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Kyiv Post

25th year!

UKRAINE'S GLOBAL VOICE

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Shady Cast Of Characters

Engineers of Trump-Ukraine scandal

President of the United States



Donald J. Trump

A U.S. House impeachment inquiry is cornering him, exposing a sustained drive to pressure Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky into investigating his potential 2020 rival, Democratic ex-U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, and whether Ukraine interfered on behalf of Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election. Trump's erratic foreign policy, putting his personal interests above national ones, and favoring dictators over democrats, is alienating foreign partners and the U.S. public alike.

Washington players



Rudolph Giuliani, Trump's lawyer

The off-the-rails former New York City mayor and former crime-busting prosecutor hijacked U.S. foreign policy on Ukraine to serve Trump's political interests. Giuliani also collects huge fees from some truly reprehensible clients. He is now facing a criminal investigation in Manhattan.



Gordon Sondland

U.S. ambassador to the European Union worked as a political hack doing Trump's bidding.



Mick Mulvaney

Acting White House chief of staff let Sondland, Volker, and Perry — "the three amigos" — carry Giuliani's water on Ukraine policy.



Kurt Volker

Ex-special envoy took part in effort to push Ukraine to supply dirt on Joe Biden, failed to protest Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch's firing.



Rick Perry

The energy secretary is accused of trying to change management of Naftogaz to favor U.S. friends in the energy business.

Lawyers



Joseph diGenova

Pro-Trump lawyer also works for Firtash along with his wife Victoria Toensing.



John Dowd

Another former Trump lawyer now representing Parnas, Fruman.



Victoria Toensing

She and her husband, Joseph diGenova, have done work for Trump and Firtash.

Dirt diggers & intermediaries



Igor Fruman

Another Giuliani fixer and one of four men charged with making illegal contributions to a pro-Trump committee.



Lev Parnas

Ukraine native paid Giuliani \$500,000. Worked with both Giuliani and Firtash. Now faces criminal charges.



John Solomon

Singlehandedly responsible for reporting a lot of false and misleading stories about Ukraine.

Supporting roles in Ukraine



Valentyn Nalyvaichenko

Ex-top spy known for his ties to Firtash tries to curry favor with Trump in an Oct. 10 Wall Street Journal op-ed.



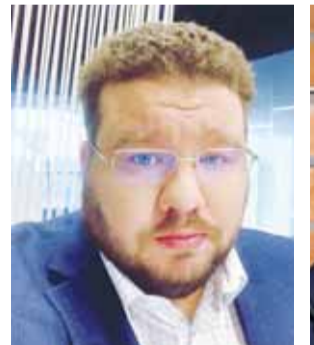
Yuriy Lutsenko

Ex-top prosecutor with no credibility was willing to invent stories that the Trump administration wanted to hear.



Viktor Shokin

Ex-top prosecutor who protected corruption says he was fired because of Biden and makes ridiculous accusations in affidavit to support Firtash.



Andriy Telizhenko

Ex-Ukrainian Embassy employee in Washington, D.C., told Giuliani what he wanted to hear in May 17 meeting.



Andriy Derkach

Discredited lawmaker is part of the drive to dig up dirt on the Bidens.

Oligarch in exile



Dmytro Firtash

Exiled oligarch fighting U.S. extradition is suspected of stoking anti-Biden effort.

Photos by AFP, Volodymyr Petrov, Andriy Telizhenko/facebook, Andriy Derkach/facebook, Victoria Toensing/facebook, U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, courtesy.

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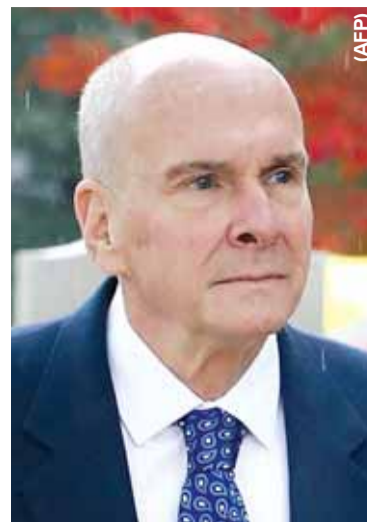
Fiona Hill, former senior director for European and Russian affairs on the National Security Council.

Key message: She confronted U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland about Rudy Giuliani's shady activities in Ukraine for the benefit of his client, President Donald Trump, actions not coordinated with U.S. officials responsible for Ukraine policy, according to the Washington Post.



George Kent, deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs.

Key message: He was told by Acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney to "lay low" while Rick Perry, Gordon Sondland, and Kurt Volker took charge of Ukraine policy, according to the Washington Post.



Michael McKinley, former top adviser to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Key message: He said he resigned over disagreement with President Donald Trump's use of U.S. diplomats to pursue his personal political goals and the dismissal of U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie L. Yovanovitch, according to the Washington Post.



Marie Yovanovitch, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine (2016-2019).

Key message: She was removed from her post by President Donald Trump who lost confidence in her. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan told her she had done nothing wrong but there had been a concerted campaign against her, according to Yovanovitch's opening remarks before the investigating U.S. House committees.

Impeachment witnesses tell how Ukraine policy hijacked by Giuliani

By Bermet Talant

bermet@kyivpost.com

The U.S. House of Representatives is moving quickly in its impeachment inquiry regarding President Trump's pressure on Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, his possible rival in the upcoming 2020 election, regarding his son Hunter Biden's work for Ukrainian gas company Burisma.

The Trump administration's push for an investigation culminated in a July 25 phone call with President Volodymyr Zelensky, in which the U.S. president openly requested that his Ukrainian counterpart look into the Bidens and alleged Ukrainian interference in the 2016 election. Later, U.S. media reported that Trump appeared to be conditioning \$391 million in military aid and a White House invitation on Zelensky's willingness to cooperate.

The latest testimonies by a number of former and current U.S. officials have provided insights into the covert foreign policy carried out some members of the Trump administration and led by Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani.

One of the targets of this campaign was former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, whose abrupt removal by Trump was announced on May 18, two days before Zelensky's inauguration.

In an opening statement to her testimony on Oct. 12, Yovanovitch said that in late April she was ordered to



U.S. President Donald Trump offers a handshake to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during their meeting in New York on Sept. 25, 2019, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

come back to Washington "on the next plane."

When she sought an explanation from Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan, he told her that Trump had "lost confidence in her" and had pressured the State Department to remove her since summer 2018. Sullivan assured her she "had done nothing wrong" and that there had been "a concerted campaign against her."

In a flurry of deceitful allegations by then-Prosecutor General Yuri Lutsenko and picked up by Giuliani, Yovanovitch was accused of disloyalty to Trump and a pro-Hillary Clinton bias, as well as of exerting pressure on Ukrainian officials not to prosecute the Anti-Corruption Action Center, a local anti-corruption watchdog, and other individuals.

Lutsenko has since recanted his claims.

Little-known in the U.S., Yovanovitch was a harsh critic of Ukraine's sluggish fight against corruption and a strong supporter of establishing independent anti-graft agencies. Her stance earned her the ire of Lutsenko.

NBC News reported that Lutsenko is believed to be the unnamed Ukrainian official who sought to advance his political interests by working with Giuliani's two associates — Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman — to have Yovanovitch removed from office, according to an indictment by

the attorney of the Southern District of New York.

Parnas and Fruman were arrested last week while trying to flee the U.S. and charged with violating campaign finance laws. The indictment by the Southern District of New York alleged that the two Soviet-born Florida businessmen donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to candidates for federal and state office "to buy influence" while concealing the source of the money, part of which came from an unnamed Russian citizen.

This week, two other men named in the indictment were arrested: Ukrainian-born California businessman Andrey Kukushkin and another Florida businessman, David Correia.

Parnas and Fruman organized meetings in Ukraine for Giuliani while pursuing their own commercial interests: selling liquefied natural gas to Ukraine, according to the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project.



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It is the right time to bring more hope and actions for helping patients with diabetes



According to the figures of the International Diabetes Federation, in 2017, approximately 425 million adults (aged 20-79) were living with diabetes all over the world; by 2045, this number will rise to 629 million. The proportion of people with type 2 diabetes is increasing in most countries. Seventy-nine percent of adults with diabetes are living in low- and middle-income countries*. The number of people with diabetes is constantly increasing. The prevalence is expected to rise sharply over the next 40 years due to an aging population more likely to develop type 2 diabetes.



Diabetes Federation, in 2017, approximately 425 million adults (aged 20-79) were living with diabetes all over the world; by 2045, this number will rise to 629 million. The proportion of people with type 2 diabetes is increasing in most countries. Seventy-nine percent of adults with diabetes are living in low- and middle-income countries. The number of people with diabetes is constantly increasing. The prevalence is expected to rise sharply over the next 40 years due to an aging population more likely to develop type 2 diabetes.

Almost 1.3 million people with diabetes are officially registered in Ukraine. More than 200,000 patients of these are insulin-dependent. According to the Ukrainian Scientific and Practical Center of Endocrine Surgery, Transplantation of Endocrine Organs and Tissues of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, 9,500 children in Ukraine have diabetes – basically, type 1 diabetes.

Creating communities which will fight injustice in healthcare and other aspects of the lives of people with diabetes

Awareness about diabetes in Ukrainian society is extremely low. Preschool children with diabetes are not always enrolled in kinder-

garten, and children of school age may be rejected by the administration of sports clubs. Teachers in kindergartens, sports coaches and medical staff in schools are often afraid of taking responsibility for kids with diabetes. Very often, parents – especially mothers – give up their jobs and hobbies in order to take better care of their children. This is the moral and psychological burden of the disease for both parents and children in Ukraine. The families are not provided with systematic psychological assistance. Those who are living in villages or small towns do not have access to diabetes self-control schools or the chance to meet other families going through the same problem. They often become lonely and isolated.

Being aware of the need of children with diabetes and their families to be strongly supported by the medical community, society, and other families in such a situation, Sanofi Ukraine as a socially responsible company implemented several social projects. One of them is “Diabetes. Your Story,” an all-Ukrainian storytelling contest among children with diabetes, which includes DiaCamp in Kamianets-Podilskyi. The life of a child with type 1 diabetes is accompanied by the stress



of daily disease control that could be relieved via creativity, for example, writing and blogging, which are quite popular in the modern digital world. On Sept. 18, winners of the contest aged 7 to 16 together with their parents took part in recreation and educational activities, including ballooning, handicrafts and storytelling workshops. Time spent together brought kids with diabetes and their parents closer and developed a strong bond between them. In this way, Sanofi motivates the families affected by diabetes to form their communities, to become more active in educating themselves on diabetes and standing up for their rights.

Sanofi has a long history of conducting creative contests for children with diabetes in Ukraine. The company has been implementing the All-Ukrainian Diabetes Contest for children with diabetes for 10 years in order to help young patients to socialize, make new friendships and receive appreciation and support.

parts of Ukraine evaluated children's stories together with a creative jury consisting of well-known Ukrainian writers: Ivan Andrusiak, Sashko Dermansky and journalist Iryna Storozhenko. Later on, the jury members shared the feedback that they witnessed the mature and responsible approach of children with diabetes to dealing with their lives and controlling the disease.

In letters to doctors, children with diabetes expressed gratitude and strong emotions, which inspired the doctors to establish even stronger partnership with their young patients. After all, the role of the doctor in the life of a child with diabetes is as much important as the role of the parents, because the success of treatment relies on trust between the doctor or endocrinologist and the person with diabetes.

“Thank you for your work. You opened to me a world where I need to fight and conquer,” said 8-year-old winner of “Diabetes.



In this way, Sanofi also covers a number of other issues. It draws the attention of stakeholders and the general public to diabetes and its effective management, both from a medical and psychological point of view. This approach helps Ukrainian patients to live to their full potential, as in developed countries.

Young patients and their doctors need to develop a trusted relationship for better diabetes therapy

Thirty-eight endocrinologists from different

Your Story” Liubomyr Tykhonchuk, expressing his gratitude to the doctor. In response, Nadiia Muliar, an endocrinologist from Khmelnytsky city who accompanied children during DiaCamp, shared her impressions: “Thanks to the “Diabetes. Your Story” project, children overcame two fears: sharing their feelings on the illness with the public and getting over the fear of heights. All children with diabetes participated in ballooning. And this again proved that a serious disease is not a barrier to any achievements. I am proud of our young patients!”

The participants of the “Diabetes. Your Story” project inspire other children with the same illness to believe in themselves, to grow up as active and strong individuals who are ready to stand up for their rights.

Guilhem Granier, Country Chair of Sanofi Ukraine said: “Patients, NGOs and business need to consolidate their resources to improve diabetes care in Ukraine, to raise an awareness about the disease, to motivate the patients to stand up for their rights, and create an environment for acceptance of people with diabetes by the society. And this time, when Ukrainian society is passing through significant changes in healthcare system, is the right time to bring more hope and actions for helping patients with diabetes”.

*<https://www.idf.org/aboutdiabetes/what-is-diabetes/facts-figures.html>

EDITORIALS

Wanted: oligarch justice

While there are some hopeful criminal investigations under way, the oligarchs in Ukraine threaten to tame President Volodymyr Zelensky just like they did his predecessors.

Zelensky rails publicly and hard against officials or businesspeople he considers "bandits."

But when face-to-face with the biggest oligarchs, he appears unwilling or unable to confront them, and the damage they are doing to Ukraine.

His administration may never recover from the political or economic damage if billionaire oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky, with whom Zelensky has done business and met in the President's Office on Sept. 10, regains control of PrivatBank, the country's biggest lender.

In London, Kolomoisky is set to face trial over alleged fraud. To avoid English justice, he will need to persuade the Supreme Court there to throw out the case against him. It looks unlikely to happen: a High Court justice has recognized that "fraud on an epic scale" took place while the oligarch owned PrivatBank and this week, the Court of Appeal reminded us that Kolomoisky knows he is in trouble: "the defendants do not dispute the existence of a good and arguable fraudulent case against them."

But the signs are less positive in courtrooms here in Ukraine, where the bank and its customers are located.

The state nationalized PrivatBank in 2016 because forensic audits found that Kolomoisky and co-accused lent money to themselves, associated businesses and partners, allegedly stealing at least \$5.5 billion this way, driving the bank to insolvency. Taxpayers had to step in with the cash — an amount that is more than 10 percent of the nation's annual budget.

Evidence shows Kolomoisky should be indicted for bank fraud and forced to reimburse taxpayers. So far, we see no movement here in Ukraine on possible criminal charges from Zelensky-era prosecutor general, Ruslan Ryaboshapka. We hope he doesn't go down the route of his predecessors, notably Yuriy Lutsenko, who even met with Kolomoisky in Amsterdam in 2017.

Kolomoisky has the gall to not only want the bank back, but to demand reimbursement for the state saving it. It appears that the Kyiv judge hearing his lawsuit, Liudmila Shkurdova, could be in his pocket. She has kept the proceedings closed, citing banking secrecy laws. This is wrong. The public's right to know how these proceedings are conducted outweighs the sanctity of a private contract. This is a public court hearing a case on a matter of tremendous public importance.

Now we know why the judge wanted secrecy. Two lawyers involved in the trial tell the Kyiv Post that the judge routinely rules against the defendant PrivatBank's interests and doesn't allow fair arguments. She acts like a one-woman kangaroo court, even turning down attempts to empanel three judges, making co-option less likely, but still possible. A ruling in favor of Kolomoisky won't surprise anyone.

Kolomoisky isn't the only problem. There is no reason for oligarchs like Dmytro Firtash to continue to have their monopoly or oligopoly privileges in energy or media. Ex-President Petro Poroshenko is no longer in power. Their "Vienna Agreement" of mutual support is no longer in force. Zelensky controls parliament. It's high time that he strips the privileges of Firtash and the rest of the oligarchs, Rinat Akhmetov and Victor Pinchuk among them.

We saw some good signs on Oct. 17, when law enforcement came after two notorious untouchables. The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine arrested ex-National Security and Defense Council chief Oleg Hladkovsky, one of the closest associates of Poroshenko. Hladkovsky is investigated for abuse of office, having allegedly given a lucrative defense contract to his company. On the same day, Ryaboshapka filed a request for the parliament to allow the prosecution of its member Yaroslav Dubnevych. A powerful businessman benefitting from state contracts, Dubnevych is suspected of embezzlement.

Even though they are second-tier people, these two are as high as law enforcement has reached in a while.

It's a good start for Ryaboshapka. His office looks promising with three well-reputed deputies he appointed: Vitaly Kasko, Viktor Chumak, and Viktor Trepak. We will see if they are capable to reach higher and eventually bring the big shots to justice.

Trump betrayals

U.S. President Donald J. Trump's abandonment of Kurdish allies in northern Syria is another wake-up call for Ukraine. Not that Ukraine needs any more reminders. Trump made it clear in numerous ways that he does not stand up to dictators, human rights abusers and bullies.

He said directly to President Volodymyr Zelensky, in their September press conference during the United Nations General Assembly, that the Ukrainian leader should meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and "sort out their problems." It's like sending the victim back to the abuser.

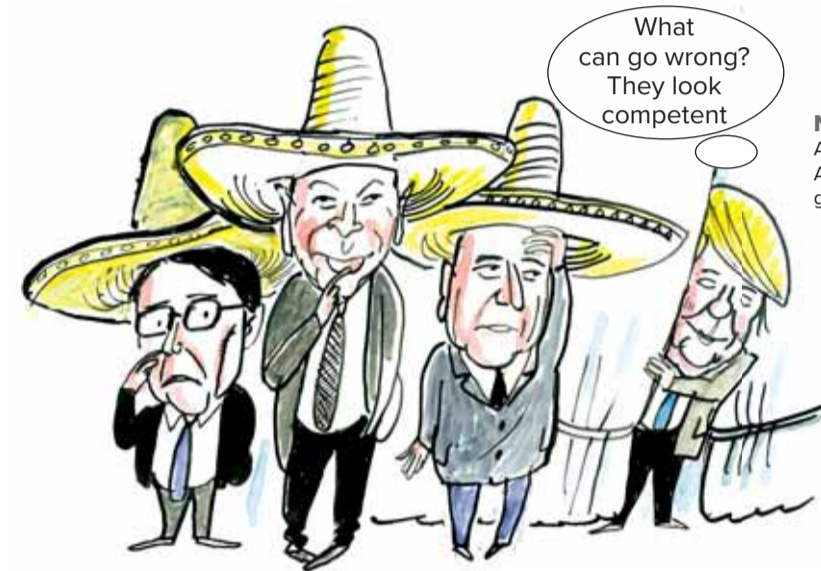
Trump's July 25 phone call with Zelensky, now the subject of an impeachment inquiry, also showed that the American president doesn't care about Ukraine's security, but only what he can get from other foreign leaders to benefit him politically or financially.

