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## Magnitsky bill targets rights' abusers

BY KATYA GORCHINSKAYA  
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Rarely does a piece of legislation in the United States excite Ukrainian critics of President Viktor Yanukovich so much. But the Magnitsky bill is one such case.

The U.S. is close to passing the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, which will introduce sanctions against many officials in Russia who directly or indirectly were involved in the death of Sergei Magnitsky, a prominent law-

yer who investigated massive scale corruption and fraud. He died in November 2009 after being tortured in prison.

There is a possibility that the final version of the bill will affect Ukraine as well, among other nations, giving

Washington a tool for potential use in case there is a political decision taken to sanction Ukraine's officials. So far, Washington prefers to engage, though, sending envoys to Kyiv's top dogs, who carry messages for them to stay in line.

→ 2

# Bottled Water: Which Is Best?

## Euro 2012's death toll

BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA  
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As the Euro 2012 euphoria settles, many are assessing the legacy of the football championship co-hosted by Ukraine and Poland last month.

One of the most overlooked costs, however, is the deadly price that the country paid for the three-week party. At least six people died and two were seriously injured while building two of the nation's fanciest and most expensive stadiums – Olympic in Kyiv and Donbass in Donetsk.

For Tetyana Samoiluk, Euro 2012 was not a joy, but a reminder of her tragedy.

Samoiluk is from the small village of Kamyanka in Khmelnytskyi Oblast. Her husband Serhiy was killed building Olympic Stadium. Now, two years after his tragic death, she still cannot speak about what happened without tears.

"I got a call Wednesday morning. A man from the construction company where my husband worked told me there was an accident the day before and my husband was crushed by a concrete panel. The next day they brought his body home," Samoiluk said with a trembling voice.

On April 20, Serhiy Samoiluk and 29-year-old co-worker Ihor Biba were removing a concrete panel on the site when it fell, fatally crushing Samoiluk and seriously injuring Biba. This was the first tragic incident at Olympic Stadium, a grand construction that cost the state budget Hr 4.6 billion (\$575 million).

Two years afterwards, the Pechersk District Court in Kyiv found the foreman of the construction company guilty of neglecting safety rules at the site. He was fired but escaped with a suspended sentence.

Workers who built the Olympic Stadium in Kyiv blame lax safety.

Stepan, one of the workers who witnessed the fatal accidents that

→ 9



**Editor's Note:** This is the third part of a four-part series on the safety of drinking water in Kyiv. The final part on how to make the best choice of water will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Kyiv Post.

BY OKSANA FARYNA  
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Most people assume that bottled water is safer than tap water, especially in Ukraine. While that is generally the

case, the water from the office cooler is not as pure as many think. In fact, experts say many brands can eventually pose harm to a person's health.

The Kyiv Post discovered that only four out of the 14 biggest bottled water brands in Kyiv met all sanitary rules and norms set for the quality of drink-

ing water. They are Etalon, Alaska, Zhyvov Istochnik and Slobidska. The rest failed key tests.

The good news, however, is that health experts say that short-term consumption of water with the levels of impurities found by the Kyiv Post is not life-threatening and not enough to sicken a person. Concern, however, remains over possible long-term effects.

Several producers whose water did

not score well denied the validity of the Kyiv Post's findings, which were conducted by independent laboratories.

The survey of bottled water is the third part of a Kyiv Post series this year on the quality of drinking water in Kyiv.

Part one was dedicated to the tap water that comes to most homes from the Kyiv public water utility. Samples tested turned out to have excess level of chlorine. Byproducts of chlo- → 10

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**Inside:** Business → 6 – 8 | News → 2, 9 – 17  
Opinion → 4, 5 | Lifestyle → 18 – 22

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# West starts to get serious about sanctions

→1 David Kramer, president of Freedom House democracy watchdog, during his visit to Ukraine last week mentioned the debate around sanctions in Ukraine.

"In the West, we're debating the possibility of using sanctions against Ukraine," the former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State said while presenting a new report on the state of democracy and freedom. The 24-page report was not optimistic, pointing out "erosion of basic freedoms," and suggesting that the country is moving towards authoritarianism.

"In the report, we do not recommend sanctions at this time. But there is a possibility that the U.S. will apply sanctions the same way they are applied to Russia, to ring the alarm bell for top officials" that they're going down the wrong path, Kramer added.

The Magnitsky bill outlines how sanctions will be applied in Russia. Currently, there are two competing versions of this bill in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate. The main difference is that the Senate bill is Russia-specific, while the other version covers the globe. It is this global version that is expected to become law soon.

It states that "the protection of human rights... particularly in the case of a country that has incurred obligations to protect human rights under an international agreement to which it is a party, is not left exclusively to the internal affairs of that country." And that's bad news for many officials in Ukraine because it means they may become a target.

Ostap Semerak, an opposition parliament member who returned from Washington last week, said that he got an impression from his multiple

meetings with the Obama administration, in Congress and with the National Security Council that the global version will prevail, possibly modified to only cover the 56 member nations of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. This includes Ukraine.

The bill is expected to be voted for in July, and will provide a mechanism for introduction of specific sanctions against individuals.

According to the bill, the list of individuals who will face sanctions will be prepared by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury. It will be public, and members of Congress will be able to suggest new additions to it.

In the case of Russia, the list of suspected human rights abusers already exists in the U.S., but is not public yet. In Ukraine, there is no such list per se, but the opposition in the past has helpfully provided the U.S. (as well as other countries) with their suggestions of who should be on Ukraine's equivalent of the Magnitsky list.

After opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko was convicted and sentenced to seven years in prison in October 2011, her party listed 48 people who were instrumental in her conviction, which many consider to be politically motivated persecution to eliminate her as the president's main rival.

The list, headed by President Viktor Yanukovich and his elder son Oleksandr, carries names of politicians, investigators and top officials from the General Prosecutor's Office, experts who testified in Tymoshenko's case, members of the commission for investigating Naftogaz Ukraine, and judges involved in her case, and others.



Sergei Magnitsky

Hryhoriy Nemyria, a former deputy prime minister who served under Tymoshenko when she was prime minister in 2007-2009, hopes that this list is taken into consideration if and when the talk of sanctions begins. But he says that even more important are the political and legal criteria used for identifying people who may eventually fall under sanctions, such as conducting elections that do not match OSCE standards or existence of political prisoners.

"The shaping [of the list] and its timing is just a matter of technique," Nemyria says. Sometimes even a credible threat of sanctions works for the benefit of the country, he adds.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry officials have said in the past that the likelihood of sanctions against the nation's officials is very low, and that the threat of sanctions is more like the opposition's spin ahead of the election. A number of U.S. officials who talked to the Kyiv Post on the condition of anonymity, said that historically sanctions have been an extremely inefficient tool, and remain an unlikely development.

Nevertheless, Semerak hopes that sanctions would eventually become a reality, for at least 15 to 20 people.

"But even if a person is recommended for that list, they will be closely monitored," he said. "All of their business operations will be traced, as well as their family members'."

The Magnitsky bill details a list of potential sanctions. Firstly, the violators are denied the right to visit the U.S. They will be ineligible to receive visas, and existing visas will be revoked.

But perhaps even more impressive is that a whole array of financial sanctions will be used against them. Any person on the list or their agent will have their assets frozen. Financial institutions will be required to freeze and report any financial transactions by such people. Penalties are introduced for those who fail to do so.

Semerak says that any financial transaction conducted in U.S. dollars anywhere in the world on behalf of the people on the list will be frozen by correspondent U.S. banks.

But that's not all. The opposition is hoping that Europe will take a leaf out of the American book when it comes to sanctions against Ukraine's officials. On July 8, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe approved a resolution calling on all OSCE member states to impose visa sanctions and asset freezes on people who are responsible for the false arrest, torture and murder of Magnitsky, and the corruption he had uncovered.

Nemyria said this declaration "deserves special attention" in the context of potential sanctions for Ukraine's officials, as well.

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# Leaders Talk

## Josef Graf, Chairman of the Management Board of Porsche Finance Group

Today we talk to Josef Graf, Chairman of the Management Board of Porsche Finance Group.

Can we start with an introduction of yourself and an overview of your company? What is your company's strategic positioning on Ukraine's car financing market?

My name is Josef Graf. I'm Austrian, 47 years old. I have been working for Porsche Finance Group Ukraine for almost five years and I am responsible for the development of car financing business connected with our core brands Volkswagen and Audi. In total, I have been working for Porsche Holding, the headquarters of which is located in Salzburg, for 30 years.

Porsche Finance Group is a group of companies, consisting of Porsche Leasing Ukraine, which offers car lease services, Porsche Mobility Ukraine, which is dealing with credit financing of cars, and Porsche Insurance Agency - an intermediate in selling casco insurance to our clients. We started operations in Ukraine in late 2007, and developed our group of companies basically from scratch. In the meantime, we have become quite an important player on the market, and now we are the biggest leasing company in terms of new contracts activation, and a strong player in terms of credit financing. Currently our company is consisting of about 55 employees and our active contracts' portfolio is approximately 6000 cars - I would say, it is quite impressive development for such a relatively short term.

***"Our business and our investment is long-term-oriented, we are not interested to make quick and fast money tomorrow and then leave the market. We are engaged in a long run."***

What other services does your company offer in Ukraine? Is the services portfolio the same in Ukraine if compared to other branches of Porsche Bank AG?

Besides car financing, we also offer fleet management services - insurance cases, technical maintenance, tire changing, car replacement, fuelling etc. This kind of service is especially well-accepted by our international clients, as we offer it exactly the way it is offered on all Porsche Bank's markets (Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, Croatia, Romania, Serbia/Montenegro, and Bulgaria).

Do you have plans for expansion on Ukrainian market, e.g. introducing new services or extending partners and dealers' network? What are your growth ambitions?

For now, our new engagement is insurance intermediation for cash clients. So far we sold insurance solutions, like casco (hull insurance), always in the combination with car financing contracts. And now we have started to intermediate these insurance solutions and packages to our cash clients what gives us access to a wider range of customers. Besides, in the long term we have a strong intention to start our own insurance business on Ukrainian market like Porsche Bank AG does in bigger EU markets. Our growth ambitions also include the number of employees increase (from 55 to 180) within the next 5 years - for us it would be a tangible and heavy development.

Car partners of Porsche Finance Group in Ukraine include Volkswagen, Audi and Porsche. Do you plan to introduce other brands?

We are mainly focused on our group brands mentioned, but we also ready to work with other car brands provided the client's car park includes VW and Audi, and to cover each and every brand which will come into Ukraine under the responsibility of Porsche Ukraine as an importer. A very clear step ahead for is about SEAT, a Volkswagen Group brand, as till the end of the year Porsche Ukraine will take responsibility for the import of SEAT into Ukraine's market and we will start actively finance SEAT cars.

Porsche Bank AG has already launched financing for heavy trucks like SCANIA, MAN, and VOLKSWAGEN Trucks. Predictably enough, we will also soon be able to launch such business in Ukraine.

What key market drivers are positively impacting your business?

Quality, reliability and loyalty - these are the characteristics we have to implement and prove for not only to survive on the market but also to be on the top tiers. Our business and our investment is long-term-oriented, we are not interested to make quick and fast money tomorrow and then leave the market. We are engaged in a long run. The average duration of our financing contract is four-five years. That's why being engaged in Ukraine we think in terms of generations.

What are the main challenges for you to overcome? (i.e. regulatory, economic, barrier to doing business etc.)

