also a constant flow of volunteers from the U.S. Embassy, Fulbright, Peace



Christi Anne Hofland, director of America House in Kyiv, talks with the Kyiv Post on July 3, 2019. (Oleg Petrasjuk)

Corps and other U.S. government-funded programs.

"You can't be working to build bridges between Americans and Ukrainians if you don't have a team of Americans and Ukrainians working together," Hofland says.

Hofland first came to Ukraine in 1995 as a 12-year daughter of a Fulbright academic and professional exchange program fellow in Kharkiv.

In 2008, she came on a Fulbright fellowship to set-up an art therapy program at a children's rehabilitation

center in Odesa. Later she came back again to teach English at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

"Ukraine is this place that just sort of catches people! And once you come here, you keep coming back," she says.

When asked about projects she is most proud of at America House, Hofland is at a loss — there are so many. Having an average of 15 programs and events happening every week, over the four years America House had close to 3,000 projects.

Besides various English-learning classes, there are youth leadership programs for school and university students with series of trainings and mentorship. There are talks from U.S. inspirational speakers, like combat survivor Shilo Harris and Paralympics champion Oksana Masters, free for anyone to attend.

America House has a Maker Space where students and entrepreneurs can experiment and create prototypes for their projects using 3D printers and scanners, vinyl cutters, hardware and software for coding, creating music, video and photo editing. The House also hosts business and start-up incubators with lectures from leading coaches in the U.S.

"It's amazing when you structure a program where people meet regularly and build a community of success stories. Someone gets a new job, a promotion or a business partner; someone comes to America House and as a result goes to study at Harvard. These are things we're most proud of — seeing the results," Hofland says.

America House is also a natural meeting place for many American expatriates living in Kyiv. Besides involving them in mentoring and teaching English, the House orga-

more House on page 22

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## Meet Afro-Ukrainian hip-hop sisters Fo Sho

### City Life

WITH ANASTASIA TYMOSHENKO

Ukrainians voted 'sexiest nationality' in viral, totally unscientific survey

A recent online survey has reached conclusions bound to stir patriotism in every citizen of Ukraine: Ukrainians are the sexiest nationality on earth.

That's what Big 7 Travel concluded after polling readers to create a list of the 50 sexiest nationalities — and their survey has become a hot topic in both Ukrainian and foreign media.

Big 7 Travel described Ukrainians as having a "striking appearance" and said they "easily topped our poll for 2019."

After Ukrainians, the Danes and Filipinos won second and third place, respectively. The Irish took the last spot. Many other nationalities were not included on the list.

But the survey raises a big question: what does it actually tell us? Sociologists say: nothing.

#### Behind the claims

Big 7 Travel is a media outlet that writes about travel, food and hotels for millennials. It focuses on a mobile-first, travel-obsessed audience that actively uses Instagram. It also has nearly 400,000 followers on Facebook.

The Dubai-based agency creates ratings of the most Instagrammable spots in various countries, publishes the best hotel of the day, and creates restaurant and bar guides. Its content is often cited in Vogue, the Independent, the Daily Mail and Business Insider.

According to BBC Ukraine, the sexiness survey was sent by email and Instagram to 12,000 of the agency's active followers from 50 countries. The results of the survey were based upon 8,500 responses, mainly from English-speaking countries like the United States, Australia and Great Britain. There were also respondents from Eastern Europe, including Russia and Ukraine.

Respondents were asked to estimate the sexiness of each nationality on a scale of 1 to 10. However, Big 7 Travel did not offer a definition of "sexy," so it was up to respondents to interpret its meaning.

When the agency published its results, it included names and, sometimes, photos of celebrities from the countries in question. It is unclear whether survey respondents were given the celebrity names and photos

more **Sexiest** on page 21



Ethiopian-Ukrainian hip-hop band Fo Sho performs at the Nekaktus creative conference on June 27, 2019, in Kyiv. The trio includes Endale sisters, Miriyam (L), Betty (C) and Siona. (Oleg Petrasjuk)

BY TOMA ISTOMINA  
ISTOMINA@KYIVPOST.COM

When Ukrainian hip-hop trio Fo Sho formed half a year ago they had no idea one of their first live performances would be at Ukraine's most popular music festival.