After the abrupt withdrawal of U.S. forces, many Kurds felt they were left with a terrible choice, reminiscent of Ukrainians who had to choose between Hitler or Stalin: Get slaughtered by Turkey, which considers many of them terrorists, or make a deal with the war criminal Bashar al-Assad. They chose the Syrian dictator.

Ukraine is in a different and better position. It has its own nation, unlike the Kurds, and plenty of people willing to fight for it. It needs a lot more help from the West to prevail in this war. But Trump and the European Union have shown that Ukraine shouldn't expect much from them. Ukraine is going to have to win this war mostly on its own, until voters in Western nations start electing politicians with greater courage and stronger moral principles to fight for a global expansion of democracy.



NEWS ITEM: Ukrainian oligarch in exile Dmytro Firtash appears to have been supplying information about Ukraine to the associates of U.S. President Donald Trump amid the American leader's campaign to find dirt against his political rivals in Ukraine. Firtash, meanwhile, has spent the past five years fighting extradition from Vienna, where he lives, to the U.S., where he is wanted on bribery charges that he denies.



NEWS ITEM: According to a testimony that Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George Kent gave to the House on Oct. 15, President Donald Trump's administration put three men in charge of the U.S.-Ukraine account: Special Envoy Kurt Volker, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, and U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland. They were known as the "three amigos."



NEWS ITEM: U.S. President Donald Trump's latest actions have benefited Russia. First, Trump tried to force Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate Trump's political rivals, putting Ukraine in the center of a political scandal. Then, Trump abruptly ordered U.S. troops to withdraw from Syria, letting the Syrian government army and its assisting Russian troops claim new territories without a fight.



NEWS ITEM: Former owners of state-owned PrivatBank Ihor Kolomoisky and Gennady Bogolyubov have failed to persuade the English Court of Appeal that fraud claims brought against the pair by PrivatBank should not be litigated in U.K. jurisdiction. The court ruled on Oct. 15 that PrivatBank can move forward with its lawsuit that alleges fraud on a massive scale by its former owners. At the same time, a Ukrainian judge in a Kyiv court hearing a separate dispute over PrivatBank is reportedly showing bias in favor of Kolomoisky.

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Reformer & Anti-Reformer Of The Week		Ukraine's Friend & Foe Of The Week	
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VOX populi: What would you do to curb corruption in Ukraine?

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Businesses spending more on corporate social responsibility

By Natalia Datskevych and Jack Laurenson

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Corporate social responsibility, commonly called CSR, has become a routine part of Western corporate culture. Firms want to give back to the community and often need to clean up their image too. However, the practice is still not commonplace in Ukraine and it is mainly promoted by big domestic or international companies.

The Kyiv Post took a look at the major players starting to spend big on CSR and developing the concept in the country.

Luxoptica's good vision

In Ukraine, regular health checkups are still not a part of the nation's culture. Pharmacists are overworked while unwell people tend to visit a doctor only when something is really wrong. Vision tests are not a norm, with many people still shying away from visiting an optician.

To fix this gap, Ukraine's largest network of opticians, Luxoptica, decided to launch a nationwide program of free eye checkups called Healthy Vision.

"Since the culture on preventing vision loss is very low in Ukraine, many people have the wrong glasses or they simply don't check their eye-



DTEK employees paint a fence in Kyiv's National Botanical Garden in 2018. It's part of a program that the company has been organizing for at least six years. It includes planting trees, installing new park benches and cleaning the park.

sight," said Violeta Titarenko, head of marketing at Luxoptica.

One aspect of the program sends opticians to schools to check the vision of children. According to Titarenko, half of the children they have checked had a problem with their vision. In half of those cases,

the problem was diagnosed for the first time.

"Kids in eighth or ninth grade can have already serious problems, but due to the fact that there were no checkups before, parents didn't know about it," she said.

In the past two years, 8,000

children were checked, a number the company expects to double by February 2020.

Another part of the program involves Luxoptica specialists visiting companies to do checkups for office workers. This summer, the company also started the program

in cooperation with a few business centers and shopping malls such as Auchan, where vision checkups take place in specially equipped vehicles. "Everyone can check their eyesight for free there," said Titarenko.

Winner on road safety

Every day, at least eight people die in car accidents in Ukraine. At least 1,688 people died in the first seven months of 2019, according to the National Police of Ukraine. Road traffic accidents are the most common type of avoidable death among young people.

Observing such a sad trend, Winner Group, one of Ukraine's largest car importers, became a partner and financial donor two years ago in Traffic Challenge, a large-scale campaign supported by the government that aims to decrease the number of car accidents in Ukraine.

The company organizes training for schools, online webinars and donates reflective bracelets and jackets to children.

Winner also invests in an educational program called "My First Profession" for students in orphanages so they can eventually build a career by training in areas like hairdressing, tailoring, shoemaking or cooking.

"They can obtain some experience

→ page 8

Advertisement

Farmak takes environmental education online with EcoSchool at ecoschool.com.ua



Every student from the 6th through 11th grade can register on the distance learning platform and participate in the EcoSchool project.

The objective of the EcoSchool project is to bring together the youth around ecological values, promote an environmentally friendly lifestyle and build a culture of saving resources and energy.

Attending EcoSchool, students can learn about such topics as energy saving, climate change and biodiversity by playing board and action eco-games. They learn the basics of project management and develop eco-projects for their schools.

To join a project one should submit an individual application and form a team, individually go through all stages of learning, finish the team homework and submit an eco-project for the contest.

Classes will be held remotely. The students will be able to attend 12 lectures, take tests and send us their home assignments. Also, interesting webinars with top Ukrainian environmental experts will be held during the school year.

The top three eco-projects from schools will receive financial support for their implementation from JSC Farmak. All participants will receive gifts and certificates from the organizers.

This is the second year Farmak has been implementing the EcoSchool project. During this period over 200 school students from Kyiv and Shostka completed their studies and change their attitude towards the environment. They became ambassadors of environmental culture in Ukraine.

Today, we want to provide the same opportunity to all school students in Ukraine. That is why EcoSchool will take place online. Everyone will be able to obtain knowledge about the environment and ways to make their lives, their school, town, city and Ukraine better.

The world is going green by introducing energy efficient technologies, giving up plastic, using alternative sources of energy. Farmak, as a European company, also adheres to the principles of sustainable development. We make effective pharmaceutical products affordable for all. We care about reducing our environmental impact and work on improving the state of the environment in Ukraine," emphasized Olena Zubareva, External Communications Manager at JSC Farmak.



Project background

The EcoSchool pilot project was successfully implemented in Shostka, where the API production facility of JSC Farmak is located. Overall, 9 schools from the city participated in the pilot. Within the framework of the project, the students of the 8th to 11th grades

took an 8-month educational course on global environmental issues and learned to use their new knowledge in practice.

The best projects aimed at solving ecological issues by a specific school were awarded with mini-grants from JSC Farmak so they could be implemented.

The successful launch of the EcoSchool project provides an opportunity to spread it to different parts of Ukraine, involving drivers of the environmental enlightenment movement, socially responsible business and, most importantly, the passionate and progressive young generation. In 2018, the EcoSchool project was ranked among the Top 20 Social Projects in Ukraine.

In 2019, Farmak expanded the EcoSchool project and involved 10 Kyiv schools. A unique educational and methodical textbook with the most important issues the world is facing today was created for the students. The EcoSchool textbook was approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.



Tobacco industry kills 85,000 addicted Ukrainians annually

By Vyacheslav Hnatyuk

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Every day, Ukraine loses an average of 321 people from illnesses caused by smoking, yet tobacco manufacturers enjoy a respectable reputation among investors, and politicians and public figures openly flirt with big tobacco, yoking the country to ever more control by the cigarette barons.

And while big tobacco promotes their so-called corporate social responsibility, or CSR, these programs are nothing but cheap giveaways that don't change the companies' bottom lines.

"The tobacco industry is a major killer as their product not only leads to addiction, but also causes death among more than a half of the people consuming tobacco products," said Liliya Olefir, executive director of Life, the Ukraine-based anti-tobacco advocacy center.

Olefir spoke at an Oct. 10 press conference at UNIAN information agency where she presented the global Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2019, which evaluates how tobacco industry lobbying harms public health policy around the world.

"The tobacco industry is still a massive problem for governments in moving forward to protect their countries from the massive losses suffered from the tobacco epidemics," Bungon Ritthiphakdee of the Global Centre for Good Governance in Tobacco Control explained. "The tobacco industry may claim publicly that they are changing, but behind the scene it is fighting very hard to sabotage effective regulations."

Where Ukraine stands

Among 33 countries reviewed regarding the tobacco industry's interference in national policymaking, Ukraine placed 19th (1 is the best possible score). Ukraine is also 13th in terms of the tobacco industry's interference in the policy of tobacco control. That is another warning signal: In Ukraine, the tobacco industry helps the government fight illicit trade and trafficking of tobacco products, a classic conflict of interest.



A man buys two cartons of cigarettes in downtown Kyiv. Ukrainians suffer from easy access to and popularity of smoking in the country, the result of aggressive promotion by the big tobacco.

Ukraine also lacks a code of conduct for officials' contact with the tobacco industry and only limits employees at the Ministry of Health from contacts with tobacco producers. As a result, Ukraine ranked 20th in this section of the rating.

However, Ukraine did fare well in one area. Senior government officials have not been spotted joining tobacco companies' payrolls after retirement, so the country placed second in that ranking. However, this does not mean that relatives of policymakers or mid-level officials shun tobacco-related careers.

Ukraine and big tobacco

Among the world's 1.1 billion smokers, about 80% live in low and middle-income countries, according to the World Health Organization. "The global tobacco epidemic is shifting to the developing world, where less well-resourced countries

find themselves unable to counter tobacco industry exploitation," said Dr. Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva in a World Health Organization report.

This is exactly what happened in Ukraine in the early 1990s, when the major tobacco corporations arrived in the impoverished, investment-thirsty country.

In 1993, British American Tobacco built a tobacco factory in Pryluky, Japan Tobacco International (then operating under the brand R.J. Reynolds) opened a plant in Kremenchuk, and Imperial Tobacco tapped the Ukrainian market by establishing a joint venture with a Kyiv tobacco plant. Philip Morris arrived a year later, and the company currently owns two cigarette production plants in Kharkiv Oblast.

These four major players have teamed up to form "Ukrtyutyun," a lobbying group that operates in parliament and the presidential office, using major business associations as their lobbyists. The European Business Association and the American Chamber of Commerce regularly speak up for them as responsible foreign investors.

Big tobacco strategies

All over the world, "the tobacco industry undermines, blocks or delays government efforts to develop tobacco control policies," the index report reads.

In Ukraine, big tobacco has recently been fighting two bills aimed at curbing the industry's grip. One would increase the fines for smoking in public places, ban aggressive sales tactics and make the list of places where smoking is not allowed more comprehensive. The second involves banning internet advertising, increasing graphic warnings on

cigarette packs, removing aroma cigarettes from the market and introducing rules for e-cigarettes mixed with herbs.

Unethical lobbying is largely responsible for Ukraine's failures in the fight against tobacco. "In Ukraine, members of parliament have been lobbied by the tobacco industry resulting in the delayed passage of an effective tobacco control law," states the report. As Ukrainian law does not require officials to report on meetings and cooperation with the tobacco industry, there is no mechanism to track or prevent such contacts.

Yet during the two previous years, Olefir says she and her team have, "revealed precedents when the tobacco industry violated Ukrainian laws, tried to directly influence members of parliament and public officials."

In the previous convocation of the Verkhovna Rada, the legislature did not pass a single anti-tobacco law "due to connections of the tobacco business with the deputies," according to Olefir.

Moreover, there are members of parliament who are overtly promoting the interests of the tobacco industry. On Oct. 10, Oleksiy Honcharenko, a medical doctor and member of the European Solidarity faction, submitted a bill aimed at preventing stricter regulation of tobacco sales. And Nina Yuzhanina,

a European Solidarity member and former chairperson of the taxation committee, has become known for blocking anti-tobacco legislation in parliament. Journalist and politician Ihor Lutsenko described Yuzhanina at the press conference as "the leader of lobbyism for tobacco smoking in parliament."

Lutsenko shed light on other legislative strategies by big tobacco, including "the massive registration of alternative bills against those aimed at decreasing smoking, speeches by members of parliament with the goal of disorienting the public, and cooperation with those media that do not shun contact with big tobacco."

No responsibility

Countries like France, Brazil, Thailand and Iran have banned corporate social responsibility programs from tobacco manufacturers "because the industry uses these activities to clean its image, buy public goodwill and win political mileage," the index report reads. It is high time Ukraine follows suit. Otherwise, tobacco companies will impregnate society with the idea that smoking is a normal and acceptable social phenomenon, even if somewhat dangerous.

In fact, Ukrainian authorities often accept gifts from cigarette producers. The webpage of the Kharkiv Oblast Council has been promoting Philip Morris as a responsible investor

“
The tobacco industry is still a massive problem for governments.
”

Bungon Ritthiphakdee



Anti-tobacco groups stage demonstration outside Ukrainian parliament on May 31, 2016, to promote World No Tobacco Day and pending anti-tobacco legislation. It was supposed, among other things, to introduce larger and more varied health warnings. The eighth convocation of Verkhovna Rada failed to pass any anti-tobacco laws during its tenure in 2014-2019.

While posturing as good citizens, industry thwarts strong policies

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since 2010, and the director general of Philip Morris Ukraine, Michalis Alexandrakis, is given a platform on the council's website to describe the positive impact of his company.

"We try to participate in social projects. We have three directions in which we cooperate with the state and the local authorities, such as gender equality, help during natural disasters, and third – affordable education," he said there.

Thus, the parties have agreed to further cooperate in the spheres of inclusive education and gender issues, a cunning move by the company to position itself as Kharkiv Oblast's strategic partner.

Shrewd hiring tactics

In terms of tactics, it goes without saying that big tobacco can afford to hire the shrewdest public and corporate relations managers in the market. Moreover, such managers sometimes turn out to be relatives of politicians or otherwise offer powerful connections in Ukraine's political circles.

For example, Yevheniya Kobtseva, daughter of former parliament mem-

ber Mykhaylo Kobtsev, worked for Philip Morris. Kobtsev previously sat on the parliamentary tax committee and has shown himself to be an active opponent of anti-tobacco legislation, lobbying to lower excise taxes on tobacco in 2016.

Nataliya Bondarenko, who was hired as the corporate affairs director for Philip Morris in Ukraine, not only offers legal knowledge and business experience, she is also deeply involved with the country's political circles.

Tetyana Slipachuk, chair of Ukraine's Central Election Commission, wrote the following in a LinkedIn recommendation for Bondarenko: "Nataliya... ensures successful and clear cooperation in projects both legal and those related to the drafting of laws and regulations. She has good professional contacts with external legal advisers and state officials in Ukraine and abroad... Our cooperation in legal matters... as well as in lobbying legislation initiatives was professional and beneficial for the company she works with."

Hope for the future

Hope must persist in the battle



Oksana Totovytska, media coordinator of Life anti-tobacco advocacy center, and Petro Korol, a lawyer of 'Kyiv free of tobacco smoke' project stand in front of Ukraine's Parliament on Sept. 18, 2018, to support the bill against popularization of tobacco, which the Parliament would vote down in May 2019.

against the big tobacco. Volodymyr Kreydenko, a newly elected member of parliament on the ballot of the presidential Servant of the People party, said during the press conference that "the ninth convocation of the Ukrainian parliament is not afraid of being blackmailed (by the tobacco industry) and is prepared to pass anti-tobacco laws to fight for the lives of children, youth and all people."

Kreydenko also assured attendees that he and his colleagues would "pass a number of anti-tobacco laws, which would help fight lobbyism preventing the society from becoming healthier, and we are also going to lower the attractiveness of tobacco

products ... on sale targeting the youth." He also promised to regulate the sale of e-cigarettes.

"The tobacco industry benefits from the lack of regulation and sells the gadgets close to schools and we see children using them without understanding the terrible damage to themselves," Kreydenko said.

Lutsenko also suggested that Ukraine ratify the World Health Organization's protocol to eliminate the illicit trade in tobacco products, a decision that lies in the hands of President Zelensky and the Verkhovna Rada. He noted that previous President Petro Poroshenko "in fact blocked this initiative by systematically losing the documents."

In Lutsenko's opinion, the delays in ratifying the protocol are "not an unpaid or accidental process, but rather a result of lobbyists' influence."

The experts also recommend that Ukraine ban all tobacco industry sponsorships in the guise of corporate social responsibility, cut all tax breaks and benefits for big tobacco and require public officials to disclose all contacts with tobacco industry representatives.

That will require work, according to Lutsenko. It is "a constant struggle, constant competition of technologies in advertisement, lobbyism and public relations in which we need to always be fit and actively offer asymmetric responses," he said. ■

Advertisement —

Life Without Plastic and Polyethylene

Lantmannen AXA, a part of the Scandinavian food concern Lantmannen, uses as its symbol a sprout, which is one of the oldest symbols of life. We have a unique opportunity to undertake responsibility throughout the entire chain, from field to fork. A wide range of operations that we carry out has an impact on nature and people at each stage of the value chain. We have knowledge, control the production processes and encourage sustainable development in all our business areas while minimizing the negative aspects of our influence at the same time.



Lantmannen has a code of business conduct in place. This code is about six main areas in the work of the company and its employees. The code of business conduct describes the common views on doing business shared by all the Lantmannen company groups. One of the principal and most important sections in the Code is "Environment". This section provides that we should preserve the environment and minimize the effects of harmful substances on the air, water and soil. People in the company continuously work on this. Let's take for example the Ukrainian office of the company, where they have stopped using plastic forks, spoons and cups.

How did the idea come about?

The Day Without Polyethylene was quite memorable. The employees were encouraged to come to work with eco bags and abandon the standard and ever-popular polyethylene bags. Each of the employees challenged themselves to "#NoBagNeeded." This was the first impetus – to get together and keep on walking along the eco-path.