It is mainly the barriers to doing business influenced by weak regulations, weak legal framework and very weak system of justice. Taxation difficulties, i.e. VAT refund and tax losses carryforward problems are not unique, they are common for many businesspeople here, in Ukraine. It is a waste of energy, time and money to deal with these problems. What we are doing right now - we invest money into lawyers to learn about inefficiency of court system, we waste time of our internal accounting staff to deal with tax losses carryforward story. It's no good for the administration, for the country, for us, for business and for the clients. That is the most critical aspect.

Have you launched any new initiatives to combat the current challenges?

We are the members of the European Business Association and Ukrainian Union of Lessors - both organisations are very strong and effective in lobbying. We are very proud to be a member of the EBA, we try to participate in its work as much as possible and provide input into EBA's activities. And it really pays off!

We tried to launch some lobbying initiatives by ourselves, but we are too 'small' to initiate a 'big move'. Currently we have an on-going joint initiative with the car dealers and car importers associations on refining regulatory framework for used cars business, because this issue is very problematic.

How do your latest trading/figures compare to the same period last year? What do you attribute the upturn/downturn to?

I am very proud to tell you that at the end of June we equalised the result of complete previous year what means practically we are by 110% above the previous year and above our plans. Our key performance indicator is the financing share - the share of financing cars out of the all quantity of delivered Volkswagen and Audi vehicles. If we compare our financing share with overall Ukraine's car financing market share - the latter remains 15%, that is less than in 2011 and our finance share is 25%.

What are your top three priorities for the next 12 months?

We have one very clear priority - that is financing products in local currency, in hryvnia, because so far all our car financing projects are linked to hard currency, mainly to US dollar, what allows us to keep very attractive financing conditions. But the clients could bear currency risk so we would like to offer them both variants - either in hard currency or in hryvnia.

Besides, we are also working in cooperation with the top players on Ukrainian insurance market - strong international companies - on the development of insurance services quality to bring Ukraine's insurance closer to European standards.

Do you agree that best investment is in people? What opportunities does Porsche Finance Group offer for self-development and growth of the personnel?

In Ukraine people are the best asset, without any doubts or limitations. In Porsche Finance Group we offer our employees, first of all, a Western business environment and culture, then lots of possibilities of self-development, trainings, different language classes, etc. We are on the way to implement group trainings with the coaches from Germany and Austria, with the training cycles of these trainings a copy-paste from European ones. We invest a lot into our internal communications and internal climate, we strive to socialize and civilize our interaction with each other and the way we are working.

What has been the most important management lesson you have learned?

Take critical decisions at once, don't postpone them.

When focus on the success of a business model you run - is it marketing, individually tailored finance schemes,



***"Take critical decisions at once, don't postpone them."***

or sales strategies that matters most?

Out of these options, it is the sales strategies. We have a strong system of cooperation with our distribution partners. Our products are not sold by ourselves; they are sold through a network of Volkswagen, Audi and Porsche car dealers. Each and every sales manager at a car dealer must at every moment offer a client not only a car but also car financing scheme. It is our goal to make it as easy as possible for those people to sell our products. The next tool is marketing, of course.

Credit is well-known and frequently used in Ukraine, while a lot of people and local companies know nothing about leasing financing tool, that's why we are constantly running image campaigns, often in a funny way, to bring leasing into the market & explain it to people. It pays off, as the leasing share on the car market is only 3%, and our leasing share is 10%. So, it really works out, but you should never stop communicating.

How do assess Ukraine's investment attractiveness and what in your opinion can be done to improve it?

I agree with the results of EBA Investment Attractiveness Index, we had ups and downs there, and now, unfortunately, it is down. The investors who came in the past were coming to Ukraine because of its potential. So the main question for the market was how to realize our potential? And now the inflow of foreign investors is very low, although we need them. The development of the country cannot only depend on a small group of local tycoons. And foreign investors are interested in a long-term engagement, quality partnership and development.

One of important steps for the improvement of the market is to introduce compliance rules, and high compliance standards like we do. For example, if you resist corruption attempts and this is possible if you are bound to compliance rules, it is beneficial for the company and for the market. I'm very convinced that the companies which already use compliance rules significantly improved their operations quality.

How do you see the outlook of EU-Ukraine relations in the aftermath of successful EURO 2012 hosting?

Honestly, I was deeply impressed by what happened during EURO 2012 when I saw how many people came to Ukraine and how they enjoyed it, the matches and the celebrations on the street. The best impression for me was to see that we have a great country, and the best people with open hearts - a perfect basis for friendship. All the people who came to Kyiv will become ambassadors for Ukraine and vice versa. I think we should not expect fast changes, but the next generation is coming, and I sincerely hope to see some good changes and significant steps towards Europe in 5-10 years.



## Editorials

# Alarm bells ring

Nobody should be surprised that Ukrainian authorities on July 12 raided TVi television channel. After all, it is the nation's only remaining independent TV channel that dares to dig deep in uncovering the corrupt ways of authorities.

This is the basic role and responsibility that media should fulfill as the "fourth branch of government," and TVi does it well. But this runs contrary to the authoritarian oligarchy envisioned by President Viktor Yanukovich and his cronies.

It should also not surprise anyone that the seizure of documents at TVi by tax officials happened despite repeated pledges not to touch mass media ahead of the October parliamentary election. Their words and pledges are worth nothing at this point.

Tax officials are likely to find violations at any company or investor that dares to swim in Ukraine's muddy business waters. But instead of fixing the system through legislative reforms that would allow business to operate freely and "legally," Yanukovich's ruling coalition is busy polarizing voters with language laws and opening up loopholes for fellow cronies.

Instead of starting their anti-corruption campaign by cracking down on multi-billion-dollar tax evasion through offshore havens that are notoriously exploited by Yanukovich's billionaire backers, officials focus "selectively" on opposition politicians and media that dare to speak the truth.

The warning signs came early after Yanukovich won the 2010 presidential election. Within weeks his team formed a ruling coalition by trampling on the Constitution. Within a half year, Yanukovich reshuffled the Constitutional Court. It swiftly but unconstitutionally changed the constitution, granting Yanukovich more powers. A year later, opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko was jailed in what the free world has condemned as a politically motivated show trial.

In a July 2012 report entitled "Sounding the Alarm Round 2," U.S.-based Freedom House recalled its warning from a year earlier that "Ukraine under President Yanukovich ... has become less democratic [and] if current trends are left unchecked, may head down a path toward autocracy and kleptocracy."

"A year later, most of these concerns remain, and in some cases the problems have grown considerably worse," Freedom House added.

Problems have certainly become considerably worse for TVi and independent media. In the bigger picture, the current alarm bells signal that Yanukovich's roll-back on democracy and media freedoms is scarily near completion, if the world and Ukrainians don't put a stop to it.

# Power grabs

Thanks to a Constitutional Court ruling, Ukraine's 45 million inhabitants have moved one step closer to living under a full-blown authoritarian system.

Fed up with a widespread culture of corruption, abuse, nepotism and kleptocracy by top officials, Ukraine's citizens have long called for their lawmakers, judges and the president to be stripped of special status that renders them untouchable.

President Viktor Yanukovich's camp claim they are on the verge of delivering on this promise. Don't be fooled again by their shams.

After having failed to deliver reforms that would improve living standards for average Ukrainians, the popularity of Yanukovich's ruling Party of Regions has plunged. They are understandably desperate to win back voter support.

So, this summer they pushed legislation through parliament in a first reading that proposes stripping officials of immunity from prosecution. But conveniently for Yanukovich, their master, the constitutional court is in cahoots.

After unconstitutionally switching Ukraine back to an older constitution that grants the president more powers, the court has demonstrated loyalty to him yet again. On July 11 it ignored basic logic and interpretation of the constitution, selectively ruling that while lawmakers can strip themselves of immunity, the president and judges remain untouchable.

The only benefactors of this new system approved by the long-discredited Constitutional Court judges will be Yanukovich and his subservient cronies – a clan which already stands accused of persecuting opposition politicians, and shaking down business through the nation's notoriously corrupt courts.

The plot is crystal clear. Yanukovich fears that he could lose his monopolistic control on domestic political power. As insurance against this possible loss, immunity is being removed from lawmakers in a parliament that could soon be taken over by the opposition.

In contrast to the past, lawmakers are now to become powerless pawns. They can be jailed at the will of the untouchables.

In this new system, legislators will hardly be able to function as an equal but independent branch of government. There will be no checks and balances.

A new, vertical power structure – control through the courts – is being established.



**NEWS ITEM:** Unlike many other Ukrainian political parties, which often are lax in structure and discipline, the ruling Party of Regions seems to be playing for keeps. According to an internal party document, published by the Ukrainska Pravda online news site, regional party branches now know what they should be saying to journalists and when. As the Oct. 28 parliamentary election approaches, party members are told to concentrate on the "positives." According to the manual, among these are "overcoming the chaos" of the previous administration of Viktor Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko and defending the right to speak in a person's "native language," referring to the recent controversial law to make Russian an official language regionally. The party faithful are also told not to harm journalists and their equipment. Finally, party members are instructed to not be afraid "to make promises, just like Yulia Tymoshenko successfully did."



**NEWS ITEM:** Bogdan Fedak, the Kharkiv Oblast hospital director who publicly criticized German doctors' medical treatment of imprisoned ex-prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, is alleged to have been involved in illegal adoptions of children abroad, including to the United States, in the early 1990s. "How can this person work as a doctor at all and doubt respected German doctors?" asked Tymoshenko's lawyer Serhiy Vlasenko, on July 11. In 1997, Fedak was reportedly sentenced to two years in prison for illegally giving up newborn babies for adoption by foreigners in Lviv. Fedak and other doctors from Kharkiv met Lutz Harms, the German doctor from Charite clinic who treats Tymoshenko, and afterwards expressed doubts about Harms' qualifications. Fedak said he is "concerned about lack of positive dynamics in Tymoshenko's treatment" and said she should be sent from the hospital back to prison.

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# Western sanctions may be coming soon



OSTAP SEMERAK

A former judge transfers a lump sum from one of his hard currency accounts to another. But the money does not get to its destination because it was held due to sanctions imposed by the U.S. authorities.

This seems like a surreal scenario. But it may not be for long. Very soon, such sanctions might become reality for people like the general prosecutor, judges and many others – including “The Family” led by President Viktor Yanukovich and his relatives.

Such punitive sanctions could become a reality after the approval by the U.S. congress of a draft law that envisages visa, financial and property sanctions against abusers of human rights, oppressors of democracy and corrupt officials in various countries.

The law is commonly referred to as the Magnitsky bill. Two of its early versions, which have been debated widely in the world, were approved by foreign affairs committees of both chambers of the Congress.

The difference between the two documents was that the Senate suggested applying the law to Russian officials only, while the House of Representatives wants to make it applicable to the powerful human rights abusers across the world.

After a long debate, they agreed to a compromise: to make it applicable to 56 member countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The other novelty of the consolidated draft is that it won't contain the surnames of people who will face sanctions (the so-called Magnitsky list), but the criteria by which this list is created by U.S. officials.

These criteria are based on observation of human rights, democracy and rule of law, which are the common values for OSCE countries, and which are the basis for the statutory documents of this organization.

A few days ago I had a range of meetings in Washington with a number of politicians who represent the legislative and the executive branches of power in the United States. From what I heard, I came to two conclusions.

Firstly, it seems that the law which has been under debate for such a long time, is about to be approved. It can happen as early as this month.

Secondly, the high officials on the hills of Kyiv and their lesser subordinates can become targets for application of the American sanctions. There are plenty of reasons for doing this. The world has been watching as a group of people establishes an authoritarian regime in Ukraine, twisting the arms of political opponents and brazenly stomping on democratic values, while robbing their own country at the same time.

