





Final poll: Zelensky's party within reach of parliamentary majority

The Rating Group agency released its latest poll on July 18, the last day when opinion surveys can be published ahead of the July 21 vote. The poll shows five political parties surpassing the 5 percent threshold:

- 49% President Volodymyr Zelensky's Servant of the People
 10.5% Pro-Kremlin Opposition Platform For Life Ex-President Petro
 7.7% Poroshenko's European Solidary
 6.9% Ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna
 5.9% Rock star Svyatoslav Vakarchuk's Voice
 The poll shows these three parties won't make the cut: Ex-Security Service of Ukraine
 3.8% chief Ihor Smeshko's Strength & Honor
- 3.1% Pro-Russian Opposition Bloc

People crowd on a tram stop next to a billboard advertising a candidate for parliament in Lviv, the city of 721,000 people located 540 kilometers west of Kyiv, on June 30, 2019. Up to 50 percent of voters are expected to turn out for the July 21 snap parliamentary election, down from the nearly 64 percent turnout that elected Volodymyr Zelensky as president in a landslide on April 21. Zelensky's new Servant of the People party is expected to win up to half of the 424 seats in parliament with another four parties also expected to win representation. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

2.3% Oleh Lyashko's Radical Party

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Ballot-buying claims in shady District 94

BY OLEG SUKHOV SUKHOV@KYIVPOST.COM

District 94 in Kyiv Oblast is proving to be one of the most hotly contested and controversial districts in the upcoming July 21 parliamentary election.

The two stars among the candidates are Igor Kononenko, an ex-member of former President Petro Poroshenko's Bloc and his right-hand man, and 1+1 television journalist Oleksandr Dubinsky from President Volodymyr Zelensky's Servant of the People party - a fierce critic of Poroshenko.

Both are controversial: Kononenko faces numerous accusations of corruption, which he denies, and Dubinsky is known for his questionable journalistic standards.

Kononenko, whose influence has waned since Poroshenko's loss in the April 21 presidential election, is fighting for his political survival.

The district, on the southern outskirts of the capital, which includes the towns of Vasylkiv and Obukhiv, is also rife with accusations of vote-buying and vote-rigging and features several "clones" of the leading candidates with identical names.

"This is an absurd circus," political consultant Oleksiy Kovzhun told the Kyiv Post. "It's Ukraine's most controversial district where - as if in a magnifying glass or in a Petri dish the horrors of the past are visible."

'Absurd circus'

The number of parliamentary candidates in the district is the second highest in Ukraine -42.

There are several candidate clones with names identical to those of the two leading candidates - a move likely intended to take votes away from them. Specifically, there are three Dubinskys, three Kononenkos and one Kononko. Another Dubinsky initially ran, but Oleksandr Dubinsky from Servant of the People said he had persuaded him to withdraw his candidacy.

There are also several candidates apparently trying to piggyback on Servant of the People's popularity.

Yuriy Sabashchuk and Jean Novoseltsev represent two nongovernmental organizations called the Servant of the People, which are not linked to the Servant of the People party. There is also Pavlo Holoborodko, who has the same last name as Zelensky's fictional and idealistic Ukrainian president in his Servant of the People TV series.



Lawmaker Igor Kononenko campaigns in Ukrayinka, a town in Kyiv Oblast, in June. Kononenko, a business partner of ex-President Petro Poroshenko and a member of the Poroshenko Bloc faction, seeks a second term in parliament. He runs as an independent candidate in district No. 94 in Kyiv Oblast, in one of the most scandalous single-member races of the July 21 elections. (Facebook/Igor Kononenko)

Meanwhile, Novoseltsev, Yevheny Kuksin and Oleh Deineka are Dubinsky's former colleagues on the 1+1 channel

Other candidates include Larysa Ilvenko from ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna Party and Anna Oksanichenko from rock star Svyatoslav Vakarchuk's Golos (Voice) Party.

Igor Mosiychuk, a former lawmaker from populist Oleh Lyashko's Radical Party, withdrew his candidacy in favor of Dubinsky on July 18. He claimed that Kononenko associates had invited him to run in the district to obstruct Dubinsky's campaign and discredit him and offered him a bribe.

Dubinsky is expected to get 34.7-percent support, while Kononenko and Ilvenko are expected to get less than 7 percent each, according to a poll by Active Group taken in June. More recent polls were not available.

denied the existence of the vote buying scheme.

Dubinsky has also accused Kononenko of "buying" seats on the district election commission from Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovy's Samopomich Party and the Radical Party. Dubinsky says that allowed him to take over the commissions in order to lay the groundwork for vote rigging in the parliamentary election.

'These are groundless accusations spread by my competitors because they are worried about voters' high trust in me in District 94," Kononenko told the Kyiv Post.

Sadovy told the Kviv Post that Samopomich had not sold any quotas and was not in favor of Kononenko's re-election. Lyashko said Dubinsky's claim was a "lie."

During the presidential election, the district commission also prompted suspicions because of disruptions in the vote counting process and a The National Anti-Corruption 5-day delay in the counting of votes. Mosiychuk and Mykola Nedilko, a member of the Vasylkiv city council, accused the commission of rigging the election results. Kostvantvn Khivrenko, a spokesman for the Central Election Commission, told the Kyiv Post that it is up to law enforcement to react to such reports of alleged voting fraud.

However, there are some remaining connections in the district - the 1+1 TV channel filmed Kononenko taking village mayors on a boat ride in June.

Kononenko's connection to corruption scandals has so far been a constant liability for him in the election. He is still under investigation in numerous corruption cases, meaning that being reelected to the Rada is essential for him, given the current parliamentary immunity from prosecution. Kononenko has denied all accusations of wrongdoing.

"Ancient generals understood that, if you burn ships, soldiers fight better because there's nowhere to retreat," Kovzhun said. "Kononenko has few options left: he may go either to the Rada or to trial. He'll fight harder than everyone else."

Graft investigations

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Voting fraud?

Meanwhile, the police on July 15 opened a criminal case into alleged vote-buying by Kononenko in the district. Some residents of the district claimed that they had been offered Hr 2,000 (\$77) to vote for Kononenko, who denied the allegations.

In the run-up to the March 31 first round of the presidential election, the police also investigated an alleged vote buying scheme in favor of Poroshenko in the same district. Kononenko was accused by his critics of being behind the scheme and denies the accusations

In April, the police charged Volodymyr Sabadash, mayor of the city of Vasylkiv in the district, with buying votes on behalf of Poroshenko's campaign. Poroshenko

Who is Kononenko?

Kononenko's clout appears to have weakened since his boss Poroshenko lost the presidential election on April 21.

Several top officials associated with the previous government in Kyiv Oblast, including District 94, have been fired or suspended. These include Kyiv Oblast Governor Oleksandr Tereshchuk, Kviv Oblast Police Chief Dmytro Tsenov, Vasylkiv Police Chief Vasyl Pervak and Vasvlkiv Mayor Sabadash.

investigating Kononenko in a graft case linked to the state-owned Odesa Portside Plant, a giant fertilizer producer. Oleksandr Vizir, an aide to Kononenko, became a member of Odesa Portside Plant's board of directors in 2016.

NABU is also investigating Kononenko in a corruption case involving Dmytro Kryuchkov, the CEO of power company Energomerezha. He testified in April that Poroshenko and his top ally Igor Kononenko had received 50 to 70 percent of the income from energy corruption schemes. Both have denied the accusations.

Another NABU investigation concerns alleged embezzlement involving Kyiv's Rybalsky Kuznya shipyard, which was previously owned by Poroshenko and Kononenko.

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National 3

These are 10 of the hottest races among 199 districts

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO, **OLEG SUKHOV** AND OLEKSIY SOROKIN GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

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The single-member districts are the twilight zone of Ukraine's parliamentary elections.

Open to anyone and free of media scrutiny, they attract shady candidates seeking an easy way into parliament. Here, they can convert money and connections into a seat on the Verkhovna Rada.

With the national attention focusing on the competition of political parties, the 199 individual races in electoral districts go nearly unnoticed. Yet their winners will fill half of the parliament.

The single-member districts breed corruption. With only up to 170,000 voters in each district, swinging a race with dirty tricks becomes easy. For comparison, a party needs to get at least 5 percent of the general vote or roughly 1 million votes — to win any seats.

Critics have long been calling to cancel the single-member races. They succeeded, sort of: On July 11, the parliament indeed voted to end the single-member vote. But the law comes into force in December 2023, meaning that at least the next two parliaments - in 2019 and 2023 will be elected with the single-member votes

There are 3,084 candidates running in Ukraine's 199 districts. Most of them are largely unknown. Others are quite famous.

Here are the 10 districts with the most controversial candidates and the fiercest fights.

District 62: 'Amber' lawmaker runs in Zhytomyr

Current representative: Boryslav Rozenblat (Poroshenko Bloc)



contenders: Boryslav Main Rozenblat (L) (independent), Ihor Hundych (R) (independent), Ihor Herasymenko (Servant of the People)

Independent lawmaker Boryslav Rozenblat is running for re-election in district No. 62 in Zhytomyr, a city of 260,000 residents some 140 kilometers west of Kyiv. To succeed, he appears to be giving away free food.

Cardboard boxes with pasta, tea, vodka, and a letter from Rozenblat were recently delivered as gifts to pensioners in his district, according to the Opora election watchdog.

The police opened an investigation into alleged vote-buying. Rozenblat denied sending the food to voters



Lawmaker Serhiy Pashynsky, a candidate for parliament in district No 64, greets with flowers a district resident Zinayida Kaminska on occasion of her 50th wedding anniversary. (Pashynsky's charity)

and blamed his election competitors for a smear campaign against him.

Earlier this month, Rozenblat also presented 130 first aid kits to be used in public transport in Zhytomyr, according to Opora.

Rozenblat became famous in summer 2017 when the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) charged him with abuse of office. The bureau published a video where he was soliciting a bribe from the agency's undercover agent to help a foreign company with amber mining.

After that, Rozenblat was expelled from ex-President Petro Poroshenko's party faction and lost his parliamentary immunity. He was arrested and had to wear an ankle monitor. But in 2018, a court decided that NABU had violated the law when investigating Rozenblat. Now he is suing the agency for Hr 100,000 (\$3,800) in moral compensation and pledges to use the money to improve roads in Zhvtomvr.

Rozenblat's main competitors are former Zhytomyr Oblast Governor Ihor Hundych, businessman Oleh

Hramotenko, and war hero Ihor Herasymenko who is campaigning from President Volodymyr Zelensky's party.

District 64. Pashynsky fights for Korosten Current representative: Volodymyr

Areshonkov (Poroshenko Bloc)



Main contenders: Serhiy Pashynsky (independent). Volodymyr (L)Areshonkov (R) (independent)

Another influential and controversial lawmaker, Serhiy Pashynsky, is campaigning in single-member district No. 64 in Korosten, a city of 65,000 some 150 kilometers west of Kviv. Pashvnsky was elected to parliament in 2014 on the ticket of People's Front, a party led by ex-Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk. The party isn't participating in the 2019 election, and Pashynsky is

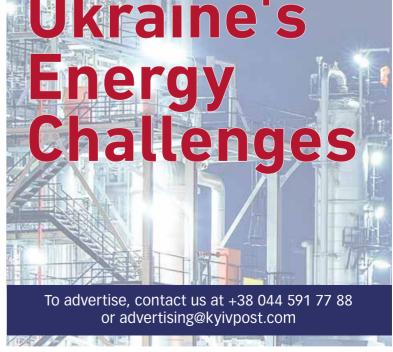
more **Districts** on page **10**





Taylor meets with Kyiv Post publisher Adnan Kivan

U.S. Ambassador William B. Taylor, the charge d'affaires of the American Embassy in Ukraine, visited Kyiv Post publisher Adnan Kivan on July 9 in the headquarters of KADORR Group in Odesa. Kivan, besides owning the newspaper and Channel 7 in Odesa, is one of the largest investors in Ukraine, with 68 completed construction projects. The buildings include residential apartment complexes, offices, shopping centers and a hospital. Taylor, who was visiting Odesa for the Sea Breeze 2019 military exercises on the Black Sea, discussed business issues with Kivan in the city of 1 million people, located 475 kilometers south of Kyiv. (Courtesy)



4 Opinion

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Editorial

Ukraine's choice

Parliamentary elections are supposed to be held every five years. But Ukrainian voters will elect their third parliament in seven years on July 21. They went to the polls in 2012, only to return two years later after the EuroMaidan Revolution deposed President Viktor Yanukovych.

The 2014 election brought a better class of politicians to the Verkhovna Rada, and finally vanquished the Communist Party, but still left too many corrupt holdovers to block the nation's democratic aspirations.

The nation faces its second pre-term parliamentary election in a row. We hope that voters seize the opportunity to throw out the rascals and elect progressive politicians who will establish a true democracy, including rule of law and a competitive economy. This will require the dismantling of the oligarchy and the pursuit of the public good over private greed.

President Volodymyr Zelensky's Servant of the People party will win big and, if not secure an outright majority, most likely find its most compatible coalition partner in rock star Svyatoslav Vakarchuk's Voice party, which is polling above the 5 percent threshold for entry.

Both ranks are filled with newcomers and wild cards. It's uncertain how they will govern, but their leaders are promising radical changes. Zelensky's recent tour of the nation showed that he can be tough: He fired officials, soon after firing regional governors and ambassadors.

But he's still justifiably dogged by the perception that he is beholden to powerful interests. To disprove these fears, he would do well to take on billionaire oligarchs, starting with Ihor Kolomoisky — whose destructive power and share of Ukraine's economy are simply too great. A serious criminal investigation of his ownership of PrivatBank, which cost taxpayers \$5.5 billion when it was nationalized in 2016, is long overdue.

Moreover, Zelensky should aim higher in targets for his wrath: He should confront Odesa Mayor Gennady Trukhanov, Kharkiv Mayor Gennady Kernes and many others who should be prosecuted for corruption, based on the publicly available evidence, despite their denials.

The election will also be a success if voters hold the odious Opposition Platform - For Life to less than 10 percent — or, better yet, don't even elect this warmed-over bunch of Yanukovych acolytes.

A party led by Kremlin toadies Viktor Medvedchuk, Yuriy Boyko and Sergiy Lovochkin will bring nothing but harm and plunder to Ukraine — it will be a return of sorts to the Yanukovych years, when greed and lawlessness went unchecked. Their party list alone shows their poor intentions — including an attempt to bring Yanukovych-era prosecutor Renat Kuzmin to parliament.

The presence of ex-President Petro Poroshenko's European Solidarity and ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna in the next parliament seems a given, unfortunately. Both Poroshenko and Tymoshenko are politicians of the past. While they have made positive contributions, they are unable to move the country forward, and will soon be destined for the political dustbin.

Of course, plenty of scoundrels will squeeze through in Ukraine's single-member districts — where 199 of the 424 legislators are elected. The other 225 will be chosen through party lists. (Without Russia's occupation of the Donbas and Crimea, Ukraine would have 450 lawmakers.) We hope that Igor Kononenko, Oleksandr Hranovsky, Borys Kolesnikov and others like them are not among the elected.

We also will be watching to see whether many of the forward-thinking, honest Euro-Optimists -- like Sergii Leshchenko and Svitlana Zalishchuk -- make it into parliament, through single-mandate races or on party lists.

The next parliament will likely consist of five parties. One is hideous the Kremlin-loving Opposition Platform - For Life. Two others are led by politicians of the past: Poroshenko and Tymoshenko. This leaves two parties led by two newcomers — Zelensky and Vakarchuk — who, we hope, will break the long track record of disappointment by all Ukrainian politicians who came before them.

There are reasons for hope and optimism. There are also reasons for deep concern.