Because we care about the environment, Lantmannen is moving step-by-step to abandon plastic – and have stopped using plastic tableware. Generally, people treat all these utensils as something commonplace, and many do not give much thought to what will happen after the plastic has been used and how it will affect the environment. Just think of this: According to statistics, it takes about 200 years for plastic to decompose. Just imagine, for 200 years we will be poisoning the Earth and ourselves with harmful substances that get into the water and the air as the plastic decomposes. Yet we could avoid this, couldn't we? So a decision was made in our company to gradually remove all the plastic from the cafeteria – and it was done. After simple calculations, we found out how much plastic (forks, spoons, knives) is "consumed" – 36,000 pieces a year. A unanimous decision was made: No more plastic in the cafeteria. And this is just the beginning.

It is easier to tread a thorny path with like-minded people

Recently, the head office, which is located in Switzerland, launched a competition for all company offices belonging to the Lantmannen Group. The idea of the competition is to engage more employees in resolving an important issue: "How to get rid of plastic disposable tableware in Lantmannen offices by replacing it with more sustainable and less harmful materials". Either one employee or an entire department may participate by offering a comprehensive approach and ways of solving this problem. The winners will be awarded valuable prizes.

Lantmannen AXA employees willingly join the eco-movement because there are also many activists among them who fight plastic and polyethylene in their lives. For instance, Yuliia, the finan-



cial analysis and planning manager, briefly explained how she had started sorting plastic: "At the moment, 80 percent of my relatives' families sort waste. I found this idea very cool and I support it. I must say at once that this is very 'catching'; once you see that people around you care about the environment, you want to join in and support them. So, if the company is able to organize waste collection and sorting, be sure that the employees' families will do this as well".

We may be at the very start of the eco-path, but this is a great step towards better perception and understanding. Some will simply call this following a trend, but according to Lantmannen AXA, this is a way to make a change for the better. No wonder we like to say: "We make today better than yesterday!"

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Their priorities differ but the goal is the same: Make society better

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for their future life," said Anastasiia Voitkevych, a spokesperson and CSR manager at Winner Group.

Overall, Winner Auto says it spent around \$480,000 on 58 charity projects throughout 2018.

But the company's biggest CSR project is the complete renovation of the neonatal department at a hospital in Lviv, the largest city in western Ukraine located 540 kilometers southwest of Kyiv.

"Last year we donated two ambulances for the neonatal department, which helps premature babies," said Voitkevych.

The company is in the process of donating around 2 million euros for renovation.

In addition, while the company currently imports mainly gasoline cars, it plans to expand the import of electric vehicles. Currently, it sells only the Jaguar model I-pace, which costs around \$75,000. "It's a big trend which will gain momentum," said Voitkevych.

MHP helps rural villages

As a result of decentralization reforms, rural communities face a number of problems when it comes to managing land, including taxation problems and obtaining state subsidies. Moreover, many people living in rural areas feel that Ukraine's medical reform is poorly implemented in villages, leaving them without easy access to medical care.

Enter stage left, one of Ukraine's largest agricultural holdings: Myronivsky Hliboproduct, or MHP. The firm, which operates in 14 regions across Ukraine and has enormous financial resources, is investing in such communities located near the company's facilities.

While MHP's net profits reached \$128 million in 2018, \$8 million of that was spent on CSR projects.

According to Victoria Nagirnyak, head of corporate social responsibility at MHP, villagers face problems including an absence of good roads and access to electricity, water and medical centers. A large portion of the requests for help from MHP are regarding medical assistance.



The Deloitte team in Ukraine wins first place in the annual mini-football charity tournament called The Cup of Open Hearts in 2018, which All-Ukrainian Charity Organization Down Syndrome has been holding for the past nine years among corporate teams. About \$11,000 was collected from 16 teams that participated back then.

"The reality in villages is absolutely different, where medical centers are closing, and, for example, nurses have to put medical droppers illegally. It's very sad," said Nagirnyak.

From her experience, trumpeted statements from the government allocating money to build medical centers have little result, but with MHP it's different: "We allocated money to build two medical centers, around Hr 1.2 million (about \$50,000), for each," she said.

One of the medical projects is called Doctor for the Village and involves MHP funding specialists to do medical examinations. In 195 visits to the villages, doctors did free medical examinations for more than 30,000 people over the past few

years.

"Not every elderly woman or man can go to the closest town in 30 kilometers to do it," said Nagirnyak.

Overall, MHP spent \$480,000 on medical initiatives in 2018. The firm also spent nearly \$2 million on road repairs and construction as well as \$280,000 for electrification and water supply in villages. In total, 110 kilometers of new roads have been laid and nearly 1,000 kilometers were reconstructed in the last four years.

"We have to do what the state is supposed to do," said Nagirnyak.

In addition, the company spent \$1.6 million on 405 schools and kindergartens, allocated to repairs, training and food. An additional \$1.5 million was spent on infrastructure projects like parks, museums and cultural centers.

EY stands for education

Education is a crucial part of CSR activities in Ukraine for Ernst&Young (EY), one of the Big Four international accounting firms.

EY has had department at Kyiv National Economic University since 2016, where company specialists give free lectures to students, according to Natalia Telenkova, head of the corporate social responsibility committee at the firm.

There is also an English school at EY's offices in Kyiv for orphans to study during the summer holidays. Last year 15 students studied there.

EY also launched an educational project for accounting teachers at universities. "It's an upgrade training for teachers from different cities

across Ukraine," said Telenkova.

Overall, in 2018 EY spent nearly \$46,000 on CSR projects, with \$40,000 going to educational programs and charity, including donations for children fighting cancer.

According to Telenkova, CSR is seriously promoted by some 50 businesses in Ukraine, while only a few hundred are engaged with such initiatives.

"It's not hard to promote the conception, but results are poor. There is no desired support from the government," she said.

DTEK spends big

Ukraine's largest energy company, owned by the controversial billionaire oligarch Rinat Akhmetov, does not have a spotless reputation.

The firm has extensive holdings in coal, oil and gas and is criticized for being a polluter. It also frequently comes under fire for its monopolistic approach to business in Ukraine.

But DTEK is also big on CSR, and has whole teams of employees dedicated to social responsibility, sustainability and philanthropy.

In 2007, DTEK became a party to the UN Global Compact, a major global sustainable development ini-

tiative that unites 9,200 companies and organizations from 166 countries around the world.

The DTEK Group told the Kyiv Post that it is heavily focused on long-term sustainable development, and

this can be seen throughout years of investments in a growing green energy portfolio. In 2019, DTEK built the largest solar power plant in Europe, a vast farm with 246 MW of capacity. More broadly, it is the biggest single player in Ukraine's growing renewable market.

A spokesperson also said that UN Sustainable Development

Goals have been integrated into the DTEK Group's overall business strategy. "All actions and decisions taken by the company must correlate with the interests of society," the company added. DTEK companies also pride themselves on having a "social partnership" with the communities where they operate, with "the aim of building trust-based relationships."

"Our goal is to improve the quality of life within those communities through the sustainable social, economic and cultural development,"

“Ukraine lacks a common understanding of the role of CSR in society, from the media to state bodies.”

Svitlana Dovgych



A doctor with electrocardiogram equipment makes a test to a male patient as a part of the MHP medical assistance program launched in rural areas across Ukraine.

Corporations show their compassionate side by championing various social causes

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a spokesperson said, highlighting flagship programs that include, for example, energy-efficient schools.

Since 2005, DTEK says its overall contributions to sustainability initiatives as part of its CSR goals have amounted to \$1.5 billion.

Deloitte aids filmmakers

For Deloitte, one of the largest financial advisory firms in the world, Ukrainian cinema is about more than simply watching a movie.

Since 2016, Deloitte has been one of the main financial backers of Watch Ukrainian, a program that helps create short movies by young screenwriters.

"This project touches a deeper topic on values in society. This is the project we are proud of," said Kateryna Iurchenko, a corporate responsibility and sustainability supervisor at Deloitte.

So far, three movies have been filmed with Deloitte's financial support.

Another big Deloitte's program is called Wellbeing. Designed for company employees, it includes six sport sections that encourage physical health through football, basketball, volleyball squash, pilates and running.

In addition, there has even been a program on daily meditation for two years. "Every employee can attend meditation at 3 pm right in the office," said Iurchenko.

Deloitte also provides a program called WorldClass, which includes



Maryna Saprykina, director of the Corporate Social Responsibility Development Center. (Courtesy)

educational programs for underprivileged young people, those with disabilities from rural areas.

KPMG and compassion

Not all CSR initiatives are a top-down affair, and many companies are seeing their employees taking the lead.

One example in Ukraine is the major international auditing and accounting firm KPMG, which has a number of philanthropic initiatives, especially in the capital.

A KPMG spokesperson told the Kyiv Post that their employees hold donation-focused charity days at their offices for Tabletochki, a children's cancer charity, and others non-profits. They also run sponsored marathons and support homeless

charities and animal shelters.

All of the company's CSR initiatives are driven by employees rather than upper-management, and workers have a broad range of charitable interests.

But KPMG said managers support their employees with activities like workshops and pro bono training events. KPMG supports universities too, and student interns are often given the chance to become an employee at the firm. Other employees are involved in projects that support needy families in Ukraine's southeastern Kherson region.

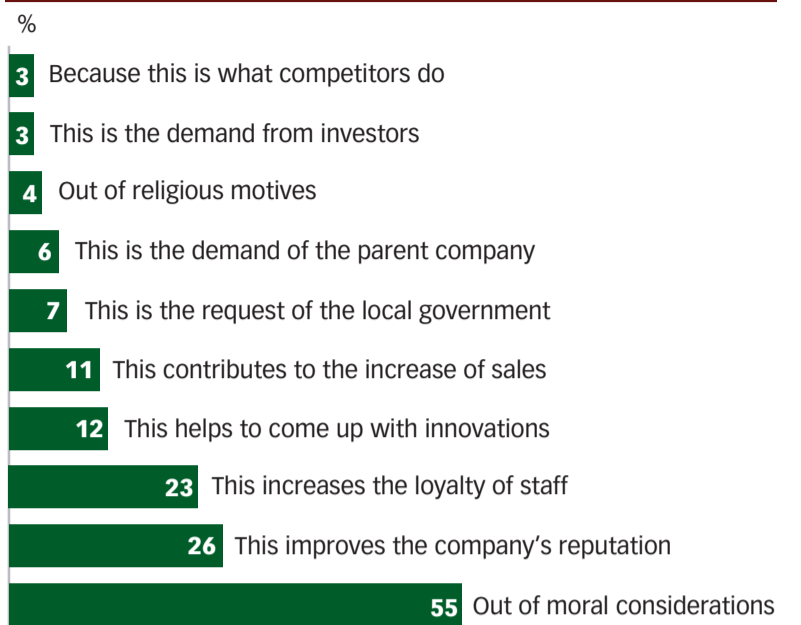
Support from Integrites

Kyiv-based international law firm Integrites is focused on using its extensive legal expertise in a way that gives back to the community, providing pro bono legal services to a number of charities, foundations and philanthropic associations.

A spokesperson mentioned Lifelover, Blagomay and the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union as notable examples. Blagomay is a charitable fund for orphans, Lifelover supports the disadvantaged elderly and the human rights union brings together 29 nonprofits that defend human rights in Ukraine, all benefiting from the pro bono legal services at Integrites.

At the same time, Integrites is strongly focused on schools that are nurturing a new generation of lawyers. Oleh Zahnitko, partner in the firm's banking and finance practice, serves as a strategic advisor to the honorary president of the Kyiv School of Economics, Tymofiy

Reasons why companies implement corporate social responsibility in Ukraine



Source: Corporate Social Responsibility Development Center

Out of 400 enterprises questioned, most said that they implement corporate social responsibility out of moral considerations as well as for improving their reputation. The 2018 questionnaire was done in cooperation with the Embassy of The Netherlands in Kyiv and in partnership with DTEK, Syngenta and M.S.L. companies.

Corporate social responsibility measures that businesses implement in Ukraine



Source: Corporate Social Responsibility Development Center

Out of 400 enterprises questioned, most said that they implement corporate social responsibility for improving staff conditions and for charity work. The 2018 questionnaire was done in cooperation with the Embassy of The Netherlands in Kyiv and in partnership with DTEK, Syngenta and M.S.L. companies.



An optician tests the vision of a girl in school as part of a Luxoptica program called "Healthy Vision."

Mylovanov, on a pro bono basis, and the firm has also worked closely with the National University of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, launching multiple courses and initiatives there.

Asters Legal School

In 2013, Kyiv-based law firm Asters in partnership with the European Business Association launched Legal School, a unique, free of charge platform for Ukrainian legal practitioners to share experiences and best practices to secure legal support and protection of businesses.

"Apart from contribution to the increase of legal awareness, the Legal School also helps to unite and develop the Ukrainian legal community," said Oleg Kirichuk, PR Coordinator at Asters.

In total, over 1,500 participants have attended classes at the Legal School in the past six years.

However, Kirichuk still sees that complex programs are not common for businesses across the country. "Comprehensive CSR programs are mostly run by international businesses operating in Ukraine or by the largest oligarch-owned Ukrainian companies trying to whitewash their owner's reputation," he said.

But his attitude on development remains optimistic: "I do hope that

the new ethical standards are slowly, but steadily establishing within Ukrainian business community," said Kirichuk.

Sanofi & scientists

As Ukrainian medical science dramatically lacks government financing, the French multinational pharmaceutical company Sanofi has stepped in, launching a program to support young scientists.

For two years the company, in partnership with the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, has conducted a scientific research competition where winners get \$6,000, \$4,000 and \$2,000 cash prizes for the first, second and third places respectively.

This year, the three winning teams had very different topics — one created a molecule with antitumor effects, another created a diabetes control application for the doctor and patient and the third developed a substance with antimicrobial action, according to Svitlana Dovgych, head of communication at Sanofi.

But still the level and amount of CSR activities in Ukraine are far from enough: "Ukraine lacks a common understanding of the role of CSR in society, from the media to state bodies," said Dovgych. ■

Kyiv Post enters its 25th year with gratitude and greater ambitions



Brian Bonner
bonner@kyivpost.com

Today's print edition of the Kyiv Post shows off our new look, in honor of the start of our 25th year. The newspaper's 24th birthday is Oct. 18, 2019, but we will launch a year-long celebration of the newspaper starting today.

We went with a light and uncluttered design, unlike the heavy front page of the first edition in 1995. It definitely was not a thing of beauty: The main photo captured the bloodied corpse of a shirtless "unnamed terrorist" shot dead on a Moscow street after hijacking a busload of South Korean tourists. Nonetheless, the first edition hangs in a place of honor in our lobby, a reminder of our humble and hopeful beginnings.

But even then, the newspaper had a distinctive style, flair and news sense that foreshadowed its staying power, thanks to dozens of talented journalists, sales managers, designers, and others.

We enter our 25th year with deep gratitude -- to publisher Adnan Kivan for believing and investing in us, and to our international com-

munity of readers and advertisers. Without your support, Ukraine's Global Voice would not exist.

The Kyiv Post has been in seven offices, in Podil and Pechersk neighborhoods, on the left bank, and now in Taras Shevchenko district. I've been around long enough to have worked in all but the first one, an apartment that our founder, American Jed Sunden, worked from when he launched the paper. Sunden's name appears as the first chief editor in the first edition as well. The legal notice says he registered the newspaper on Oct. 2, 1995.

Soon, the Kyiv Post will move into our eighth office in 25 years, this one on Zhylianska Street, in a brand new 22-story office/apartment complex being built by Kivan, who bought the newspaper in 2018 from Mohammad Zahoor, who in turn bought it from Sunden in 2009. The new office will be our biggest and most modern yet, a sign that we

plan to stay in business for a long time to come and a demonstrable manifestation of the resources that Kivan is devoting to independent journalism.

Of course, much has changed in the last 24 years, for Ukraine and the newspaper industry. Google, Facebook and Twitter have taken much of the advertising revenue that used to go to newspapers, leaving many newsrooms emptier nowadays and forcing many newspapers out of business.

The Kyiv Post made healthy profits throughout its first 14 years in business, until the combination of a global economic recession and changing reader habits left us working harder than ever for advertising, subscriptions, grants and the benevolence of our owners.

The first edition contained mostly wire stories from the Associated Press or Interfax-Ukraine. The newspaper advertised job openings for journalists and sales managers.

The only staff-written story on the front page, by Laura Keys, would sound familiar to today's readers: Ukraine's parliament adopted a law to remove 4,000 businesses from a mass privatization program. According to the article, only 129 businesses had been sold under the program, far short of then-President Leonid Kuchma's goal of selling off 8,000 state enterprises by 1995.

In 2019, Ukraine is still holding on to 3,500 state enterprises from Soviet times and has never allowed agricultural land sales.

Yevhen Marchuk was the prime minister at the time, and, in another story that will ring familiar to everyone who follows the news today, he



The first edition of the Kyiv Post was published on Oct. 18, 1995. It numbered 16 pages, with a print run of 10,000 copies. The staff numbered only a handful of people, compared to the 50 employees today. Ownership has changed hands only twice since American Jed Sunden founded the newspaper and sold it to Mohammad Zahoor in 2009, who sold it to current owner Adnan Kivan in 2018.

vowed to increase domestic energy production to make Ukraine less dependent on Russian natural gas. Sound familiar? The truth is that today, Ukraine is still not energy

independent. The first edition included horoscopes, cartoons and a crossword

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25th year!

TOP 10 KYIV POST exclusives online this week

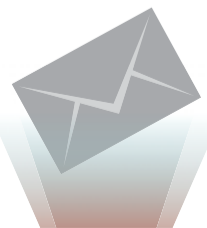
1. Yanukovich's security chief returns to Ukraine, meets Zelensky
2. Destination Vienna: Connecting Trump, Giuliani, two fixers and a Ukrainian oligarch
3. Zelensky holds all-day press conference (LIVE)
4. Growing shadow economy nearly half of Ukraine's GDP
5. Ukraine's soccer team beats Portugal, qualifies for Euro 2020
6. Prosecutors revive case against Yanukovich's justice minister
7. Poll finds drop in Zelensky's approval rating
8. Yovanovitch: Conspiracy theories from 'corrupt interests in Ukraine' led to her sacking by Trump
9. Lawyers say judge hearing PrivatBank case heavily biased in favor of Kolomoisky
10. Zelensky on peace efforts: 'If we can't control border, we will abandon this plan'



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The Kyiv Post will be moving to its eighth home in 25 years after the completion of a 22-story office/residential complex under construction by the Odesa-based KADORR Group, owned by Kyiv Post publisher Adnan Kivan. The address is 68 Zhylianska St. The photograph was taken on Oct. 15, 2019.