We have been hearing increasingly louder voices from the international community: presidents and prime ministers, parliament members and the Council of Europe, NATO and OSCE. But it seems that it's impossible to reason with the Ukrainian authorities, and thus the word “sanctions” has been sounded increasingly more often.

The freshest signal came from the U.S.-based Freedom House. While presenting its report entitled “Sounding the Alarm: Protecting Democracy in Ukraine,” its president, David Kramer, said that the West is debating sanctions against Ukrainian authorities and that the US will most likely introduce such sanctions so they become an alarm bell for the highest officials in power that the nation is going down the wrong path.

The actual text of the Freedom House report also points out that the words “Ukraine” and “sanctions” sound together more and more often, which reflects the level of disappointment of Western officials with the fact that Yanukovich does not seem to want to hear their arguments.

Freedom House points out that Ukraine has “persecution of the opposition, falsification of elections and pressure on civil society” and warns the Ukrainian authorities about the aforementioned draft law in the American Congress.

Despite the fact that Freedom House has official status as a non-governmental organization, it has a



Activists clash with riot police in Kyiv on July 4. The demonstrators were protesting controversial legislation passed by parliament that gives the Russian language official status in many regions, a law that many think will undermine the use of Ukrainian. Verkhovna Rada speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn resigned rather than sign the legislation before parliament went into summer recess on July 6. President Viktor Yanukovich hasn't clearly stated his position on the bill. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

close relationship with the government, particularly the U.S. State Department.

The NGO status allows it to talk more freely and openly than government officials allow themselves to do. So Yanukovich and his subordinates should be listening to the voice of Freedom House, which might turn out to be the last warning coming from the U.S. government.

If they fail to do so, in not too far a future out officials will have a good chance of joining the ranks of top officials from Belarus, Russian officials from the Magnitsky list, and some Asian dictators.

They will be banned from traveling to USA, from using their bank accounts, villas, companies and other property on the territory of the United States that belongs to them, their relatives or business partners. The money passing through correspondent accounts in US banks will also be frozen.

I have reason to believe that this can become a reality in autumn of this year, possibly immediately after the Oct. 28 parliamentary election.

It's worth expecting that the U.S. initiative will soon be supported by the European Union, which basically means isolation from the Western world. Yanukovich would have to comfort himself with the friendship of the Altai shamans and communist friends from China.

To make the picture complete, one last point needs to be made that was accentuated during the meetings in Washington: the sanctions will not be against Ukraine as a state or against its people, but against certain individuals, such as the father of authoritarianism and lawlessness and their zealous accomplices and executors.

*Ostap Semerak is an opposition lawmaker in Ukraine's parliament.*



**NEWS ITEM:** The 64th World Newspaper Congress will take place in Kyiv on Sept. 2. It's designed to be a key event for the Ukrainian media community and a priceless opportunity for local journalists to exchange ideas with their foreign colleagues. However, the sponsorship of the conference is raising eyebrows. Group DF, the holding company of Ukrainian billionaire Dmytro Firtash, is a main sponsor. He doesn't have a good reputation for defending free speech or being accessible to journalists, to say the least. In 2010, Firtash filed a libel lawsuit against the Kyiv Post in England, but the London High Court dismissed the claim last year. Ukraine's largest television channel Inter also is considered by media experts to have low journalistic standards. The U.A. Inter Media group was formed when Vice Prime Minister Valeriy Khoroshkovsky and Firtash merged their TV assets. According to media watchdog Telekritika, news programs at Inter appear to be censored and strongly tilted in favor of government officials.

VOX  
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WITH  
OLENA GONCHAROVA



## What are your plans for summer?



**Olena Tkachuk,**  
*ticket booking manager*  
"I'm going to visit Crimea and stay at Sudak for a week. It's a chance to

be closer to nature and relax from work and at last I can swim a lot. I like to travel abroad. I want to visit Portugal very much because my favorite football player is Cristiano Ronaldo."



**Maksym Rohmanenko,**  
*student*  
"Now I'm studying but in a month I'll go on a vacation. My top three plans for

this summer are as follows: I want to go far away where there are fewer people. Maybe it will be good to relax near the sea. And, I want to get tickets to some jazz concert."



**Olga Melnychuk,**  
*graduate*  
"This summer, the most important for me is to enter the university. After that I'm planning

to stay at home. Maybe I'll go to the seaside with my friends and relax on a beach."



**Yaroslav Teslenko,**  
*courier*  
"I have not thought about it yet. I have lot of stuff to do in the summer. I am working right

now. Also, I'm planning to graduate from the university and to get a driver's license. My dream is to visit Spain and to see my favorite football club, Barcelona, play in their home country. But I am afraid that I won't accomplish it this summer."



**Olena Ephimchuk,**  
*pensioner*  
"I have no plans for summer. For me, it is no different than autumn or winter. Life just goes

on. In reality, I take many small trips each day. I walk my dogs each day around the city parks."

Vox Populi is not only in print, but also online at [kyivpost.com](http://kyivpost.com) with different questions. If you have a question that you want answered, e-mail the idea to [kyivpost@kyivpost.com](mailto:kyivpost@kyivpost.com).



# Aerosvit angers customers with bad service, delays

BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA  
TUCHYNSKA@KYIVPOST.COM

Passengers who were about to fly from New York to Kyiv on July 9 were reportedly disappointed yet again – held waiting the terminal for about five hours until being told the flight had been cancelled. They were offered a complementary hotel room until a new flight was arranged on July 11.

The case would have been an inconvenience that sometimes happens to various airlines, only with Aerosvit such experiences are becoming all-too common in recent months, infuriating passengers and leaving them wondering: what's up with Aerosvit, one of Ukraine's top two national carriers?

A similar situation happened with the same New York – Kyiv flight in May. The flight was postponed for a day due to technical reasons.

Passengers started noticing unexplained delays, flight cancellations and below-par service weeks before the Euro 2012 games kicked off.

Many football fans that flew to Ukraine for the games on Aerosvit were also outraged after missing games for similar reasons.

When contacted by the Kyiv Post, the airline – owned by billionaire Igor Kolomoisky – could not immediately say how many flights had since spring been cancelled or delayed. But horror stories and complaints from travelers continue to pile up.

For example, travelers with tickets for a Kyiv-Warsaw flight complained that they missed the Euro 2012 opening ceremony in Warsaw on June 8 after a three-hour delay. Fans from Budapest missed the final in Kyiv after their flight was four hours late. Hundreds of passengers waited for their delayed flights from Kyiv to Donetsk for hours on June 11, risking missing the France-England game.

In statements, Aerosvit has admitted that 4 planes went out of service in May, adding that the company did not receive two new aircrafts it had purchased as early as expected.

"Although not the company's fault,



Passengers started noticing unexplained delays, flight cancellations and below-par service from Aerosvit, one of Ukraine's two leading passenger airline carriers, weeks before the Euro 2012 games kicked off on June 8. The tournament ended July 1. Airline officials have pinned the delays on slower than expected arrival of new airplane. But they have not provided numbers for how many flights were delayed and cancelled during this period. (UNIAN)

it limited the company's ability to perform," said Aerosvit spokesperson Serhiy Kutsy. According to the airline, a new Boeing passenger airline was delivered in July.

However, the trouble within the company appears to have started long before, with pilots going on strike last year, staff reporting delays in salaries and service souring.

In March, Kyiv Boryspil International Airport temporarily stopped servicing Aerosvit planes after the airline failed to pay its airport fees on time. The incident triggered dozens of flight delays.

In 2011, the company reported a 1.45 billion (\$181 million) loss, three times more than the year before. The airline claims the losses are linked to

new investments, expansion plans.

All the troubles were widely reported in domestic media.

In addition to owning Aerosvit, Kolomoisky is reported to also control several other domestic carriers, and appeared last year to be preparing to unveil a bigger European airline group, merging them with smaller, newly acquired Scandinavian airlines. In 2011, he purchased three carriers: Swedish Skyway Express, City Airline AB and Danish Cimber Sterling. All have since, however, experienced financial troubles.

Aerosvit's supervisory board chairman Grigory Gurtovoy, who insiders said manages the airline business for Kolomoisky, did not respond to Kyiv Post inquiries.

But an informed source close to

the airlines management said on condition of anonymity that the bankruptcy of some of the newly acquired Scandinavian airlines is related to Kolomoisky's aim to "reshuffle" his aviation assets.

"It is hard to say at this point how it all will be reshuffled," the source said, citing that he is not authorized to comment on the issues to media.

"In the West, the way Aerosvit handles its employees and passengers would get them into so much trouble, with lawsuits and the like, that they would not recover afterwards. But when trade unions are weak and passengers reluctant to fight for their rights, the company just gets away with it," the source added.

Aviation expert Yevhen Vinnikov

says it is unlikely that Aerosvit will go bankrupt as current owners invest in the company, buying new aircrafts. However, he adds that the market might change as "there is apparently the idea of merging national carriers."

While experts do not agree on what exactly will happen, they agree that the situation is a direct result of what they call "duopoly" of Ukraine's aviation market.

"The situation amounts to a monopoly of two largest national carriers, Aerosvit and Ukraine International Airlines," says Oleksandr Myronenko, an aviation expert and founder of the avianews.com website.

Apart from reportedly owning Aerosvit, Kolomoisky is reported to control smaller domestic carriers Donbasaero and Dniproavia. Through these airlines, he corners an estimated 48.5 percent of the market.

Insiders and reports suggest that Kolomoisky also controls another airline, Windrose. If so, he holds a commanding 60 percent share of the domestic market.

On international routes, Ukraine International Airlines controls 30 percent of the market and is run by a company called Capital Investment Project. The company had exclusive rights to fly to many European destinations, like Barcelona, Paris, Berlin.

Experts agree passengers will benefit only if Ukraine will sign the Open Sky agreement with European countries. It would let other companies into the market, bringing more competition.

Although Ukraine's government continues years of negotiations to finalize the agreement, it does not seem enthusiastic to bring in more competition for domestic players.

Infrastructure minister Borys Kolesnikov has said last year that Ukraine would sign the deal "only after the EU will cancel its visa regime with Ukraine." He has not elaborated on how the two separate issues could be related.

Kyiv Post staff writer Svitlana Tuchyńska can be reached at tuchyńska@kyivpost.com.

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## Expats To Watch

**Editor's Note:** This Kyiv Post feature introduces readers to interesting expatriates who have made Ukraine their home. We welcome readers' suggestions about expats to profile. Please send ideas to [news@kyivpost.com](mailto:news@kyivpost.com).

# Schrader aims high for Beiersdorf

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI  
[PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM](mailto:PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM)

A walk down Kyiv's main street Khreshchatyk never fails to impress. Countless gorgeous women parading in the highest of heels, impeccably dressed, sporting the latest fashion designers' creations.

The famed attention Ukrainian women put into improving their notorious beauty is almost enough to make the country a dream market for any cosmetics company. And as if that was not enough to whet the appetites of international players, local consumers are highly receptive to well-known names.

"Ukrainian consumers love international brands," says Oliver Schrader, director of Beiersdorf Ukraine, a Hamburg-based personal care company that owns the Nivea brand.

Best known for its iconic blue-boxed skin cream, Nivea produces a range of personal products including body lotions, face scrubs and shiny lip moisturizers.

That does not mean, however, that the company is dependent on women for its income. Quite the contrary, Schrader argues, as men account for close to half of sales.