Only five months in the music business, they are part of the lineup for Kyiv-based Atlas Weekend alongside world-famous singers and bands.

The three Endale sisters, Bethlehem (Betty), 31, Miriyam, 21, and Siona, 17, were born and raised in an Ethiopian family here in Ukraine.

Although their parents initially did not approve of their musical hobby, the sisters' love for the art paved their way to musical education and the

creation of Fo Sho. After the release of their breakthrough track and music video "Xtra," which have been praised by local music critics, the band has joined the rapidly developing female rap wave in Ukraine.

"We sound good together, so we were growing up and grew into a band," Betty told the Kyiv Post. "We complement each other and then happens what we have now," Miriyam added.

#### Homeland

The sisters' parents came from Ethiopia to Kharkiv, a city of 1.4 million people located about 480 kilometers east from Kyiv, in the 1980s back when Ukraine was a part of the Soviet Union.

They both received a medical education, had their first child, Betty,

as students and eventually decided to settle down, as they enjoyed living in Ukraine and already had ties to the country.

Betty and Siona visited Ethiopia only once back when each of them was around 6 years old.

The sisters say they know a little about the Ethiopian culture and follow some of the traditions of their parents' home country, such as roasting coffee beans or cooking national dishes like sourdough flatbread injera.

However, despite often being mistaken for foreigners, they say they relate much more to Ukraine rather than their parents' motherland.

"We do not separate ourselves from Ukraine. The Ukrainian mentality is ours because we were born here," Siona told the Kyiv Post.

This geographical affiliation has been carved into the band's name: Fo Sho, which means For Sure, was spelled with the Ukrainian conversational word "sho," which stands for "what" and is widely used all around the country.

#### Music craze

All three sisters caught a bug for music very early and they were ambitious from the start.

"When I was six years old I told my dad that I would gather (performances in) stadiums," Betty says.

However, the three didn't inherit their love for music from their parents, as often happens. It was actually quite the opposite, as the Endale parents are deeply religious people who

more **Fo Sho** on page 21



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# Up-and-coming band excited to play Atlas Weekend festival

Fo Sho from page 20

used to consider music too frivolous.

For that reason, the burden of changing their parents' mind fell on the shoulders of the oldest sister, Betty. As a kid, she chose protest rather than communication.

"At that moment I did not have many arguments to prove that music uplifts me, I could not explain it to my parents," Betty says.

So the oldest sister used to escape home, where listening to music was forbidden, to play Michael Jackson records with her neighboring friend at his home.

"That ban was the engine," Betty says.

Soon the Endale parents realized it was useless to fight with their daughter's passion. Betty remembers her dad even let her play music in his car. She played "Spiceworld," an album by Spice Girls and one of the first records she bought herself.

Betty's love for music filled the home completely by the time Miriyam and Siona were born.

"I remember we were at home, Siona was tiny, and Betty came with her friend, they turned on Eminem and they began screaming 'aaa,' Miriyam says.

"From the very early years, I heard Betty singing. She constantly rehearsed and sometimes it even annoyed me," Siona adds.

Betty immediately noticed both of her younger sisters had an ear for music.

Having learned their lesson with Betty, their parents allowed both Miriyam and Siona to enter an art lyceum and study in a music class.

Miriyam took violin classes and Siona learned piano, while Betty went to music school for adults to make up for the lack of education.

All three have had experience of performing live: Miriyam and Siona with school ensembles and Betty with a cover band and backing vocals.

## Band formation

In their debut music video "Xtra," the Fo Sho trio first appear as a doctor, an office worker and a school student who later turn into hip-hop

Ethiopian-Ukrainian hip-hop trio Fo Sho pose for a photograph with a fan after their performance at the Nekaktus creative conference on June 27, 2019, in Kyiv. (Oleg Petراسиuk)



divas. This on-screen transformation is actually based on the real-life events of the trio.

Siona just graduated from the art lyceum so she got into the music industry straight from school. She hopes to enter a university in Kyiv and combine education with Fo Sho.

Miriyam is pursuing two degrees in economy and business at a Kharkiv university. If she hadn't joined the band, there was an office job waiting for her.