(Volodymyr Petrov)

Brian Bonner: Kyiv Post turns 24 today; join us for a year-long celebration

page 10 →

puzzle. It also had a house ad promoting the Kyiv Post, then spelled "Kiev": "Take off with the Kiev Post! Reach over 10,000 readers each week in Kiev's leading English language newspaper."

The print run of 10,000 copies, incidentally, is roughly the same as today's, although it's been as high as 25,000 and as low as 7,000 copies during hard times.

In what endeared the newspaper to expats in Ukraine like me, who first came in 1996, was the Kyiv Post's coverage of everything from world political news to sports. Back then, the internet was slow, unreliable and not ubiquitous. Few people I knew had internet. We needed the Kyiv Post for all news, especially the monolingual English speakers among us.

The first Kyiv Post had few classified ads. It looks like there were lots of barter ads in the first edition, including a half-page from

Computerland. Before the market pricing of ads, the Kyiv Post would trade space for products – computers, airline tickets, restaurant meals.

The "Kiev Guide" or "Tourist Tips," taking up pages 12 and 13 with a map of the center and Kyiv metro, was also a very useful feature. It gave advice on visas (yes, they were required for Westerners back then), airports, money, hotels, transportation, safety, making phone calls and must-see tourist sites (which haven't changed much over the years).

Page 14 was devoted to another staple of Kyiv Post coverage – restaurants, nightclubs and casinos. It included a restaurant review of fast-food burgers by the first chief editor after Sunden, Andrea Faiad. Many of the nightclubs listed don't exist today. Back then, a club's cover charge was quoted in "kupon" – and it ranged up to 1 million of them. "Kupons" were in place as a bridge between the Soviet ruble and today's Ukrainian hryvnia, launched in 1996.

The back page was also devoted



The view on Oct. 15 of the 22-story office/residential complex that will house the Kyiv Post when completed. The address is 68 Zhylianska St.

to culture, now called the Lifestyle section, one of the three pillars of our coverage to this day along with politics and business. It also offered readers free space to announce an event, performance or show.

And, of course, we sold subscriptions and they were a bargain. For one year, we would deliver a single copy of the weekly to your office or home for \$45 and 10 copies for \$90.

While we've changed our look, the Kyiv Post is still a bargain and is essentially operating on the same template as the first edition: Providing reliable business, political and entertainment

news about Ukraine. Only today, our staff is bigger – about 50 people employed altogether. I've worked here when we've had as few as 21 people. And we now shoot videos, keep a constantly updated website and spread all of our information on social media platforms that we never dreamed would exist back then.

I became a faithful Kyiv Post reader in August 1996, when it was still in its infancy. Then I spent the summer of 1999 as chief editor and returned to Ukraine and the Kyiv Post for good in 2008. It's been an amazing life as we've covered revolution, war and so

much more. My talented colleagues are as passionate and as committed as ever to Ukraine.

We hope you will join us in celebrating this great institution over the next year. We have big expansion plans ahead and will share them with you as we roll out the changes. Our publisher is committed to independent journalism, generously investing resources so that we can remain an indispensable source of news about Ukraine to our readers all over the world.

Brian Bonner is the executive director and chief editor of the Kyiv Post. ■

Advertisement

ICU helps Ukrainian startups pitch their way to success and gain international investors' attention

ICU Group. Last week, 11 Ukrainian startups battled for a \$10,000 prize during Odesa Demo Day, the third event under the 2019 Ukrainian Financial Forum umbrella.

Startups pitched their ideas to a jury of renowned venture capitalists from Ukraine and abroad. The rules to win a substantial reward were simple: five minutes to pitch and five minutes for Q&A.

Odesa Demo Day featured startups from various companies involved in biotechnology, blockchain, business analytics and e-sports to name a few.

For example, StudyDive startup is working on creating a platform similar to Booking.com but for educational events. EcoTyre has created an eco-friendly car tire recycling method based on the electromagnetic field. Myhelix offers personalized nutrition and lifestyle recommendations through DNA tests.

"There are talented programmers and IT entrepreneurs in Ukraine. According to experts, Ukraine is one of the top five IT-outsourcing destinations in the world and holds the top spots in terms of cost-effectiveness. The talent is here, but we need to create an ecosystem where they can develop their strengths and deliver successful products. We are working on exactly on that," says Makar Pasienuk, founding partner at ICU.

Since its founding in 2018, ICU ventures have already invested in seven startups including some well-regarded names such as Petcube, Apostera and 3Dlook. Most of the companies ICU look to invest in are companies with Ukrainian roots.

"In general, we want our portfolio to consist of 20-25 companies, 70% of which would be related to Ukraine," commented Roman Nikitov, co-head of ICU Ventures, ICU's venture capital arm.

The Ukrainian venture market is still at a nascent stage. According to Crunchbase, global venture capital investments totaled more than \$343 billion in 2018. Ukraine accounts for only a fraction of the total VC market with only \$337 million, if you go by estimates from Ukrainian Venture and Private Equity Association.

"Our venture capital market is 1% of the global market. It's a drop in the ocean. As one of the leaders of the financial market in Ukraine, we want to see more successful companies start their story here," said Makar Pasienuk.

According to the financier, Ukrainian tech-entrepreneurs need assistance from established private players in the domestic market, alongside any governmental help they can get to create an ecosystem in which they can flourish.



"ICU Ventures aims to help Ukrainian startups create a community where they can establish contacts, seek investment and develop independently," added Makar Pasienuk.

"We don't just sign checks for startups. We give them strategic advice, we help with hiring as well as reaching other investors - both in Ukraine and abroad, in particular, Silicon Valley" commented Roman Nikitov.

"To get investor's attention, you need to actively network and use word-of-mouth. It is necessary to reach out to the right people, present your product, communicate your ideas, ignite the venture community with your vision. There are many venture capitalists and angel investors in this room. We invite young startups to come and inspire this audience," stated Roman Nikitov.

Getting on the investors' radar is not an easy task for novice startups. ICU acknowledged that to select the seven investment projects, they had to analyze more than 200 companies as they were looking for a partnership and not just an easy investment.

The three main things that Ukrainian investors seek in a startup are the team, the product and the market.

The team must be ambitious, ready to disrupt, create new markets and see opportunities others have missed.

"A good example from our portfolio is Petcube. They have created a market for connected pet devices and remain the leaders in that space," said Roman Nikitov.

"We are investing in ideas that have the potential to become global

Ukrainian startups have an immense potential to succeed in the global IT-arena, but they need mentoring and financial support

rather than function within one or several countries," ICU Ventures stresses, adding that they do not impose their vision on startups, but are ready to share their 10+ years' experience on investment services market.

According to Makar Pasienuk, ICU plans not only to invest in startups in the future, but also to attract other investors to its portfolio. This requires successful investment exits, which the company expects to have in the next few years.

"We will consider our investments successful if the capitalization of startups doubles in three years from the moment of investment. This is our minimum financial goal," said Roman Nikitov.

The winner of the startup battle was EcoTyre – inventor of the eco-friendly car tire recycling method.

"Such events are useful for startups at any stage of development. This is an opportunity to look at your project from the outside, get feedback and identify weaknesses that need to be explored. And this is an ideal place for networking and finding potential partners," said Nazar Khalavka, co-founder of EcoTyre.

"In general, there is no lack of startup events in Ukraine, but Odesa Demo Day was different because of the participants and content. ICU made an interesting selection of startups from all over the country, and the quality of pitches and presentations was higher than I saw on average in Ukraine," – shared Vadim Rogovsky, CEO of 3Dlook startup, who was a guest at the event.

"The event in Odesa is the first of a series of such events that we plan to hold in different cities of Ukraine in the future," ICU promised.

On the eve of Odesa Demo Day, it became public that spell-checking service Grammarly received \$90 million in investments and became the first "unicorn" (a company valued at more than \$1 billion) with Ukrainian roots. ICU Ventures believes that this is only the beginning of the startup history of Ukraine.

"Since 2014, we have been holding the Ukrainian Financial Forum annually. Every year, there is more and more buzz about the new economy, venture capital and the potential of Ukraine to create world-class products. Six years since we first launched the forum, we hosted a separate event dedicated exclusively to startups this year. Obviously, the market is moving forward. And we continue to work on creating the next Ukrainian success story", concluded Makar Pasienuk.





Kyiv Critics Week

The third Kyiv Critics Week is about to kick off in Kyiv. The festival brings together critics and movie fans to watch and discuss some time-tested classics and new releases. This year, the festival's program features 19 films. Among the selections are the critically acclaimed black and white drama "The Lighthouse," French drama "Atlantique," and the iconic U.S. thriller "Taxi Driver." The festival will also highlight Ukrainian films, including the drama "Homeward" about the struggles of the Crimean Tatars. Kyiv Critics Week will be held at Zhovten Cinema in Podil. All films will be screened in their original language with English and Ukrainian subtitles.

Kyiv Critics Week.

Zhovten (26 Kostiantynivska St.) Oct. 24-30. Check screenings in the full list of events.

Friday, Oct. 18

Classical music

The Wizard Rachmaninoff. Life and Fate, Pt. 3 (by Academic Symphony Orchestra). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 80-400 **8**

Chopin. Autumn Nocturne (by Inesa Poroshyna on piano). Scientist's House. 7 p.m. Hr 100 **1**

Live music

Harry Potter story concert (by Lumos Orchestra). Cinema House. 7 p.m. Hr 250-450 **7**

Cinematic Symphony (orchestral cinema soundtracks). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 250-450 **10**

Crazy Train (rock covers). Docker-G Pub. 9 p.m. Free **9**

Cinema Hits (by Lords of the Sound orchestra). Ukraine Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 400 **11**

Valeria Koka Quartet (latin jazz hits). 32 Jazz Club. 8 p.m. Hr 400 **5**

Clubs

ResiDance Night vol.2' (electronic music by DJs Andrusenko, Scherbak and Mukha). Khvylovyi. 10 p.m. Free **20**

Traverz: Sciahri, Nastya Zimens and others (electronic music). River Port. 11 p.m. Hr 250-350 **15**

Closer Sixth Anniversary: Day 1 With Residents (electronic music). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Hr 300-400. Two-day pass - Hr 500 **12**

Miscellaneous

The Corrosion of Character (contemporary art by Ukrainian and Italian artists exploring how modern labor influences people). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free **18**

MUHi Competition Finalists' Exhibition (artworks by 12 finalists of the Young Ukrainian Artists competition). Shcherbenko Art Center. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free **22**

Frontier. New Monuments (virtual reality artworks exploring how modern art is integrated into public spaces of Kyiv and Kharkiv). M17. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100 **27**

Art & Science (exhibition about art research technologies). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free **19**

Forest Forever (art installations, paintings by Olexiy Ivaniuk exploring interactions between people and their environment). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free **23**

Memories (three-dimensional paintings on glass and metal by Mykhailo Deyak). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free **25**

Gateway to the Stars (photographs of stars taken in the Carpathians, artifacts from the history of astronautics, augmented reality area). America House. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID **16**

Gateway to the Stars (photographs of stars taken in the Carpathians, artifacts from the history of astronautics, augmented reality area). America House. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID **16**

Overcoming Gravity (recently discovered photographs by the Carpathian artist Paraska Plytka-Horytsvit and other artworks). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free **21**

Body (photo exhibition by Mariia Matiashova exploring human bodies). Khvylovyi. 7 p.m. - 12 a.m. Free **20**

Movies

Gravity (drama, sci-fi, thriller in English). America House. 6:30 p.m. Free. Bring ID **16**

Saturday, Oct. 19

Classical music

Classics Under the Stars (Bach, Gluck, Albinoni and others). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 250-450 **10**

Live music

American Music from World War 2 (by the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band and others). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 100-600 **6**

Jazz for Adults (jazz show by Alexey Kogan). Caribbean Club. 7 p.m. Hr 180-850 **6**

Eugene Dobrovolskyi Quintet (jazz, tribute to Horace Silver). 32 Jazz Club. 8 p.m. Hr 400 **5**

Clubs

Criminal Practice: Ghetto Sunrise, Roma Khropko and others (electronic music). River Port. 11 p.m. Hr 250 **16**

Closer Sixth Anniversary: Day 2 With Maayan and Thomas (electronic music). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Hr 300-400. Two-day pass - Hr 500 **12**

Point: Miley Serious, Veronique and others (electronic music). Otel'. 11:59 p.m. Hr 250-350 **14**

Miscellaneous

Gateway to the Stars (photographs of stars taken in the Carpathians, artifacts from the history of astronautics, augmented reality area). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID **16**

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Frontier. New Monuments (virtual reality artworks exploring how modern art is integrated into public spaces of Kyiv and Kharkiv). M17. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100 **27**

Memories (three-dimensional paintings on glass and metal by Mykhailo Deyak). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free **25**

Overcoming Gravity (recently discovered photographs by the Carpathian artist Paraska Plytka-Horytsvit and other artworks). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr 40 for students and retirees, Hr 160 for a family ticket. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities, Ukrainian war veterans **21**

Body (photo exhibition by Mariia Matiashova exploring human bodies). Khvylovyi. 7 p.m. - 12 a.m. Free **20**

Sunday, Oct. 20

Classical music

Mozart and Tchaikovsky (Kyiv Mozart Orchestra). Fairmont Grand Hotel. 7 p.m. Hr 500-1,000 **1**

Rizol Quartet - 80! (best of the accordion quartet). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-300 **8**

Live music

Blues Session (by Funketon Groove, Art Power Blues Band and others). Docker-G Pub. 7 p.m. Hr 80-150 **9**

Jazz Age (retro show by Jazz Age Show Group and others). Caribbean Club. 7 p.m. Hr 200-680 **6**

Cinemaorganum (pipe organ cinema soundtracks). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 250-450 **10**

Miscellaneous

The Corrosion of Character (contemporary art by Ukrainian and Italian artists exploring how modern labor influences people). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free **18**

MUHi Competition Finalists' Exhibition (artworks by 12 finalists of the Young Ukrainian Artists competition). Shcherbenko Art Center. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free **22**

Art & Science (exhibition about art research technologies). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free **19**

Frontier. New Monuments (virtual reality artworks exploring how modern art is integrated into public spaces of Kyiv and Kharkiv). M17. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100 **27**

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Body (photo exhibition by Mariia Matiashova exploring human bodies). Khvylovyi. 7 p.m. - 12 a.m. Free **20**

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Market of Ceramics, Household Goods (furniture, textiles, pillows, candles, ceramics by Ukrainian producers). Vsi Svoi D12. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free **26**

Movies

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (adventure, drama, fantasy in English with Ukrainian subtitles). Planeta Kino (Blockbuster, River Mall). 7:30 p.m. Hr 150-210 **30 31**

7 Emotions (comedy in Polish with Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 6:50 p.m. Hr 65 **32**

Shows

Ethereal Riffian, Somali Yacht Club, Volver Stone (stoner, psychedelic, experimental rock). Mezzanine. 6:30 p.m. Hr 300-400 **13**

Lara Fabian (classical crossover, pop). Ukraine Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 1,250-5,950 **11**

Scarlxrd (hip-hop, metal). Bel Etage. 7 p.m. Hr 990-1,900 **34**

Yaderna Mohyla (hip hop). Dom. 7 p.m. Free **17**

Melovin (pop). Atlas. 8 p.m. Hr 500 **33**

Theater

The Nutcracker (ballet). National Opera. 12 p.m. Hr 20-300 **42**

Eugene Onegin (opera in Russian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600 **42**

Monday, Oct. 21

Miscellaneous

The Corrosion of Character (contemporary art by Ukrainian and Italian artists exploring how modern labor influences people). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free **18**

Forest Forever (art installations, paintings by Olexiy Ivaniuk exploring interaction between people and environment). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free **23**

Movies

A Cat With a Dog (drama in Polish with Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 7 p.m. Hr 55 **32**

Shows

Perturbator (electronic, synthwave, industrial). Atlas. 8 p.m. Hr 850-1,800 **33**

Tuesday, Oct. 22

Classical music

Dedication to Franz Liszt (State Academic Pop and Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 80-400 **8**

Miscellaneous

The Corrosion of Character (contemporary art by Ukrainian and Italian artists exploring how modern labor influences people). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free **18**

MUHi Competition Finalists' Exhibition (artworks by 12 finalists of the Young Ukrainian Artists competition). Shcherbenko Art Center. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free **22**

Art & Science (exhibition about art research technologies). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free **19**

Frontier. New Monuments (virtual reality artworks exploring how modern art is integrated into public spaces of Kyiv and Kharkiv). M17. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100 **27**

Memories (three-dimensional paintings on glass and metal by Mykhailo Deyak). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free **25**

Overcoming Gravity (recently discovered photographs by the Carpathian artist Paraska Plytka-Horytsvit and other artworks). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr 40 for students and retirees, Hr 160 for a family ticket. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities, Ukrainian war veterans **21**

Gateway to the Stars (photographs of stars taken in the Carpathians, artifacts from the history of astronautics, augmented reality area). America House. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID **16**

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Body (photo exhibition by Mariia Matiashova exploring human bodies). Khvylovyi. 7 p.m. - 12 a.m. Free **20**

Movies

Gravity (drama, sci-fi, thriller in English). America House. 6:30 p.m. Free. Bring ID **16**

Frontier. New Monuments (virtual reality artworks exploring how modern art is integrated into public spaces of Kyiv and Kharkiv). M17. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100 **27**

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Gateway to the Stars (photographs of stars taken in the Carpathians, artifacts from the history of astronautics, augmented reality area). America House. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID **16**

Theater

The Barber of Seville (opera recording in Italian with Ukrainian subtitles). Multiplex (Sky Mall). 7:30 p.m. Hr 240 **29**

Aida (four-act opera in Italian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600 **42**

Thursday, Oct. 24

Classical music

Magic World of Musicals of Andrew Lloyd Webber (by National Academic Brass Band of Ukraine). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 100-500 **8**

Live music

Jazz Under the Stars (jazz hits by Soloviov and Band). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 250-450 **10**

Miscellaneous

The Corrosion of Character (contemporary art by Ukrainian and Italian artists exploring how modern labor influences people). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free **18**

MUHi Competition Finalists' Exhibition (artworks by 12 finalists of the Young Ukrainian Artists competition). Shcherbenko Art Center. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free **22**