Indeed, while many of Ukraine's women might complain the local boys are somewhat too coarse for their taste, Nivea's experience tells a different story. With a broad range of shav-

ing creams and lotions, deodorants and shampoos Nivea has managed to conquer Ukrainian men, the company director claims.

"In Ukraine, our share in men is one of the highest in the world," he said adding that some progress could still be made on the hair style front.

These specificities may be a factor behind Nivea's marketing strategy in Ukraine, which focuses on a broader, family-like appeal than the typical glamour route pursued by other cosmetics companies.

The company regularly employs spokespeople, including some superstars like Brazilian model Gisele Bundchen or Barbados-born singer Rihanna to promote their products. For the moment, at least, no similar plans for Ukrainian celebrities exist.

Instead, the company focuses on closeness to consumers, not least through the use of social media.

"We want Ukrainians to see that 'this is a company that understands us and is close to us.' That's why, for example, we sponsor the national team," Schrader explains. "We are also the brand with the most fans on Facebook."

The strategy appears to be successful. In the decade since arriving in 2002, Beiersdorf Ukraine has boasted an average yearly sales growth of 20 percent.

Another feature distinguishing Ukrainian consumers, the director adds, is their fondness for innovations.



**Oliver Schrader**

**Time in Ukraine:** 2 years

**Nationality:** German

**Position/ Activity:** General Manager of Beiersdorf Ukraine

**Tips for succeeding in Ukraine:**

Understand and stay close to your customers.

His previous experience in dealing with the Nordic markets and Central Europe convinced him that Ukrainians are still not set in their habits and - a mere two decades after having begun their transition to capitalism - remain more curious consumers than their western counterparts.

The picture is not all rosy, though. While marketing appeal and sales may generally be satisfactory, disposable

income remains a major barrier to growth. Average net earnings are just a fraction of those in European Union countries: in 2010 Ukrainians earned around \$300, almost ten times less than French citizens.

Available income is around an eighth of that in Germany, Schrader estimates, though spending patterns are a mitigating factor. According to the general manager, Ukrainians spend two or even three times more on personal care products compared to consumers in England or Germany as "a share of the wallet."

Schrader remains optimistic, however, pointing to the Polish market as a gauge of Ukraine's potential.

"We can be just like Poland," he repeats, setting the target.

With Beiersdorf Ukraine slightly less than half the size of its Polish counterpart, despite Ukraine's larger population, there is still room for expansion. In 2011 Nivea Polska sold goods worth around \$150 million with an additional \$106 million coming from the production plant Beiersdorf Manufacturing Poznan (of which 90 percent goes to exports), putting the group at 14.6 percent of the Polish market as of end-2011.

The Ukraine operations head forecasts that positive dynamics among Ukraine's middle class could keep growth in the double digits.

His other proclaimed mission is to invite foreigners to discover Ukraine by

praising its beauty and the hospitality of its people.

"I believe I am a bit like an ambassador," Schrader says, recounting the many acquaintances he has convinced to visit. "So far, it seems I have been quite successful."

Asked what he likes most about living in Ukraine, Schrader is quick to list Kyiv's charmingly eclectic architecture, the people and the greenery. As an avid cyclist, however, he would prefer to see more development of bicycle lanes and green pathways.

"Car traffic has too high a priority," he states.

A further improvement Schrader would like to see is the development of Kyiv's beautiful waterfront, particularly in Podil where a wide road blocks the old district from the Dnipro.

"As I am from the seaside, I like wherever there is access to water," the Hamburg native asserts. "But you do not have enough access to the river."

Last but not least, the German director praises the excitement and potential of doing business in Ukraine. Challenges constantly pop up, he says, and there is a huge potential for growth as an individual in resolving them.

More than for any country, Schrader notes, in Ukraine it is really true that "impossible is nothing." But that cuts both ways.

Kyiv Post staff writer Jakub Parusinski can be reached at [parusinski@kyivpost.com](mailto:parusinski@kyivpost.com).

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A new and modern tax service center in Kyiv is specifically tailored to serving foreigners in Ukraine. It is a stark contrast from the more typical Soviet administrative buildings. (Sohei Yasui)

## Tax service center gives new shine to old bureaucracy

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI  
PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM

Foreigners trying to pay their taxes in Kyiv now have a shiny new service center, located in the building of the Kyiv City Tax Administration, at their disposal. So far, however, it appears to be nothing but a makeover for the same old bureaucratic jungle and hardly makes life any easier for expatriates.

Not all foreigners in Ukraine know it, but local legislation requires them to pay income tax of 15-17 percent not only on what they earn in-country, but also on foreign-earned income should they reside in the nation more than 183 days out of a year. Foreigners who have complied with these rules have found out the hard way that paying taxes in Ukraine can be difficult.

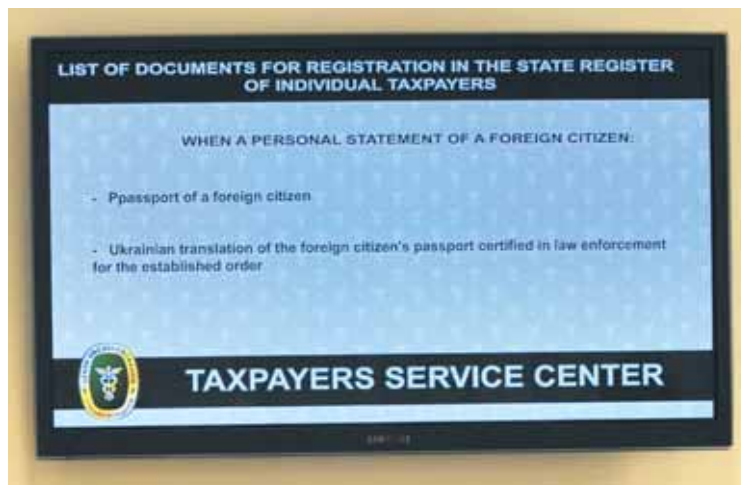
Ranked 181st out of 183 countries by the World Bank's 2011 of ease of paying taxes survey, the country is a bureaucratic quagmire, particularly for foreigners who lack the language skills and logical flexibility to cut through the red tape.

Changes to legislation and procedures made the 2010 and 2011 tax seasons especially difficult.

"It was a very hectic time for individuals and companies such as ours," said Victoria Chornovol, partner at Big Four auditor Deloitte.

Indeed, the previous filing season, which came to an end on April 30, saw local tax offices confused about how foreigners' declarations should actually be filed, as well as such matters as where to register them and how much in taxes is to be paid. As a result, the expert said, the whole process took much longer than previously.

"It's nonsense to spend three hours in a tax office to file one declaration," Chornovol recalled.



A lack of English-speaking staff and confusing translations are still problem areas in the new tax service center for foreigners. (Sohei Yasui)

The opening of a new tax service, which is specifically tailored to foreigners and offer consultation in foreign languages, has been widely publicized by Ukraine's State Tax Service through media channels in recent weeks. They say it will be one important step towards helping foreigners pay taxes in Ukraine in a comfortable way.

So far, however, it seems to be adding troubles of its own.

Located near metro station Lukiyaniivka on Sholudenko street 33/19, the site is easy to find physically – just take the side entrance next to the main office of the Kyiv City Tax Administration. But it is nonexistent online.

When called up by the Kyiv Post, the Kyiv office of the state tax administration gave step-by-step instructions on how to find information about the new center, starting from the latter's homepage.

Naturally, no information was available in English, or even Russian. The

spokesperson could not say when the translations would be provided.

Even more worrying was the fact that the information was about a different tax office, in another part of the city, which did not deal with foreigners. As it turns out, the page with advice for expats has not yet been created.

Trying to get information by phone led to an even more Kafkaesque experience. After calling the press service of the state tax administration, a Kyiv Post reporter was told to call the service directly, as they would be able to best respond to any questions. There, the tax official said: "We won't give you any answers."

Begrudgingly, and after much convincing, the center's address was revealed.

The center itself was surprisingly clean and modern, with comfortable couches and wireless internet. The office is open from 9am to 8pm on weekdays, and 9am to 4pm on Saturdays. But while TV reports showed English-speaking staff, none could be found during a Kyiv Post visit.

"We don't have the translators yet. We just opened," a spokesperson explained.

On a positive note, however, there is a medical unit within the tax center – for those who might succumb to the heat and stifling bureaucracy – as well as a hairdresser.

You might not pay the right taxes, but at least you'll look good.

Kyiv Post staff writer Jakub Parusinski can be reached at [parusinski@kyivpost.com](mailto:parusinski@kyivpost.com).

## Foreigners still face hassles in getting permits for residency

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI  
PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM

New rules regarding foreigner residency could bring an end to the uncertain status of expatriates living in Ukraine. While experts agree this is a clear step in the right direction, the process of getting proper documentation remains as grueling as ever.

For years a lax application of the rules made life easy for foreigners residing in Ukraine. Many expats simply made border runs every three months or so, benefiting from the so-called 90-day rule. Technically, the rule only allows expats to stay for 90 days in any 180-day period, calculated from the date of first entry. But it was rarely enforced.

Then, in 2010, everything changed. Previous strategies to confuse border authorities stopped working. Foreigners found themselves facing fines or having to stay out of the country until a new period began.

Recently passed legislation, which came into force in the first half of 2012, provides a long-awaited framework for legalizing one's stay in Ukraine. At present, the main options are a one-year residency permit or permanent residency. The permanent option requires establishment of a lasting tie to Ukraine, such as marriage with a local, ethnic roots or ownership of domestic property or a business.

The main option most foreigners are expected to pursue is temporary, one-year residency.

The main arguments for obtaining temporary residency in Ukraine include work and education. Here the innovation is that both ordinary workers and foreign employees of representative offices are seen as having the legal grounds to reside in Ukraine.

To become a resident, a person must first obtain a work permit, go abroad and obtain a type D visa. Then they have 45 days (which can be extended by one month if the person has a valid reason) to obtain a temporary residency permit. If foreigners fail to do so, they fall under the 90-day rule as if the visa never happened, according to the Border Guard Service.

Meanwhile, new family reunification rules mean that the immediate family of an expat who needs to reside in Ukraine will no longer have to travel back and forth. The resident in Ukraine now has to provide proof that they can support their spouse and children. However, the law only requires a "document in due form" with no official amount specified, said Dina Bokatoeva from Kyiv office of international auditing, accounting and consulting giant Ernst & Young.

Not all the changes are positive, though.

For instance, foreigners trying to prolong their residency have to submit documents 15 days before expiration, rather than the three days previously required. They cannot travel abroad during this period, warned Scott Brown from the Frishberg & Partners law firm.

Overall, however, the new rules are a step in the right direction, Brown concluded.

"It makes the whole situation a little more structured," he said.

Authorities seem to have good intentions, confirmed Anna Derevyanko, head of the European Business Association, which has many foreign members. But

➔ **New rule changes don't really simplify the process**

it is hard to say if any real progress has been made. "Between their desire and their actions, there is a big gap," Derevyanko said. "Businesses don't really see much improvement yet."

In practice, getting one's papers in order remains a challenge. Located in one of Kyiv's shoddiest neighborhoods (Berezhnakiivska 4a), the residency office is confusing, crammed and hard to find. Foreigners are sent from room to room, or told to come back another day under any pretext.

Adding injury to insult, obtaining a residency permit is conditional upon proof that the individual has insurance coverage that covers potential medical expenses for the period they are to reside in Ukraine. If upon arrival at the office the individual does not have such documentation, they are offered the option of purchasing a medical insurance package on the spot from a little-known insurance firm. It costs \$100 or more for a year's coverage. Foreigners are also forced to pay several small service fees and a duty totalling \$10.