Ukraine's fate for the next five years will largely be determined by the choices that voters make on July 21 and then the decisions of those they elect.



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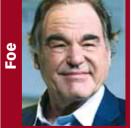
Oleh Mykhailik Activist fights against Odesa mayor's alleged corruption schemes

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PrivatBank blame game

BY IGOR KOSSOV KOSSOV@KYIVPOST.COM

When PrivatBank was found to have billions in unpaid insider loans, one question hung over Ukraine: How did this go undetected?

The country's largest commercial lender was able to transfer cash into its Cyprus branch without triggering any oversight.

Meanwhile, a 2015 audit of PrivatBank by global auditing firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, or PwC, underestimated the scale of a fraud that stripped \$5.5 billion from the bank's balance sheet over a decade, according to the National Bank of Ukraine, or NBU.

According to the central bank, most of the corporate loan book was comprised of credit issued to related parties of PrivatBank's former owners, the billionaire oligarchs Ihor Kolomoisky and Gennadiy Boholyubov. A subsequent audit by international auditor Ernst & Young did not fully confirm this assertion.

It took a forensic audit by U.S. risk management firm Kroll to confirm the scale of the fraud and identify its mechanism. While Kroll's report was not made public, its findings were likely used in PrivatBank's lawsuit against Kolomoisky, Boholyubov and their business partners in the U.S. A copy of the report also made its way to the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project.

The Delaware complaint and the OCCRP confirmed the most important findings: the presence of a "Shadow Bank" within PrivatBank, the Ponzi-like structure of its corporate loans and the money laundering scheme through Cypriot companies and PrivatBank's foreign affiliates.

"The lack of a collateral assessment function... has led to the possibility of issuing loans against significantly overvalued or non-existent



Two men enter a PrivatBank branch in Kyiv on July 18, 2019. Ukraine's largest commercial bank has also been at the center of the country's largest financial scandal. (Volodymyr Petrov)

email. "The result is known – a hopeless problem portfolio."

The NBU accused PwC of helping PrivatBank conceal this scheme and subsequently excluded the firm from auditing banks. In May 2019, a Kyiv court lifted that ban. The NBU stated that it was still in force and would appeal the court ruling.

Meanwhile, PrivatBank launched a \$3 billion lawsuit against the firm in Cyprus, which is still ongoing.

PwC did not respond to requests for comment by press time but the auditor has consistently defended its work in public statements over the past few years. In July 2017, the firm wrote "PwC performed its audit of PrivatBank's 2015 financial statements in accordance with international auditing standards... The audit opinion on these financation in respect of related party transactions."

Experts told the Kyiv Post that it is difficult to assert whether the auditor was guilty of wrongdoing. However, they identified several warning signs about PrivatBank that could have warranted a closer look.

Widespread rumors

Financial analyst Ruslan Cherniy told the Kyiv Post that even before PwC's audit, PrivatBank had a suspicious reputation. Many people in the banking sector knew that something was not quite right at PrivatBank, from information which came from the bank's former employees.

According to PrivatBank's lawsuit against Kolomoisky and Boholyubov in Delaware, dozens of senior-level managers and other PrivatBank employees worked for the so-called "Shadow Bank." These employees were likely the source of that information. "No one could prove it with documents but everyone knew about it," said Cherniy. "So the auditors had to pay attention to this information and check the documents more thoroughly.' Cherniy is the chief editor of Financial Club, which produces an annual ranking of the top 50 banks in Ukraine. He said that when PrivatBank was nominated to be the number one bank in the 2012 ranking, it raised an outcry from a high-level central bank executive involved in the ranking. "PrivatBank is not a bank but a pyramid," Cherniy said of the reaction.

either decline to conduct the audit or make a note of this risk as part of the auditing process.

But Illia Neskhodovsky, a tax expert with the Reanimation Package of Reforms, a coalition of reformist NGOs in Ukraine, told the Kyiv Post that it would be difficult for an auditor to make that call just because of rumors from former employees. "That's why auditors don't pay attention to these kinds of findings," he said. "Formally, PrivatBank filed everything correctly."

Coincidence?

Alexander Paraschiy, research director at Concorde Capital, told the Kyiv Post that PrivatBank's documents broke down which companies it credited by sectors of the economy. An auditor should have noticed it credited Kolomoisky's businesses. At least, this could lead to questions."

Paraschiy added that since PwC had done work for the bank in the past, it should have had a strong understanding of how the bank worked, which would have made attempts to conceal fraudulent activities more difficult.

"It's very hard to believe that an auditor that worked for more than a year with the bank did not notice anything," said Paraschiy.

PwC probably committed no violations, he added, even though it's possible that they missed something very important.

EY audit

In 2017, EY, another member of the Big Four global audit firms, conducted another audit of PrivatBank, which was by that point under government control following its 2016 nationalization. EY's due diligence analysis found that the bank needed the government to inject another \$1.5 billion to meet capital adequacy standards, which the government implemented.

Andrii Ianitskyi, a journalist who co-wrote the book "Privat Story" about the bank's travails, said that the NBU was hoping that the EY audit would confirm the existence of largescale related party loans. However, EY stopped short of making that declaration, said Ianitskyi, who called its report "rather toothless."

"The auditor did not take that kind of responsibility upon itself, to directly accuse the former shareholders," he said.

Standards vs. obligation

Auditors mostly review the documents they are presented and rarely go on site to examine the physical companies or collateral, said Ianitskyi.

"As far as I know... there were some comments in the [PwC] audit-

collateral," PrivatBank wrote in an cial statements included a qualifi-



Oligarchs Ihor Kolomoisky (R) and Gennady Boholyubov (second from left) participate in the grand opening of a Ukrainian museum of Jewish history in Dnipro in October 2012. The business partners used to be the major shareholders of PrivatBank until its 2016 nationalization. (UNIAN)

Several experts told the Kyiv Post that if an auditor perceives a large reputational risk, the firm is likely to that these sectors coincided with the areas in which Kolomoisky was invested, including hydrocarbons, hotels, football clubs and airlines.

"This right away begs the conclusion: did PrivatBank credit Kolomoisky's competitors, which is hard to believe," said Paraschiy. "Or ing report," he said. "They did not write that the bank is ideal."

Accountancy expert James Peterson, who is based in Chicago, told the Kyiv Post that, in his international experience, mere compli-

more **PrivatBank** on page 6



6 Business Focus

In retrospect, PrivatBank was \$5.5 billion fraud

PrivatBank from page 5

ance with standards hasn't helped companies get out of cases where they failed to identify large-scale fraud.

"The profession tried to wrap itself in the defense that we did everything correctly," he said. "The trouble with that is lawyers, judges and the public don't believe that and in fact that is not the case in the legal systems that I know best in the US and the UK."

Peterson added that the size of the case and the \$3 billion lawsuit against PwC poses a serious threat to the international stability of the company. In recent years, the auditor was banned from auditing companies in India for two years after it failed to spot a \$1.7 billion fraud at former Satyam Computer Services company. It also had to pay \$335 million to the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation over failed audits of Alabama Colonial Bank.

However, it is unclear how the case against PwC will be settled in Cyprus - and Ukraine. Ianitskyi said that it is a very politicized case, whose resolution will be affected by changes in the government.

Several experts said that it was a good development that PwC was punished by being banned from auditing banks, because it sends a clear signal.

"The entire big four was very frightened by this decision and their approach, as far as I know, became a lot tougher," said Cherniy.

Foreign branches

Auditing firms are not the only ones to have dropped the ball. According to former NBU head Yakiv Smolii's statements to the OCCRP, Ukrainian authorities did nothing to regulate the huge sums being funnelled from PrivatBank in Ukraine into its Cyprus branch.

Ukraine treated the Cyprus branch of PrivatBank the same as any domestic branches, which meant that the cash being transferred to Cyprus went undetected for a decade, until it was too late.

The Delaware complaint said that PrivatBank's corporate loans

Investigate beforehand to avoid remorse afterwards

BY VYACHESLAV HNATYUK HNATYUK@KYIVPOST.COM

Margarita Karpenko's career in due diligence is almost as old as independent Ukraine. She got her start in consulting businesses in 1992 and has built up over two decades of experience in mergers and acquisitions. Today she is a managing partner at DLA Piper in Kyiv.

And while technologies and the Ukrainian economy have changed over those years, she believes "the traditional approach to acquisition stays the same." In other words, "before buying, you need to study it. And you should study it in different ways, which is done through due diligence procedures."

Due diligence digs deep into the target company's commercial, legal, financial, environmental and technical background. And because it's never fully complete - there's no such thing as perfect due diligence - the parties involved must strike a balance between what they need to know and knowledge for its own sake.

And given some of the corruption schemes in certain Ukrainian businesses, a little due diligence can go a long way in Ukraine. It has its national peculiarities, too.

Due diligence in Ukraine "is not limited by the legal issues, and includes lots of non-legal, but rather investigative issues besides only analyzing the provided documents ... you also want to include such sources of information as internet, telephone calls, talks with people, investigators going to the sites," explains Max Lebedev, a partner at GOLAW firm.

A costly undertaking

But it isn't easy or cheap. Specialist knowledge and technical skills are needed. A high tolerance for stress helps. The atmosphere can be toxic.

"Working in the deal environment can be stressful, because you are constantly working on very tight deadlines. And those deadlines are quite often indelible, because the parties may have agreed to a limited period of exclusivity to conduct the due diligence and negotiate the deal," says Peter Latos, a partner at

Margarita Karpenko, managing partner at DLA Piper Ukraine, explains to Kyiv Post the ins and outs of due diligence procedure, which is meant to analyse a company before acquisition. (Kostyantyn **Chernichkin**)

comfort with the financial indica-

the financial model of that business

and we involved (a specialized law

firm) for legal due diligence to check

the legal aspects: court cases, proper-

ty rights for major assets and so on,"

He says the due diligence con-

firmed Concorde's understanding of

the company. But there were other

benefits too. "It is also important to

understand the details that do not

influence the pricing but call for

attention in the future," Sotnyk says.

to disclose the value of the deal

with HeidelbergCement Group.

The German industrial group also

declined to comment on the sale of

its Ukrainian business. According to

its website, HeidelbergCement has

sold cement plants in Italy, as well

as stakes in similar businesses in

A quick due diligence procedure

lasts a month. More tedious ones

take from two to three months to

complete. Still, the process "is struc-

tured in a sufficiently consistent

manner," says Andriy Nosok, man-

Canada, Morocco, and Syria.

Lengthy research

Concorde Capital declined

"We were primarily interested in

tors," Sotnyk says.

he tells the Kyiv Post.

ations, its problems. So, we spent about a year to make the due diligence of that group and resolve the outstanding issues for preparing the business for acquisition."

Deal makers & breakers

The findings can, of course, kill deals if "risks are revealed, which fundamentally change our understanding of the business case," says Nosok. "For example, we have initially been presented with one set of financial results and business dynamics, but after having a look at them with the auditors we understand that it is totally different."

There are other red flags signaling it is time to halt acquisition negotiations: "Firstly, this occurs when you spot criminal cases... connected with the company, its executives," says Lebedev. Such cases can concern "either fraudulent actions, or very often tax offenses." Even if such tax offences were cleared, there is little guarantee in Ukraine that it was cleared for good.

Another typical red flag arises if the company under analysis is connected to a politically exposed person. "Here the majority of profitable companies have such kind of connection. In this case corruption-related risks can arise much

Walk your talk

Sometimes consulting businesses merge with other companies. This was the case with EBS consulting company, which acquired Intercomp Ukraine, an accountancy firm, in July this year. Olena Volska, EBS managing partner, provides due diligence services to her clients and did not skip due diligence while on shopping herself.

"Our company's principle is 'walk the talk,' so we do what we recommend our clients to do. Naturally, we could not but do the due diligence," explains Volska.

For Nosok it is also unimaginable to avoid due diligence in an acquisition: "as professional investors we cannot abstain from holding due diligence" and adds that "due diligence is one of must-have procedures, which we do on obligatory basis."

For Dragon Capital, Nosok's company, the leeway consists of "scope of due diligence, the spheres of analysis; here we apply our professional judgment for understanding how much we need commercial due diligence, for example, or if we can do it on our own."

Follow the rules

When the due diligence process starts, there is simple advice to follow



were "cycled through dozens of... affiliated bank accounts at PrivatBank's Cyprus branch," before being funneled into external companies in other jurisdictions.

The Central Bank of Cyprus only conducted investigations in 2015, after which it alerted Ukrainian authorities. In 2016, as the nationalization of PrivatBank loomed, billions of dollars from PrivatBank's Cyprus branch were rapidly shuttled to other European jurisdictions where the Ukrainian authorities could not get at them.

"The 2016 financial statements also show that the events which took place after we signed the 2015 accounts may have had a significant impact on PrivatBank's financial status," PwC wrote in 2017. ■

KPMG Ukraine.

It is also costly. Igor Sotnyk, an investment banking director at Concorde Capital, estimates that the price tag for such projects ranges from \$60,000 to \$100,000 for legal, financial, and tax due diligence combined

The amount differs "depending on the volumes of business and the scope of the analysis, as the scope of analysis is set for each particular due diligence: one or two previous years, the depth of indicators," he says.

Most recently, Sotnyk has been involved with Concorde Capital's acquisition of Ukrainian assets belonging to the German HeidelbergCement Group. The investment fund purchased the assets for itself on May 17. Prior to that, Concorde conducted financial due diligence on its own as "we had audit reports and there was some aging director for private equity at the Dragon Capital investment bank. "In the first stage, a provider of due diligence services – one of Big Four (audit firms), for example – sends a list of questions, for which the target company... has to prepare documents or answers."

Next, the firm planning on making the acquisition evaluates the answers and can ask additional questions. Drafting a due diligence report begins when all the questions have been clarified. The report is then submitted to the prospective buyer, who can assess the risks of the target company.

In exceptional cases the due diligence process lasts much longer, if a business conglomerate stands up for grabs.

Lebedev remembers assisting in acquisition of a holding including 15 separate companies and "each of them had its own history, its operlater," Lebedev says.

"If you buy a company from such a person and later an anticorruption agency starts investigation on such a person, this company will be later on involved in the case too. Accounts, property of the company will be frozen," Lebedev predicts.

But, if no "deal breaker" is found, transactions usually go through, with perhaps modifications in price and conditions.

"The specific risks discovered during due diligence are reflected in the transactional documents in the form of warranties by the seller," Nosok says, adding that "the third scenario is incorporating the risks into the price."

An example of a warranty by a seller can be an agreement to take part in court proceedings on the buyer's side if an ownership title for a certain asset is disputed in court.

for both sides of the deal.

"For sellers, in this process it is most important to have reliable information from the very start," Nosok says. After all, a failed agreement due to sloppy due diligence incurs expenses for both parties and can even lead to legal consequences.

For investors, it is essential to "always follow the professional procedure for evaluating companies," Nosok advises. He suggests putting emotions aside and "completing the list of things (necessary) for seeing the general picture and making a balanced decision."

But, in Ukraine, following the procedures can be the biggest challenge. "Sometimes the difficulty comes

from the seller's lack of experience," says Karpenko. "Especially if it's Ukrainian sellers, who don't know about the techniques for making a deal."

Business Focus 7

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What to look out for before investing in Ukrainian real estate

BY NATALIA DATSKEVYCH DATSKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM

With 12-percent yields – twice higher than in European Union countries – investing in Ukraine's commercial real estate can be very profitable.

But there are also serious risks. To avoid a financial disaster, any investor in Ukraine should check everything before buying or developing a real estate property by conducting detailed legal, technical and market due diligence.

"Once you are spending \$50 million, which is a quite a large amount of money, it means that you have make sure that you're not buying a problem, but you rather purchasing an asset," said Alexander Nosachenko, managing director at Colliers International Ukraine, the local branch of global commercial real estate services company Colliers.