Art & Science (exhibition about art research technologies). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free **19**

Frontier. New Monuments (virtual reality artworks exploring how modern art is integrated into public spaces of Kyiv and Kharkiv). M17. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100 **27**

Memories (three-dimensional paintings on glass and metal by Mykhailo Deyak). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free **25**

Overcoming Gravity (recently discovered photographs by the Carpathian artist Paraska Plytka-Horytsvit and other artworks). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr 40 for students and retirees, Hr 160 for a family ticket. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities, Ukrainian war veterans **21**

Gateway to the Stars (photographs of stars taken in the Carpathians, artifacts from the history of astronautics, augmented reality area). America House. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID **16**

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Body (photo exhibition by Mariia Matiashova exploring human bodies). Khvylovyi. 7 p.m. - 12 a.m. Free **20**

Movies

Gravity (drama, sci-fi, thriller in English). America House. 6:30 p.m. Free. Bring ID **16**

ed reality area). America House. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID **16**

Movies

Zombi Child (horror in French with English and Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 11 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Hr 70-120 **32**

Shows

P.O.D. (christian metal, rap metal, hard rock). Bingo. 6 p.m. Hr 800-1,100 **35**

Aigel (trap, electronic, pop). Atlas. 7 p.m. Hr 500-850 **33**

Palina (singer songwriter, electronic). Mezzanine. 7 p.m. Hr 250 **13**

Theater

Nights in the Gardens of Spain (one-act ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600 **42**

Friday, Oct. 25

Classical music

Paganini, Mozart, Sarasate, Strauss (Himari Yoshimura on violin, Academic Symphony Orchestra of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 80-400 **8**

Live music

Big Jazz Night (jazz hits by four bands). Vsi Svoi D12. 7 p.m. Hr 350 **26**

Piano Space (Ravel, Debussy, Chopin and others). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 250-450 **10**

Clubs

United: Kas:st, Voin Oruuv, Kichi Kazuko (electronic music). River Port. 11 p.m. Hr 150-350 **15**

Venderstrook, Danilenko, Tofudj and others (electronic music). Otel'. 11 p.m. Price to be announced **14**

THP Session: Raphael Carrau, Otis, Haathi (electronic music). Closer. 11:59 p.m. Price to be announced **12**

Miscellaneous

The Corrosion of Character (contemporary art by Ukrainian and Italian artists exploring how modern labor influences people). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free **18**

MUHi Competition Finalists' Exhibition (artworks by 12 finalists of the Young Ukrainian Artists competition). Shcherbenko Art Center. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free **22**

Art & Science (exhibition about art research technologies). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free **19**

Frontier. New Monuments (virtual reality artworks exploring how modern art is integrated into public spaces of Kyiv and Kharkiv). M17. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100 **27**

Memories (three-dimensional paintings on glass and metal by Mykhailo Deyak). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free **25**

Overcoming Gravity (recently discovered photographs by the Carpathian artist Paraska Plytka-Horytsvit and other artworks). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr 40 for students and retirees, Hr 160 for a family ticket. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities, Ukrainian war veterans **21**

Gateway to the Stars (photographs of stars taken in the Carpathians, artifacts from the history of astronautics, augmented reality area). America House.

Hr 80, Hr 40 for students and retirees, Hr 160 for a family ticket. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities, Ukrainian war veterans **21**

Gateway to the Stars (photographs of stars taken in the Carpathians, artifacts from the history of astronautics, augmented reality area). America House. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID **16**

Movies

The Wild Goose Lake (drama in Chinese with English and Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 10 a.m., 7 p.m. Hr 70-120 **32**

Easy Rider (road movie in English with Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 1 p.m., 10 p.m. Hr 70-120 **32**

Homeward (drama in Crimean Tatar with English and Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 4 p.m. Hr 70 **32**

Shows

Onuka and NAONI (electronic, folk). Zhovtnevyi Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 1,300-2,400 **41**

Matrang (rap). Stereo Plaza. 8 p.m. Hr 600-2,200 **38**

Pyriatyn (punk, country, folk rock). Volume Club. 8 p.m. Hr 150 **40**

She Past Away (dark wave, post punk). Mezzanine. 8 p.m. Hr 500 **13**

Theater

Cinderella (two-act opera in Italian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600 **42**

Saturday, Oct. 26

Live music

Charles Turner III (jazz). Caribbean Club. 7 p.m. Hr 350-990 **6**

Ethno-Jazz (by SV Savana). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 250-450 **10**

Clubs

East Kultur: Thomass Jackson, Artem Ikra, David, Kiss Allah (electronic music).

Mezzanine. 11:30 p.m. Hr 250-300 **13**

Osnova x National Distortion: Nikolajev, Jana Woodstock, Zolaa and others (electronic music). Otel'. 11:50 p.m. Hr 250-300 **14**

Residents Night: Timur Basha, Shakolin, Yone-Ko (electronic music). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Price to be announced **12**

Miscellaneous

The Corrosion of Character (contemporary art by Ukrainian and Italian artists exploring how modern labor influences people). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free **18**

Gateway to the Stars (photographs of stars taken in the Carpathians, artifacts from the history of astronautics, augmented reality area). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID **16**

MUHi Competition Finalists' Exhibition (artworks by 12 finalists of the Young Ukrainian Artists competition). Shcherbenko Art Center. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free **22**

Art & Science (exhibition about art research technologies). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free **19**

Frontier. New Monuments (virtual reality artworks exploring how modern art is integrated into public spaces of Kyiv and Kharkiv). M17. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100 **27**

Memories (three-dimensional paintings on glass and metal by Mykhailo Deyak). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free **25**

Overcoming Gravity (recently discovered photographs by the Carpathian artist Paraska Plytka-Horytsvit and other artworks). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr 40 for students and retirees, Hr 160 for a family ticket. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities, Ukrainian war veterans **21**

Happy Scary Birthday Kurazh Bazar (Halloween-themed fair with live music, games, food court, clothes market). VDNH. 12 p.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 150. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities, Ukrainian war veterans, pregnant women,

people in Halloween costumes **24**

Movies

Manon (opera recording in French with Ukrainian subtitles). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 7:55 p.m. Hr 240-300 **23**

Atlantics (drama in Wolof with English and Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 10 a.m., 7 p.m. Hr 70-120 **32**

American Graffiti (comedy in English with Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 1 p.m., 10 p.m. Hr 70-120 **32**

Shows

Moonzoo and Tyupa (synth-pop, dance, trip hop). Mezzanine. 7 p.m. Hr 250 **13**

The Rasmus (alternative, hard rock). Stereo Plaza. 8 p.m. Hr 950-2,550 **36**

Toh Kay (punk, rock, folk, world). Teplyi Lampovyj. 8 p.m. Hr 300 **39**

Theater

Sheherazade and Paquita (two one-act ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600 **42**

Sunday, Oct. 27

Classical music

Berezovski, Rakhmaninov, Prokofiev (by National Honored Academic Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 80-400 **3**

Vivaldi (by Kyiv Mozart Orchestra). Fairmont Grand Hotel. 7 p.m. Hr 500-1,000 **1**

Live music

Spashep to Eternity (movie hits, classical and folk music by Heaven Flute Duo). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 250-450

Miscellaneous

The Corrosion of Character (contemporary art by Ukrainian and Italian artists exploring how modern labor influences people). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free **18**

MUHi Competition Finalists' Exhibition

(artworks by 12 finalists of the Young Ukrainian Artists competition). Shcherbenko Art Center. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free **22**

Art & Science (exhibition about art research technologies). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Free **19**

Frontier. New Monuments (virtual reality artworks exploring how modern art is integrated into public spaces of Kyiv and Kharkiv). M17. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 100 **27**

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Overcoming Gravity (recently discovered photographs by the Carpathian artist Paraska Plytka-Horytsvit and other artworks). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr 40 for students and retirees, Hr 160 for a family ticket. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities, Ukrainian war veterans **21**

Happy Scary Birthday Kurazh Bazar (Halloween-themed fair with live music, games, food court and clothes market). VDNH. 12 p.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 150. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities, Ukrainian war veterans, pregnant women and people in Halloween costumes **24**

Movies

The Painted Bird (drama in interslavic with English and Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 9:30 a.m., 7 p.m. Hr 70-120 **32**

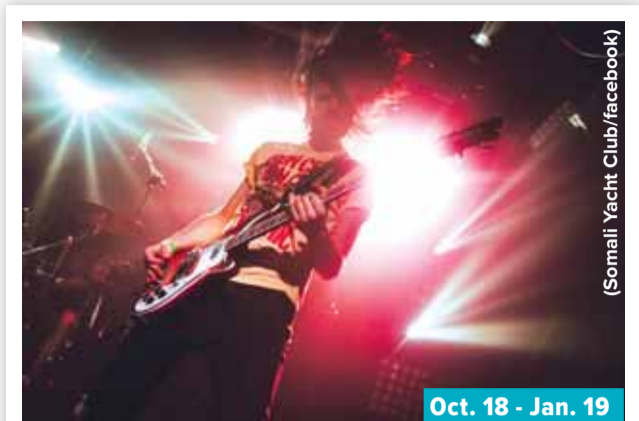
The Long Goodbye (thriller in English with Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 1:30 p.m., 11 p.m. Hr 70-120 **32**

God's Scourge (drama in Russian with English and Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 4:30 p.m. Hr 70 **32**

Shows

Buerak (post-punk). Atlas. 7 p.m. Hr 400-550

Sarah Brightman (classical crossover,



Ethereal Riffian, Somali Yacht Club, Volver Stone

This showcase from Kyiv-based record label Robustfellow Prods will take its visitors on a psychedelic trip, west from Kyiv to Lviv via Zhytomyr. The label's artists include some of the best psychedelic rock bands in Ukraine. Paying great attention to the lyrics, Kyiv's highly conceptual Ethereal Riffian band plays progressive doom and stoner rock and will present their fourth record, "Legends." The more easygoing Somali Yacht Club from Lviv will celebrate the fifth anniversary of their stoner-influenced "The Sun." And Zhytomyr's one-man band Volver Stone will bring the Mezzanine back to earth with a blues-rock set from his new album "Wasteland."

Ethereal Riffian, Somali Yacht Club, Volver Stone. Mezzanine (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) Oct. 20. 6:30 p.m. Hr 300-400

operatic pop). Palace of Sports. 7 p.m. Hr 450-5,900 **37**

Serhiy Babkin (pop). Zhovtnevyi Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 350-1,350 **41**

Xiu Xiu (experimental, art rock, electronic).

Monteray. 7 p.m. Hr 400 **36**

Theater

Don Carlo (three-act opera in Italian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600 **42**

Venues

Classical Music

- 1 Fairmont Grand Hotel (1 Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska St.) +38044 322 8888
- 2 Kyiv National Operetta Theater (53/3 Velyka Vasylykivska St.) +38044 287 6257
- 3 National Philharmonic of Ukraine (2 Volodymyrskyi Uzviz St.) +38044 278 6291
- 4 Scientist's House (45A Volodymyrska St.) +38044 234 4236

Live Music

- 5 32 Jazz Club (32 Vozdvyzhenska St.) +38050

- 462 0014
- 6 Caribbean Club (4 Petliuriy St.) +38067 224 4111
- 7 Cinema House (6 Saksahanskoho St.) +38044 287 7557
- 8 Docker Pub (25 Bohatyrtska St.) +38050 358 5513
- 9 Docker-G Pub (13/5 Ihorivska St.) +38095 280 8340
- 10 Kyiv Planetarium (57/3 Velyka Vasylykivska St.) +38044 338 1991
- 11 Ukraine Palace (103 Velyka Vasylykivska St.) +38044 247 2476

Clubs

- 12 Closer (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38067 250 0308
- 13 Mezzanine (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38063

- 873 7306
- 14 Otel' (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38063 618 0145
- 15 River Port (67 Nyzhnyi Val St.) www.facebook.com/riverportkyiv

Miscellaneous

- 16 America House (6 Mykoly Pymonenka St.) +38063 343 0119
- 17 Dom Music Bar (10 Sahaidachnoho St.) +38096 011 0515
- 18 Izone (8 Naberezhno-Luhova St.) +38067 622 8794
- 19 The Khanenko Museum (15-17 Tereshchenkivska St.) +38044 235 3290
- 20 Khvylovyj Bar (18 Verkhni Val St.) +38063 443 0925

- 21 Mystetskyi Arsenal (10-12 Lavrska St.) +38044 288 5225
- 22 Shcherbenko Art Center (22V Mykhailivska St.) +38096 801 2041
- 23 Triptych Global Arts Workshop (34 Andriivskyi Uzviz St.) +38044 279 0759
- 24 VDNH (1 Akademika Hlushkova Ave.) +38067 824 1631
- 25 Voloshyn Gallery (13 Tereshchenkivska St.) +38067 467 0007
- 26 Vsi Svoi D12 (112 Desiatynna St.) www.facebook.com/vsi.svoi
- 27 M17 Contemporary Art Center (102-104 Antonovycha St.) +38067 310 6631

Movies

- 28 Multiplex Cinema (Lavina Mall, 6D Berkovetska St.) 0800 505 333
- 29 Multiplex Cinema (Sky Mall, 2T Henerala Vaturtina Ave.) 0800 505 333
- 30 Planeta Kino Cinema (Blockbuster, 34 Stepana Bandery Ave.) 0800 300 600
- 31 Planeta Kino Cinema (River Mall, 12 Dniprovskaya Embankment) 0800 300 600
- 32 Zhovten Cinema (26 Kostiantynivska St.) +38044 428 5757

- 33 Atlas (37-41 Sichovykh Striltsiv St.) +38067 155 2255
- 34 Bel Etage Music Hall (16A Shota Rustaveli St.) +38066 971 2666
- 35 Bingo (112 Peremohy Ave.) +38067 329 6580
- 36 Monteray Live Stage (8 Prorizna St.) +38093

- 323 0644
- 37 Palace of Sports (1 Sportyvna Sq.) +38044 246 7405
- 38 Stereo Plaza (119 Lobanovskiy Ave.) +38044 222 8040
- 39 Teplyi Lampovyj Art Club (4/5 Mykhaila Omelianovycha-Pavlenka St.) +38063 603 7569
- 40 Volume Club (26/2 Harmatna St.) +38067 386 9251
- 41 Zhovtnevyi Palace (1 Heroiv Nebesnoi Sotni Alley) +38044 279 1582

Theater

- 42 National Opera of Ukraine (50 Volodymyrska St.) +38044 234 7165

Sicilian Baroque

AN ARTIST FROM ITALY IS COMING TO DOLCE&GABBANA STORES IN KYIV ON OCTOBER 24-27 TO CUSTOMIZE YOUR SICILY BAG BY ADDING UNIQUE BAROQUE-STYLED PATTERNS TO IT.

References to the Baroque style have always been a key part of Dolce & Gabbana's brand DNA. This autumn, the designers invite Ukrainian customers to share their admiration for the epoch that gave the world magnificent architecture, first astronomical discoveries and the art of flirting. You can design your personal Baroque-styled masterpiece by customizing the brand's signature Sicily bag using golden floral patterns, images of jewelry or your initials.

Customization service is available for purchases of any unicolor, matte leather Sicily bag from October 24 until October 25 at Dolce & Gabbana store in Mandarin Plaza and from October 26 until October 27 at the Dolce & Gabbana corner in TSUM.

DOLCE & GABBANA store
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1st floor, t. 044 459 4606
RSVP dgkiew@olo-ua.com

DOLCE & GABBANA corner
TSUM, 1st floor, t. 044 225 5650
RSVP dgtsun@olo-ua.com

3 Ukrainian lawmakers doing Trump's dirty work in scandal

By Oksana Grytsenko
grytsenko@kyivpost.com

Three Ukrainian lawmakers appear to have joined the cast of Ukrainian officials aiding U.S. President Donald Trump's campaign to dig up dirt against his political opponent using Ukraine.

While the U.S. Congress probes Trump's alleged attempt to pressure his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky, to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, this trio wants the parliament of Ukraine to investigate Ukrainians' alleged interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

The three lawmakers — Oleg Voloshyn, Valentyn Nalyvaichenko and Andriy Derkach — represent different political parties and claim they're acting out of their own desire to establish the truth and help Ukraine.

However, their backgrounds raise suspicions that they are acting on behalf of bigger players in scandal: an exiled Ukrainian oligarch and a former top prosecutor who supplied questionable information to people close to Trump.

Voloshyn and Nalyvaichenko have links to the oligarch Dmytro Firtash, who has been stuck in Vienna, fighting a U.S. extradition order on bribery charges since 2014. Firtash gave information to Rudolph Giuliani, Trump's lawyer and a key player in his efforts to dig up dirt on his political enemies in Ukraine, Time magazine reported.

Meanwhile, Derkach, is close to former Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko, who also supplied Giuliani with information about Biden. Lutsenko, whom Ukrainian law enforcement is now investigating for abuse of power, has recently moved to London, supposedly to study English.

Voloshyn, Nalyvaichenko, and Derkach claim they want to clean up Ukraine's reputation and help Zelensky get out of the scandal



Oleg Voloshyn (R), lawmaker with the Opposition Platform-For Life, a pro-Russian political party, smiles as he talks to Viktor Medvedchuk, one of the party leaders, in parliament on Oct. 2. Medvedchuk is a close friend of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin. Another leader of this party, Sergiy Liovochkin, is a business partner of runaway oligarch Dmytro Firtash, who is now based in Vienna, Austria, where for the last five years he has been fighting extradition to the United States. He faces bribery charges in U.S. District Court in Chicago. He denies the allegations.

in which he was unintentionally involved.

In fact, their efforts would likely help to whitewash Trump's former campaign chief, Paul Manafort, who was investigated by the FBI amid a broader probe into Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election in favor of Trump. Manafort is now serving a 7.5-year prison term for tax and bank fraud committed during his work in Ukraine.

It would also help Trump and his allies to say it was Ukraine, not Russia, that tried to meddle in the U.S. 2016 election campaign and that Kyiv did it in favor of the Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. Russia would be pleased with this as well.

Voloshyn, who calls Manafort his friend, says his investigation would be helpful for Manafort to "clear his good name." But he admits it would not help to cut his prison

term because Manafort is jailed for economic crimes.

Investigation details

Voloshyn is now a lawmaker with the Opposition Platform-For Life, a 44-member party faction where Firtash's business partner Sergiy Lovochkin and Viktor Medvedchuk, a close friend of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, have leading roles.