Complications arise from the fact that the new rules are not always known, particularly at offices located in the regions, warned Oksana Orlova, associate at the Kyiv office of international law group Salans. Expats have told the Kyiv Post that they have been misinformed by Ukrainian officials about the procedures.

Overlap and unclear separation of responsibility between the various agencies involved is another source of confusion.

When asked by Kyiv Post to explain how the system works, a Border Guard Service spokesperson, speaking in surprisingly good English, repeatedly underscored that "all issues connected with residence are in the jurisdiction of the migration services." However, it is the local registration office commonly referred to as OVIR in Russian that issues residency permits. It is a subdivision of Ukraine's Interior Ministry.

Those unwilling to jump through all the bureaucratic hoops can always try their luck at the borders. Guards usually pick out foreigners who overstay in Ukraine. But fines reaching up to Hr 850 (about \$100) are both quicker and cheaper than the arduous visa and residency procedures. Violators risk being banned from re-entering the country, though such cases are rare in practice.

Moreover, there is no difference in penalties for foreigners overstaying a day or three years.

"Let's agree that this is extremely unlikely, in practice," the border service spokesperson said when asked what would happen to a foreigner who overstayed the limit by a year.

"But, hypothetically, the fine is the same," she admitted.

Kyiv Post staff writer Jakub Parusinski can be reached at [parusinski@kyivpost.com](mailto:parusinski@kyivpost.com).



### BRITISH EMBASSY, KYIV: INVITATION TO TENDER FOR FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The British Embassy wishes to appoint a contractor to provide Facilities Management Services and the appointment will be by a process of competitive tender.

Copies of the Invitation to Tender documentation are available from the embassy in both hard copy and electronic versions. To receive a copy please contact the Embassy on 490-3660 or e-mail at [ukembinf@gmail.com](mailto:ukembinf@gmail.com).

Documentation will be available from Monday 16 July until Friday 17 August. All bids must be received by noon Monday 3 September.



# Deadly accidents mar stadium sites

→ **1** claimed the lives of Samoilkuk and injured Biba, says it was normal for workers not to wear safety straps.

"There were no straps, not even enough hard hats. There were lifting machines that were supposed to be used for height works, but they were not used. The workers were told to make wooden scaffold platforms instead. These things are very shaky and dangerous," says Stepan, who didn't want his surname published because he fears conflict with his employers.

A dozen construction workers with whom the Kyiv Post spoke said safety improved after the tragedy that claimed Samoilkuk's life and left Biba in critical condition.

However, this did not prevent more accidents that left people dead or injured.

The prosecutor declined to reveal names of the other victims, citing confidentiality of personal information. But the construction workers' trade union shared names of the victims and details.

They include:

- 37-year-old Olexandr Ponyaev from Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, who died on Aug. 1, 2010, when he fell from the second level of a stadium tribune;
- Pavlo Koval, a 51-year-old worker, died on Oct. 19, 2011, when he was crushed by a concrete panel;
- Andriy Pirogov, a 29-year old, died on May 31, 2011 after he fell from a height of eight meters;
- An unnamed man was badly injured on Oct. 8, 2010; and

- Another unnamed man was killed on Jan. 23, 2012.

Another person, also unnamed, was electrocuted, but the prosecutor did not open a criminal case since the investigation found that the incident was the worker's fault.

But in all other cases, prosecutors blamed loose safety regulations on the construction site. Three cases are already ruled on by the court and several foremen found guilty. They were fired and received suspended sentences.

Donbass Arena, a gleaming stadium in the eastern city of Donetsk, also claimed one life. An unnamed construction worker died while installing windows there in 2008. This brought the death toll of Ukraine's preparation for Euro 2012 to six lives, compared to two in neighboring Poland, which co-hosted the championship.

However, construction workers say the real number might be even higher.

Vasyl Andreyev, head of the all-Ukraine trade union of construction workers, says he has unofficial information of eight deaths at Olympic Stadium.

"However, we do not have enough evidence to confirm it. But what we learned from our sources is that in some cases officials did not register the deaths and let the construction company bring out the body quietly, since most people work at the site unofficially anyway," says Andreyev.

The Kyiv prosecutor denies allegations and claims all cases were



Construction workers rush to finish Olympic Stadium in Kyiv ahead of the first Euro 2012 game in Kyiv on June 11. (Kostantyn Chernichkin)

investigated.

"All people who died [at Olympic] were officially employed," said Myroslava Mushka, spokesperson for the Kyiv city prosecutor.

The stadium that hosted the Euro 2012 final, attended by 70,000 football fans from around the world, became the subject of controversy after tales of unpaid wages, poor working conditions, corruption and deaths emerged.

Dozens of construction workers who built the fancy stadium are still demanding pay and protesting outside the city prosecutor's office in Kyiv, demanding action. Most of them, however, were employed unofficially, which makes it hard for them to take legal action.

Experts say that because many sub-

contractors were trying to save as much money as possible, they often hired unprofessional workers.

"These are usually poor men from villages around the country," says Vitaliy Manchuk, head of the Kyiv construction workers trade union.

Since her husband died, Tetyana Samoilkuk has been receiving a couple thousand hryvnias every month in insurance from the state.

"There is no job in the village and I work occasionally, as a cleaning lady, cook, or anything I can find," she says.

She adds this will not be enough, since her daughter is going to college this year to study to be a lawyer.

Kyiv Post staff writer Svitlana Tychynska can be reached at [tuchynska@kyivpost.com](mailto:tuchynska@kyivpost.com)



Construction workers protest outside the Kyiv city prosecutor's office, demanding pay and legal employment. (Sohei Yasui)

Advertisement

## Entertainments of a new format

*We live during a consumer era when some persistently offer the goods and services, and others – actively purchase them. No wonder that the number of new shopping and entertainment centers grows in Ukraine and Kiev every day, thus they propagate absolutely new philosophy of purchases. People come there not only to buy new things, but also to have a good time and to spend time with pleasure as well. And from this point of view, exactly entertainment plays more significant role when developing the concept of large shopping center.*

### From little to big thing

The first shopping center in Ukraine, the format of which had not yet assumed an entertaining component, appeared in Kiev in 1999. Active development of domestic professional trade real estate began exactly with it. There appeared yet 4 shopping centers in Kiev already after one year. They were located in the most active underground passages of the capital, and soon their ground analogs were constructed as well. The Ukrainian market of the entertaining centers started to emerge since 2005-2006 when besides separate small arcades at cinemas, full-fledged children's entertaining centers began to be created. Soon there was a format of the children's entertaining centers as a part of trade objects which were created on the area rented by the operator in the shopping center. And only few years ago we became witnesses of emergence of the whole complexes of a new format in which besides children, adults also could spend time fascinatingly.

The pioneers of trade and entertainment branch managed to win love of the Ukrainians, many shopping and entertainment complexes became a favourite place for spending leisure-time. And nevertheless, modern sophisticated consumer requires more and more comfortable trade areas which would create really comfortable conditions for the majority of buyers and also would offer original entertainments. Apparently, despite wide choice, we all still often face a problem of searching the necessary goods. As a rule, the Ukrainian shopping and entertainment complexes offer standard, already bored set of entertainments, quite often there are no cinemas, skating rinks in their structure, and also there are no powerful anchor tenants, capable to attract visitors even from the remote districts. In few places the zoning rule is used, malls work by a market principle in the old manner: shops of a different orientation are scattered all over the hall, and the buyer has to go round all territory in order to find the necessary goods. Quite often recreation areas are too small, there are no elementary benches, guide signs, garbage cans in trade passages. According to experts, the weakest place of shopping and entertainment complexes, at least of capital ones, are parking areas. Few complexes could boast of parking slots adequate to trade area.

### New formats are not far off

In conditions of the existing competition developers try to develop new formats of entertainments which will allow to attract interest of visitors and to increase attendance of shopping and entertainment complexes – Igor Nikonov told, the president of K.A.N. Development which, seems, intends to fight with tendencies existing on market. Now the company erects in the capital district of Teremky the largest

of today superregional shopping and entertainment complex in Ukraine – Respublika.

The project draws attention not only by its scales (the total area of the mall will be 290,000 sq.m, leasehold area – 140,000 sq.m) – first of all, it is interesting by emphasis on its entertaining component. According to its founders, the shopping and entertainment complex, the first stage of which will be opened in Q1'2014, will offer the visitors the entertainments unrepresented not only in Ukraine yet, but also in the neighboring countries as well. So, the longest in Europe covered



roller coaster with extent of 500 m are planning to be placed in the center (they are produced by the same company which developed roller coaster for Disneyland and other leading entertaining parks of the world). Besides, visitors will be offered to take a ride on a huge ferris wheel with height of 6-storeyed house, to visit the attractions 'A falling tower' and 'Wind tunnel', Spa center, fitness center, aquapark, large ice skating rink, roller arenas, unique cinema complex with 12 halls, bowling center with 24 paths. The concept of future off-season entertainment park is developed by the Belgian KCC company – the recognized world authority in development of the best modern family entertaining centers. The shopping and entertainment complex will perfectly offer the industry of children's entertainments as well: visitors with children will be attracted by the children's entertaining center with the area of 1 hectare.

The Respublika will be placed in the territory of the multifunctional complex with the same name. It will be the largest complex in Ukraine, which contains more than 435 shops of different price categories, among which – food hypermarket, big furniture store, electronics supermarket, world leading department stores of clothes, shop of sports goods, and also the largest gallery of boutiques with an essential share of the brands which still haven't been presented in Ukraine. Now the balanced structure of tenants is formed, thus, according to the developer, each operator will be attractive for buyers.

Tenants will be placed so that the synergy effect could be created favorable for each trade operator. And the space-and-planning decision providing a principle of zoning will meet the interests of visitors and tenants as much as possible.

In addition, a large number of public catering both in a fast food format, and in a format of restaurants as well will be presented in the shopping and entertainment complex. Auto village, created by a large number of brand automobile shows, is planned to be placed on a facade of the mall. The parking of the complex is planned for 4,500 parking slots, which certainly, will become its competitive advantage.

'The Respublika is the first megamall in Ukraine' – Vitaliy Boyko says, the partner of the consulting company UTG (Ukrainian Trade Guild Company). He emphasizes that after opening of the shopping and entertainment complex in Kiev there will be new trade knot located on the largest transit artery of Kiev – the Ring road.

So, today the main capital trade knot is 'Petrovka', however, according to experts, it has been already exhausted – there are no free places for construction of new shopping and entertainment complexes, and the realized ones gradually become outdated morally. In its turn, there are already Epicenter and Metro shops, 'Stolichniy' – the grocery market complex on the Ring road. The expert is sure, that after the Respublika opening all trade streams will concentrate round it. A successful traffic interchange will play the important role in it – not far from the shopping and entertainment complex Respublika there will be two new underground railway stations, the bus terminal and the airport. Besides, nearby there will be erected the housing area with total area of 1.2 million square meters, hotel, polyclinic, children's preschool institutions, schools, sports grounds, stadium, multistorey ground parking areas. 'The shopping and entertainment complex will become the main place for purchases and day off rest, which will be visited not only by inhabitants of the capital, but also of other cities' – Boyko concludes.

Eve Turbina



# What's in the water?

→ **1** rine may cause cancer, so consumers are advised to clean tap water with a coal filter.