Betty gave up her work as a dentist three years ago to teach children and adults vocals full-time. Soon after, she moved to Kyiv and met up with a local music producer, with whom she had an instant connection. Over half a year, they wrote about 30 songs together.

When it came to who should sing those songs, Betty thought of getting her sisters involved.

"I realized how great the talents of my sisters are," Betty says.

Apart from that, she says that bands often break up and having family members in a group is more reliable.

"There is something that binds us a bit more than work, it is family ties," Betty says.

## Breakthrough

The band started cooperating with a manager that Betty got along with earlier. They recorded first songs in January and made a debut with "Catchy" within two months.

But it was their next song that made a real breakthrough, attracted fans and music critics' attention.

The "Xtra" music video not only depicted the trio's transformation but also translated their explosive confidence, sexuality and genuine joy of being who they are.

"The message was that any person, one from the LGBTQ community, fat or thin, non-standard, a person who has an unusual opinion, they shouldn't put limits for themselves," Siona says.

"If you're different in any way do not suffer from it, show it, be extra and be proud of it," Miriyam adds.

"This song is not about us being extra. We want everyone to say they're extra and just feel good with us," Betty adds.

The trio was worried about the reception of the video not only because it was their visual debut but also because it was a financial risk.

Fo Sho does not have a producer that funds their activities - they

borrowed money to rent a studio for songs recording, to film the video and get a designer's clothes for shooting and performances.

They say that local music-focused TV channels didn't take their music video for rotation because it didn't fit in.

"We thought, oh, ok, that's exactly what our song is about," Betty says. "But we hope they will change their minds," she adds.

Nevertheless, the trio believes that their risk paid off. They say it meant the world to them that people commented and reposted, and the media wrote about their "Xtra."

## Ambitions

Since the formation of the band, the sisters performed live only four times in Kharkiv and Kyiv.

Now they all stay in the capital and their schedule is packed with vocal and choreography rehearsals, interviews and album recordings.

They are still getting used to this

wave of attention and business, however, the trio enjoys it and looks forward to the release of their first album scheduled for fall.

The sisters say the album will include up to 10 songs, which mixes elements of various styles like hip-hop, R'n'B and jazz.

"We are not only hip-hop, we are musicians and creators," Betty says.

Fo Sho is also thinking about giving their first solo show in fall to present the album.

In the meanwhile, they are getting ready to give their fifth and the most important performance so far, at Atlas Weekend, Ukraine's most-visited music festival that brings world stars to Kyiv. This year's festival, which will take place on July 9-14, features The Black Eyed Peas, A\$AP Rocky and The Chainsmokers.

But despite all the new responsibilities and risks, the trio keeps it natural: they are still a family, three sisters that occasionally have fights and make peace.

"We argue just like everyone else and then record a cool track," Miriyam says.

"That's exactly how 'Xtra' was created. We fought and then Siona had enough, went to the studio and gave such energy that everyone else joined," Betty says.

"Sometimes, however, we can't even make it to the studio (because of arguments)," Betty laughs.

But what is actually hidden behind those fights are big passions and desire to realize "a million ideas."

"We are very ambitious," Betty says. "We don't want to voice our goals but as soon as we reach them we will tell the whole world about it," Miriyam adds. ■

Fo Sho will perform at Atlas Weekend on July 14 at 15:15 p.m. at VDNH (1 Akademika Hlushkova Ave.) One-day pass - Hr 1,350. Five-day pass - Hr 3,200. Buy at [www.atlas-weekend.com](http://www.atlas-weekend.com)

## City Life

# Ukrainians are world's sexiest, and who wouldn't want that designation?

Sexiest from page 20

in the survey, something that would indicate they might actually be voting for most attractive celebrity, not nationality.

## Not sociology

If you thought that Big 7 Travel's survey was an objective measure of global sexiness, media researcher and former Kyiv Post staff writer Daria Orlova has more bad news for you: it's not.

The poll cannot be considered representative because it bases its

conclusions on the responses of its particular audience, said Orlova, who is a senior lecturer at the Mohyla School of Journalism in Kyiv.

"We don't know much about the audience in general: which nations are represented there and to what extent, what is the gender breakdown (of respondents)?" she told the Kyiv Post. "Likewise, we don't know who got into the sample. Most of the headlines citing the 'survey findings' are sensationalist, to put it mildly."