In December 2017, Voloshyn published a flattering opinion piece about Manafort promoting Ukraine's integration into Europe in the Kyiv Post. The FBI later found that Manafort violated his house arrest when he edited Voloshyn's article, special U.S. prosecutor Robert Mueller reported.

Voloshyn got to know Manafort when the U.S. lobbyist consulted for ousted President Viktor Yanukovich and his Party of Regions. Voloshyn wants to investigate the authenticity of the so-called "black ledger" of off-the-books cash payments from Yanukovich's party. He claims the page where Manafort was listed as receiving \$12.7 million was forged by Ukrainian officials who wanted to cause the lobbyist trouble.

"Everybody who knows how lobbyists work understands that it is nonsense," Voloshyn said.

Voloshyn also wants to investigate a former deputy head of the SBU state security service, Viktor Trepak, who found the ledger and delivered it to the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU), and former lawmaker Serhiy Leshchenko, who made the ledger's details public

in August 2016. The scandal that broke after that revelation prompted Trump to sack Manafort from leading his election campaign.

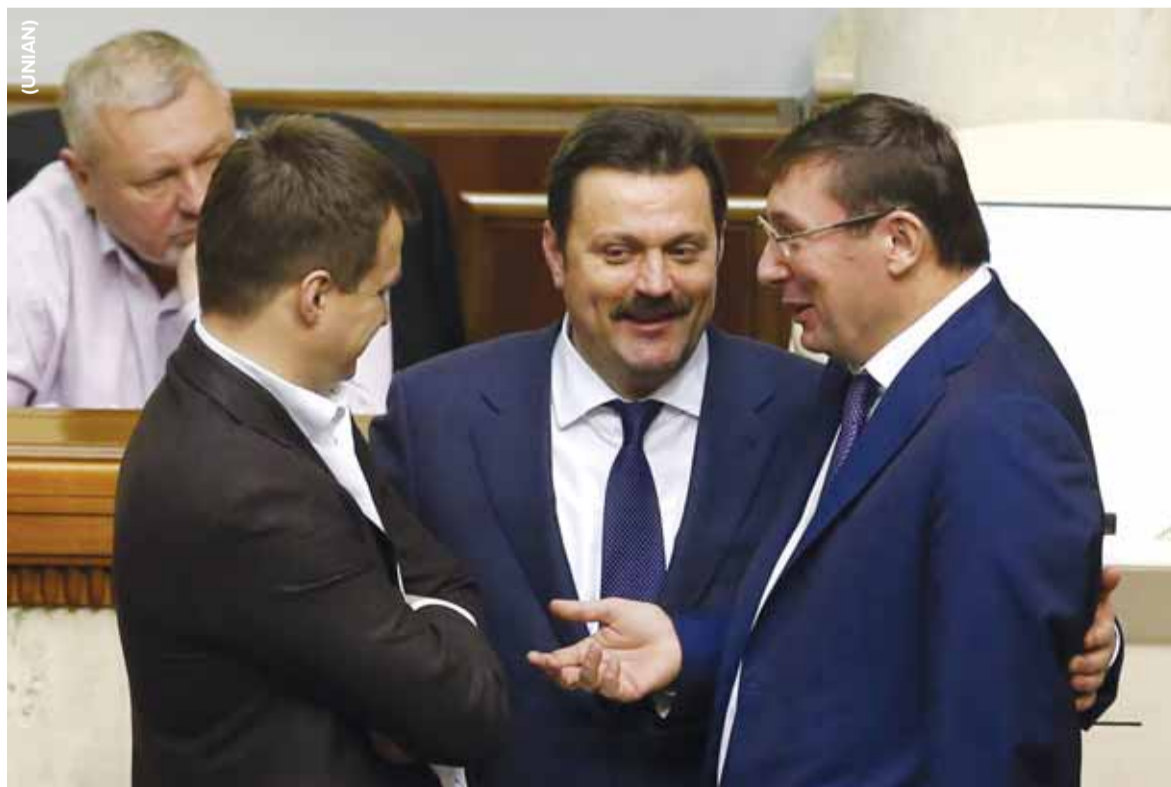
Voloshyn also wants Artem Sytnyk, the NABU chief, to be investigated. Trepak, Leshchenko, and Sytnyk have denied any wrongdoing. Additionally, Voloshyn wants to investigate alleged cooperation between Ukraine's embassy in Washington and Ukrainian-American Alexandra Chalupa, a Democratic Party operative, in spring 2016.

Valeriy Chaly, then Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S., admitted in a written statement delivered to the Hill news website that Chalupa had approached the embassy and tried to push the investigation of Manafort's dealings in Ukraine. But Chaly claimed the embassy didn't cooperate with her.

Andriy Telizhenko, who worked in the embassy as third secretary for seven months, claimed in several interviews that Chaly had asked him to dig up information on Manafort. He later told this to Giuliani. There is no other evidence that Chaly made this request. The former Ukrainian ambassador told the Kyiv Post that Telizhenko was lying.

Voloshyn accuses Chaly along with former President Petro Poroshenko of acting in favor of Clinton's campaign and wants to investigate them. Chaly and Poroshenko denied any wrongdoing.

Voloshyn says Nalyvaichenko and Derkach have joined him and



Yuriy Lutsenko (R), then leader of Petro Poroshenko Bloc political party, talks to independent lawmaker Andriy Derkach (C) and Serhiy Berezenko, another lawmaker from Poroshenko's party, in parliament on March 16, 2016. Lutsenko and Derkach know each other at least since 2005, when they both were members of the Socialist Party of Ukraine.

Derkach, Voloshyn and Nalyvaichenko seem eager to help Trump, imprisoned Paul Manafort

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more lawmakers could join them later. "Mr. Derkach and I and others believe there was interference in the American elections," he said. Though he admits they don't have the 150 votes in parliament needed to launch the investigative commission so far, Voloshyn said he is going to pursue this effort.

In an interview with the Livy Bereh website published on Oct. 14, Chaly warned that the narrative of Ukraine's alleged involvement in the American elections pushed by some politicians would be "suicidal" for the country's cooperation with the U.S.

Links to Firtash, Russia

On Oct. 11, Nalyvaichenko, Ukraine's former SBU chief and now a lawmaker from Batkivshchyna, the 24-member faction of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, published an opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal. There he claimed that Ukraine is obligated to find out whether there was meddling in the U.S. elections in 2016.

He also called for an investigation into whether Hunter Biden, Joe Biden's son, was complicit in the Burisma energy company's alleged corruption schemes. The younger Biden was a board member at Burisma, which belongs to Yanukovich-era ecology minister Mykola Zlochevsky, and reportedly received \$50,000 a month in that role.

"That is why I am proposing that all parties in the new Ukrainian Parliament, which took office a month ago, join in an investigation to discover exactly what took place with

Burisma and the 2016 U.S. elections," Nalyvaichenko wrote.

While Nalyvaichenko refused to talk to the Kyiv Post, Voloshyn said that Nalyvaichenko should head the investigative commission in parliament as the most knowledgeable person there.

Nalyvaichenko served as head of the SBU under President Viktor Yushchenko in 2006-2010 and also in 2014-2015, the first two years after the EuroMaidan Revolution that ousted Yanukovich.

But an investigation by Radio Svoboda published in October 2015 also found that Nalyvaichenko has links with Firtash. In 2009, he made Firtash's business partner, Valery Khoroshkovsky, his deputy at the SBU. Nalyvaichenko's advisor in 2014-2015, Markiyanyuk Lubkivsky, used to have a managing position in Ukrrestavratsiya, a company controlled by Lovochkin, who is a business partner of Firtash, the investigation found.

Leshchenko, a reformist ex-lawmaker and former investigative journalist, reported that when the SBU banned U.S. businessmen Vadym and Illia Sigal from entering Ukraine in July 2014, it was retribution from Firtash. The oligarch had a conflict with the Sigal brothers over the ownership of a plant in Kakhovka city in southern Ukraine.

Nalyvaichenko denied any links to Firtash. His press representative referred to the reported ties as "rumors."

In February 2017, Nalyvaichenko was among those Ukrainian politicians who tried to build relations with Trump and his circle while avoiding official diplomatic channels. He admitted traveling to Washington



Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, former head of the Security Service of Ukraine, talks to journalists during the Kyiv Global Summit, organized for discussion of how to end Russia's war in eastern Ukraine, on Oct. 5, 2018. Nalyvaichenko, who is now lawmaker from the Batkivshchyna party of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, is one of three MPs who want parliament to investigate Ukrainians' alleged interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

D.C. in December and January for meetings with a Trump advisor and a Republican senator.

Another lawmaker, Andrey Artemenko, who delivered a pro-Russian "peace plan" to the White House and later lost his parliamentary mandate and citizenship as a result, claimed that Nalyvaichenko had supplied him with the compromising materials on Poroshenko.

In a March 2017 interview with ZIK TV channel, Artemenko admitted that he has known Firtash for many years and allowed the oligarch to use an aircraft owned by his company. In November 2017, the McClatchyDC news website published a story revealing that the Belbek Avia, an air company co-founded by Artemenko's father provided a private plane for Manafort and political consultant Konstantin Kilimnik on a trip from eastern Ukraine to Frankfurt in July 2013.

'NABU leaks'

On Oct. 9, independent lawmaker Derkach revealed email exchanges between NABU official Polina Chizh and an employee of the U.S. embassy, Hanna Yemelyanova, dating back to November 2017. He claimed the

U.S. embassy was putting pressure on NABU investigations.

The emails appear to show the embassy and NABU discussing several cases, including an investigation into ex-Ecology Minister Zlochevsky.

NABU was created in 2015 as a law enforcement body charged with investigating high-level corruption. The U.S. has continuously supported NABU with equipment and education for its detectives. These emails could have been part of that process.

Both NABU and the U.S. Embassy declined to comment.

Derkach also claimed that, according to his information, Hunter Biden received \$900,000 in the offshore accounts of his consultancy, Rosemont Seneca Partners, for lobbying by his father. Derkach provided no evidence to support these accusations. Giuliani has made similar claims and said he got the information from Lutsenko.

Derkach claimed he got his data from investigative journalists who were afraid to publish it. But a Kyiv Post source said that, in reality, Chizh's inbox was hacked at the order of Lutsenko, then prosecutor general, who tried to oust NABU chief Sytnyk in 2017.

It could be Lutsenko who supplied Derkach with the hacked emails. Neither man responded to the Kyiv Post's request for comment.

Lutsenko and Derkach have known each other for many years. They had both been members of the Socialist Party of Ukraine. A picture from a 2005 issue of the Ukraine Moloda newspaper shows them sitting and talking at the party's congress like close friends. While serving as interior minister, Lutsenko once presented Oksana Terekhova, Derkach's wife, with an honorary pistol, several Ukrainian media reported.

Derkach, who was elected to the current parliament from a single-member district, was a lawmaker with Yanukovich's party for two terms and voted for the so-called dictatorship laws in January 2014, which targeted the EuroMaidan protests. His father, Leonid Derkach, headed SBU in 1998-2001.

Derkach himself is no stranger to the secret services. In 1990-1993, he studied at the Academy of the Russian Ministry of Security, which was later renamed to the FSB Academy. His graduation thesis was called "Organizing and Holding Meetings with Secret Agents." ■

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Hladkovsky, a top Poroshenko ally, is arrested in defense corruption scandal

By Igor Kossov
kossov@kyivpost.com

Oleh Hladkovsky, a former defense official implicated in a Hr 250 million graft scandal in March, was arrested on Oct. 17 near Kyiv after he had unsuccessfully tried to leave the country.

The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) confirmed the arrest on charges of abuse of office but didn't disclose additional details.

According to a Kyiv Post source, Hladkovsky's arrest was tied to an investigation of a state defense contract that might have benefitted Hladkovsky's car manufacturing company, Bohdan Motors. In 2016, the Defense Ministry ordered military trucks from Bohdan Motors in an apparent conflict of interest.

According to another source familiar with the case, the price of the trucks was inflated. After the contract was signed and 80 percent of it was paid out, the parties allegedly signed an addendum to



Then-first deputy secretary of Ukraine's National Defense and Security Council Oleh Hladkovsky attends a briefing in Kyiv in March, 2018. Hladkovsky has since been fired after an investigative report linked him to a corruption scheme worth Hr 250 million. Hladkovsky has since returned to running Bohdan Motors as company president.



Oleh Hladkovsky, a former defense official implicated in several alleged corruption schemes, was arrested by detectives of the National Anti-corruption Bureau of Ukraine on Oct. 17, 2019. Hladkovsky was trying to leave Ukraine shortly before the arrest.

the contract, raising the price. Most of Ukraine's defense procurement takes place in secret, and doesn't become a matter of public record. The ministry sustained significant financial losses, which prompted the indictment.

Bohdan ordered the vehicles in a semi-completed state from Belarusian company MAZ before putting on the finishing touches — and its brand.

Hladkovsky was an appointee of ex-President Petro Poroshenko, and his former business partner.

The businessman reportedly tried to fly out of Ukraine via Boryspil International Airport near Kyiv but was denied exit. NABU detectives reportedly arrested him at a restaurant near the airport shortly after. According to a source in the prosecutor's office of Ukraine, the arrest was done in haste because the NABU was alerted when Hladkovsky tried to leave the country.

Hladkovsky released a statement protesting his "politically motivated" detention through Bohdan's press service and announced that he was going on a hunger strike. The company added that he was on his way to the Bus World 2019 trade show in Brussels as the company's representative and was not trying to flee the country.

"Over the past half year, as I returned to the Bohdan corporation, I left the country tens of times to participate in talks with business partners and I always returned to Ukraine," Hladkovsky stated.

The arrest is a show of progress in an ongoing investigation of massive fraud in Ukraine's defense sector. The investigative program Nashi Groshi exposed an alleged scheme in February, based on the text messages leaked to its journalists.

The report accused Hladkovsky's son Ihor of leading an operation to smuggle Russian military parts to Ukraine and sell them to Ukrainian defense firms at inflated prices, along with his associates, Vitaliy Zhukov and Andriy Rogoza. The parts, many of which were of poor quality or defective, were allegedly later used in the war zones of the Donbas region.

Analysis of the messages between the partners revealed that Hladkovsky junior was exploiting his father's authority to push the deals through. One message implied that Hladkovsky senior was getting a cut of the profits.

The report criticized NABU and other law enforcement agencies for closing investigations into the alleged scheme over the years.

The elder Hladkovsky, a friend and business partner of Poroshenko, had been the first deputy secretary of Ukraine's National Defense and Security Council and the chairman of the Inter-Departmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation and Export Policy. Poroshenko fired him from both positions in March after the revelations went public. Poroshenko said in interviews that he had not spoken to Hladkovsky since then.

The expose contradicted Poroshenko's assertions that Ukraine had weaned itself off Russian imports for military parts. According to the report, the Kuznya on Rybalsky shipping plant, previously owned by Poroshenko, was involved in the scheme, doing further damage to Poroshenko's already-faltering reputation shortly before the March presidential elections.

All of the accused men subsequently denied the allegations against them.

NABU launched an investigation shortly after the report was published. However, Nashi Groshi found that the scheme had been investigated multiple times before and that almost every law enforcement agency in Ukraine, including NABU, helped cover up the corruption, allegedly due to bribes.

According to the investigative program, a NABU detective may have been bribed to take one of the companies involved in the scheme off the list of firms banned from dealing with Ukroboronprom.

Artem Sytnyk, the head of NABU, denied that the bureau made such a list, despite evidence to the contrary. However, the bureau still fired two detectives who had been mentioned in the Nashi Groshi report. ■



On the run in Syria

Top: Displaced people, fleeing from the countryside of the Syrian Kurdish town of Ras al-Ain along the border with Turkey, ride a motorcycle together along a road on the outskirts of the nearby town of Tal Tamr on Oct. 16, 2019, as they flee a deadly cross-border Turkish offensive that has sparked an international outcry, with smoke plumes of tire fires billowing in the background to decrease visibility for Turkish warplanes in the area.

Right: Demonstrators protest against the Turkish military operation in Syria, outside the Turkish Embassy in Kyiv on Oct. 15, 2019.



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Kent, McKinley, Hill, Yovanovitch tell their stories

page 2 →

In her testimony to the House, Yovanovitch said she did not know Giuliani's motives for attacking her but suggested that his associates might have viewed the embassy's anti-corruption policy in Ukraine as an obstacle to their personal business interests.

Just days after Yovanovitch left Ukraine and Zelensky assumed office, acting White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney held a meeting where he named three people who would be unofficially responsible for Ukraine policy, U.S. media reported. That revelation came from the Oct. 16 testimony of George Kent, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State who also served as the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. embassy in Kyiv between 2015 and 2018.

Although overseeing policy in Ukraine was officially part of Kent's duties, he was told to "lay low," the Washington Post reported, and let Energy Secretary Rick Perry, U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland and U.S. special envoy to Ukraine Kurt Volker take charge.

Perry led the U.S. delegation at Zelensky's inauguration on May 20.

Perry also saw Zelensky on June 4 at the U.S. Independence Day dinner hosted by Sondland in Brussels on the Ukrainian president's first foreign visit. A photo from the event shows Zelensky sitting next to Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser.



Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch flanked by lawyers, aides and Capitol police, leaves the U.S. Capitol Oct. 11, 2019 in Washington, D.C. after testifying behind closed doors to the House Intelligence, Foreign Affairs and Oversight committees as part of the ongoing impeachment investigation against President Donald Trump.

Another witness also pointed to Sondland's leading role in back-channel diplomacy.

Fiona Hill, former top Russia adviser to the White House, told the House committees on Oct. 14 that Sondland talked about investigating Joe Biden and his son at a July 10 meeting involving Hill, then-National Security Adviser John Bolton and other U.S. and Ukrainian officials, the New York Times reported.

According to a Washington Post

report, Hill testified that Giuliani ran shadow foreign policy in Ukraine for Trump's personal benefit and that she had confronted Sondland about Giuliani's activities.

Two weeks later, on July 25, Zelensky received the call from Trump.

Michael McKinley, a former top adviser to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, reportedly told the House committees on Oct. 16 that he had resigned a week earlier because he

disagreed with Trump's use of U.S. diplomats to pursue his domestic political goals. He was also upset with the unwillingness of the State Department to defend Yovanovitch, the Washington Post reported.