Part two examined the water from aquifers that two hundred hand pumps in Kyiv deliver every day to consumers. That water was generally found to be of high quality. But the Kyiv Post also found that city authorities do not take care of the pumps adequately; some of them are contaminated with iron and hydrogen sulfide. And well test results varied: Water from the well at the Kyiv Monastery of the Caves was good, for instance, but water in the well near Vydubtsky monastery had too many salts.

For the third part of the series on bottled water, the Kyiv Post ordered a blind test of the top 14 companies that produce, sell and deliver drinking water in 18.9 liter bottles, the size commonly sold for Kyiv offices and homes. The list of top producers was compiled by the Bottled Water Association of Ukraine.

The independent testing was conducted by three certified laboratories. It showed that the most expensive water may not be the best. Even paying Hr 40 on average for a bottle of water, consumers cannot be assured of getting top-quality water.

## Bacteria count high in many brands tested

The results of microbiological tests conducted on March 26-27 showed excessive amounts of bacteria in half of the tested samples. In some of them, the level of bacteria was so high that laboratory workers were not able to measure them.

After an initial round of tests, producers who didn't score high complained that the water samples were collected by journalists and not specialists. So, on June 22, the Kyiv Post ordered additional tests at another laboratory and asked laboratory workers to withdraw the samples themselves. The second tests showed that only two water producers improved their results. One brand showed a worse result, while five had the same negative findings.

"It does not mean that this water can cause food poisoning," said Anna Moskalenko, junior research fellow at the laboratory of the Marzeyev Institute of Hygiene and Medical Ecology, which did the first microbiological testing. "But waste products of bacteria are toxic and may cause premature aging and chronic fatigue syndrome and other diseases if such water is drunk regularly."

Natalia Protsan, deputy head of the laboratory at Kyiv's Institute of Alcohol and Biotechnology of Food Products, which performed the second round of tests, also explained possible long-term risks. "Water with a high level of bacteria may cause dysbiosis and malaise if a person's immunity is low," Protsan said. "It may also raise the temperature of small children."

Valeria Zubkova, director at Nebesna Krynytsia, one of the bottled water brands tested, dismissed the findings. "We are confident in the best quality of our water and control it regularly," Zubkova said.

## Chemical tests show manganese, fluorides

Results of the chemical test, conducted on March 26-27 by the laboratory of the National Technical University of Ukraine, revealed that in three water brands – EKO, Vodograi and Feofanivska – the levels of manganese exceeded the legal limit.

According to Anna Tsvetkova, the water and sanitation program coordinator at MAMA-86, regular drinking of water with excess levels of manganese can cause impotence and have a bad effect on memory and the central nervous system.

## Test results on quality of bottled water in Kyiv

#	Water in 18.9 liter bottles	Water source	Reverse osmosis technology	Results of chemical and biological tests*						Price for one bottle, Hr
				Total hardness, mmol/cubic dm	Calcium, mmol/cubic dm	Manganese, mg/cubic dm	Fluorides, mg/cubic dm	Dry residue, mg/cubic dm	Colony count 22°C	
Obligatory state sanitary rules and norms for the quality of drinking water (DSanPiN 2.2.4-171-10)				<=7	<=6.5	<=0.05	<=1.5	<=1000**	<=100	
Recommendational indicators of the physiologically sound water (DSanPiN 2.2.4-171-10)				1.5-7	1.25-3.75		0.7-1.2	200-500		
1	ClearWater	artesian well	yes	0.68	0.46	0.015	0.4	65	0	42
2	Etalon	artesian well	no	2.02	1.16	0.011	1.27	154	0	52
3	Alaska	artesian well	partially	0.92	0.66	0.028	0.57	68	0	44
4	Stary Myrhorod	artesian well	partially	0.9	0.16	0.028	1.69	414	20	48
5	Rajske Dzherelo	artesian well	no	5.12	2.74	0.022	0.76	407	130	40
6	Nebesna Krynytsia	artesian well	yes	0.07	0.044	0.011	0.64	140	150	39
7	Ukrainochka	artesian well	no	0.04	0.025	0.038	1.27	468	600	25
8	Zhyvoi Istochnik	artesian well	no	2.18	1.76	0.024	0.43	132	0	48
9	Kodacka Voda	tap water	yes	0.164	0.109	0.05	0.11	18	280	32
10	EKO	artesian well	partially	1.08	0.82	0.085	0.34	75	0	33
11	Pan Vodny	artesian well	no	0.14	0.085	0.043	1.07	272	140	30
12	Vodograi	artesian well	no	3.22	2.44	0.055	0.4	199	0	30
13	Feofanivska	artesian well	no	0.22	0.16	0.052	0.8	301	750	38
14	Slobidska	artesian well	no	1.06	0.84	0.05	0.64	133	0	38

	The parameter exceeds obligatory state sanitary rules and norms for the quality of drinking water.
	The parameter exceeds recommendational indicators of physiologically sound water.
	Water samples which meet obligatory state sanitary rules and norms for the quality of drinking water.

\* Water samples for chemical test were collected by the Kyiv Post journalists on March 26-27 and sent to the Ion Exchange and Adsorption Laboratory of the National Technical University of Ukraine which did the tests. Samples for second microbiological test were withdrawn and tested by the workers of the Products Quality Control Center at the Ukrainian Research Institute of Alcohol and Biotechnology of Food Products on June 22. Results of the water tests apply only to the samples collected on March 26-27 and on June 22 respectively.

\*\* Dry residue for water with artificial mineralisation could be not less than 100 mg/cubic dm. In our research this norm applies to ClearWater, the only brand which uses artificial mineralization technology.

This chart is a summary of Kyiv Post research into the quality of bottled water in Kyiv, measuring different criteria. Four out of 14 tested brands came out on top – Etalon, Alaska, Zhyvoi Istochnik and Slobidska. Those brands, highlighted in green, met obligatory state sanitary rules and norms for the quality of drinking water. Results which did not comply with obligatory norms are highlighted in red, while those that failed only recommended – but not obligatory norms – are highlighted in orange.



Employees of a downtown office in Kyiv drink cool water on a hot summer afternoon. (Sohei Yasui)

he level of manganese is regulated for bottled water, while a higher level of this chemical is allowed in tap water until 2020. Bottled water scored much better than tap water on Kyiv's right bank of the Dnipro River; tests showed a much higher level of manganese in the tap water withdrawn by the Kyiv Post.

Producers of these brands say their bottled water is pure and safe.

One of the brands tested, Stary Myrhorod, had levels of fluorides above the legal limit. Biologist Tsvetkova said the problem can lead to cavities and osteoporosis if such water is drunk regularly.

Oleksiy Vinichenko, head of the marketing department at IDS Aqua Service, which produces Stary Myrhorod and Alaska water brands, dismissed the result as part of the 10 percent "standard error which exists during such studies." Vinichenko is confident that the firm's water products meet all legal

standards and he said the company is ready to defend this position in courts.

Apart from required norms, the Health Ministry also issues recommendations, one of which is to drink water with a balanced composition of salts.

According to those recommendations, total hardness, one of the most important parameters for physiologically sound water, for instance, should vary between 1.5 and 7 mmol per cubic decimeter. But only five water brands out of 14 tested managed to match this recommendation. Total hardness of the rest of brands, in most cases, was much lower than this level, showing inadequate salts.

Only one brand tested, Rayske Dzhirelo, was able to match all requirements to the physiologically sound water. This water, however, failed the microbiological test – a finding the producer said was inaccurate.

## Debate over reverse osmosis technology

The reason why those producers were not able to meet those recommendations is because most of them use deep-water treatment technologies such as reverse osmosis. This relatively cheap technology is based on a special membrane which cleans water on a molecular level and removes everything – the bad as well as the good, including useful levels of salts.

"In America most people consume water which is cleaned with the help of a reverse osmosis plant," said Ihor Pastukh, president of Ukraine's Bottled Water Association. "While in Europe the most appreciated is water from artesian wells in which the initial composition is not changed except for mechanical purification."

Ukrainian experts don't recommend reverse osmosis, a membrane-technology filtration system, because it produces water that is unnaturally pure.

"It is better to drink natural water or water purified in natural way," said Kostiantyn Zahorodniuk, an assistant professor at the Bogomolets National Medical University. "I would not drink water cleaned with the help of reverse osmosis."

Vladyslav Honcharuk, director at the Institute of Colloid and Water Chemistry in Kyiv, is even more critical.

"In distilled water there is no life. It is dead water in a direct and figurative sense," underscored Honcharuk. He added also that water purified with the help of reverse osmosis removes calcium from the body. "The spine becomes very fragile and unstable," Honcharuk said. "Such water is especially dangerous for children whose

bones are not formed yet."

However, producers say the reverse osmosis technology is the best one and is widely used in many countries.

"Reverse osmosis is the most progressive method used in the world. This system allows for removing all contaminations and keeping enough minerals," responded Valeria Zubkova, director at Nebesna Krynytsia. Her company uses this technology, as do many producers tested by the Kyiv Post.

Copies of the official documents with the test results can be found in the online version of this article.

## Consumers don't have enough information

During its research, the Kyiv Post found out that consumers often don't know what exactly runs from their cooler or what is in the water they buy in a bottle.

The Kyiv Post has sent scanned copies of labels from all 14 producers test for analysis by the Arzinger law firm. Lawyers concluded that the labels of only two water brands, Alaska and Stary Myrhorod, met all legal requirements. Labels of other producers did not contain complete product information, such as the number and location of the artesian well, water composition and parameters of physiologically sound water.

Most producers replied that the Kyiv Post obtained bottles with outdated labels, while newer ones are being phased in.

"It is just an excuse," said Nadiia Karlash, an Arzinger associate. "Producers had enough time to adjust, taking into account that the relevant norm took effect almost two years ago."

When the Kyiv Post ordered bottles of water the second time, it → **17**





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Going Out Guide

● – see address in the box below and on the pull-out map.

Comments and tips are welcome. Email the lifestyle team at [ls@kyivpost.com](mailto:ls@kyivpost.com)

For tickets online, please visit [kvytky.ua](http://kvytky.ua), [parter.ua](http://parter.ua), [freedomhall.com.ua](http://freedomhall.com.ua), [bilethouse.com.ua](http://bilethouse.com.ua), [karabas.com](http://karabas.com), or [biletik.ua](http://biletik.ua).