In 2005–2007, real estate properties sold like hot cakes across Ukraine and the market was unreasonably overheated. During these wild years, buyers simply were not interesting in doing the digging required to gather all the necessary information about their purchases.

"People were paying too much for assets largely because they were all on a roll and they were almost of a herd mentality: 'We have to get into the market, we have to buy something, it's going somewhere,'' said Nick Cotton, managing director of the Kyiv office of Cushman & Wakefield, a U.S.-based commercial real estate services company.

The market has changed since then, as has the attitude toward doing due diligence.

"Today, mostly local (developers) already act properly, structuring everything in the right way from the very beginning so they can sell it to a foreign investor in the future without any problems," said Nosachenko.

Market force to obey

The Ukrainian real estate market has a few very interesting features, which directly influence the demand for due diligence.

Firstly, the development sector of

it requires collecting tons of permits and very few of foreign players can get past this barrier.

In contrast, buying already completed real estate projects in Ukraine – for example, business centers that already generate rental income – is a popular sphere for foreign investors.

These investors all ask the right questions, and without the right answers, they won't buy.

"Since we have a large share of foreign capital and any transaction where foreign capital is involved requires a due diligence, it must be done properly," said Roman Gerasimchuk, director of City Development Solutions, a real estate consulting company.

Under the microscope

In Ukraine, legal due diligence is in particularly high demand. This is a direct result of the country's weak rule of law and its dysfunctional court system, which can create enormous risks for investors.

"The rules are not transparent here, the legislation is problematic and, more importantly, the court system is not transparent at all," said Nosachenko.

In developed markets like the EU countries, where legislation and courts work correctly, it is relatively easy to evaluate risks and possible outcomes. On the Ukrainian market, no one can give any guarantees.

"Why? Because somebody is just paying bribes for the court decision they want," Nosachenko said.

Land rights, building permits, and ownership rights for property pose particular challenges.

"There are numerous cases related to a vindication of land plots due to their initial unlawful allocation. As a result, it may even lead to the demolition of buildings constructed on such land plots as well as criminal proceedings against the involved parties," said Oleksandr Melnyk, an attorney at GOLAW firm.

Additionally in Ukraine, there is no public record of what has been purchased and at what price, according to Cotton. registry. Here you have nothing," he said.

Another headache is tracing all the transactions made with the building in question. Just one past bad deal can lead to significant legal trouble in future deals, says Gerasimchuk.

Technical due diligence is also a key preparation for a real estate transaction, particularly in Ukraine, where the construction business is far from transparent. It can reveal serious engineering flaws, even if the seller's documentation looks fine.

"There was a case where a construction crack was found going through the entire building, and it had to be completely dismantled, although originally there were plans to reconstruct it. This led to serious financial losses," said Gerasimchuk.

Taken together, all these concerns paint an unfortunate picture: 95 percent of all projects in Kyiv are far from being risk free, Nosachenko told the Kyiv Post.

Power of banks

Banks are another reason why due diligence is a must for real estate projects. They simply do not want to finance purchases of commercial property.

Even in neighboring Poland, when somebody purchases a building for \$1 million, chances are high that he or she will borrow 70 percent of the money from a bank, Cotton says. And the buyer will borrow at a lower rate than in Ukraine – for example, 4 percent.

"In the EU, banks are happy to issue loans for real estate because it is always a profitable story. But banks have one of the highest requirements for due diligence," said Gerasimchuk.

He is convinced that, if Ukrainian banks would finance real estate transactions and give money for the development of commercial real estate, it would stimulate the market to create a roadmap for proper construction.

Worth it

In Ukraine, doing legal due diligence is not cheap.

The price can vary from \$5,000 to \$50,000, depending on how much needs to be done, according to Colliers. For technical due diligence, the price starts from \$2,000 and can reach \$10,000 or higher.

BUSINESS ADVISER

Land for alternative energy projects in Ukraine: inspection in details

 Max Lebedey,

 Patper et COL MW



The renewable energy market is now a trending topic in Ukraine and is probably developing faster and receiving more investments than any other sector in Ukraine.

As it is abroad, investments in the renewable energy sector (RES) in Ukraine are usually made through purchasing a project — a special purpose vehicle (SPV), developed by locals. Probably every investor understands that purchasing a project without a prior inspection in most cases will lead to negative consequences and a loss of investments. That is why legal due diligence always precedes the sale and purchase of RES projects.

From a formal point of view, all aspects of legal due diligence — corporate, employment, environmental, construction, etc. — are important. However, we see that land issues are probably the biggest concern, because the land is usually the most valuable asset of an SPV at the stage of project purchase.

During the last several years, local developers of renewable energy projects have obtained a substantial amount of lands (both for ownership and lease) to satisfy the interests of investors in RES projects. Nowadays, we observe significantly increased concern by law enforcement authorities (preferentially the state prosecutor's office) regarding breaches of land legislation. The initiation of criminal proceedings, which may lead to the arrest of the land plots and other property and the freezing of the SPV's bank accounts, is another disturbing fact. Taken together, all this leads to harm for a company's reputation and business operations.

The following aspects must be carefully considered before purchasing a project.

Title. In many jurisdictions, inspection of the title to a land plot is limited to formal confirmation of the actual ownership right to an object, for example, by obtaining an extract from the relevant register. In Ukraine, the situation is different. One has not only to formally confirm the title, but also to analyze the history of land formation and acquisition, because the main risks are usually hidden therein.

The opacity of land privatization processes in Ukraine is quite a well-known issue. As a result, usually owners find out about problems with the title to their land after their detection by the public prosecutor's office, which, of course, is too late.

Designated purpose. In Ukraine, renewable energy objects are allowed to be constructed on land designated for that purpose: "industrial, transport, communication lands, lands of energetics, defense and other designations." Thus, in order to avoid the long, complicated and costly procedure of changing land's designated purpose, it is advisable to purchase/lease land plots with the proper designated purpose.

Change of the designated purpose. The overwhelming majority of land in Ukraine is for agricultural use. As a result, initially allocated/formed land plots are of agricultural use and require a change of their designated purpose before they are transferred to the SPV's ownership or lease.

This process has certain peculiarities and quite often is breached even by experienced land experts and officials of the state and local authorities.

Among the most common breaches are inconsistencies between the land management and technical documentation and the existing general plan of the territory, non-compliance of the land management documentation with the requirements established by laws and regulations, the absence of a developed detailed plan of the territory, etc. Another common issue is that some types of agricultural lands are subject to a moratorium on their alienation as well as to changes in their designated purpose. All deals with such lands are deemed invalid from the moment of conclusion.

In case the target designation of a land plot was changed in violation of legal requirements, it can lead to the invalidation of resolutions on transferring land plots into ownership or lease and can result in the invalidation of the SPV's title to such land plots.

Land plot allocation procedure. Usually the lands are initially allocated to the ownership of several individuals as agricultural lands. The procedure of allocation is complex and requires the development of land management documentation and its approval by several authorities. It is a must to check all the procedure's steps and verify that they were carried out correctly. Any breach of the procedure may lead to the invalidation of the allocation and, thus, the SPV's loss of the title to the land, even after the factory has been constructed. We are well aware of several cases when, due to a breach of the allocation procedure, the state prosecutor demanded the cancelation of the land plot's allocation and the return of the land plot to its pre-sale owner – a power plant.

Detailed plan of the territory. One thing that is often omitted by land experts during land plot allocation is the necessity of strictly following the town planning requirements established by the law. In cases when land plots are allocated into the ownership/lease of an SPV or during the change of the designated purpose, the existence of a detailed plan of the territory or zoning plan of the territory is required. According to legislation, without a detailed plan of the territory, allocation of a land plot to the ownership or lease of individuals or legal entities for urban development purposes is prohibited. In most cases, cities and villages do not have the required detailed plan of the territory and, therefore, the burden of its development lies with the project developer or investor. One of the most common breaches of the procedure for approving a detailed plan of the territory is not conducting public hearings. Ukrainian legislation requires conducting public hearings on the draft detailed plan of the territory before its approval by the corresponding state or local governmental body. Despite this, state and local authorities often approve the detailed plans without properly conducted public hearings. As a result, this may lead to the invalidation of the land plot's transfer to the SPV and the loss of the title.

Ukraine's real estate market is mainly driven by local investors. It is largely closed to foreigners because "In the U.K., you've got full transparency in relation to capital market transactions. That is in the state land



Alexander Nosachenko, managing director at Colliers International Ukraine, speaks about general trends for commercial real estate due diligence to Kyiv Post on July 15, 2019. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin) Not doing it can cost millions of dollars, however.

In Odesa, a factory was bought out through the purchase of corporate rights. The purchasers planned to construct commercial property in its place.

Gerasimchuk's company was involved at the stage when the deal was almost complete. But then a final check revealed that part of the building did not have confirmed property rights.

"À large discount was made for this part of the building," Gerasimchuk said. "These are the results of legal and economic due diligence, which saved hundreds of thousands of dollars." Don't be overly eager to pursue a site just because the financial offer seems very attractive. Take your time and get proper legal advice, check all the red flags twice and try to mitigate each of them in transactional documents. Don't forget to visit the site personally and do a visual inspection.



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8 Business

Ukraine's nuclear power disasters may not be over

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After more than three decades in the shadow of the Chornobyl catastrophe - the world's worst nuclear energy-related disaster – Ukrainians continue to live with nuclear power plants as part of their country's landscape. A whopping 15 reactors power their towns and cities, while Ukraine's total installed capacity makes it the seventh-largest nuclear nation in the world today.

At the same time, experts are still studying the cancerous, continent-spanning impact of the 1986 meltdown, which took place just outside the small town of Prvpvat, some 150 kilometers north of Kyiv, and belched billions of radioactive particles into the wind.

In Ukraine alone, nearly two million people are estimated to have been victims in some way of the disaster, caused by cost-cutting and negligence. The Ukrainian government pays the price today: in compensation to the families of at least 35,000 people who died of Chornobyl related cancers. Across Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, fatality estimates reach into the hundreds of thousands.



Ukrainian nuclear power plants (NPPs) score poorly on security and are failing to meet some important International Atomic Energy Agency safety requirements. At the Khmelnytsky NPP, the planned addition of two extra reactors (supplied by a controversial, Kremlin-linked company) will go ahead, despite the strong concerns of experts. (UNIAN)

Only two nuclear energy-related

disasters have been rated at the

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5. Some new faces with Zelensky have pasts that are questionable

6. Italian court sentences Ukrainian soldier to 24 years for photojournalist's death

7. After laying low, one pro-Russian party flies high

maximum severity available on the International Nuclear Event Scale: the Chornobyl explosion, and the meltdowns that shook Japan and the world during the 2011 Fukushima disaster. There, some 170,000 evacuees still cannot return to their irradiated homes in the exclusion zone.

Today in Ukraine, difficult questions linger. Have the painful lessons of Chornobyl and Fukushima been learned, and can a country struggling with war, corruption and political turmoil guarantee the safety of its nuclear infrastructure?

Safety, security lacking

These days, at least 55 percent of all Ukrainian electricity comes from its 15 fission reactors, operating at four different nuclear power plants, or NPPs, around the country. They are all operated by the state-owned National Nuclear Energy Generating Company of Ukraine, widely known

post-accident monitoring."

The National Ecological Center of Ukraine, or NECU, and other nongovernmental organizations here warn that nine Ukrainian nuclear reactors are currently operating beyond their safe lifespan, on the basis of 10-year lifetime extension permits granted following an assessment they have labelled as "deeply flawed."

And now, in Khmelnytsky Oblast, scientists, experts and campaigners are starting to raise their voices in protest at the latest and perhaps most serious concern. Experts say that two new reactors which are planned to go into operation there have serious, known safety flaws and do not meet modern safety standards, widely adopted following lessons learned from the Fukushima disaster in Japan eight years ago.

The nuclear power plant just outside Khmelnytsky, a city of 265,000 people located 300 kilometers southwest of Kyiv, wants to double its reactor count with two additional atomic piles installed at facilities that critics argue have been neglected for 29 years, since a Soviet moratorium on the construction of new nuclear plants after the Chornobyl catastrophe. Experts studying Ukrainian assessments carried out into the Khmelnytsky expansion project which is in its planning stage - are not impressed so far. They are not happy about the draft law on its implementation; the chosen Russiansupplied reactors; insufficient impact and safety assessments; unclear plans for nuclear waste disposal and unknown safeguards against various threats. Unanswered questions are everywhere. During the feasibility and planning stage for any new reactor projects, Ukraine is obliged under the 1991 Espoo Convention to carry

out detailed assessments and also consult with nearby countries. In the case of the proposed third and fourth reactors at the Khmelnytsky NPP, Ukraine is supposed to work with Hungary, Poland, Belarus, Romania, Moldova, Austria and Slovakia.

But those consultations have had mixed results, with insiders telling the Kyiv Post that the documents shared so far have lacked important information. Nearly 100 vital questions remain unanswered, correspondence has gone ignored, and the information provided is largely insufficient. The result is that some experts say they are currently unconvinced that the KhNPP 3&4 project is feasible, secure or safe.

Khmelnytsky expansion

On May 16, a senior official with an Austrian government ministry taking part in talks on the Khmelnytsky project, contacted the Kyiv Post to express concern over its feasibility and safety. The official asked not to be named for fear of jeopardizing talks with Ukrainian counterparts, but shared an official report with the Kyiv Post that makes for alarming reading.

The 87-page report from Austria's environment agency was commissioned by the country's Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism. Its lead authors are two Austrian scientists - Oda Becker, a physicist specializing in nuclear safety, and Gabriele Mraz, an expert on nuclear policy.

A major complaint is that Energoatom's environmental impact assessments are unconvincing. Safety and security are insufficiently addressed, waste disposal is barely mentioned and plans to mitigate risks are severely lacking in detail.

And Energoatom's plan to simply "continue" construction of facilities that would house KhNPP 3&4 is unthinkable, because the partially-finished constructions have been largely abandoned for nearly three decades and are no longer suitable, the report's authors said.

"I was surprised that (KhNPP 3&4) was restarted...the site is in ruins... nothing has been done to protect the construction and the conditions



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as Energoatom. These nuclear reactors in Ukraine are still not as safe and secure as they could be. They are vulnerable to external shocks, internal sabotage, cybersecurity threats and terrorism,

according to shortcomings identified in expert assessments.

Ukraine scored poorly on the 2018 security index published by the Nuclear Threat Initiative organization, scoring 70 out of 100 points, ranking it 30th out of the 45 countries indexed. The most recent overall safety assessment of all Ukrainian NPPs, completed in 2010 by the International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA, and the European Commission, found that Ukrainian plants were non-compliant with 22 out of 194 vital safety requirements. Weak areas included the "consideration of severe accidents, NPP seismic resistance, completeness of deterministic safety analysis, and

there," the official said.

The official asked how anyone can "think of using this ruin to build a nuclear power plant," considering that the site and components had been exposed to ice, snow and rain over the years.

The experts also voiced concerns over the shady choice of supplier for the two new reactors.

Energoatom has selected a type of Russian-built reactor from the Czechbased (but ultimately Russian-owned) company Škoda JS. The reactor is cheap and fits within the existing, partially abandoned buildings, but features a number of known safety deficiencies, according to experts.

"They wanted a cheaper reactor - but this reactor is not considered good enough and it lacks safety features that have become

more **Power** on page **9**

Business 9

Energoatom goes Russian and goes cheap, setting the stage for tragedy

Power from page 8

required after what we learned since Fukushima," the official said.

The Kyiv Post repeatedly tried to speak with Energoatom about its plans for the Khmelnytsky NPP, but the agency was uncooperative. Ultimately, Energoatom did not provide information or answer questions by deadline.