Sondland began his testimony on Oct. 17. In his opening statement, obtained by NBC News, he said he was directed to talk to Giuliani by Trump at the May 23 meeting and denied any foreknowledge of Giuliani's agenda.

In several conversations with Trump's attorney, Sondland said Giuliani emphasized that the president wanted a public pledge from Zelensky to look into anti-corruption issues, in particular the 2016 election and Burisma.

"I understood that Burisma was one of many examples of Ukrainian companies run by oligarchs," Sondland said in a statement. "I didn't know until more recent press reports that Hunter Biden was on the board of Burisma. I do not remember that he (Giuliani) had discussed Joe Biden or his son with me."

Acting U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor has been summoned to testify on Oct. 22 according to the latest reports.

Meanwhile, Hunter Biden gave a rare interview to ABC News in which he admitted that it had been poor judgment to take a job with Burisma while his father was the point person for the Obama administration's anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine. However, he denied any wrongdoing during his time at the company.

The number of American voters who support Trump's impeachment has reached 52% according to a Gallup poll released on Oct. 16.

Among Republican politicians, frustration with Trump has been growing following his abrupt decision to withdraw U.S. troops from northeastern Syria, betraying Kurdish allies who are now under Turkish attack and jeopardizing the years-long fight against ISIS. ■

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OUR SUPPORTERS:



Kolomoisky ski resort threatens pristine Carpathian wilderness

By Vincent Mundy

RAKHIV, Ukraine — Overlooking Europe's longest mountain chain in the middle of the Carpathian region, there is a shimmering glacial lake and primeval mountain forest.

"Look! This is why we must free Svydovets," says plant ecologist and Lviv native Bohdan Prots, gazing at Ukraine's last undisturbed ecosystem, which Ukrainian billionaire oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky reportedly wants to transform into a massive ski resort. It is close to Rakhiv, a Zakarpattia Oblast city of 15,000 people located 678 kilometers southwest of Kyiv.

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage site list for its exceptional biodiversity, including dwindling populations of endangered lynx, wolves and bears, and primeval beech forests, the area could soon be wiped out by a development catering to the wealthy.

First presented as a local government initiative, the project is actually funded by Skorzonera LLC, the Swiss-based Bruno Manser Fund revealed in a report released this summer. According to the report, its beneficial owners are Kolomoisky, who used to own the nearby Bukovel ski resort, and his business partner Gennady Bogolyubov. Skorzonera's representatives declined to comment for this story.

The revelation is one of several startling findings in the investigative report by the Bruno Manser Fund, a nongovernmental organization that campaigns for the conservation of the world's remaining biodiversity hotspots and against the corruption and non-transparent governance that enable mass ecocide.

First announced in 2017, the resort would include more than 230 kilometers of ski slopes, around 60 hotels and 400 cottages to serve up to 22,000 tourists a day.

But local, national and international opposition has been fierce,



Director of the Danube-Carpathian Program Bohdan Prots, on a mountaintop in Svydovets. The Free Svydovets Group advocates for the preservation of the Svydovets massif due to its environmental value and its importance to the livelihood of local communities.

and several legal challenges from local residents and businesses have led to an ongoing series of court cases that involve allegations from plaintiffs of intimidation, blackmail and death threats.

International conservation movements including the World Wildlife Fund and European Wilderness Society have also expressed alarm about the plans and the non-transparent manner in which the scheme has been pushed forward.

According to the Bruno Manser Fund's report, a case disputing the development is pending before the Supreme Court of Ukraine.

The company hasn't started construction yet, but local authorities already cut down forest and started a new road that will link Bukovel to Svydovets.

"All of this wild nature and such a unique biodiversity hotspot in Ukraine, indeed Europe, will be lost if this destructive development goes ahead," says Prots, a professor at the National Academy of Sciences of

Ukraine and director of the Danube-Carpathian Program at the World Wildlife Fund, which works to preserve the region's ecology.

Prots says Ukraine needs to realize that opposition to the resort project is not only about saving nature but also about building an economy that works for everyone, not just the few. "It's not just the impact on other creatures," Prots adds. "Ukraine needs to develop a green economy with sustainable, sensitive developments. This is the opposite."

Prots is not alone. French emigre Oreste Del Sol, who settled in Ukraine in 1992 and started a farm specializing in organic goat cheese, established Free Svydovets, a civil society group that is campaigning to stop the ski resort project.

"I am against oligarchs who want to take over land without taking into account the opinions of simple people," Del Sol explains after a hike up the mountain. "But we also need to rethink lifestyles and consumption

habits. Winter sports are fun, but when I see such a wild and beautiful space in Europe, I just want to preserve it as it is."

Local opposition

Near the area of the future ski resort lies the village of Kvasy, where concern about the development's impact on local ecology as well as local businesses is a frequent topic of conversation.

In the center of the village is Tsypa, a popular brewery that supplies the beer of the same name to restaurants and stores across Ukraine.

"We make our beer from pure, unfiltered mountain water from a spring nearby," brewer Andrew Kysil tells the Kyiv Post as his colleague arrives with a delivery of pungent hops. "And we are worried about pollution and damage which could potentially destroy our source of water."

The brewery, which is currently making a special edition India Pale Ale called "Free Svydovets," buys its ingredients from organic local producers, but Kysil says that the new development will crowd out small businesses and monopolize the area's economy, like Bukovel did in a different area of the Carpathians.

"This village is successful because there are many small businesses who produce everything without harming nature or risking others' livelihood. At Bukovel, they don't employ lots of locals as they promised, and the prices are really high because all the business is controlled by one group. They have all the power," Kysil says.

Across a busy road that cuts through Kvasy, Ivan Pavlovic, head of a clinic at Girska Tysa Spa, long famous for its healing springs, also says there has not been enough consultation with locals, and he is worried that the proposed ski resort could destroy the hydrology of the area.

"The problem is we just don't know what the impact could be. They haven't consulted with us, but we could be severely affect-

ed," Pavlovic says, gesturing at the resort's wells outside his clinic. "Our water comes from 50 meters down, but when you build such a huge resort you cannot predict what will happen to the hydrology. Maybe our wells will stop functioning or our mineral water could become permanently contaminated."

Allegations of collusion

Despite growing opposition and allegations of collusion between officials and the investors, the local authorities in the town of Rakhiv and the regional administration remain behind the project. New regional governor Ihor Bondarenko, appointed by President Volodymyr Zelensky in June, has said, "The resort could attract important investments to Ukraine."

While Bondarenko promised to look into objections to the project, he seems unlikely to oppose it after Zelensky announced in a September news conference that he wanted investors to help create "East European Alps" in the Carpathians. This particular investor, Kolomoisky, is a former business associate of Zelensky and his chief of staff, Andriy Bohdan.

Among a number of concerns about Skorzonera and its murky relations to local officials, the report by the Bruno Manser Fund states: "While the competent authorities continue to present the Svydovets resort as a government initiative, the billion-dollar plan is in fact designed as a gigantic expansion of the Bukovel ski resort. The fact that cronies of a well-known oligarch are presenting the project in the name of the regional state administration points to the level of collusion between public officials and investors."

Contamination

The planned mega-resort will also certainly have trans-national environmental impacts. The sewage produced at Bukovel has already contaminated the nearby Tysa River, which flows through five countries and is a major tributary of the Danube. Hungary has condemned Ukraine for polluting the Tysa, which runs most of its course through Hungarian territory.

Residents of Polyanitsya, a village that Bukovel overshadowed when it opened in 2002, have complained of pollution, litter and broken promises to build a new school, provide jobs and to build a sewage system sufficient to cope with the huge amount of waste the resort creates.

The proposed resort at Svydovets is twice the size of Bukovel.

"The construction of large-scale infrastructure in the undisturbed mountain area of Svydovets threatens the whole ecosystem and the hydrological regime of the region," the Bruno Manser Fund report states.

Skorzonera director and former Bukovel ski resort manager Oleksandr Shevchenko declined to be interviewed for this story.

Vincent Mundy is a freelance journalist working in Ukraine. ■



Andrew Kysil checks on the beer being brewed at Tsypa Brewery on Sept. 25, 2019. "We make our beer from pure, unfiltered mountain water from a spring nearby, and we are worried about pollution and damage which could potentially destroy our source of water, he told the Kyiv Post.

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City Life

Initiative makes cinema accessible for visually and hearing impaired

With Toma Istomina
istomina@kyivpost.com

Maryna Starusiova hasn't seen a movie in many years.

She started losing her vision when she was seven. Today, the 38-year-old can only vaguely see silhouettes. She says that she used to go to the cinema, she listened to dialogues while her friends quietly described what was happening on the screen.

But it could be unsatisfying. "You check in at the cinema but don't really feel those emotions," Starusiova told the Kyiv Post. "Everyone is laughing and you don't understand why."

But there is still a way for visually impaired people to enjoy cinema. Audio descriptions provide an additional narration track that outlines what is happening on the screen in dialogue, music, and other audio, creating a richer experience.

For those with hearing impairment, adapted subtitles can also be added to a film. They not only transcribe dialogue and narration but also describe other sounds and music.

There is no official data tracking how many people with vision and hearing disabilities live in Ukraine, although those working in those communities estimate that around 300,000 people with visual impairment and about 500,000 with hearing impairment live in the country.

For now, Ukraine's movie theaters don't cater to their needs, but the Accessible Cinema initiative is taking steps to change that. Since their launch in 2015, they have already created audio descriptions for about 30 films screened in Ukraine.

Soon, they will launch a free app that provides both audio descriptions and adapted subtitles so that anybody, in any city, can have access to the cinema.

"Accessible cinema is not just someone's whim," Viktoriya Luchka, the initiative's co-founder, told the Kyiv Post. "It is an absolutely ordinary right for a person to watch a movie and develop culturally."

Beginning

Luchka and her friend, civil rights activist Yulia Sachuk, who is herself visually impaired, decided to found Accessible Cinema after experiencing the lack of accessibility firsthand.

In 2016, the two friends went to the opening of the Docudays UA

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'The Rising Hawk' is for fans of action movies



A co-production of Ukraine and the United States, the new action film "The Rising Hawk" tells the story of a village in the Carpathian Mountains that courageously fights against the Mongol Empire army in the 13th century. The movie is based on the 1883 novel "Zakhar Berkut" by Ukrainian author Ivan Franko.

By Toma Istomina
istomina@kyivpost.com

It's hard to imagine a Ukrainian that doesn't know who Zakhar Berkut is.

A central character in the novel of the same name by one of Ukraine's best writers, Ivan Franko, Berkut is a legendary symbol of a relentless fight for freedom.

The novel has been a part of the literature program at schools for years, appearing to be a favorite story among kids.

Franko's historic novel was first adapted for the screen in 1971. The story has been brought back to the cinemas under the name "The Rising Hawk" in its English version and "Zakhar Berkut" in Ukrainian.

And it appears to be the country's

best action drama so far, maintaining the tone of the original story yet adding a new scale of epic battles.

"Freedom is my nature," the movie's slogan says.

The film is a co-production of Ukraine and the United States. Its directorial seats were occupied by representatives from both countries: Crimean Tatar actor and filmmaker Akhtem Seitablaiev and U.S. filmmaker John Wynn.

The movie was shot in English, and most of its leading roles were played by U.S. actors.

"The Rising Hawk" turned out to be one of the most expensive films ever shot in Ukraine. Its budget was Hr 113.5 million (\$4.5 million), almost a third of which was provided by the country's State Film Agency.

The film had its Ukrainian premiere on Oct. 10 and is in theaters now. It will be distributed in Spain and is working on expanding the list of countries with its screenings.

Historical basis

The picture is set in 1241 in the Carpathian Mountains, then part of the Kingdom of Galicia-Volhynia and today located in western Ukraine.

It immerses the audience in the world of 13th century Ukraine through the life of a small village headed by Berkut. Their people make a living by hunting and picking berries and provide for all of their needs by mastering various crafts, from blacksmithing weapons to tanning leather for armor and making jewelry. A big part of their

lifestyle is polytheism, the worship of multiple Slavic gods and goddesses, which sometimes means grand celebrations and rituals.

The peaceful life of the village's community, however, is soon shaken by the Mongol Empire, which had invaded and conquered most of Kyivan Rus by that time. As the Mongol army approaches the Carpathians, it attacks one of the villages, ferociously killing most of their citizens and holding others hostages. Berkut's sons, Maksym and Ivan, sneak into the invaders' settlement and release the people, provoking the Mongolian khan's wrath. The brothers proceed to lead the fight

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Here's how expats can volunteer to do good in Kyiv, other cities

By Artur Korniienko
korniienko@kyivpost.com

Volunteers have been a driving force for positive change in Ukraine, and quite a few of them have been foreigners.

In Kyiv, thousands volunteered to organize the EuroMaidan Revolution's protest camps, feed the demonstrators and provide medical care to those who clashed with the riot police. After 100 days of demonstrations, the protesters reached their goal of overthrowing the Kremlin-backed President Viktor Yanukovich on Feb. 22, 2014.

In the following months, Russia used the ensuing turmoil to invade Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and start a war in the eastern Donbas. So volunteers stepped in again to support and equip the Ukrainian armed forces. Some joined the fighting as part of volunteer battalions.

In those crucial months, a culture of volunteerism ignited in Ukraine. From the frontlines, it spread to Ukrainian cities to help those affected by the war, especially internally displaced persons and veterans. Organizations popped up to help the sick and the elderly, educate youth and protect animals and the environment.

In 2017, activists in Lviv created the Ukrainian Volunteer Service, which brings together people who want to volunteer and do-gooder organizations that need them. Currently, UVS works with some 4,000 volunteers and helps over 50 nonprofit organizations every month.

While most of these nonprofits want their volunteers to speak Ukrainian or Russian, some can benefit from English-speaking foreign volunteers. UVS helped The Kyiv Post select charities that welcome expatriates living in Kyiv for different kinds of volunteering.

Sign up as a volunteer with the Ukrainian Volunteer Service at www.volunteer.country/registration.

Education

Go Global is a nonprofit that runs Go Camp, a project bringing hun-



Volunteers for Tabletochki charity fund play with children undergoing cancer treatment in Kyiv in 2019. Such engagement helps make the kids' time in hospital less boring. Photo: Tabletochki

dreds of volunteers from around the world to teach English, French or German to children in schools all over Ukraine during three weeks in the summer. The volunteers get to discover the country and live with a Ukrainian host family.

Besides the summer language camp, the nonprofit also runs Go Camp Afterschool, an extracurricular program where foreign volunteers can teach English and other classes year-round in schools around Ukraine. Expatriates living in Kyiv and other cities can join such classes in the participating schools closest to where they live.

Contact Go Global at join@goglobal.com.ua.

Vy. Mova is an English program similar to Go Camp Afterschool, but

it currently runs only in the villages of the Kuyalnyk territorial community in the north of Odesa Oblast.

Vy. Mova was created by a team of educators who develop innovative approaches to teaching and want their English-language volunteers to become mentors that inspire their students. Volunteering with Vy. Mova could be perfect for expatriates living in Odesa Oblast or those who want to travel there.

Contact Vy. Mova at vy.mova.ua@gmail.com.

Humanitarian help

Tabletochki charity fund helps children with cancer and their families in Ukraine. Its foremost objective is raising money to buy medicine and treatment for the kids but it

also supports them and their families psychologically with art therapy classes, workshops, parties and other activities.

For this purpose, Tabletochki invites volunteers who can engage with children to make their time in Kyiv's cancer treatment centers more enjoyable. Communication is the key, so volunteers are expected to speak Ukrainian or Russian. A coordinator at the fund told the Kyiv Post that they may create English classes for these kids, so native speakers would be more welcome to join.

Contact Tabletochki at info@tabletochki.org.

Starenki charity fund buys food and groceries for single retirees in Kyiv and Dnipro who can't afford to do so with their pension. The volunteers for the fund can deliver the packages, have tea with the elderly clients and otherwise engage with them.

An operational director at the fund told the Kyiv Post that they welcome foreign volunteers to join. If they don't speak Ukrainian or Russian, they can deliver the packages with a local volunteer. The single retirees would appreciate the attention and any communication with people from abroad.

Contact Starenki at help@starenki.com.ua.

Environment, animals

Ecoaction (Ekodiya) is a nonprofit that advocates for environmental protection and renewable energy. It brings together experts and activists to develop environmentally friendly solutions for the government and local communities and aims to develop "an active eco-community."

Ecoaction's coordinator told the Kyiv Post that they welcome foreign volunteers to help edit their English-language publications and find information from international sources. Ecoaction also holds regular speaking club meetings where volunteers share information, practice their English and discussion skills.

Contact Ecoaction at info@ecoaction.org.ua.

UAnimals is another nonprofit that promotes humane treatment of animals and advocates for the prohibition of animal exploitation in circuses and other forms of entertainment in Ukraine. UAnimals has organized rallies and marches for animal rights.

The organization welcomes foreign volunteers and says that the format of volunteer's engagement depends on his or her abilities and enthusiasm.

Contact UAnimals at info@uanimals.org.

Sirius is the largest shelter for homeless dogs and cats in Ukraine. The shelter actively tries to find homes for its animals and vaccinates and sterilizes pets for low-income families.

Sirius, located some 60 kilometers from Kyiv, welcomes any volunteers who can help with the most graceful job — taking the dogs for walks to help them socialize. There is also a lot of help needed with chores around the shelter and some construction work.

Visit Sirius in the village of Fedorivka in Vyshhorod Region of Kyiv Oblast on Tue, Fri, Sat and Sun from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact at sirius@dogcat.com.ua. A Facebook group organizes group trips to the shelter at facebook.com/groups/trip.sirius/. ■



Activists and their dogs march at the rally for animal rights organized by UAnimals non-profit organization on Sept. 15, 2019.

Ivan Franko's Zakhar Berkut comes alive

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for their people's lives alongside their dad.

Although the film and the original novel, are based on historical events, its storyline is not an exact reflection of reality - most of the film's characters, as well as the whole plot, are fictional.

The people of the Kingdom of Galicia-Volhynia indeed courageously protected their lands, fighting one of the strongest armies in history on its way to new conquests in Hungary and further in Europe.

"We were born here. These mountains made us who we are," the film's narrator says.

Before the Mongol Empire became the largest contiguous land empire in history, occupying most of the continent, it, in fact, had hard times in western Ukraine: some of its fortified cities managed to repel the attackers, while some villages succeeded in escaping before the Mongols reached them.