Orlova also believes that Big 7 Travel produces stories about top things and best places in order to

attract a large audience, often at the expense of the quality of its results.

"I would be curious to learn how users of a travel website rank nations in terms of attractiveness, but there's hardly anything more than that," she says. "It is not a study in sociological terms."

But that hasn't stopped Ukrainian media from sharing the survey's results - and inadvertently confirming Orlova's opinion that the poll is aimed at attracting a large audience.

Ukraine also took 15th place in Big 7 Travel's list "The top 50 sexiest accents in the world." ■

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RESTAURANT



# Taylor returns to familiar terrain as head of US mission

Taylor from page 6

presidential candidate or another," he said.

While many in the Western world see Trump as a lapdog for Russian President Vladimir Putin and other dictators, Taylor suggests looking at the administration's policy on Ukraine, which "has been very good."

The Trump administration is supplying Ukraine with lethal weapons, which ex-U.S. President Barack Obama refused to provide. And the president approved tougher sanctions against Russia than before.

"I'm pleased to represent that strong policy in support of Ukraine," he said.

But the Trump administration works in mysterious ways, even for U.S. ambassadors. For instance, Taylor said he learned from various sources that Trump "apparently raised the issue of (24 imprisoned) Ukrainian sailors with President Putin at some length" during their recent meeting at the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan.

But Taylor doesn't know for sure and Trump has a habit of letting the Kremlin take charge of news

coverage of his talks with Putin. The Kremlin kidnapped the Ukrainian sailors in international waters in the Black Sea in November. The prisoners join the ranks of more than 100 Ukrainians held by Russia.

## 'I would go tougher'

Taylor supports even tougher sanctions against Russia to raise the cost of the Kremlin's war against Ukraine even higher. The next logical step is to "damage their ability to use the international financial system" and impose sanctions against more people close to Putin to hurt their ability to travel and keep money in the West.

But even though the European Union keeps extending sanctions against Russia, there's an inclination to forgive and forget what the Kremlin has done. The most glaring example was the June 25 decision by EU nations to readmit Russia as a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, even though Putin hasn't changed any policy — invading Ukraine and violating international laws — that got Russia kicked out of PACE, a human-rights watchdog, in 2014.

"I would go tougher," Taylor said of sanctions. Russia has violated the standards that have kept the peace since World War II, he says. If there are no rules, "then no nation is safe."

Taylor also supports the drive to kill the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which would double Russia's current undersea capacity to send natural gas to Germany directly, bypassing Ukraine. He takes hope in legislation in Congress that would sanction companies involved in building the pipeline. "It's not too late, but it's very late," he conceded.

## Too naive?

While many Ukrainians and Americans alike have said they are happy that Taylor has returned and praise his past service, a few critics recall him as being too gullible in believing that Ukraine's oligarchs had changed their ways for the better — when clearly some had not.

Asked if he was too naïve then, he replied: "I admit to talking with almost everyone and listening carefully. I would also say that I did think that some people had turned the page on a troubled past and were now part of Ukraine's future. Some had not. We can debate who fit into which category." ■



Valeria Gontareva, the former National Bank of Ukraine governor, fears the loss of central bank independence. (Volodymyr Petrov)

## US probes allegations of money laundering by Kolomoisky, ex-owner of PrivatBank

PrivatBank from page 16

PrivatBank's misappropriated loan proceeds" were pumped into the United States and invested into commercial real estate projects.

If proven in the American courts, it would be the biggest case of money laundering ever.

"PrivatBank investigators have done extraordinary detective work, and this is probably the most detailed study of large-scale money laundering into the United States that runs 104 pages, though it has not been proven in court yet," writes Anders Aslund, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council. "This case shows how money laundering from Ukraine to the United States allegedly takes place."

"The ultimate problem is that the United States allows the formation of hundreds of thousands of anonymous companies that have permeated this country with laundered money."

## Warning signs

With PrivatBank cases ongoing in the background, the broader prognosis for the Ukrainian banking sector is cautiously optimistic. However, the unpredictability of the courts continues to create anxiety in Ukraine and among outside observers.

The banking sector is stable, but fragile to external shocks, especially of a political or judicial nature, according to experts who gathered in London on June 11 for Ukrainian Banking Day.