Unanswered questions

In the report from Vienna seen by the Kyiv Post, the Austrian environment agency poses at least 89 separate questions to Energoatom which it said had so far gone unanswered. Some questions are highly technical, while others address issues of basic safety and security. The authors state that the Ukrainian side has not responded to many questions, or have provided materials that are insufficient and do not address their concerns.

Questions relating to the proposed choice of a reactor, a VVER-1000/V-320, and its safety deficiencies, are raised repeatedly. It states that the Ukrainian side has not sufficiently demonstrated how it will cope with any of the "known safety issues" of the reactors.

"The improved VVER-1000/ V-392B (with passive safety systems) was selected and approved in 2008... The VVER1000/V-320 design on the contrary does not comply with modern safety standards," states the report. "It is very important to understand how units three and four will overcome the various safety shortcomings of the chosen reactor... Documents provided do not give any detailed description of safety relevant systems," reads another passage.

"The site evaluation is not complying with current international requirements," the report continues, referencing the site where "equipment and some 20,000 components"



Yuri Nedashkovsky, president of Energoatom, tours the Khmelnytsky nuclear power plant with staff on Nov. 20, 2017. The state-owned company has not responded to questions from the Kyiv Post. (UNIAN)

ommendations, the Austrian experts pick apart documents provided by Ukraine which, they argue, fail to demonstrate that the proposed project is safe and feasible.

On June 13, Ukraine was asked to attend a public hearing in Vienna to discuss the Khmelnytsky NPP. Energoatom did not show up, according to officials in attendance.

Russian ties

It was revealed on Jan. 24 that Škoda JS had been chosen, without an open and competitive tender, for the \$2.5 billion expansion project at Khmelnytsky NPP, despite other options such as companies from Korea, the U.S. and France.

Bosses at the Khmelnitsky nuclear power plant justified the choice of Skoda JS, saying it was mainly chosen on the basis of low costs. Some experts have said the \$2.5 billion price tag for KhNPP 3&4 is an underestimate and warn of cost-cutting.

Škoda JS is a Czech subsidiary

cluded" deal must be reviewed carefully by the government and Ukraine's anti-corruption agencies.

Poroshenko's promotion

An April 4 decree this year from then-President Petro Poroshenko instructed the Cabinet of Ministers to "immediately submit" a bill to the Verkhovna Rada on the placement, design and construction for KhNPP 3&4. With his decree, Poroshenko accelerated the project. A draft law is now making its way through committees of Ukraine's parliament.

It would be a violation of international conventions to move into the project phase before consultations had properly taken place, let alone been completed.

"Trans-boundary consultations with at least Austria are not finished vet - so if the draft law on the placement and construction is approved now, before finalized consultations, it will be a breach by Ukraine of international law, namely of the Espoo Convention," said Iryna Holovko, head of energy campaigns at the Centre for Environmental Initiatives in Kyiv. "This is a chance for our ministers to still do the right thing and stop this dubious project." Holovko summed up the problems this way: "Unfinished trans-boundary consultations with European Union countries, the pro-Russian reactor supplier, unknown reactor safety features and high risks of doubling or tripling the project price tag - all of these make it clear that the draft law should not be approved," she added. Holovko said that it's not only Austria and other countries not getting the information they need, Ukrainians are also being kept in the dark by Energoatom. "This information is also not available here in Ukraine - neither for the public nor for decision-makers."



Exposed and derelict units at the Khmelnytsky NPP, where a further two reactors are to be added, in spite of safety fears. (KhNPP)

Khmelnytsky talks raise serious questions but few answers

BY JACK LAURENSON LAURENSON@KYIVPOST.COM

Two reports on the planned expansion of the Khmelnytsky nuclear power plant, authored by Austrian environment agency experts, raise serious concerns while offering few answers to important questions.

The first report, shared with the Kyiv Post in May, posed at least 89 separate questions to project planners in Ukraine that its authors say are vital to the safety, security and feasibility of the project.

A second report, shared on July 16, reviews consultations that took place with Ukraine at a public hearing in Vienna on June 13. Frustrated with the talks, Austrian experts have now called for additional high-level talks to take place under relevant bilateral agreements.

Ukraine has taken steps to provide more information on the proposed third and fourth reactor units at the Khmelnytsky nuclear power plant (KhNPP 3&4) and answer the concerns raised in Vienna, but many vital issues remain unaddressed.

"Many questions remain unanswered because Energoatom (Ukraine's state-owned nuclear energy company) has no answers to them," said Iryna Holovko, head of energy campaigns at the Centre for Environmental Initiatives in Kyiv.

Site evaluations at KhNPP 3&4 have not complied with modern, international standards, states the second report.

During the June 13 consultation in Vienna it also became clear to experts that site evaluations had not been performed according to the current safety standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, or IAEA.

Old survey data is also being used by Energoatom, and it cannot prove that the structures onsite are fit for the continual, safe operation of KhNPP 3&4.

The experts also state in their report that the Fukushima disaster in March 2011 led to significantly increased safety requirements for all NPPs and nuclear reactors, but there is "no convincing evidence that every reasonably practical safety improvement has been made" in the case of KhNPP 3&4.

Concerns were again raised over the Russian-made V-320 model of nuclear reactor, chosen by Energoatom over its improved variants, such as the V-392B, which includes "safety systems that provide a significant safety level increase, including passive safety systems.'

The V-320 model, in comparison, "does not comply with modern safety standards"

Consultations in Vienna and the subsequent report also highlight that some Ukrainian NPPs could be badly prepared for a terrorist attack, cyber-attack or a plane crash.

"The Ukrainian regulator does not require the protection of KhNPP 3&4 against an intentional crash of a commercial aircraft... this does not meet the WENRA (Western European Nuclear Regulators' Association) requirements for new NPPs."

have been abandoned and exposed to the elements.

Experts say that potential seismic hazards need to be evaluated and highlight that the site for KhNPP 3&4 is located in a tornado hazardous area. "External hazards have to be removed or minimized as far as reasonably practical, but information as to whether these recommendations have been applied has not been provided," the authors continue.

"The effects of third parties (terrorist attacks or acts of sabotage) can have a considerable impact on nuclear facilities... Nevertheless, they are not mentioned in the documents... and such events have not been addressed," the experts state, adding that the site's concrete walls are not thick enough to withstand a terrorist attack or deliberate plane crash.

With pages of analysis, as well as dozens of questions and recof Netherlands-registered OMZ BV, which appears to be a front for the Russian company United Machine Building Plant, in turn owned by Russia's state-owned Gazprombank, a circumstance that security experts find troubling.

"I have serious concerns about the decision to award a nuclear power plant contract... to a company whose beneficial owner is Gazprombank," said Michael Carpenter, a Ukraine and Russia expert, and head of the Penn Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement. "That's a huge red flag, and a massive vulnerability for Ukraine that opens the door to Russia's 'hybrid' influence. This contract would give Russia enormous leverage over Ukraine since Gazprombank is controlled by the Kremlin."

Carpenter added that the "non-competitive and hastily con-

According to Ukrainian regulations, KhNPP 3&4 will only be designed to withstand the crash of a light aircraft (such as a Cessna), a measure which is not in compliance with current international standards for new **NPPs**



Units for a third and fourth reactor at the KhNPP have been left abandoned and exposed to the elements for years. (KhNPP)

10 National

Ukraine's district contests are rife with dirty tricks

Districts from page 3

looking to secure his political future on his own.

Pashynsky was implicated in several scandals.

In 2015, the managers of confectionary factory Zhytomyrsky Lasoshchi accused Pashynsky of attempts to take over their company, which he denied. The case is still being investigated.

Investigative journalists have called Pashynshy a beneficiary of various corrupt schemes in the defense sector, which he always denied. In July 2018, Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko said a criminal probe was opened against Pashynsky for alleged threats against the secretary of the parliament's defense committee, where Pashynsky is the chairman.

In January 2017, Pashynsky shot a stranger in the leg during an argument about driving. He called it self-defense. The investigation found him innocent.

Pashynsky is using his reputation as a bully in his campaign billboards in Korosten, which say: "Zealous lawmaker for a strong city."

Pashynsky's main competitor is another lawmaker, Volodymyr Areshonkov, a member of Poroshenko's party faction who was elected from this constituency in 2014.

Pashynsky started his campaign in April by sending food packages with wine and buckwheat on behalf of his charity foundation. Pashynsky didn't answer the Kyiv Post's request for comment.

District 49. Yanukovychera minister runs in Druzhkivka

Current representative: Denys Omelyanovych (Opposition Bloc)



<image>

Businessman and politician Borys Kolesnikov talks to voters in the district No. 49 where he runs for parliament from the Opposition Bloc party. (Facebook/Borys Kolesnikov)

under Yanukovych. But after the EuroMaidan Revolution, Kolesnikov, then a member of Yanukovych's party, kept a low profile in politics.

Though Kolesnikov heads the governing council of the Opposition Bloc party, he isn't running on the party ticket. In an interview with the Interfax news agency, he explained this decision by saying that he "has been well-known" in this single-member district for the last 20 years.

During his recent meeting with voters, Kolesnikov lashed out at one resident after hearing some critical remarks.

"You are a shameless boor. Vote for whoever you want!" he shouted at him, calling another man a "scarecrow in a garden."

Kolesnikov's main competitors in this district are Druzhkivka Mayor Valeriy Hnatenko, who campaigns from Opposition Platform – For Life, another pro-Russian party which split from Opposition Bloc. In 2015, the SBU state security service investigated Hnatenko for separatism but didn't bring any charges. Another strong competitor is a popular showman, Serhiy Sivokho, who runs with Zelensky's party. and vice president of Kolesnikov's Donbas hockey club.



Current representative: Oleksandr Livik (Poroshenko Bloc)



Main contenders: Olena Bondarenko (L) (Opposition Bloc), Oleksandr Livik (R)(independent)

Olena Bondarenko, a former lawmaker from Yanukovych's party and a frequent guest on Russian TV, is "civil conflict" and claimed she was a defender of her voters from eastern Ukraine.

Yet, surprisingly, Bondarenko isn't campaigning in the east. She is running in the south as a candidate from the Opposition Bloc party formed of the former Yanukovych loyalists. Her main competitors there are Oleksandr Livik, a current lawmaker from this district and a member of Poroshenko's party faction who now campaigns as independent, and also war veteran Serhiy Tanasov, who is campaigning from Poroshenko's party.

District 186. Official named in activist murder campaigns in Oleshky

Current representative: Fedir Negoy (Poroshenko's Bloc)



with a liter of sulfuric acid. She died three months later.

In June, a court sentenced four men to from 3 to 6.5 years in prison for attacking Gandziuk after being hired by unnamed people. A group of activists and Gandziuk's friends say Ryshchuk along with former Kherson Oblast governor Andriy Hordeyev and former head of Kherson Oblast Council Vladyslav Manger ordered her murder. All three deny any involvement in the case. The Prosecutor General's office brought charges only against Manger.

In June, Ryshchuk said on Facebook that the SBU carried out searches in his house and in an equestrian club he owns. He called it pressure by his political competitors.

Though Ryshchuk campaigns as an independent candidate, he widely uses the green campaign colors of Zelensky and even invited Zelensky's Kvartal 95 show to perform in the district during the campaign. Activist Roman Sinitsyn, Gandziuk's friend, in an open address to Zelensky claimed that his real party candidate, local businessman Oleksiy Kovaliov, is running a weak campaign, which may lead to Ryshchuk's win.

The lawmaker elected in this district in 2014, Fedir Negoy of the Poroshenko Bloc, is also seeking re-election. This time, he is running as an independent candidate.

District 169. Poroshenko's 'grey cardinal' runs in Kharkiv

Current representative: Oleksandr Kirsh (People's Front)



Main contenders: Oleksandr Hranovsky (L) (independent), Oleksandr Kunitsky (R) (Servant of the People), Oleksandr Kirsh (independent) Lawmaker Oleksandr Hranovsky

Main contenders: Borys Kolesnikov (L) (Opposition Bloc), Valeriy Hnatenko (R) (Opposition Platform), Serhiy Sivokho (Servant of the People)

Borys Kolesnikov, a former loyalist of ousted President Viktor Yanukovych, is running in district No. 49 with its center in Druzhkivka, a city of 58,000 people located 630 kilometers southeast of Kyiv and close to the frontline.

He was deputy prime minister and minister of infrastructure

EMAL

The current lawmaker from this district, Denys Omelyanovych, has business links to Kolesnikov. He is an honorary president of Kolesnikov's APK-Invest agrarian company running for parliament in district No. 131 with its center in Voznesensk, a city of 36,000 people in Mykolaiv Oblast, some 380 kilometers south from Kyiv.

Bondarenko was Kolesnikov's press secretary in the early 2000s when he headed the Donetsk Oblast Council.

In September 2014, during one of the hottest phases of Russia's war against Ukraine, Bondarenko echoed Russian propaganda from Ukraine's parliamentary rostrum, blaming Ukraine's army for "shelling peaceful cities" in eastern Ukraine.

In 2015, when talking with Russian propaganda TV channel Rossiya 1, Bondarenko blamed her former boss Yanukovych of "cowardice" for not disbanding the EuroMaidan protests in Kyiv. In her interview with the Gordon.ua website in 2016, Bondarenko called Russia's war a



Main contenders: Yevhen Ryshchuk (L) (independent), Oleksiy Kovalyov (R)(Servant of the People)

Yevhen Ryshchuk, former deputy governor of Kherson Oblast, is running in district No. 186 with its center in Oleshky, a city of 25,000 people in Kherson Oblast, 550 kilometers south of Kyiv.

Ryshchuk, an influential Kherson businessman, became widely known after friends of slain Kherson city official Kateryna Gandziuk blamed him for ordering her murder. Gandziuk was outspoken about corruption in the city and the region. On July 31, a group of hired thugs attacked her was known as a "gray cardinal" under Poroshenko, one who had vast connections to judges, prosecutors and the SBU security service.

With Poroshenko out of power, Hranovsky is running for parliament from single-member district No. 169 in Kharkiv, a city of 1.4 million residents, located 460 kilometers east from Kyiv.

Kharkiv mayor Gennady Kernes openly campaigns for Hranovsky. In June, Kernes announced the repair of the local offices of the Ukrposhta state postal service, which would be conducted with the help of Hranovsky's charity foundation. Local activists and political analysts have suggested that Kernes is repaying a favor for Hranovsky's help in closing a criminal investigation against Kernes in 2018. Kernes

more Districts on page 11

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National 11

Candidates with money, connections like districts

Districts from page 10

and his allies may also be trying to capitalize on Hranovsky's remaining connections among the judiciary.

Hranovsky's main competitors in the district are Oleksandr Kirsh, a current lawmaker from this district, and Oleksandr Kunitsky, a blogger from the city of Zaporizhia backed by Zelensky's party.

In June, Kharkiv police reported that they received over a dozen citizen reports that Hranovsky's campaign workers were handing out boxes full of medication to the district residents. Police launched an investigation into the potential crime of voter bribery.

District 94. Poroshenko's ally competes Kolomoisky's journalist in Obukhiv

Current representative: Viktor Romaniuk (People's Front)



Main contenders: Igor Kononenko (L) (independent), Oleksandr Dubinsky (R) (Servant of the People)

One of the fiercest competitions is ongoing in a district No. 94 with its center in Obukhiv, a city of 33,000 residents just 45 kilometers south of Kyiv. The main candidates there are lawmaker Igor Kononenko, Poroshenko's closest business partner, and Oleksandr Dubinsky, a popular blogger and a TV host at 1+1 channel, which belongs to oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky, a rival of Poroshenko.