Tango marathon

This event is going to be hot. A three-day tango marathon kicks off in Kyiv on July 13. DJs from Ukraine, Russia and Germany are set to go behind the turntables and perform well-known milonga (a form of Argentine music) compositions to accompany tango lovers. The cherry on the cake will be a three-hour dance party on the riverboat that will start the last day of the marathon.  
**Tango marathon. July 13-15. 8 p.m. – 6 a.m. National University of Physical Training and Sports. Hr 300-350**  
**For more details visit event’s website [www.tangomarathon.kiev.ua](http://www.tangomarathon.kiev.ua)**

Friday, July 13

Classical music

**Works of Bach, Handel, Liszt, Frank, Hillman, Reger** (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-100

**Chisato Kusunoki.** Japan Piano Master Playing Bach, Chopin, Silvestrov, Schuman. Master Klass. 8 p.m. Hr 40

Movies

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts festival). Zhovten. 1:10 p.m., 2:50 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 7:55 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 22-35

**You Instead.** Zhovten. 3:15 p.m., 6:20 p.m. Hr 25-35

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40

Live music

**Ot Vinta & Partizanskie Vytivki.** Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75

**Mad Heads XL** (rock). Docker’s ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

**Red Rocks** (cover band). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

**Truba** (folk rock, boogie). Divan. 8 p.m. Free

**VIA Zhyguli** (retro night). Babuin. 7 p.m. Hr 40

Clubs

**Loshadka Prty** (vocal, DJ performance). Green Theatre. 11 p.m. Hr 100

**Foam Party With Alexei Durnev & Dasha Shi.** Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 25-50 for females, Hr 30-60 for males

**Dancing At The Seaside** (with DJ Sanches). Mantra. 10 p.m. Hr 100 for ifemales, Hr 200 for males

**Premier Lounge Party.** D’Lux. 10 p.m. Free for females, Hr 200 for males

**Friday 13 Party.** Crystall Hall. 10 p.m. Free

**Techno Dancing.** Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 20-40 for females, 25-50 for males

**PlayGirl Night.** Bionica. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 40-60 for males

**Scary Movie Party.** Dorothy Pub. 8 p.m. Free

Theaters

**Natalka Poltavka** (opera). Opera Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 10-200

**A Mad Night Or Pigden’s Marriage** (comedy based on Ray Cooney’s play “Out of Order”). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200

**I Am The Successor** (premiere). Franko Theater, chamber scene. 7 p.m. Hr 30-70

Miscellaneous

**The Crowd** (Zhanna Kadyrova personal art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. Free

**Citius, Altius, Fortius!** (art exhibition). Kyiv National Museum of Russian Art. 10 a.m. Hr 5-30

**ArteSfera Expo** (modern art festival). Atmosfera 360. 10 a.m. Free

**Tango Marathon.** National University of Physical Training and Sports. 8 p.m. - 6 a.m. Hr 300-350

Shows

**Ot Vinta & Partizanskie Bytivky.** Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75

Saturday, July 14

Classical music

**Viennese Evenings.** Classical Music Ensemble of Lyatoshynsky playing Haydn, Mozart (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-90

Movies

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts festival). Zhovten. 1:10 p.m.,2:50 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 7:55 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 22-35

**You Instead.** Zhovten. 2:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 25-35

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40

Live music

**Mad Heads XL & Red Rocks** (rock hits). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 100

**Ot Vinta & Partizanskie Vytivki.** Docker’s ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

**MJ Project** (cover band). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

**Bikfordov** (rock). Divan. 8 p.m. Free

**Mirrors** (jazz, funk). Babuin. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30

Clubs

**Sexual Revolution.** Bionica. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 40-60 for males

**Dance Generals.** Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 25-50 for females, Hr 30-60 for males

**DJ Lutique.** D’Lux. 10 p.m. Free for females, Hr 200 for males

**Foam Party.** Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 20-40 for females, Hr 25-50 for males

Theaters

**Schweik** (comedy, based on Jaroslav Hasek’s “The Good Soldier Schweik”). Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-200

**How Could I Not Love You, My Kyiv** (scenes about Kyiv). Franko Theater, chamber scene. 7 p.m. Hr 30-70

Shows

**Global Gathering.** Chaika airfield. 2 p.m. Hr 400-550

**Citius, Altius, Fortius!** (art exhibition). Kyiv National Museum of Russian Art. 10 a.m. Hr 5-30

**ArteSfera Expo** (modern art festival). Atmosfera 360. 10 a.m. Free

Miscellaneous

**The Crowd** (Zhanna Kadyrova personal art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. Free

**Tango Marathon.** National University of Physical Training and Sports. 8 p.m. - 6 a.m. Hr 300-350

**The Knight of Kiev Detinets.** Fencing Tournament. Kyivan Rus Park. 4 p.m. Hr 40

Sunday, July 15

Movies

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts festival). Zhovten. 1:10 p.m., 2:50 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 7:55 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 22-35

**You Instead.** Zhovten. 2:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 25-35

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40

Live music

**Vostochnyi Express.** Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free

**Karnavalnaya Zhara** (cover band). Docker’s ABC. 10 p.m. Free

**Soyuz 44** (jazz jam session). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

**The Rabbit In The Hat & The Children of 90s** (indie, rock). Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Clubs

**Banana Party.** Saxon. 11 p.m. Free before midnight, Hr 20 after midnight

**R’n’B Boom.** Forsage. 11 p.m. Free before midnight, Hr 20-30 after midnight

**Naked King Hen Party.** Bionica. 11

p.m. Free for females, Hr 30 for males after midnight

Theaters

**Too Happy To Be A Father** (comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-200

**Kaidash Family** (comedy based on Ivan Franko’s novel). Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-200

Shows

**Grigory Leps.** Palats Ukraina. 10 p.m. Hr 200-3,450

Miscellaneous

**The Crowd** (Zhanna Kadyrova personal art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. Free

**Citius, Altius, Fortius!** (art exhibition). Kyiv National Museum of Russian Art. 10 a.m. Hr 5-30

**ArteSfera Expo** (modern art festival). Atmosfera 360. 10 a.m. Free

**Tango Marathon.** National University of Physical Training and Sports. 3 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Hr 300-350

**The Knight of Kiev Detinets.** Fencing Tournament. Kyivan Rus Park. 4 p.m. Hr 40

Monday, July 16

Movies

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts festival). Zhovten. 1:10 p.m., 2:50 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 7:55 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 22-35

**You Instead.** Zhovten. 3:15 p.m., 6:20 p.m. Hr 25-35

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts fes-

Miscellaneous

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**The Crowd** (Zhanna Kadyrova personal art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. Free

**ArteSfera Expo** (modern art festival). Atmosfera 360. 10 a.m. Free

Tuesday, July 17

Classical music

**Works of Bach, Vivaldi, Frescobaldi** (organ, harpsichord). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-50

Movies

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts festival). Zhovten. 1:10 p.m., 2:50 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 7:55 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 22-35

**You Instead.** Zhovten. 3:15 p.m., 6:20 p.m. Hr 25-35

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40

Live music

**More Huana** (cover band). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free

**Mama Mia** (italiano disco). Docker’s ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 20

**Trutni** (pop rock). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

**Hermanov.** Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Theaters

**The Will Of The Chaste Ladies’ Man** (comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 10-110



Overnight bicycle ride

An overnight bicycle ride across through some of the most mysterious place in the city will take place on July 21. Participants are supposed to wear fancy dress costumes on the ride. The tour starts near the Red Castle (the Baron’s Castle) on 1 Yaroslaviv Val Street, close to Zoloti Vorota metro stop. The final destination is Lysa Hora (Bold Hill), in the modern-day Holosiyivsky district. To take part, contact the organizers at [isbondarenko@avk.org.ua](mailto:isbondarenko@avk.org.ua), or call (097) 699-1038  
**Masquerade Bicycle Ride. July 21-22. Start at 1 Yaroslaviv Val St. 6 p.m. – 6 a.m. Free**



Dance at Global Gathering

This year, the annual outdoor international dance festival Global Gathering will bring together 40 DJs from 11 countries who will perform at Kyiv airfield Chaika. Sander Van Doorn, Ferry Corsten, Gareth Emery, Dash Berlin, Afrojack from the Netherlands and England are set to headline the show. So, this is the place to be for those who feel like dancing all night.  
**Global Gathering. July 14. Chaika Airfield. 2 p.m. Hr 400-550**

tival). Kyiv. 5:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40

Live music

**Dyadya Vasya.** Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free

**Crazy Train** (rock covers). Docker’s ABC. 10 p.m. Free

**Viktor Solomin Trio** (jazz). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

Theaters

**The Cherry Orchard** (comedy by Anton Chekhov). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 10-110

Shows

**Rock Forum at Summer Sound (rock festival).** Grybovka village in Odessa oblast. 12:01 p.m. Hr 70-965

Shows

**Rock Forum at Summer Sound (rock festival).** Grybovka village in Odessa oblast. 12:01 p.m. Hr 70-965

Miscellaneous

**Citius, Altius, Fortius!** (art exhibition). Kyiv National Museum of Russian Art. 10 a.m. Hr 5-30

Wednesday, July 18

Classical music

**Works of Bach** (violoncello, flute, piano, organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80

Movies

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts festival). Zhovten. 1:10 p.m., 2:50 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 7:55 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 22-35





## Fencing championship

The most exciting scenes of medieval battles will be revived this weekend in the Kyivan Rus Park, an outdoor theme park in Kyiv region. The Knight of Kiev Detinets historical fencing tournament will take place yet again in the park.

And this time the contest is set to bring together participants of historical clubs from Kyiv and Zhytomyr who will clash in one-on-one duels, and in the 5x5 meter category favored by audiences. Apart from the tournament, the park horse theater will perform and you will have chance to learn about medieval football as well as Slavic and Oriental dances.

**The Knight of Kiev Detinets. July 14-15. 3 p.m. Kyivska Rus Park. Hr 40**

**You Instead.** Zhovten. 3:15 p.m., 6:20 p.m. Hr 25-35

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40

### Live music

**Rockin' Wolves** (rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free

**The Magma** (pop rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30

**Cadillac Records** (jam, blues rock). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

**Jazz Wednesday With Ihor Zakus.** Divan. 8 p.m. Free

### Theaters

**Too Married A Taxi Driver** (Ray Cooney's comedy Run For Your Wife). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200

### Shows

**Rock Forum at Summer Sound (rock festival).** Grybovka village in Odessa oblast. 12:01 p.m. Hr 70-965

### Miscellaneous

**Citius, Altius, Fortius!** (art exhibition). Kyiv National Museum of Russian Art. 10 a.m. Hr 5-30

## Thursday, July 19

### Classical music

**Works of Bach, Rheinberger, Reger** (organ, violin). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-90

### Movies

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts festival). Zhovten. 1:10 p.m., 2:50 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 7:55 p.m., 9:35 p.m. Hr 22-35

**You Instead.** Zhovten. 3:25 p.m., 9:40 p.m. Hr 25-35

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 30-40

### Live music

**Mama Mia** (italiano disco). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free

**Karnavalnaya Zhara** (rock covers). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30

**Les Gendarmes & Respect Your Mom.** Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

**Le Noir** (jazz). Divan. 8 p.m. Free

**Red Rocks** (cover band). Underground Music Hall. 9 p.m. Free

### Theaters

**One Hundred And Fifth Page About Love** (comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 30-75

**Lubov Morkov/Love Schmilove** (based on play "Wishmaster," starring Olga Sums kaya and Vladimir Goryansky). House Of Officers. 7 p.m. Hr 290-350

### Shows

**Rock Forum at Summer Sound (rock festival).** Grybovka village in Odessa oblast. 12:01 p.m. Hr 70-965

**Perkalaba** (ska). Bochka. 7 p.m. Hr 80

## Friday, July 20

### Classical music

**Instrumental Music Night.** Works of Bach, Schumann, Ravel, Tchaikovsky (violoncello, piano). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80

**Classics on Fridays.** Te Deum Duo Playing Schubert, Debussy, Hubay (violin, piano). Master Klass. 8 p.m. Hr 40

### Live music

**Kozak System.** Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75

**Mad Heads UkrainSKA & Crazy Train.** Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75

**Angie Nears** (rock covers). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

**Living On Venus** (Poland). Divan. 8 p.m. Free

### Shows

**Rock Forum at Summer Sound (rock festival).** Grybovka village at Odessa oblast. 12:01 p.m. Hr 70-965

## Saturday, July 21

### Classical music

**Works of Vivaldi** (violin). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-90

### Live music

**Mad Heads UkrainSKA & Karnavalnaya Zhara.** Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 100

**Red Rocks & More Huana** (best rock covers). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 50

**MJ Project** (cover band). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

**Edvar Varpu** (jazz). Divan. 8 p.m. Free

### Shows

**Rock Forum at Summer Sound (rock festival).** Grybovka village in Odessa oblast. 12:01 p.m. Hr 70-965

### Miscellaneous

**Masquerade Bicycle Ride.** 1 Yaroslaviv Val St. 6 p.m. - 6 a.m. Free

## Sunday, July 22

### Live music

**Ruki V Briuki** (rockabilly). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free

**Animals Session** (classic rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free

**Soyuz 44** (jazz jam session). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free



## Perkalaba to play a show

Ukrainian ethno-rock band Perkalaba of Ivano-Frankivsk is coming to Kyiv to give a big solo concert.