Action must-haves

Since Ukraine started allocating state funds for making movies through the State Film Agency, a number of action pictures have been shot here. However, rarely if not ever do they reach critical acclaim, and they often lack essential elements for a good action picture.

But "The Rising Hawk" appears to be an exception.

Any good action film starts with a world - either created or set up in detail to give the audience a sense of the reality that the characters live in.

The movie's team did that perfectly, recreating the 13th century village through both the plot, which depicts the community's ordinary life, the people-led form of government, the legends they believe in and their values, as well as through production and costume design, with authentic-looking weapons, various equipment, buildings and clothes.

Surprisingly, the two-country collaboration turned out to be a key



One of the most expensive films in Ukrainian history, "The Rising Hawk" portrays some of the bloody fights between Ukrainians and the Mongols in the 13th century. The film stars a number of foreign and Ukrainian actors, one of which, U.S. Alex MacNicoll takes on the leading role of a fearless fighter Maksym Berkut. (Courtesy)

to a successful depiction of the local color. The Ukrainian side provided knowledge about the area's culture and set up a Carpathian village with precision, while the U.S. part of the team contributed to making the story universal, cutting out the unnecessary details.

No matter how well-thought out the movie's world is, however, a good action movie is impossible without a charismatic, motivated and relatable protagonist.

Although the central figure in the story is Berkut (U.S. Robert Patrick), it's actually his younger son, Maksym (U.S. Alex MacNicoll), who takes the leading role in standing up to the Mongols.

Moved by the desire to protect his community, he proves to be a smart and fearless battler who is ready for sacrifice.

"Choose to run away and save yourselves or become one, protect our home and fight for what is precious to us," Maksym says in one of his goosebump-inducing speeches before a battle.

But why need a protagonist if there is nobody to combat? A first-class action film requires some horrendous villains.

Ukraine's history is full of those, from the Russian Empire's soldiers to the Soviet Union's comrades, but there was nobody as mysterious in its ruthlessness as the Mongols.

"Demons on horses," one of the film's characters describes them.

Dressed in black armor, their vast army resembles a dark cloud covering any area they invade, promising no sunshine to the people it conquers.

The world-protagonist-villain mix wouldn't be complete without the most essential part of an action picture, some badass fights, which "The Rising Hawk" makes sure to deliver.

All the film's battles, from the one on one bet battles to the film's biggest combats in forests and in between steep rocks, are breathtaking and thoughtfully choreographed scenes - part of the reason it has been compared to the legendary

action picture about Spartans "300" starring Scottish actor Gerard Butler.

Values

"The Rising Hawk" has some minor plot holes and several dialogues that sag a bit. Nevertheless, that doesn't hurt the overall anticipation that the film builds. The picture gradually adds layers to the plot leading to its main, final battle.

The film has been criticized for some of its casting choices, one of which was Irish actress Alison Doody, who plays Berkut's wife Rada. The 52-year-old appears to have a very unnatural look because of some personal dabbling in plastic surgery. To put it mildly, Doody looked out of place in the period film set in the 13th century.

Most of the film's cast, however, bring some A-game acting. Patrick, known for the villain role in "Terminator 2: Judgment Day," portrays a restrained and wise leader. Ukrainian actor Andriy Isaenko masters the role of a mute yet expressive and heroic fighter Petro. And British

actor Oliver Trevena delivers one of the film's best performances as the elusive daredevil Bohun, a symbol of the Ukrainian fighter spirit.

All of that has been masterfully stitched together with some astonishing cinematography by Ukrainian Yuriy Korol.

The movie's shots brilliantly picture the beauty of the Carpathians, often mysterious and shrouded in fog, as well as the thrilling aesthetics of numerous bloody fight scenes framed by burning buildings and trees in the background.

Although it's a universal story, the film is a special one for Ukraine. It actually might be one of the first movies to make Ukrainians feel proud of their history and artistic heritage. Not only does it bring back a monumental moment of the country's past but it also translates some of its key values that Ukraine has fought hard to carry through the years.

"We have won by our public order our unity and our friendship," the narrator says, sending the audience a taste of Franko. ■

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Audio assistance for moviegoers

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International Human Rights Film Festival and watched a foreign film. It was screened in the film's original language with Ukrainian subtitles, so Sachuk couldn't listen to the dialogue as she was used to doing.

"Everything was perfect, so many nice people, but I couldn't watch this film the way they could," Sachuk told the Kyiv Post.

So the two friends decided to do something.

They already understood how to create audio descriptions - a year earlier, Luchka and Sachuk worked on a documentary about people with visual impairment called "I See," and audio description was used in the film to give audiences the same experience as the visually impaired.

The film wasn't widely distributed in Ukraine but had several screenings around the country as well as one at the United Nations in New York.

While working on "I See," Luchka and Sachuk met Andriy Demchuk, a Paralympic champion in fencing and a computer technology scientist. For his dissertation, Demchuk created the audio description software that was used in "I See."

After the momentous screening at Docudays in 2016, the three teamed up again, with an expansive mission to make accessible cinema the standard everywhere.

They started with Docudays itself, and in 2018 they created audio descriptions for two Ukrainian films screened at the festival.

There were many more documentaries that were still inaccessible for people with disabilities, "but it meant there was awareness of this problem," Sachuk said.

Since then, the initiative started communication with other film festivals and distributors and quickly scaled up.

Audio description art

In 2018, Accessible Cinema signed up for a project to provide an audio description for 10 Ukrainian films, which was financed by Ukrainian Cultural Fund. The list included older films like the 2008 romantic drama "Summer Love" and new hits such as the 2018 war drama "Donbas."

Luchka says that one of the most important parts is picking a person to narrate the description. "Their voice should match the tone of the film. It's very intuitive and depends on the emotion that a voice evokes," she said. The initiative usually invites professional narrators, including journalists, actors, and TV and radio hosts to read the descriptions.

According to Luchka, the best audio descriptions are made in cooperation with a film's creators, who can emphasize important visual details that may have been missed by audio description team.

Starusiova says that her introduction to the world of audio description was disappointing. After watching two films online with descriptions



People with visual impairment watch Ukrainian documentary "The Distant Barking Of Dogs" listening to the audio description provided by the Accessible Cinema initiative at the 2018 Docudays UA film festival in Kyiv.

"for dummies," she never used the service again. However, her first audio description experience in cinema, when she watched the Ukrainian comedy "Dzidzio's First Time," was very different.

"It ruined my stereotypes about audio description," she said. "I was so inspired."

Starusiova says she loved the narrator's "pleasant" voice and the way the description was written. "Like when it said, 'he touched the place where she just kissed him,'" she said.

The film's audio description was created by Accessible Cinema. It was also the first film in Ukraine to receive a distribution license from the State Film Agency for audio descriptions in theatres. Before, descriptions were just added to the online after they had been distributed.

Although it was a big victory, the initiative soon realized there was another obstacle: most of the cinemas in Ukraine didn't have the necessary equipment, to play their descriptions, which is similar to the machines used for simultaneous translations.

That's when Accessible Cinema decided to take their work step further.

Inclusion

Many countries require filmmakers and theaters to provide audio descriptions with their films.

In the United States, for instance, all cinemas are legally required to offer audio descriptions to the visually impaired, and theatres provide headphones and a transmitter boxes. In Austria, all state-funded films have to be made with audio descriptions, and there is an application that synchronizes with the sound during screenings and plays descriptions between pauses in the film's audio.

Ukraine hasn't adopted any legislation in this regard, and Luchka believes that like Austria and the United States, all of Ukraine's state-financed films should be required to provide an audio descriptions to audiences.

"Those films that are funded by our taxes should be accessible to everyone," she said. "It should be the next logical step for the State Film Agency not only to support Ukrainian cinematography but also to support its accessibility."

For now, the initiative is fighting without support from the state. Along with international organizations, whose names they can't yet disclose, they developed their application for impaired audiences, which will offer both audio descriptions and adapted subtitles for download. The visitors will just need a pair of headphones and their own smartphone to use it.

The first film to be released through the app will be "Mr. Jones," a co-production of Poland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom, which hits cinemas on Nov. 28. Based on the real-life events, the film tells the story of Gareth Jones, a journalist from Wales who discovered the artificial famine carried out by the Soviet authorities in Ukraine in 1933.

The Accessible Cinema initiative collaborated with "Mr. Jones" through their Ukrainian distributor, Film UA Group.

"They reacted very warmly," Luchka said. "It was important to them and they wanted to get involved."

This will be the first film screened in Ukraine that anyone with a smartphone will be able to watch with an audio description or adapted subtitles.

Luchka also emphasizes that accessible cinema shouldn't be separated from the mainstream movie-going experience. "We object arranging some separate segregated screenings where we bring all blind people," she said.

"We want people with visual or hearing impairment to be able to participate freely in the life of society and if they want to go to the cinema, they don't have to go to any special place, but watch any film at any cinema." ■

In London and Kyiv, PrivatBank is striking back

By Anna Myroniuk and Jack Launson

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A pair of court rulings this week in two separate jurisdictions have allowed state-owned PrivatBank and its supporters to rally and strike back against controversial oligarch, alleged fraudster and former co-owner of the bank, Ihor Kolomoisky.

A landmark ruling on Oct. 15 in London means PrivatBank can move forward with a \$3 billion lawsuit that alleges fraud on a massive scale carried out by its former owners, Ihor Kolomoisky and his business partner Gennadiy Boholyubov.

PrivatBank can now press ahead with its claim after lawyers representing the Ukrainian oligarch failed to persuade the Court of Appeal of England and Wales that fraud claims brought against the pair by PrivatBank should not be litigated in U.K. jurisdiction.

The bank says this fraud through the U.K. or its linked offshore jurisdictions cost it hundreds of millions of dollars and resulted in an International Monetary Fund-backed nationalization to prevent its collapse. Kolomoisky has said in a statement that he is now "seeking permission" from the U.K. Supreme Court to challenge the Oct. 15 ruling.

And on Oct. 17, Kolomoisky faced a further setback, this time in Kyiv.

A case against PrivatBank and seven other defendants that had been brought by the oligarch was intended to help him reclaim his former shares in the now state-owned bank. It was supposed to be his home straight in achieving this goal. Observers predicted a negative outcome for PrivatBank from an allegedly biased judge, but the proceedings were instead stopped without prior notice, surprising all the participants and giving the bank hope in any future litigation in Ukraine.

London calling

It is in London, however, where Kolomoisky's chickens may yet come home to roost.

PrivatBank, which the oligarch co-founded in 1992 with Boholyubov, among others, was the country's largest lender when it faced collapse in 2016, shortly after forensic auditors discovered a \$5.5 billion hole in its ledger. The state saved the bank injecting the amount of money, which its co-owners allegedly embezzled in a fraudulent, Ponzi-like scheme. The accused have strongly denied all wrongdoing.

But the Oct. 15 appellate ruling, from the second-highest U.K. court overturns a December 2018 judgment by the lower High Court of Justice, which ruled that British jurisdiction did not apply to PrivatBank's fraud claim. It means the pair will face English justice, unless they convince the U.K. Supreme Court otherwise.

PrivatBank is now seeking to recoup \$3 billion from its for-

mer owners. The claim's principal amount was \$1.9 billion initially, growing to \$2.6 billion with interest as proceedings in England got underway. Interest continues to accrue at \$500,000 per day.

The appellate ruling means that the English courts have jurisdiction over claims brought by PrivatBank, and have jurisdiction to hear the bank's suit against Kolomoisky and Boholyubov, despite their flawed claim to be domiciled in Switzerland.

It also rules that proceedings in England should not be stayed and the bank's claim should be heard without further delay. In addition, PrivatBank can claim for the principal plus interest, meaning its total legitimate claim is now \$3 billion.

Most frustratingly for the accused pair, a worldwide order freezing the assets of Kolomoisky and Boholyubov remains in place, according to the appeal court judgment.

"We are delighted with the ruling of the Court of Appeal, that this morning confirmed the strength of PrivatBank's legal position on all issues," said Artem Shevalev, deputy chairman of the supervisory board at PrivatBank.

Kolomoisky's lawyers told the Kyiv Post their client would appeal to the U.K. Supreme Court. Legal experts said this is possible and the defendants have 28 days to do so, but that the Supreme Court rarely overturns such appellate rulings and this would not prevent PrivatBank from moving ahead with its complaint. Kolomoisky's lawyers unsuccessfully requested for the case to be suspended during the appeal period.

Reprieve in Kyiv fiasco

Kolomoisky again faced disappointment at the Kyiv Economic Court on Oct. 16 when the presiding judge ruled to indefinitely pause his case brought against PrivatBank and its supporters.

It was an unexpected move, with the defendants having already prepared themselves for a negative outcome. Instead, the judge decided to pause it up until another court in Kyiv issues its verdict first. PrivatBank breathed a sigh of relief.

It is a long awaited decision for PrivatBank and the other seven state defendants in the case — they asked the judge many times for such a ruling. Presiding Judge Ludmila Shkurdova repeatedly rejected the majority of the claims from lawyers defending the state, prompting allegations that she is biased in favor of Kolomoisky.

Shkurdova made the decision a day before the court hearing was due to take place in secrecy. In complete unawareness of dozens of people, including protesters, journalists and lawyers gathered in front of the court for the hearing scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m., but the doors were closed and the building was cordoned off by police and firefighters searching for a bomb. An anonymous caller said there was an explosive device inside the court.

The bomb threat was false and

Outcome of legal drama will be sign of Ukraine's future

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the court returned to normal in a few hours after the PrivatBank case hearing should have started. Only then, all ten parties involved learned that this hearing would not even take place.

"The case you all are asking about is not going to be heard today as the judge made a decision to stop the proceeding because of another case being heard in another court," Petro Palamar, deputy chief of the Kyiv Economic Court, announced to the crowds.

The judge's decision says that Shkurdova stopped the proceedings to await another ruling on a similar dispute.

On April 18, the Kyiv District Administrative Court, which has a tarnished reputation and has made a number of controversial decisions leading to investigations from the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, ruled in favor of the oligarch and reversed the so-called nationalization of the bank. PrivatBank appealed this in the District Administrative Court and this claim is currently pending to be

processed. After this court issues its verdict Shkurdova will be able to make her step.

Both PrivatBank and the National Bank representatives said they were satisfied with this ruling: "The state institutions brought the court's attention earlier to the fact that there is another dispute over the nationalization, however, while we were filing this claim the judge rejected them not wanting to stop the case. For some reason she did it yesterday by herself," said Viktor Hryhorchuk, representing the National Bank of Ukraine.

English justice

The decision in Ukraine could have something to do with London's landmark ruling echoing to Kyiv. Little stands between PrivatBank pressing ahead with its \$3 billion lawsuit in the U.K. courts, but the outlook didn't always look this hopeful.

An earlier ruling in December 2018, by High Court Justice Fancourt, was overturned this week on Oct. 15 by a three-person panel of appellate judges. That panel concluded that three English companies and three more firms registered in the British Virgin Islands could have

been instrumental in the alleged fraud — sufficient grounds to have the claim litigated in England.

The Kyiv Post obtained the unredacted 74-page judgment, authored by some of the most experienced judges from the appellate court, Lord Justice Richards, Lord Justice Flaux and Lord Justice Newey. The entire ruling is available in full on the Kyiv Post website.

Much of the judgment relates to technical deliberations over jurisdiction for the claim. But it also contains a number of critical findings on the strength of PrivatBank's overall case, factors that are likely to pose a significant challenge to Boholyubov and Kolomoisky as they prepare for the next part of their defense.

The Court of Appeal notes in multiple paragraphs of its ruling that the defendants do not dispute the existence of a good and arguable fraudulent case against them.

It also states that Kolomoisky and Boholyubov have not offered explanations to questionable off-shore transactions that are under scrutiny: "The defendants, including Mr. Kolomoisky and Mr. Bogolyubov, accept, for the purposes of this



A lawyer for the oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky, Oleksandr Vinnychenko, talks to journalists in front of the Kyiv Economic Court, where a hearing on the legality of the 2016 nationalization of PrivatBank was indefinitely postponed on Oct. 17, 2019.

appeal, that there is a good arguable case that the Bank lost approximately US\$515 million through these transactions and that they were orchestrated by Mr. Kolomoisky and Mr. Bogolyubov..." reads an extract.

"The evidence was "strongly indicative of an elaborate fraud perpetrated by someone, allied to an attempt to conceal from any auditor or regulator the existence of bad debts on the Bank's books, and money laundering on a vast scale," reads another passage from the ruling.

What comes next?

The proceedings in the District Administrative Court have not been started so far. As soon as the court makes its decision, the Economic Court takes the stage and finalizes its own ruling. It is unclear how much time it may take.

The court in England has ordered lawyers acting for Kolomoisky and

Boholyubov to file a "line of defense" by the end of November. This has to be in response to the accusations of fraud that PrivatBank filed against the former owners back in December 2018.

In December, after Kolomoisky's legal team provide the High Court with their defense argument, lawyers say that a lengthy exchange of legal arguments will begin, followed by procedural hearings. An actual trial is unlikely to happen before mid-2021 and could last a few weeks. The procedure requires the defendants to testify before the court in person unless there are serious extenuating circumstances.

If the alleged fraud claim brought by PrivatBank is proven in the High Court, it is possible that the U.K. Serious Fraud Office could begin a separate criminal investigation into the defendants which could result in a criminal trial at the Crown Court. ■

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(Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Big win

Top: Andriy Yarmolenko celebrates Ukraine's victory over Portugal in Kyiv on Oct. 14, 2019. Right: Portugal's Nelson Semedo battles for the ball with Ukraine's Vitaliy Mykolenko.

Ukraine's soccer team won 2-1 over Portugal at Kyiv's Olympic Stadium on Oct. 14. With the victory, the team qualified to the 2020 UEFA European Football Championship. Ukraine's striker Roman Yaremchuk opened the score on the sixth minute, with Andriy Yarmolenko doubling the score midway through the first half.



(Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



(Kyiv Lions Club)

Kyiv Lions Club swings into action

The Kyiv Lions Club staged Kozak Night 2019 on Oct. 5, raising \$4,362 towards the purchase of hospital equipment. The international service organization's Kyiv chapter has been active for more than two decades, raising at least \$2 million for children, mainly orphans, and hospitals. The event took place at Equides Club in Lisnyky, Kyiv Oblast. The charity auction was emceed by Pavlo Shylko, better known as DJ Pasha. Above: Lions Club members. Below: Dancing the night away.



(Kyiv Lions Club)

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