Kononenko is under investigation in several corruption schemes. including embezzlement at state power company Energomerezha worth millions of dollars. He denies the accusations of wrongdoing. Dubinsky fiercely criticized Poroshenko and endorsed Zelensky during the 2019 presidential campaign. Now he is running with Zelensky's party. Critics accuse Dubinsky of working by Kolomoisky's orders. The oligarch refused to comment on it in a recent interview with Novoe Vremya magazine. Dubinsky didn't answer an emailed request for comment. The fight in the district is dirty. Many of the 42 registered candidates are the "clones" of the leading candidates – a popular trick to chop away some of the candidate's votes. There are three Dubinskys, three Kononenkos, and one Kononko.

ing by Kononenko in the district. Kononenko's campaign workers allegedly were offering people Hr 2,000 (about \$77) for a vote. Kononenko denied the accusations.

The lawmaker Viktor Romaniuk, who won his seat in this district in 2014 as a representative of the then-popular People's Front, is also running for re-election, this time, independently.

District 51. Fight for the smallest single-member district

Current representative: None.



Main contenders: Andriy Alyosha (L)(Opposition Platform), Nadia Savchenko (R) (independent)

The Donetsk Oblast village of Zaitseve, located 700 kilometers east of Kyiv, is sitting right on the front line of Russia's war against Ukraine. Due to changes in the electoral district borders, it became the center of district No. 51. Just about 3,000 voters are registered here, but fewer

actually reside in the village. Several notorious candidates are running in this district.

One of them is Nadia Savchenko, an independent lawmaker investigated for planning a terrorist attack in the parliament building. Savchenko spent over a year behind bars awaiting trial, yet was released on April 8. Her trial continues.

Another candidate is Andriy Alyosha, a businessman from Donbas and the owner of the DMS financial group, who is representing the pro-Russian Opposition Platform – For Life. Alyosha is a well-known Donetsk businessman and a former member of the Donetsk city council. In prewar Donetsk, he once made headlines for showing up at the city council driving a Rolls Royce Phantom, a car that currently sells for at least



Lawmaker Nadiya Savchenko (L) talks in parliament on May 20, the day of President Volodymyr Zelensky's inauguration. Savchenko is under investigation for planning a terrorist attack in Verkhovna Rada. But she runs again for parliament from district No 51. (UNIAN)

Main contenders: Serhiy Medvedchuk (L) (Opposition Platform), Viktoria Hryb (R) (Opposition Bloc)

Serhiy Medvedchuk, the brother of Viktor Medvedchuk, a pro-Russian politician and friend of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, is running in district No 105 with its center in Shchastya. This is a town of 13,000 residents, located in the suburbs of Russian-controlled Luhansk, 750 kilometers southeast from Kyiv.

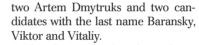
This district has less than 10,000 registered voters and 33 candidates. Medvedchuk's main competitor is Viktoria Hryb, who represents the Opposition Bloc, the party from which Medvedchuk's Opposition Platform separated in 2018.

Hryb is a top manager at DTEK, Ukraine's largest energy company owned by Ukraine's richest oligarch Rinat Akhmetov. DTEK owns the Luhansk power plant located in Shchastya, the main workplace for the town's residents. Akhmetov is widely believed to be one of the backers of Opposition Bloc. His business partner Vadym Novinsky is running as No 5 on the party list.

This district has no representative in the current parliament. In 2014, there was no election because of the war.

District 133. Record

number of candidates in



This district also has three clones of Zelensky's Servant of the People party. There is a candidate representing a private company called Servant of the People LLC, a candidate from a company called Servant of the People.Ze!, and a candidate from Servant of the People-Ze. Artem Dmytruk, nominated by Zelensky's party, is the strongest candidate, according to the Chesno election watchdog. He is an athlete, a member of Ukraine's national team in cross lifting and a manager at several local fitness centers. His main competitor is Viktor Baransky from Opposition Platform.

The current lawmaker from this district is independent Eduard Matviychuk, who decided not to run for parliament this time.



The police on July 15 opened a criminal case into alleged vote-buy-

District 105. Medvedchuk's brother runs in Shchastya

In 2014, there were no elections in

Current representative: None.

this district due to the war.

\$450,000.



<u>Odesa</u>

Current representative: Eduard Matviychuk (independent)



Main contenders: Artem Dmytruk (L) (Servant of the People), Viktor Baransky (R) (Opposition Platform)

District No. 133 in the center of Odesa, the Black Sea port city of 1 million people located 450 kilometers south of Kyiv, has a record 45 candidates running there.

Many candidates are "political clones" with identical names to the leading candidates. There are two candidates called Dmytro Tantsiura,

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12 Entertainment Guide

July 19, 2019



'Spider-Man: Far From Home'

Warning: in case you haven't seen "Avengers: Endgame," the new Spider-Man movie might be a little bit shocking. It is the sequel to "Spider-Man: Homecoming," an epic superhero film based on Marvel Comics stories and released in 2017, and is also the continuation of the Avengers storyline. "A breezily unpredictable blend of teen romance and superhero action," reads one of the critics' reviews of the movie. Directed by U.S. filmmaker Jon Watts, the film starrs Tom Holland as Peter Parker, or Spider-Man, Zendaya as MJ, Samuel L. Jackson as Nick Fury, and Jake Gyllenhaal as Mysterio. "Spider-Man: Far From Home" was released in the U.S. on July 2, and after only two weeks it has already grossed a total of \$860 million worldwide. "Spider-Man: Far From Home" will be screened in Kyiv cinemas in English. "Spider-Man: Far From Home." July 19-24. Check screenings in our Entertainment Guide on pages 12-13.

Friday, July 19 Classical music

Fairytales: Skoryk, Stravinsky and Bartok (conductor - Luigi Gaggero, music -Kyiv Symphony Orchestra). Ukrainian Radio Recording House. 7 p.m. Hr 160-460 ●

Live music

Ethno Jazz 360 (music - Er. J. Orchestra). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200 o

Music on the Terrace of the 17th Floor (electronic duo GeeJay, Volga Funk). IQ Business Center. 8 p.m. Hr 375 o

Music on the Terrace: Love Songs (Old Fashioned Band). Vsi Svoi D12. 8 p.m. Hr 350 🕸

Podcast Group: Playlist 2 (covers of famous jazz songs, vocals - Daryna Havryk, guitar - Mykola Zinchenko, drums - Kateryna Bahinska, bass - Oleh Martyniuk, keys - Maryna Sherstneva). Old Fashioned Bar. 8 p.m. Hr 400 •

Clubs

Dog Days (dance music party). Khvylovyi. 10 p.m. Free **0**

LOW: Kalabrese (electronic music). Closer 11:55 p.m. Price to be announced @

Vacuum Anniversary: Edwin b2b Skarb, Rommedahl, A-dult and others (electronic music). Mezzanine. 10:59 p.m. Hr 200 ©

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 ❷

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 ()

Evocation and Resemblance. Items of Identity in the New Ukraine (paintings, sculptures, performative artworks by Ola Rondiak and Monique Rollins). Gallery 83. 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Free **(**

Santa Muerte Carnival (street food festival celebrating Mexican culture). Platforma Art Factory. 6 p.m. - 4 a.m. Hr 250 @

Movies

Spider-Man: Far From Home (fantasy, adventure). Planeta Kino. 7:30 p.m. Hr 100-160 📀

Saturday, July 20

Classical music Music of the Soul: Debussy, Schubert, Stamitz and others (guitar - Andriy Ostapenko, flute - Yuriy Shutko). Lavra Gallery. 7 p.m. Hr 100 @

Live music

Botanica Jazz. Sinatra (vocals - Roman Russu, keys - Ilya Yeresko, double bass -Valentyn Kornienko, drums - Anatoly Shmargun). Gryshko National Botanical Garden. 8 p.m. Hr 200 •

From Swing to Funk: Paul Christopher's Quartet (covers of popular jazz songs). Old Fashioned Bar. 8 p.m. Hr 400 •

p.m. Hr 100, Hr 70 for children, students and retirees ^(B)

Abbey Road (paintings by Slava Byruk exploring the essential harmony between humanity and nature). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free @

Deeds of Riaska (landscapes by Ukrainian artist Petro Riaska). The Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free **3**

Oleg Holosiy. Non-Stop Painting (paintings, graphics, photographs and archival materials by Ukrainian contemporary artist). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr 40 for pupils, students and retirees, Hr 160 for family ticket. Free for children under 12,

people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee (2)

Intermezzo (photographs of Kyiv landscapes by Andrew Kravchenko). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID ⁽⁶⁾

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 (2)

Evocation and Resemblance. Items of Identity in the New Ukraine (paintings, sculptures, performative artworks by Ola Rondiak and Monique Rollins). Gallery 83. 12 p.m. - 7 p.m. Free **(**)

Santa Muerte Carnival (street food festival celebrating Mexican culture). Platforma Art Factory. 6 p.m. - 4 a.m. Hr 250 @

This Is America Kurazh Bazar (Americathemed charity market of new and old goods, entertainment, food and drinks). VDNH. 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 150. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities, retirees, veterans, pregnant women and those who have a birthday on one of the market's days ☺

Movies

Spider-Man: Far From Home (fantasy, adventure). Zhovten Cinema. 13:50 p.m. Hr 85 ₺

Stuber (adventure, comedy). Zhovten Cinema. 2:35 p.m. Hr 85 ☺

Shows

Blackbirds Duo (jazz music band). Dom Music Bar. 9 p.m. Free @

Theater

Twelfth Night, or What You Will (theater play recording, comedy in French with Ukrainian subtitles). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 3 p.m. Hr 190 @

Sunday, July 21

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 ❷

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 (5)

Abbey Road (paintings by Slava Byruk exploring the essential harmony between humanity and nature). Triptych Global Arts

Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 🥝

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

Oleg Holosiy. Non-Stop Painting (paintings, graphics, photographs and archival materials by Ukrainian contemporary artist). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr 40 for pupils, students and retirees, Hr 160 for family ticket. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee **(**)

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 ⑳

Photographs From the Past Year (photo exhibition by Katya Buchatska exploring world history). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free (2)

Evocation and Resemblance. Items of Identity in the New Ukraine (paintings, sculptures, performative artworks by Ola Rondiak and Monique Rollins). Gallery 83. 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Free **(**)

This Is America Kurazh Bazar (Americathemed charity market of new and old goods, entertainment, food and drinks). VDNH. 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 150. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities, retirees, veterans, pregnant women and those who have a birthday on one of the market's days ⊗

Movies

Spider-Man: Far From Home (fantasy, adventure). Zhovten Cinema. 1:50 p.m. Hr 85 ☺

Stuber (adventure, comedy). Zhovten Cinema. 2:35 p.m. Hr 85 @

Theater

I Am Such (anti-bullying musical). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200-400 o

Romeo and Juliet (British Royal Opera House recording, tragedy). Planeta Kino. 7, 7:30 p.m. Hr 170-230 3

Monday, July 22

Miscellaneous

Abbey Road (paintings by Slava Byruk exploring the essential harmony between humanity and nature). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free @

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

Movies

Spider-Man: Far From Home (fantasy, adventure). Planeta Kino. 7:30 p.m. Hr 100-



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 ()

Abbey Road (paintings by Slava Byruk exploring the essential harmony between humanity and nature). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free **⊗**

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

Oleg Holosiy. Non-Stop Painting (paintings, graphics, photographs and archival materials by Ukrainian contemporary artist). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr 40 for pupils, students and retirees, Hr 160 for family ticket. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee **©**

Intermezzo (photographs of Kyiv landscapes by Andrew Kravchenko). America House. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID (6)

The Forbidden Image (photographs by

Music on the Terrace of the 17th Floor (Electronic duo GeeJay, Volga Funk). IQ Business Center. 8 p.m. Hr 375 o

Clubs

Bal Under the Trees Colombiana: Koma, Anna Kasyan, Iwan K (dance electronic music). Mezzanine. 10 p.m. Hr 150-250 ©

Celestial: Recid, Danilenko, Fix (techno music). Otel'. 11 p.m. Hr 200 @

Criminal Practice: Kashawar (techno music). River Port. 11 p.m. Price to be announced (1)

Lesnoy Prichal: Reade Truth, Bruno Schmidt, Borys (electronic music). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Price to be announced (1)

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 ❷

Big Circle (contemporary art exhibition exploring the transformation of non-objective art). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. - 9

By Daria Shulzhenko, Anastasia Tymoshenko

Richie Hawtin

Visiting a concert of the British-Canadian electronic musician and DJ Richie Hawtin may become your ticket into the world of techno music. Hawtin has won Best Techno DJ Award three times at DJ awards events in Ibiza, Spain. In 2014, the Association of Independent Music in the UK decorated him for his outstanding contribution to the development of techno music. Hawtin's ambient house has become an essential part of Detroit techno - a type of music created by Detroit-based DJs in the 1990s. Hawtin also has his recording label Minus in Berlin, Germany, and Windsor, Canada. Do not miss the opportunity to see how the DJ will cook up a storm at Closer - one of the best Ukrainian nightclubs.

Richie Hawtin. Closer (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) July 26. 11:55 p.m. Hr 580

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July 19, 2019

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Shows

Live Jazz Monday - Noah Blumenfeld (fusion jazz and alternative music). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 150-350 6

Tuesday, July 23

Miscellaneous

Abbey Road (paintings by Slava Byruk exploring the essential harmony between humanity and nature). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free @

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

Oleg Holosiy. Non-Stop Painting (paintings, graphics, photographs and archival materials by Ukrainian contemporary artist). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr 40 for pupils, students and retirees, Hr 160 for family ticket. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee (9)

Intermezzo (photographs of Kyiv landscapes by Andrew Kravchenko). America House. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID 🚯

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 🥨

Evocation and Resemblance. Items of Identity in the New Ukraine (paintings, sculptures, performative artworks by Ola Rondiak and Monique Rollins). Gallery 83. 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Free 🕼

Movies

Spider-Man: Far From Home (fantasy, adventure). Planeta Kino, Multiplex (Lavina Mall, Sky Mall, Prospect, Atmosphere, Komod). 7:30 p.m. Hr 90-160 🚳 🚳 🚯 🚱 🚯

Wednesday, July 24

Classical music

Interstellar Organ Show: Bach, Brahms, Messiaen and others (Olena Boliukh, Eclectic Sound Orchestra). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200 8

Live music

Blues Matters: Bender Band (original songs and covers of best blues hits). Docker Pub. 9 p.m. Free 9

Jazz on the Terrace (vocals - Laura Marti, music - Jazz in Kyiv Band). Vsi Svoi D12. 8 p.m. Hr 375-500 @

Tribute to Lady Gaga (Big Feathers). Green Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 200 @

Miscellaneous

Abbey Road (paintings by Slava Byruk exploring the essential harmony between humanity and nature). Triptych Global Arts Workshop. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 🚳

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

Oleg Holosiy. Non-Stop Painting (paintings, graphics, photographs and archival materials by Ukrainian contemporary artist). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr for pupils, students and retirees, Hr 160 for family ticket. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee (9)

sculptures, performative artworks by Ola Rondiak and Monique Rollins). Gallery 83. 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Free 🔞

Cross Sea (paintings, sculptures and performances by Luka Basov, Bohdan Bunchak and other artists from Kyiv Academy of Media Arts). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free 🧐

Movies

Spider-Man: Far From Home (fantasy, adventure). Planeta Kino. 7:30 p.m. Hr 100-160 📀

Thursday, July 25

Classical music

Duetto Concertante: Bach, Handel and others (guitar - Andriy Ostapenko, flute Yuriv Shutko), Halom, 7 p.m. Hr 100 0

Live Piano Concert: Bach, Mozart, Ellington and others (piano -Mike Kaufman-Portnikov). Green Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 350 🗿

Live music

Closer Jazz: Minimalist Quartet of Yakiv Tsvietinskyi (jazz and classical music). Closer, 8 p.m. Hr 200 @

Jazz on the Beach: Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald (Old Fashioned Band), UBK, 8 p.m. Hr 300-450 🚇

Miscellaneous

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

Oleg Holosiy. Non-Stop Painting (paintings, graphics, photographs and archival materials by Ukrainian contemporary artist). Mystetskyi Arsenal 11 am - 8 nm Hr 80 Hr 40 for pupils, students and retirees, Hr 160 for family ticket. Free for children under 12. people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee (

Intermezzo (photographs of Kyiv landscapes by Andrew Kravchenko). America House. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID 🚯

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 🔕

Evocation and Resemblance. Items of Identity in the New Ukraine (paintings, sculptures, performative artworks by Ola Rondiak and Monique Rollins), Gallery 83, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Free 🕼

Cross Sea (paintings, sculptures and performances by Luka Basov, Bohdan Bunchak and other artists from Kviv Academy of Media Arts), Voloshvn Gallery, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free 🥸

Movies

The Matrix (action, fantasy). Planeta Kino. 7 p.m. Hr 230 🖪

Friday, July 26 Live music

Jazz Arsenal (Will Jacobs Big Band). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 8 p.m. Hr 350-450 (2)

Jazz for Adults with Alexey Kogan and NC 17 (vocals - Laura Marty, Jazz in Kyiv Band, NC 17 ballet). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 180-850 3

Orchestral Show Cinematic Symphony: Bach, Mozart, Zimmer and others (conductor - Serhii Lykhomanenko, music -Eclectic Sound Orchestra). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200 3

July 26 ernichkin)

Dakh Daughters

A world-known Ukrainian music band, Dakh Daughters, is to amaze the imaginations of fans with dark cabaret performances on Friday, 26. The band, which consists of seven women, plays on various instruments such as the piano, cello, double bass, guitar, violin, accordion and xylophone. Dakh Daughters performs songs in different languages and dialects. Often in their lyrics it is possible to recognize lines of poetry by Taras Shevchenko, William Shakespeare, Charles Bukowski, losif Brodsky and others. The band has earlier had live shows in Poland, France, Brazil, Canada, and the United States. Get ready to see an unforgettable combination of extravagant images and unique sounds from the freak-cabaret band.