PrivatBank was the elephant in the room during panel discussions. Meanwhile, Igor Kolomoisky haunted the debate, largely unmentioned by name. Off the agenda completely was any discussion of money laundering, financial crime or tax evasion.

"The financial sector is in the best shape ever," said Kateryna Rozhkova, deputy governor of the NBU. However, the Ukrainian judicial system is still corrupt, she added, and susceptible to being used "for leverage by the oligarchs."

Court decisions on PrivatBank — especially ones that could reverse its privatization — are a huge threat to Ukraine's financial stability, Rozhkova added.

"Court rulings against PrivatBank have been felt by us," said Samarina. "But we have not been hurt."

Valeria Gontareva, who was NBU governor until she resigned in May 2017, told the Kyiv Post that PrivatBank is a litmus test for Ukrainian reforms and justice.

She said NBU independence must be "fiercely protected" while civil society and lawmakers should look for warning signs that its impartiality is under attack.

She said it was possible that this was already taking place in the courts and Kyiv's corridors of power, and that President Zelensky could make changes at the NBU that would be helpful to Igor Kolomoisky or could appoint people who might protect him or promote his interests.

"He is the devil," she said. ■

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7. Zelensky: Troop withdrawal near Donbas checkpoint offers 'fragile hope for peace'
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## America House likes to recreate Fourth of July in Kyiv

House from page 19

nized a Ukrainian speaking club for foreigners wanting to learn the language.

One currently running monthly program is "Walk With Locals," where Ukrainian volunteers and students organize unique tours for

foreigners around Kyiv, "Murals in Kyiv," for example.

"It's a really good way to see a different part of the city and learn local tips. Being able to go with local people on these tours that are English-speaking, that have themes and are really fascinating is very nice," Betsy Fawcett, an American

teaching English in Kyiv, told the Kyiv Post.

Traditionally, on a weekend around the Fourth of July, America House invites people who have gone through its programs and newcomers to celebrate the U.S. Independence Day. Hofland also says that it's a day to celebrate their visitors' success.

This year, the party takes place on July 7 and has a theme "All American Independence Day." It will have a team of animators dressed as famous American characters, yard and board games, art projects and other activities. Six bands will perform live, including one made up of U.S. diplomats.

"We try to create the Fourth of July celebration just like in the U.S. — a backyard barbecue, live music, hamburgers and hot dogs, so that our Ukrainian friends can have a feeling and atmosphere of what it's like in the U.S. and our American friends can feel at home," Hofland says. ■



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# 'Another good morning when we report no casualties'

Donbas from page 2

And the battle-hardened squad of soldiers feels like a group of buddies spending their vacation at a forest camp.

"This is a beautiful place anyway," says "Shapa" as he sprays gun oil on his beloved rifle.

"Fresh air, the sun, the pleasant forest, a lake nearby — what else do you need to be happy? We should open a sort of recreation base here after the war ends."

Others, mostly younger soldiers, spend their free time working out at an improvised open-air gym of rudimentary dumbbells or even throwing small barbecue parties.

Many of the Azov entrenchments are plugged into the internet via Wi-Fi hot-spots — so YouTube and Instagram are working their tails off there.

For more seasoned campaigners, it is also a window into their enemy's reality.

"We bury our boys, and you incur losses too," says "Takho" as he surfs through Telegram channels reporting everyday casualties among the ranks of Russian-backed militants.

Just a week before, on the night of June 6-7, this platoon suffered a devastating artillery attacks directly targeting one of the neighboring strongpoints near Novoluhanske. It claimed the lives of two soldiers and left as many as 11 injured.

## Night comes down

Soon the long summer evening draws to an end. Chilly night descends upon the battlefield. The full moon sheds bright silver light onto the trench lines, while the dark sky shows multitudes of stars.

All is calm and enjoyably serene, but this tranquility is deceitful — night is when the worst showdowns happen in Donbas.

Even though soldiers guarding the line continue surfing Instagram and



Ukraine's Azov Regiment soldiers filling Kalashnikov rifle magazines with ammunition during nighttime combat duty at a strongpoint near the town of Novoluhanske overnight into June 15, 2019. (Volodymyr Petrov)

telling tales, all guns are fully locked and loaded, and munition boxes are within arm's reach.