Dakh Daughters. UBK (Trukhaniv Island, 300 meters right of Pedestrian Bridge). July 26. 8 p.m. Hr 500

artist Petro Riaska). The Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 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 🔞

Oleg Holosiy. Non-Stop Painting (paintings, graphics, photographs and archival materials by Ukrainian contemporary artist). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr 40 for pupils, students and retirees, Hr 160 for family ticket. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee (9)

Intermezzo (photographs of Kyiv landscapes by Andrew Kravchenko). America House. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID 🚯

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 🔕

Evocation and Resemblance. Items of Identity in the New Ukraine (paintings, sculptures, performative artworks by Ola Rondiak and Monique Rollins). Gallery 83. 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. Free 🚯

Cross Sea (paintings, sculptures and performances by Luka Basov, Bohdan Bunchak and other artists from Kyiv Academy of Media Arts). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free 😨

Movies

The Matrix (action, fantasy). Planeta Kino. 7 p.m. Hr 230 📀 Shows

Martyniuk, saxophone - Borys Mohylevskyi).

Clubs

Koloah, Pahatam, Prismic (electronic DJ

Miscellaneous

Cross Sea (paintings, sculptures and per-

artist Petro Riaska). The Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🚳

Big Circle (contemporary art exhibition retirees 🔞

Oleg Holosiy. Non-Stop Painting (paintings, graphics, photographs and archival materials by Ukrainian contemporary artist). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr 40 for pupils, students and retirees, Hr 160 for family ticket. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee (

sculptures, performative artworks by Ola Rondiak and Monique Rollins). Gallery 83. 12 p.m. - 7 p.m. Free 🕼

by Andrew Kravchenko). America House, 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free, Bring ID (

The Forbidden Image (photographs by from the Kharkiv nailov and artists

Othello (theater recording in English with Ukrainian subtitles). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 3 p.m. Hr 190-240 🚳

Sunday, July 28

Live music

Music of the Light: Bach, Mozart and others (Heaven Flute duo). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200 🚳

Red Jazz Teleport 360 (Andrii Soloviov). VDNH. 7 p.m. Hr 250 🚳

Yungblud (alternative rock music). Green Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 990-1390 4

Miscellaneous

Cross Sea (paintings, sculptures and performances by Luka Basov, Bohdan Bunchak and other artists from Kviv Academy of Media Arts). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free 🤣

Deeds of Riaska (landscapes by Ukrainian artist Petro Riaska). The Naked Room, 11 a.m. - 8 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 🔞

Oleg Holosiy. Non-Stop Painting (paintings, graphics, photographs and archival materials by Ukrainian contemporary artist). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr 40 for pupils, students and retirees, Hr 160 for family ticket. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee (9)

Evocation and Resemblance. Items of Identity in the New Ukraine (paintings, sculptures, performative artworks by Ola Rondiak and Monique Rollins). Gallery 83. 12 p.m. - 7 p.m. Free 🕼

Old Fashioned Bar. 8 p.m. Hr 400 🥑

sets). Otel'. 11 p.m. Hr 300 🕲

formances by Luka Basov, Bohdan Bunchak and other artists from Kyiv Academy of Media Arts). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free 🛷 Deeds of Riaska (landscapes by Ukrainian

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

Evocation and Resemblance. Items of Identity in the New Ukraine (paintings,

Intermezzo (photographs of Kyiv landscapes

Intermezzo (photographs of Kyiv landscapes by Andrew Kravchenko). America House. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID ()

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 🥨

Evocation and Resemblance. Items of Identity in the New Ukraine (paintings,

Red Jazz Teleport 360 (Andrii Soloviov) VDNH. 7 p.m. Hr 250 🚳

Tribute AC/DC (music - rock band Rock You). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 125-1400 9

Clubs

Richie Hawtin (techno). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Hr 580 ወ

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

Buttechno, Vtgnike, Alex Savage, Jultron (electronic DJ set), River Port, 11 p.m. Hr 300 (

Miscellaneous

Deeds of Riaska (landscapes by Ukrainian

Dakh Daughters (freak-cabaret). UBK. 8 p.m. Hr 500 🚇

Just Her (dance and electronic music). UBK. 10 p.m. Hr 100 🚇

Saturday, July 27

Live music

Musical Shine Carpathian Trance (trance music played on cymbals, drimbs and pipes). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200 8

Tribute to the Greatest of Soul and R'n'b (vocals - Ulvana Kushvk, guitar -Mykola Zinchenko, keys - Maryna Sherstneva, drums - Kateryna Bahinska, bass - Oleh

School of Photography exploring the forbidden). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free 🕸

Grill Market (food and drinks from various Ukrainian craft brands). Vsi Svoi D12, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🥸

Movies

The Matrix (action, fantasy). Planeta Kino. 7 p.m. Hr 230 🚳

Shows

Postman (indie-folk), UBK, 8 p.m. Hr 150 @

Theater

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 🚳

Grill Market (food and drinks from various Ukrainian craft brands). Vsi Svoi D12. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🚳

Movies

The Matrix (action, fantasy). Planeta Kino. 7 p.m. Hr 230 🚳

Venues

Classical Music

 Halom community center (860 Malevycha St.) +38044 220 2903 Ukrainian Radio Recording House (5B Leonida Pervomaiskoho St.) +38044 279 3344

Live Music

Caribbean Club (4 Petliury St.) +38067 224 4111
Green Theater (2 Parkova Rd.)

+38067 155 2255 +38007 155 2255
 Gryshko National Botanical Garden (1 Tymiriazievska St.) +38044 285 4105
 Q Business Center (13-15 Bolsunovska St.) +38067 690 0970
 Old Fashioned Bar (32) Vozdvyzhenska St.) +38050 462 0014 Kyiv Planetarium (57/3 Velyka
 Vasylkivska St.) +38044 338 1991
 Docker Pub (25 Bohatyrska St.) +38050 358 5513 Clubs Ocloser (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.)

+38067 250 0308 Khvylovyi Bar (18 Verkhnii Val St.) +38063 443 0925 Otel' (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38063 618 0145 B River Port (67 Nyzhnii Val St.) www. facebook.com/riverportkyiv UBK Club (Trukhaniv Island, 300 meters right of Pedestrian Bridge) +38097 771 3143

Miscellaneous

America House (6 Mykoly Pymonenka St.) +38063 343 0119

 Gallery 83 (3A Tarasivska St.)
 +38063 244 8682
 Lavra Gallery (9 Lavrska St.) +38044
 280 0290
 Mago -10 M17 Contemporary Art Center (102-104 Antonovycha St.) +38067 310 6631 Mystetskyi Arsenal (10-12 Lavrska St.) +38044 288 5225 3L) +38044 288 5225 Pinchuk Art Center (1/3-2 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) +38044 590 0858 Platforma Art Factory (1 Bilomorska St.) +38044 461 8810

2 The Khanenko Museum (15-17) Tereshchenkivska St.) +38044 235 3290

The Naked Room (21 Reitarska St.) www.facebook.com/thenakedroom Triptych Global Arts Workshop (34) Andriivskyi Uzviz St.) +38044 279 0759
 VDNH (1 Akademika Hlushkova Ave.) +38067 824 1631 Vsi Svoi D12 (12 Desiatvnna St.) www.facebook.com/vsi.svoi Voloshyn Gallery (13
 Tereshchenkivska St.) +38067 467

0007

 Multiplex Cinema (Atmosphere, 103 Stolychne Hwy.) 0800 505 333
 Multiplex Cinema (Komod, 4A Sheptytskoho St.) 0800 505 333 Multiplex Cinema (Lavina Mall, 6D Berkovetska St.) 0800 505 333
 Multiplex Cinema (Prospect, 1V Multiplex Cinema (Prospect, 1V Hnata Khotkevycha St.) 0800 505 333
 Multiplex Cinema (Sky Mall, 2T Henerala Vatutina Ave.) 0800 505 333
 Planeta Kino Cinema (34 Stepana

Bandery Ave.) 0800 300 600 Zhovten Cinema (26 Kostiantynivska St.) +38044 428 5757

Mezzanine (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38063 873 7306 Dom Music Bar (10/5A Petra Sahaidachnoho St.) +38096 011 0515

Theater

ProEnglish Theater (3 Smolenska St.) +38098 256 7331

July 19, 2019

50 years later, Moon landing inspires a new generation

BY ILLIA PONOMARENKO

PONOMARENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

On July 20, 1969, at least 600 million people on all six of Earth's habitable continents were watching a stunning miracle as it was broadcast live on their black-and-white television screens.

For the first time in history, humans were walking on the Moon.

The poor-quality monochrome transmission showed the pale, ghostly figures of astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin awkwardly tramping across the moon dust next to their Eagle lunar module amid total desolation. Occasionally, the buzz of barely distinguishable radio messages between the newly-created Tranquility Base on the Moon and NASA's mission control center in Houston would break the silence.

"Isn't that something! Magnificent sight out here," Armstrong said as he cast his eyes over the flat, gray desert stretching endlessly under pitch-black skies.

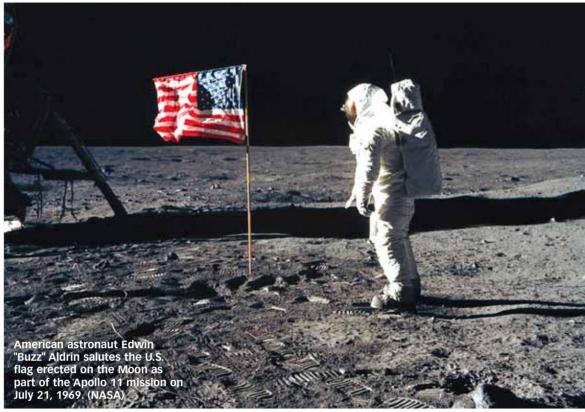
"It has a stark beauty all its own... It's different, but it's very pretty out here."

Armstrong had just made his legendary "one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind," bringing 350,000 years of human curiosity, wanderlust, and passion for discovery to what seemed like a natural culmination.

The greatest voyage of all time was made possible by computers with a processing power that seems laughable today. Still, very little has yet been done since then that can outshine the feat and the decade of unprecedented technological creativity and scientific breakthroughs that brought it about.

Today, exactly 50 years after the Apollo 11 mission, earthlings still can't forget their finest day, in spite of all the wars and miseries hounding them.

Humans want to get back to the Moon, and the legendary landing still stands as a sky-sign for enthusiasts like billionaires Jeff Bezos of Amazon and Elon Musk of SpaceX, who dream of seeing fresh human footprints on the Earth's only natural



spective, putting an American on the Moon could save the day.

However, things on the ground were far from promising.

At the time of Kennedy's speech, the United States only had the experience of several successful unmanned suborbital missions. Just one manned suborbital flight took Alan Sheppard into space three weeks after Gagarin as part of the Mercury Project.

But a long list of key proven technologies required to conquer the Moon were missing, things like enduring environmental control and portable life support systems; effective heat shields; technologies for spacecraft rendezvous and docking and extravehicular activities, and a launch vehicle of previously unseen power.

Step by step

All those solutions – and many thousands of others – were developed from scratch and polished off as part of NASA's space programs Gemini (1961-1966) and Apollo (1961-1972).

Step by step, new test missions were bringing new ingredients to a successful Moon landing and return home. Kennedy's dream indeed launched history's greatest peacetime technological and resource effort. The Apollo program alone cost nearly \$25 billion (\$153 billion in 2018 prices). At its peak, it employed nearly 400,000 engineers, scientists and technicians, and 20,000 companies and universities worked for NASA.

'Peace for all mankind'

And then the long-awaited day came. On July 16, the Apollo 11 crew of commander Neil Armstrong, lunar module pilot Buzz Aldrin, and command and service module pilot Michael Collins started their odyssey from Cape Canaveral after a strict training and a lengthy quarantine.

The Apollo 11 launch was in the global spotlight. Nearly 3,500 reporters covered the event from the scene, and the live TV broadcast was transmitted to 33 countries.

Up to an estimated 1 million people converged near the Kennedy Space Center to see the launch with their own eyes, creating immense traffic jams in the country.

The Kremlin initially reacted

gers crossed," Alexey Leonov, the first human to spacewalk in 1965, later recalled. "We were sincerely wishing these guys success."

Aldrin and Armstrong spent 21.5 hours on the Moon, including 2.5 hours of extravehicular activity. They collected 21.5 kilograms of lunar soil for research and installed the first scientific instruments on the Moon.

Among many things that the astronauts brought with them to the Moon were small flags of the 135 member states of the United Nations. It was a sign of the mission's peaceful aim for all of humankind. They also had memorial medals of killed Soviet cosmonauts Yuriy Gagarin and Vladimir Komarov – who had been killed in 1968 and 1967, respective – and of American astronauts Virgil Grissom, Ed White, and Roger Chaffee. The latter three had died in a fire during the Apollo 1 mission tests in January 1967.

Their memorials were left behind on the Moon forever.

As planned, the Eagle ascended back into the lunar orbit and connected with the Columbia command module piloted by Collins. Then, the astronauts splashed into the Pacific Ocean on July 24, to be recovered by the USS Hornet with U.S. President Richard M. Nixon onboard. The astronauts faced 21 days of strict quarantine, which discovered no alien bacteria brought back from space. Then, they went on a triumphant world tour to 22 countries, with millions of people cheering on the first men on the Moon. Besides achieving political and scientific goals, the Moon missions also led to over 1,600 inventions registered by NASA. Most importantly, it significantly helped with the development of integrated microcircuits — still a crucial aspect of modern technology in any industry.

The last mission, Apollo 17, brought home the iconic "Blue Marble" photograph of Earth, which helped trigger a global surge in environmental movements seeking to protect our beautiful and fragile planet.

"We went to explore the Moon, and in fact discovered the Earth," Eugene Cernan, the last man to walk on the moon, recalled in 1972.

Half a century later, the 1969 landing remains history's greatest technological achievement. Now, only setting foot on Mars can outshine it, says Pavlo Degtyarenko, chairman of the State Space Agency of Ukraine.

"We had no clue what a long technological leap mankind had made then," he says.

"This is proven by the fact that 50 years have passed, and only now are we seeing a new wave of interest in exploring the Moon and planets. Because, at that moment, the technological solutions achieved were astronomically expensive, (and they seemed) beyond humankind's reach. For this reason alone, this anniversary should be celebrated."

The scientist has no doubts that the Apollo program, despite its colossal expense, contributed to the greater good of mankind.

"It's the same as when Christopher Columbus or Amerigo Vespucci or Vasco da Gama were reaching out to their kings to ask for money for their expeditions," he says.

"Without dreaming, without taking steps beyond what is known, humanity leans toward degradation. Humankind can survive and exist only through development. Thus, such a step was necessary."

Meanwhile, Moon exploration continues – even without boots on the ground. Just recently, in early 2019, the Chinese probe Chang'e 4 reached the far side of the Moon for the first time in 60 years. The Israeli probe Beresheet, bearing the

satellite – or even on planet Mars.

'Before decade is out'

When President John F. Kennedy addressed the U.S. Congress on May 25, 1961, announcing the goal of "landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth" - and doing it "before this decade is out" - it seemed an unrealistic enterprise.

The Soviet space program, chaired by ethnic Ukrainian Serhiy Korolyov, was leading the Space Race, having achieved two key milestones: launching the Sputnik-1 satellite in October 1957 and taking Yuriy Gagarin into space in April 1961. American pride had been bitterly stung.

Only an even more stunning achievement could outshine this growing technological and educational gap between the two feuding superpowers of the Cold War. From Kennedy's per-

Apollo 4, 5, and 6 all improved upon the technologies used for launches and lunar model design, eventually proving that Saturn V launcher were strong enough and a spacecraft could be safe enough to put a human being on the Moon. When crewed missions began, they developed technology further. Apollo 7 orbited Earth multiple times. Then Apollo 8 left the planet's vicinity for the first time and made 10 orbits around the moon in December 1968 Apollo 10 was a dress rehearsal for a lunar landing. It entered the Moon's orbit in May 1969 with a fully functional command-and-service module designed by the North American Aviation company, and turned back home only 15 kilometers

away from the lunar surface.

coldly — the Soviet envoy to the United States first accepted and then declined his invitation to the launch. But a squadron of eight Soviet warships observed the launch from 46 kilometers southeast of Miami.

The flight was conducted almost flawlessly at all stages — and 102 hours and 45 minutes after the launch, Armstrong finally reported: "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed."

The NASA mission control center, as well as half of the world, exhaled perhaps the greatest sigh of relief in human history.

The Cold War was still at its peak between the two superpowers – but not between the space explorers on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

"When Armstrong stepped on the lunar surface and everyone in the U.S. was applauding, we, the Soviet cosmonauts, were holding our finIt took 2,982 days for NASA to accomplish Kennedy's mission.

Human instinct

The Apollo program continued through December 1972, putting 10 more humans on the Moon in five subsequent successful missions. In 1970, Apollo 13 proved a major failure, but the astronauts managed to return safely to Earth in their heavily damaged spacecraft. slogan "Small country, big dreams," almost made it in April, but ultimately crashed on the Moon's surface.

In mid-May, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos presented a manned lander project called Blue Moon that could be launched by 2024.

Ukraine's main space director has no doubts that astronauts will indeed soon return to the Moon – because this is a vital part of human nature.

"(Exploring) is an integral human instinct," Degtyarenko says.

"A child, having barely learned to crawl, creeps beyond the room's door. Then it walks out of the house. Then it leaves the city. Then it goes to a forest or a sea. Then it goes to another continent and so forth. Humankind has always had the goal of going further. It's a pure instinct — not of any single person, but of humankind as a species."

Kononenko, Dubinsky among 42 candidates in District 94

Kononenko from page 2

Before quitting in 2016, Economy Minister Aivaras Abromavicius also accused Kononenko of trying to install protégés at his ministry and many state firms to profiteer from them.

In 2015, British journalist Graham Stack published an investigationsuggesting Kononenko could be behind an alleged money laundering scheme involving Ukrprominvest, a group founded by Kononenko and Poroshenko

Meanwhile, fugitive lawmaker Oleksandr Onyshchenko has accused Kononenko of involvement in various corruption schemes and of buying votes in parliament, and he published alleged WhatsApp correspondence that he says confirms his claims.

However, Kononenko's advantage is that he has been effectively campaigning in the district since 2017. Political consultant Vitaly Bala told the Kyiv Post that Kononenko had entrenched himself in the district and could have a chance to win if there is a high turnout.

Controversial journalist

Born in Kyiv in 1981, Dubinsky has



Dmytro Razumkov (L), head of the Servant of the People party, and Oleksandr Dubinsky, a TV journalist and a candidate running for parliament with the Servant of the People in Kyiv Oblast, sit at a press conference in Kyiv on July 3, 2019. (UNIAN)

been a journalist at the 1+1 TV channel, owned by controversial oligarch Igor Kolomoisky, since 2010. He is the host of 1+1's Hroshi (Money) anti-corruption show. Dubinsky also has a video blog in which he often uses obscene language to lash out at Poroshenko and other politicians. He is controversial and is seen by his critics as biased in favor of Kolomoisky due to his apologetic stance on the oligarch and his highly negative coverage of Kolomoisky's enemies, including ex-National Bank of Ukraine Chief Valeria Gontareva.

Unusually for a journalist, he also leads an expensive lifestyle, which includes owning several apartments in Kviv. Dubinsky has said that he enjoys this lifestyle using money he has earned as a journalist.

Dubinsky did not respond to a request for comment.

Kovzhun argued that, thanks to his Hroshi show, Dubinsky is well-known to the electorate and will benefit from Servant of the People's support. However, his controversial reputation is a liability in the election, he added.



16 National

After getting runaround, Zelensky wants to replace top law enforcers

BY OLEG SUKHOV SUKHOV@KYIVPOST.COM

President Volodymyr Zelensky on July 17 hinted he wanted to replace the leadership of law enforcement agencies due to their lack of political will to investigate high-profile cases.

Zelensky made the statement using the unusual format of a video filmed in a car and distributed through social media, instead of the traditional interview format.

Top investigations

He said that he had met Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko, National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) Chief Artem Sytnyk and Chief Anti-Corruption Prosecutor Nazar Kholodnytsky after he was elected as president on April 21. He said he expected results from them, but there had been little progress in major investigations since then.

"The anti-corruption prosecutor's office says the NABU is to blame for everything," Zelensky said. "The NABU says that the anti-corruption prosecutor's office is to blame. The prosecutor general says that every-one would have been jailed already if there had been political will."

He said he told them that his team has the "political will to jail all those



robbers who have profiteered in a very dirty way."

"There is will, there is a desire," Zelensky said. "Only one thing is lacking – time... My political will is not enough. Those law enforcement agencies have no political will."

"Maybe some of them have political will but they always lack something," he continued. "And when they lack something, we'll do our best to make sure that our country lacks those people."

Other topics

Zelensky also said that his team would either liquidate Ukravtodor, the state road agency, or replace its leadership. All top officials who have stolen money during road construction must be jailed, he added.

"There will be roads when there are no fools in the country," he quipped in a reference to the joke that Russia has two problems – fools and roads.

Zelensky also said that investment

in road infrastructure should be encouraged.

Commenting on Russia's war against Ukraine, which has killed 13,000 people and dismembered the nation since 2014, Zelensky said that he wants to stop it.

"If you want to stop the war, you'll necessarily stop it," he said. "The previous government didn't want to do that."

Zelensky listed his recent conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin and a planned meeting with Putin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron, as well as prisoner exchanges, in citing progress to end the war. The exchanges will start with 24 Ukrainian sailors captured by Russia in Black Sea waters on Nov. 25, he added.

"There are no people whom I could trust, except for our inner circle," Zelensky continued. "Everyone lies, takes bribes and steals with a smile on their faces. This is utter cynicism."

He said he wants to make history.

"I'd like us to be respected. There hasn't been a single presidential team over the past 30 years that people would meet in the street, greet with joy and respect a lot."

Election monitors ready for snap parliamentary vote

BY TEAH PELECHATY

TEAH.PELECHATY@GMAIL.COM

Ukrainians won't be the only ones flocking to the polls on July 21. They'll be joined by people from all over the world — albeit in attendance for a different reason.

As Ukraine prepares to vote for a new parliament, international election observers are ready, with 21 organizations contributing observers to assess the country's compliance with democratic standards.

Ukraine's Central Election Commission expects 1,600 international election observers.

"One of the things that we under-



ers in attendance: Russian nationals have not been allowed to participate.

Electoral progress

Experts have noted improvements with respect to the fairness and validity of the electoral process.

"The 2004 presidential elections were basically fraudulent elections, and I think that, if you compare today to 15 years ago, Ukraine has definitely come a long way, in terms of both the legal and electoral framework that is currently in place," says Peytier.

Olya Odynska-Grod, deputy head of mission at the Canadian CANADEM non-profit election monitoring group, said: "The key thing is that it appears we have been seeing larger numbers of people actually coming out to vote, especially youth. We have also seen that there appears to be more women in politics than there were before. The numbers are still not very high, but they seem to be improving." ENEMO reports that "only slightly over half of the parties in the nationwide district respected the obligation to include 30% of women candidates in their lists. In total, approximately 22,5% of candidates in the election are women." Odynska-Grod emphasizes Canada's commitment to the participation of women. The Canadian government has recently announced "over \$45 million in support for Ukraine, of which \$25 million is earmarked for the implementation of inclusive and gender-responsive reforms."

Druckman told the Kyiv Post that monitors will pay special attention to several issues, including illegal campaigning, signs of intimidation, media coverage and polling station accessibility.

Of particular concern are "clone candidates," says Odynska-Grod, a phenomenon when candidates with similar names run in the same race to confuse voters.

Peytier also stressed the challenge of monitoring the election in eastern Ukraine's conflict areas, where Russia has been waging war since 2014. "It's a difficult and delicate area to hold an election," says Peytier.

line is that there are many shortcomings with regards to electoral law, and that there are lots of things that need to be addressed," Pierre Peytier, a political analyst with the European Network of Elections Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO), told the Kyiv Post."That said, there have definitely been improvements from election to election, and we definitely consider Ukraine to be going in the right direction."

Free and fair

The decision to hold parliamentary elections several months ahead of schedule has forced quick action.

ENEMO's Peytier says it is a challenge to mobilize observers on such short notice, citing a drop in shortterm ENEMO observers from 300 during the spring presidential election to 78 for the upcoming parliamentary one. The condensed time-



Members of a local electoral commission empty a ballot box to count votes after the second round of Ukraine's presidential election at a polling station in Kyiv on April 21, 2019. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

line has also proved difficult when trying to secure funding.

"The early election has definitely been a major challenge not only for us, but also for election stakeholders in general – the Central Election Commission... (and) the political parties that have had to organize their campaigns and candidates on very short timelines," he said.

International Republican Institute's (IRI) resident program director Michael Druckman reported that the organization has one of the largest delegations to date.

"We're interested in a mix of experiences and a diverse group of individuals, so that it's a transatlantic experience – individuals with experience not only with European elections, but particularly the post-Soviet space," says Druckman.

Observers will be deployed in pairs across the country. Their presence at polling stations must be unobtrusive.

"We are observers. We are not supervisors. We are not interested in the outcome of the elections. We are interested in the process," says Albert Jónsson, head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights mission in Ukraine. It issues its preliminary findings the day after the vote.

One country will not have observ-

Looking to the future

Parliament ecently passed a series of laws ed to eliminate single-member districts and switch to open-party lists starting in 2023 – a move that experts hope will increase transparency and reduce corruption. "This is definitely a step forward, in the sense that I think that Ukraine really needs a standardized, streamlined electoral code," says Peytier.

However, the new code does not address the enfranchisement of internally-displaced persons. "There are about 1.6 million people in Ukraine who, in elections, are not fully able to vote," he says.

Experts also want more transparency in campaign financing. "There is still time between now and 2023 to amend the text that was adopted. That will be one of the challenges that the new parliament will have to tackle in time," says Peytier.



Celebrities hoping to get into parliament



The lead singer of rock band Okean Elzy, Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, holds the flag of Ukraine during a concert in Kharkiv on June 30, 2019. Vakarchuk runs for parliament with his own political party, the recently established Voice. (Oleg Petrasiuk)

BY DARIA SHULZHENKO SHULZHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

When actor Volodymyr Zelensky won the Ukrainian presiden-

senters, and athletes. And most of them have never been in politics before.

They are actors, musicians, TV pre- least 120 seats in the 424-member in Kryvyi Rih, the industrial city of parliament.

The celebrities running with the Servant of the People are those who hometown of Koriavchenkov, and worked directly with Zelensky. Not surprisingly, almost all of them are comedians.

630,000 people located about 400 kilometers southeast of Kyiv. It's the Zelensky. The two have worked together for more than 20 years. Koriavchenkov,, often referred to as "Yuzik" in Vecherniy Kvartal shows, is one of the most recognizable members. He

www.kyivpost.com

City Life

Got old clothes? Here's where to donate them

Three years ago, Oksana Oliynyk started donating her old clothing to charity so that others may enjoy their use. Since then, the Kyiv-based copywriter has donated six times.

"I believe that each person has the right to have nice outfits," Oliynyk says. "In addition, getting rid of stuff from your wardrobe is like throwing out old memories to free up space for new experiences."

For those who agree, the Kyiv Post has found places in Kyiv to give away an unwanted dress, suit or outfit. All of them use the donation to homeless people, orphanages, oncology centers and charitable foundations.

Swetr showroom

Swetr is a recent initiative by activists Victoria Dubrovska and Alyona Fedorenko. The showroom, which opened on May 19, resells donated clothing and gives the money to charity.

"The idea to create a charity showroom came about after attempts to cure my father, who had cancer and was initially misdiagnosed," Dubrovska told the Kyiv Post. Dubrovska's father was initially diagnosed with stage I cancer, but later doctors discovered that he actually had stage IV cancer. He died from his illness.

All proceeds from Swetr are used to import drugs unavailable in Ukraine for patients from the Kyiv City Clinical **Oncology** Center.

The organization accepts male, female, and children's clothing for any season and takes old shoes and accessories.

cy in April, he inspired other Ukrainian celebrities to go into politics.

Now, as Ukraine hurdles toward snap parliamentary elections on July 21, at least a dozen stars are running for seats in the Verkhovna Rada.

President's crew

Fittingly, the Servant of the People party led by Zelensky has the largest number of celebrities on its party list. According to the latest polls, it will also dominate in the election, taking 49 percent of the vote and at

One of them is Yurii Koriavchenkov. 44, an actor on Zelensky's show Vecherniy Kvartal ("Late Night Kvartal"). He is running for parliament in a single-member district

more Candidates on page 18



Those items that are not fit for sale are donated to social service centers.

Several Ukrainian celebrities have supported Swetr. Ukrainian singer and 2016 Eurovision winner Jamala donated a top, which was then sold for Hr 1,200 (\$46). Actress and television hostess Olha Sumska donated her Christmas dress, which brought in Hr 6,200 (\$240) for charity.