Sipping liters of energy drinks and hot tea in plastic cups, some of the soldiers try to distinguish constellations up in the sky, looking them up with star charts on their smartphones.

"Did you hear about this stunt with Elon Musk's 60 satellites?" someone chuckles.

"One of our guys on night duty noticed them moving in a line across the sky, got freaked out and started reporting on communications: What the hell is that? Are those inbound Grad missiles, aliens, or a goddamn poltergeist?"

Everybody laughs in a low voice, almost soundlessly. It's 11 p.m., and the muted music of a distant disco party echoes from the town of Novoluhanske — it's Friday night, after all.



Ukraine's Azov Regiment soldiers take cover in a fortified dugout due to reported artillery shelling danger near the town of Novoluhanske overnight into June 15, 2019. (Volodymyr Petrov)

But suddenly, "Lavrik," a 19-year-old soldier wearing British Army

multicam fatigues, reports some suspicious activity at the enemy's right flank. He saw it using thermal scopes.

Soldiers immediately take up their arms. Further observation from forward outposts leaves no doubt: the militants are plotting something. A cleared-to-fire order has been received — and the calm night erupts with all guns blazing again.

Thrilled by the primal instinct of aggression, soldiers send hundreds of sparkling tracers through the dark. The air is filled with the acrid smell of propellant fumes.

The enemy responds much more aggressively this time: Again and again, vivid white flashes hit the Ukrainian lines, producing loud claps — these are 40-millimeter underbarrel grenades.

Then, the fighting dies down and resumes again in full force several times — until Azov engages the enemy machine gun nests with 82-millimeter mortars.

"One...two...three..." soldiers nestled against their trenches count impact booms on the other side.

## Seek cover

This seems to chill the enemy's ardor.

But soon a command is delivered to all units: Seek cover, leave only one observer at each post.

According to a communications intercept, the enemy is likely to engage its artillery right now.

As ordered, soldiers quickly retreat to their fortified rear dugouts. It's 2:30 a.m. — the darkest time before sunrise. In ominous silence, they sit on their makeshift bunk beds protected by thin layers of timber and earth.

Everybody's waiting, although no one shows any signs of fear. The shelling may start momentarily and result in anything.

"How good is the protection here by the way?" the unit's cameraman, codenamed "Bass," asks, looking up at the dugout's ceiling.

"Could have been better," smiles "Tic-Tac". "Don't worry, we've got some skillful guys, we'll dig you out in just a moment."

It's another example of the strange, grim humor common to soldiers, but that not everyone understands.

Fortunately, the artillery attack does not happen this night.

## Beautiful morning

Soon the first pale fingers of morning glimmer in the east.

Most likely, there will be no fresh clashes in the next few hours. The squad's combat mode is changed from "hot" to "warm".

Even though his combat duty ended hours ago, "Tic-Tac" is not going back to his dugout to have some sleep. He has had too many energy drinks overnight, and he's looking for something to keep himself busy, opening new cartridge boxes and filling long machine gun belts with ammo.

Lighting yet another cigarette, he looks at the newborn sunrise over the battlefield of Donbas.

"I don't understand them (militants)," he says. "They don't want to fight. They are not motivated. They just stand back there for the ridiculous money Russians pay them. You either stand up and fight like a man, or you walk on home. The war could have been over."

"But this endless mess... It simply makes no sense."

Soon "Takho" and "Shapa" get back to the platoon strongpoint from a forward outpost. They have spent four hours on duty digging fresh trenches — the Azov troops are consolidating their defenses too, at the risk of facing retaliation from the enemy as well.

It's 5 a.m. already, and they walk down a path facing the big cooling reservoir of the Vuhlehirska Power Station located some 10 kilometers away. After having a quick meal, they will crash in on their narrow dugout beds again — until their next combat duty later in the day.

"It's a beautiful morning we're having now," says "Shapa" as he looks at the early sun over the water.

"Yes," "Takho" responds carrying a marksman rifle on his shoulder.

"Another good morning when we report no casualties." ■



Ukraine's Azov Regiment dash through the dense forest in a combat area near the town of Novoluhanske on June 14, 2019. (Volodymyr Petrov)