Since May 2019, Swetr has earned nearly Hr 40,000 (\$1,530). They say they will soon buy medication for people with cancer for Hr 9,500 (\$365). The rest of the money they spent on rent and staff salaries. Charity Showroom Swetr. 50

more **Donate** on page **21**



With celebrity president, why not celebrity lawmakers too?

Candidates from page 17

usually plays secondary roles.

Another celebrity running with Zelensky's party is a popular comedic actor Serhii Sivokho.

Sivokho, 50, also has known Zelensky for over 20 years and calls him a friend. He has been one of the judges at Liga Smekha ("League of Laughter"), a comedy competition produced and hosted by Zelensky. Sivokho was born in the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk, where he lived until 2012. His hometown has been occupied by the Russianbacked militants since 2014. Now, he runs for parliament in a single-member district in Donetsk Oblast, some 700 kilometers southeast of Kyiv. "This is my home. I think this is a real opportunity to help my home," Sivokho told the Kyiv Post. Another comedian in Servant of the People is Roman Hryshchuk, 29, the founder of the Mamahohotala, a studio that organizes comedy shows, writes scripts and shoots television series and films.



election, which "has made a pathway (into politics) for young people."

Hryshchuk is running in a single-member district in Kyiv, in a neighborhood where he grew up. If elected, he does not plan to combine politics with his work in comedy.

"I won't have enough time to do

Hryshchuk says he was inspired by Zelensky's victory in the presidential

Olympic wrestling champion Zhan Beleniuk stands with his coach during the European Games athletic competition in Minsk, Belarus, on June 29, 2019. Beleniuk is running for parliament with the Servant of the People party led by President Volodymyr Zelensky. (AFP)

both, so it will be politics only," he says.

Ukrainian TV presenter Oleksandr Skichko, is also running with the Servant of the People party.

Skichko, 28, is mostly known for hosting one of Ukraine's most popular morning television show "Pidyom" ("Wake Up") on Novy Channel, part of oligarch Victor Pinchuk's TV empire. Skichko wants to be elected in his hometown, in a single-member electoral district in Cherkasy Oblast, 200 kilometers south of Kyiv.

But it is not all about comedians. Servant of the People also attracted some popular athletes.

Olympic Greco-Roman wrestling champion Zhan Beleniuk is running for parliament with the party. He is 10th on the party ticket, which

more Candidates on page 19

Stars are counting on fame to win seats in parliament



Candidates from page 18

means he is guaranteed a seat in the Verkhovna Rada.

Beleniuk, 28, won the silver medal at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, as well as gold medals at the European and world championships. Beleniuk's father was a Rwandan pilot who studied in Kyiv and was killed during the Rwandan Civil War.

Beleniuk recorded a video showing how he will fight corruption in Ukraine when elected. In the video, he performs wrestling throws on a dummy.

Another well-known Ukrainian athlete running for parliament with Zelensky's party is a soccer star Artem Fedetskiy.

Fedetskiy, 34, is a defender in the Karpaty (Lviv) football club and a former member of the national team. He is running in the 118th single-member district located near Lviv, a regional capital some 540 kilometers west of Kyiv.

Finally, a celebrity restaurateur Mykola Tyshchenko is running with Servant of the People in the single-member district No. 219 in Kyiv.

Tyshchenko, 47, hosted a popular show "Revizor" on Novy Channel, where he inspected the quality of restaurants and hotels across Ukraine. He was also a participant in the Ukrainian version of "Dancing with the Stars."

Just several months before becoming president, Zelensky played Tyshchenko in a TV comedy skit. He mocked the restaurateur's macho image.

Vakarchuk and Prytula

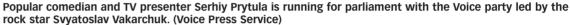
After Zelensky, the second most famous celebrity to enter politics in 2019 is rock star Svyatoslav Vakarchuk.

Vakarchuk is the lead singer of Okean Elzy, one of Ukraine's oldest and most popular bands.

Vakarchuk has flirted with politics before. He was elected lawmaker in 2007, but left the parliament next year, disappointed, but didn't lose interests in politics. Many expected him to run for president in 2019, but he opted for the parliamentarian race

On his second coming, Vakarchuk runs for parliament as the head of his own party, Voice. It has a high chance of getting in. It has been polling at 6–8 percent, while the threshold is 5 percent.

Vakarchuk's party members said





Singer Ivan Bobul, known onstage as Ivo Bobul, is running on the ballot of the minor Patriot party. (UNIAN)

they were in negotiations with other Ukrainian celebrities about joining Voice.

One who agreed was a popular comedian and TV presenter Serhiy Prytula.

Prytula, 38, became famous in 2008, when he started hosting the morning show "Pidyom" – the same

one that employed another candidate for parliament, Skichko of the Servant of the People. Since then, he has been hosting various TV shows. He is known for his humorous and sarcastic persona. When Russia started its war in eastern Ukraine, he has been helping raise donations for the Ukrainian army.

He is 30th on the Voice party ballot.

"I wanted to be useful for the country and its people," Prytula said in a video announcing his run for parliament.

He also praised the composition of the Voice party, noting that it includes no former members of parliament. He apparently forgot mini-scandal when she could not answer some questions about the party's politics during a television interview and walked off the set.

Mykhailo Poplavsky, a pop star from the 1990s and a current member of parliament, doesn't want to give up his seat. He is running as the face of the Agrarian Party.

Poplavsky, 69, is the rector of Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts, and is known by the moniker "the singing rector." He has often been criticized in the media for alleged corruption at his university as well as for his statements that hinted he had romantic relations with his students.

Poplavsky did not respond to the Kyiv Post's request for a comment

Another Ukrainian celebrity, a superstar singer Oleg Vynnyk, has endorsed the Agrarian Party. But even combined, Vynnyk and Poplavsky were not enough: According to the polls, the Agrarian Party won't make it to parliament.

Singer Ivan Bobul, 66, a colorful character known onstage as Ivo Bobul, is running on the ballot of the minor Patriot party.

Another pop musician, Vitalii Bilonozhko, is running on the list of Strength and Honor, a party led by Ihor Smeshko, the former head of Security Service of Ukraine. Strength and Honor is popular among older voters – also a key demographic for Bilonozhko's music.

Bilonozhko, 66, is also a Ukrainian star of the 1990s. He usually performs with his wife Svitlana Bilonozhko and says he will try to help retirees if he makes it to parliament.



Pop singer and current member of parliament Mykhailo Poplavsky (L) and superstar singer Oleg Vinnik talk to the audience in Fastiv, a town in Kyiv Oblast on July 4, 2019. Poplavsky is running for parliament as the leader of the Agrarian Party. (UNIAN)

Vakarchuk.

More musicians

Other parties are also including celebrities, perhaps in a last-ditch effort to attract votes.

Ukrainian singer Anastasiia Prykhodko is running in the single-member district No. 11 in Vinnytsia Oblast, some 260 kilometers southwest from Kyiv, with the Batkivschyna ("Fatherland") party led by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

In 2009, Prykhodko represented Russia in the Eurovision song contest. However, after Moscow annexed Crimea and invaded Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, Prykhodko took a patriotic stance and started to support the Ukrainian army.

She ended her singing career in well-known celebriti 2018 to join Batkivshchyna. Later Vitali Klitschko, has that year, she found herself in a mayor since 2014.

New, old trend

While the 2019 parliamentary election may feature an unusually large number of celebrities, it is not the first time singers, TV stars, and athletes have sought political office.

For instance, Ukrainian singer Ruslana, who won the Eurovision song contest in 2004, served as a lawmaker in 2006–2007. Like Vakarchuk, she was a member of the Our Ukraine party, led by former President Viktor Yushchenko.

Football star Andriy Shevchenko unsuccessfully ran for parliament in 2012.

Moreover, one of Ukraine's most well-known celebrities, former boxer Vitali Klitschko, has served as Kyiv's mayor since 2014.







Guests arrive at the red carpet opening ceremony Guests arrive at the red carpet opening containing of the 10th Odesa International Film Festival near the Odesa National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater on July 12, 2019.

2 Valishvili, and producer Ketie Danelia talk to the audience at a Q&A session after the screening of their Swedish-Georgian drama film "And Then We Danced" at the 10th Odesa International Film Festival on July 17

3 The president of Odesa International Film Festival, 3 Viktoriya Tigipko, walks the red carpet with her sons before the event's opening ceremony on July 12. 4 The jury of the international competition program: 4 Director of International Film Festival Karlovy Vary, Karel Och (L), Belgian director Peter Brosens, Ukrainian actress Ivanna Sakhno and Irish actor Barry Ward (R) attend the red carpet at the opening ceremony of the 10th Odesa International Film Festival on July 12. **5** The viewers watch Brazilian western "Bacurau" at **5** the Green Theater, one of the locations of the 10th

Odesa International Film Festival, on July 14. Crimean Tatar actors Remzi Bilyalov (L) and Akhtem Seitablayev (C), and director Nariman Aliev laugh as they answer the viewers' questions at the Q&A session after the Ukrainian premiere of their drama film "Homeward" at the 10th Odesa International Film Festival on July 14.

7Seven-time Oscar-nominated English director and writer Mike Leigh leaves the room after sharing his success story at the meet-the-artist session at the 10th Odesa International Film Festival on July 15. 8 The guests of the 10th Odesa International Film Festival wait in the line for the film screening at the Rodina cinema, one of the festival's locations, on July 15.

9 Special guest of the 10th Odesa International Film Festival U.S. actress Rose McGowan talks acting career at the meet-the-artist session at the Rodina cinema on July 13. (Oleg Petrasiuk)

4





Odesa International Film Festival celebrates its 10th anniversary in style

City Life

Where to give used clothes in Kyiv for those in need

Donate from page 17

Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St. 1 p.m. – 8 p.m. +38063 2323147

Murahy

Created in 2014, this platform allows people to donate and buy clothing, shoes, jewelry and household items online. The goods are delivered by Ukraine's Nova Poshta parcel service. The money raised goes to charity

Murahy is the project of Dmytro Fedorenko, an internet marketer and web designer, and Kateryna Alymov, who heads the nongovernmental organization Tse Nash Kyiv (This is Our Kyiv).

Murahy also allows individual users choose which charitable projects they want to support - helping children with cancer, premature babies, the military, internally displaced persons or animal shelters. Currently, the recipient foundations are Come Back Alive, Krab, Happy Paw, Svichado, Centr Dopomogy, Edinstvennaya, Kolo and Kozhen Mozhe.

Since Murahy's launch, nearly 5,000 items were registered for sale on the site. The platform has already given almost Hr 99,000 (\$3,800) to charity. In 2018, the team behind Murahy won SME Europe's Star Neighbour Award, a program launched by the European Parliament to support the social impact of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Charity Trading Platform Murahy. +38044 331 6229. www.murahy.com

Bank of Clothing

Bank Odyahu (Bank of Clothing) is a project by activist Yulik Kamyshnikov.



Kyiv-based copywriter Oksana Oliynyk donates her clothes to the Swetr showroom, which resells donated goods and gives the raised money to charity, on July 16, 2019, in Kyiv. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

In 2017, it received funding from the state budget.

It takes unwanted clothing for any season and used electronic equipment. The clothing bank only operates on Saturdays, and receives and gives out clothing at different times. Otherwise, its services are only available by appointment.

Kamyshnikov told the Kyiv Post Hi! Legs that he wanted to create a store Created in 2018, Hi! Legs gathers on Hi! Legs' website or call the orga-

.

where every item would be free and accessible to anyone. Many people in Kyiv are ready to support such an initiative, he said.

Bank Odyahu. 34/1 Schuseva St. Sat. To give out: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. *To receive: 12 p.m.* – *2 p.m.* +38093 574 4424.

used and unwanted, but otherwise high-quality shoes. It then restores them and gives them away to the needy. Since its launch, the Hi! Legs has already given 2,000 pairs of shoes to charity. The main beneficiaries are students from low-income families

In order to receive free footwear, a person must fill out an application

nization. Then the store will present the person with options.

Hi! Legs takes shoes of any brand. However, it does not accept low-quality leather substitutes, homemade slippers, flip-flops and felt shoes. At the end of each month, the store gives its excess shoes to charitable foundations Caritas and Lifelover.

Hi! Legs is the initiative of another Ukrainian brand, Etnodim, which creates embroidered shirts. The store's main goals are to encourage socially conscious consumer practices and to help those in need.

Hi! Legs. 58/28 Verkhnii Val St. Mon-Fri. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Sat-Sun. 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. 176 Antonovycha St. (Ocean Plaza shopping mall). 10 *a.m.* – 10 *p.m.* +38097 774 7171.

Good Deeds

Created in 2005, this foundation accepts used clothing that is in good condition. It then gives them to internally displaced people, families with disabled children and people in difficult living conditions.

The foundation also encourages people to take part in the Ready for Studying 2019 charitable campaign, which aims to gather stationery, school uniforms and athletic shoes for 500 children from low-income families and children living with disabilities. The campaign is an annual tradition since 2014.

Additionally, the foundation provides assistance to socially vulnerable groups and supports projects aimed at protecting the environment as well.

Good Deeds. 77 Saksahanskoho St. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. +38068 023 5114. 🗖

ERANDA

Wine Spectator

A family restaurant on the banks of the Dnipro, Veranda on the river has won the prestigious two glasses award from Wine Spectator!

Alexey Alekseenko

Chef sommelier Veranda on the river

July 19, 2019

www.kyivpost.com



White knights cruise Dnipro River to help Ukrainain Catholic University's finances







Th Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv raised more than Hr 500,000 (nearly \$20,000) for its Faculty of Humanities on July 13. The occasion was the Charity Summer Dinner in White on the river liner Rosa Victoria, which carried dozens of university supporters on the Dnipro River. The university, founded in 2002, enrolls 1,742 students. The Kyiv Post served as a media partner of the event.

Ukrainian Catholic University rector Father Bohdan Prach. 2 Artworks set to be auctioned Dobrovolska and event emcee Andriy Kurochka.

3.U.S. Ambassador William B. Taylor gives a keynote address.

A football is auctioned off.

5Ukrainian Catholic University asssociate professor Iryna Starovyt delivers the second keynote address.

keynote address. A guests looks over items for the auction. From left, Olesia Kopchak, unidentified, Mirya Havrylyshyn, Iryna Plakhtiy, and Olesia Kopchak. Taras Topolya, lead singer of the Ukrainian band Antytila, parforms

performs.

Political consultant Adrian Raratnycky and U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent talk. (Photos courtesy of Ukrainian Catholic University)

Entertainment Guide 23

East Europe Foundation is looking for Communications Manager for one of its programs

Application Deadline: July 29th, 2019

Job Type: Full-time

Please send a cover letter and resume to resumes@eef.org.ua with Communications Manager in the subject line.

Only candidates who have been selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls, please.

For detailed information about the position please visit www.eef.org.ua



ADVOCACY OFFICER KYIV, UKRAINE Kvinna till Kvinna is recruiting an Advocacy Officer for its country office in Ukraine. The position reports to the Head of Office Ukraine in Kyiv with in-country and international trips. Kvinna till Kvinna is a Swedish non-

profit organization that supports women's rights organizations in advancing women's rights and peace in conflict situations in 20 countries. For further information please visit https://kvinnatillkvinna.org/

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· Communications, PR on programme and partners' activities.

Professional Qualifications:

• University degree in Communications, PR, human/women's rights, social sciences, etc.

· 3-5 years of relevant experience in advocacy, communications, women's/human rights, project management in international cooperation or similar.

• Proficiency in English, Ukrainian, Russian.

Application:

Deadline: Please apply online by 31 July 2019 at https://jobs.kvinnatillkvinna.se/ which includes the full job advertisement. Please include a letter of motivation, a CV, and two references in English. Employment expected September 2019 with a fulltime local contract.



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THE COCA-COLA SYSTEM IN UKRAINE:^{*} KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2018

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