Formed in 1998, the band got its name after one of the most remote mountain villages in the Ukrainian Carpathians, and is now a frequent guest at various ethnic festivals both in Ukraine and abroad. In fact, this is about the only local band that can boast frequent touring in European countries.

During the forthcoming concert in Kyiv nine energetic members of the band playing guitars, tube, trombone, accordion, drums, percussion and cymbals will perform songs from their new album Dido, as well as their most famous hits, including Guley, a Hutsul rendition of Sting's megahit Desert Rose.

Their music is an explosive mixture of reggae, ska-punk with folk richly seasoned with traditional Hutsul music elements.

**Perkalaba. July 19. 8 p.m. Bochka. Hr 70. 22 Verkhniy Val. 200-0360.**

## Addresses of venues

### Classical Music

National Philharmonic of Ukraine  
2 Volodymyr Uzviz St., 278-1697  
filarmonia.com.ua/en

House of Organ Music  
77 Velyka Vasykivska St., 528-3186  
organhall.kiev.ua

School of Jazz and Pop Art  
7-A Chelyabinskaya St., 517-6188

National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music  
1-3/11 Horodetsky St. (044) 279-1242  
operna-nmau.kiev.ua

**Movies**  
 Zhovten  
26 Kostyantynivska St., 205-5951  
zhovten-kino.kiev.ua/

Kyiv  
19 Velyka Vasykivska St. (former Chervonoarmiy ska), 234-7381  
kievkino.com.ua

Kinopanorama  
19 Shota Rustaveli St., 287-3041  
kinopanorama.com.ua

Budynok Kino  
6 Saksaganskogo St., 287-6780  
! For more schedules visit kino.ukr.net/cinema/kyiev/

**Live Music**  
 Docker Pub  
25 Bohatyr ska St., metro Heroiv Dnipra, 537-1340  
docker.com.ua

Docker's ABC  
15 Khreshchatyk St., 278-1717,  
abc.docker.com.ua

Porter Pub  
2A Konst yantyniv ska St., 536-9571  
porter.com.ua

Art Club 44

44B Khreshchatyk St., 279-4137  
club44.com.ua

Divan  
2 Bessarabskaya Square, 235-7366  
festrestdivan.com.ua

Zolotoy Dukat  
26 Shota Rustaveli 254-0715  
freshcoffee.com.ua

Bingo  
112 Peremohy Avenue 424-2555  
bingo.ua

Babuin Library Pub  
10 Petlury St., 235-7316, babuin.ua

Porter Pub  
34 Heroiv Dnipra St., 485-2011  
porter.com.ua

UNDERGROUND Music Hall  
13b Moskovskiy Ave.

Bochka  
21 Verhniy Val St. 067 433-0433  
www.bochka.ua

**Clubs**  
 Bionica  
128 Borschahovska St., 277-4747  
bionicaclub.com.ua

Seven Music Club  
1G Saksahanskoho St. 205-4451  
se7en.com.ua

Party Room  
5/3 Velyka Vasykivska St. (former Chervono-armiy ska), 093-815-1468  
partyroom.com.ua

Cinema Club  
1 Enthusiastov St., 295-5854

Saxon Club  
4 Trutenko Onufriy St., 257-4070  
saxonclub.com.ua

Dorothy Pub

16/43 Saksahanskoho St., 287-0530  
pubdorothy.com.ua

Sky Bar  
5 Velyka Vasykivska St. (former Chervonoarmiy ska), 465-8880  
skybar.com.ua

Sullivan Room  
8 Prorizna St., 095-455-7724  
sullivanroom.kiev.ua

Disco Club Gallery  
47 Peremohy Av., 453-3727  
galleryclub.kiev.ua

Forsage  
51A Harmatnaya St., 406-7600  
forsageclub.com.ua

Prime Club  
8 Nauky Av., 524-2209  
primeclub.in.ua

Crystal Hall  
1 Dneprovsky Spusk, 288-5069  
crystalhall.com.ua

Arena Entertainment  
2A, Basseynaya St. 492-0000  
arena-kiev.com/eng

Mantra  
4 Basseynaya St., 504-2555  
mantra.dj

Egoist  
124/140 Gorlovskaya St., 223-3633  
egoist-club.com.ua

Fiesta  
115D Horkogo St., 353-7685  
fiesta.im

Golden Gate pub.  
15 Zolotovorit ska St. 235-5188  
goldengatepubkiev.com

Vegas  
44 Shchorsa St. 063-772-4972

Museum Le Club  
10 Muzeiny Lane

221-1101  
www.museum-club.com

Allegro Hall  
82 Pobedy Ave., (Nivki Park) (044) 237-92-09 (067) 443-44-39  
http://www.allegro.net.ua

D'Lux  
3 Grushevskogo St. 200-2991  
http://dlux.com.ua

Club To Be First  
17 Moskovskaya St. +380 (44) 280-13-22.  
+380 (67) 548-81-88  
club-cbf.com.ua/

Home  
2 Perova Blvd., 558-2545, 383-7738  
www.home-club.kiev.ua

Green Theatre  
2 Park Alley 093 5912514  
www.greentheatre.com.ua

Ajour  
19 Leontovicha, 234-7494  
www.avalon.ua/en

Just C.A.F.E.  
39 Bohdana Khmelnytskogo Str. 235 0407  
justcafe.com.ua

**Theaters**  
 Ivan Franko Ukrainian Drama Theater  
3 Ivana Franka Sqr., 279 - 5921  
ft.org.ua

Lesya Ukrainka Russian Drama Theater  
5 Bohdana Khmelnytskogo St., 234-4223  
rusdram.com.ua

Koleso Theater  
8 Andriivskiy uzviz St., 425-0422  
koleso.teatr.kiev.ua

Dakh Modern Art Theatre  
13B Velyka Vasykivska St., 529-4062  
dax.com.ua

Art Union Chorny Kvadrat  
25 Brovarsky Avenue,

517-8980  
drama-comedy.kiev.ua

Kiev Academic Drama Theater in Podil  
14B Yaroslaviv Val St., 425-5489  
Theateronpodol.com

National Opera Theater of Ukraine  
50 Volodymyr ska St., 279- 1169  
opera.com.ua

Suzirja Theater  
14B Yaroslaviv Val St., 272-4188  
suzirja.org.ua

Golden Gates Theater  
1A Grushevskogo St., 501-8595  
zoloti-vorota.kiev.ua

Plastic Drama Theater  
7A Shovkovychna St., 253-9383  
ktpd.ho.com.ua

House of Actors  
7 Yaroslaviv Val St., 235-2081  
actorhall.com.ua

Molody Theater  
17 prorizna St., 234-6251  
molody.kiev.ua

Kyiv National Academic Theater of Operetta  
53/3 Chervonoarmiy ska St., 287-6257  
kiev-operetta.kiev.ua

New Theater on Pechersk  
5 Nemirovich-Danchenko St., 253-6550  
newTheater.kiev.ua

Bolshhevik Art Hall  
38 Peremohy Avenue 456-0416

International Exhibition Center  
15 Brovarskiy Avenue 538-0827  
iec-expo.com.ua

Lavra Gallery  
17 Ivana Mazepy St. 280-0290

Underground Music Hall

1-5 Artema St., 353-0843  
artkvadrat.com

**Shows**  
 Palats Ukraina  
13 Velyka Vasykivska St. 247-2316  
npmu.com.ua/

Freedom Hall  
134 Frunze St. 468-3232  
freedomhall.com.ua/

Xlib Club  
12 Frunze St., Thu-Sat 417-2546  
myspace.com/xlibclub

Kinopanorama Arthouse  
19 Shota Rustaveli St., 287-1135  
kinopanorama.com.ua/

Stereo Plaza  
17 Kikvidze St. 222-8040  
www.stereoplaza.com.ua/

Vodka Bar  
Maidan Nezalezhnosti, Globus mall, 2nd line, 371-1102  
vodka-bar.com.ua

Palats Sportu  
1 Sporty na Square 246-7405  
spalace.com.ua

National Music Academy  
1-3/11 Horodetskoho St. 279-5606  
knmau.com.ua/

Artist's House  
1/5 Artema St. 272-0547

Pirogovo Folk Open-Air Museum  
Pirogovo village, Kyiv region 526-5765  
nmapu.org.ua

Mamayeva Sloboda  
2 Myhayla Dontsya St. 361-9848  
mamayeva-sloboda.ua

Nemo Dolphinarium  
9 Glushkova St. nemokiev.com 520-5555

Modern Art Museum

13B Moskovsky Avenue 360-9594  
underground.co.ua

Zhovtnevy Palats  
1, Instyut ska St. 279-1582  
www.icca.kiev.ua

NAU Center of Culture and Arts  
1 Kosmonavta Komarova Ave., 406-6835  
ckm.nau.edu.ua

Expocenter of Ukraine  
1 Glushkov Ave. 596-9116, 596-9101,  
www.expocenter.com.ua

House of Officers  
30/1 Mykhaila Hrushevs'koho St, (044) 253 8072

Kyiv Small Opera  
5 Dehtyarska St. 502-3247

**Miscellaneous**  
 Ciro's Pomodoro  
12 Shota Rustaveli St., 221-4545  
pomodoro.kiev.ua

Kyiv Expo Plaza  
2b Salutna St. 461-9585  
expoplaza.kiev.ua

Master Klass cultural center  
16 Lavr ska St., 594-1063  
masterklass.org

Kokos Supper Club  
5 Velyka Vasykivska St., 361-4760 , kokos-club.com.ua

Pirogovo Folk Open-Air Museum  
Pirogovo village, Kyiv region 526-5765  
nmapu.org.ua

Mamayeva Sloboda  
2 Myhayla Dontsya St. 361-9848  
mamayeva-sloboda.ua

Nemo Dolphinarium  
9 Glushkova St. nemokiev.com 520-5555

Modern Art Museum

Paradis du Vin  
14/13 Nemyrovycha-Danchenko St. 284-2204  
paradisduvin.com

Ostrich farm  
32 Pidlisna street, Yasnohorodka village, Kyiv region (04578) 232-40, ostrich.com.ua

Kyivska Rus park  
Kopachiv village Kyiv region 461-9937  
parkkyivrus.com

KPI Art Center  
37 Peremohy Avenue 241-8626

Museum of Books and Publishing of Ukraine  
21, Building 9, Ivana Mazepy St. 280-7976  
vuam.org.ua/

M17 Contemporary Art Center  
102-104 Gorkogo (Antonovycha) St. m17.com.ua 596-2030

Kyiv Children and Youth palace  
13 Ivana Mazepy St. 253-4586  
www.nspu.org.ua

Art support fund  
1/6 Frolyvska St. 238-6521, foundart.org.ua

Kuit Ra  
4 Volodymyr ska St., 331-5948  
kultra.org

Sky Mall  
2T Henerala Vatutina Av., 495-5524  
www.cityclub.kiev.ua

ACCO International exhibition center.  
40-B Peremohy Avenue. http://acco.ua. 456-3804

Kyiv Pechersk Lavra  
9 Lavr ska St. 280-30-71  
www.kplavra.kiev.ua

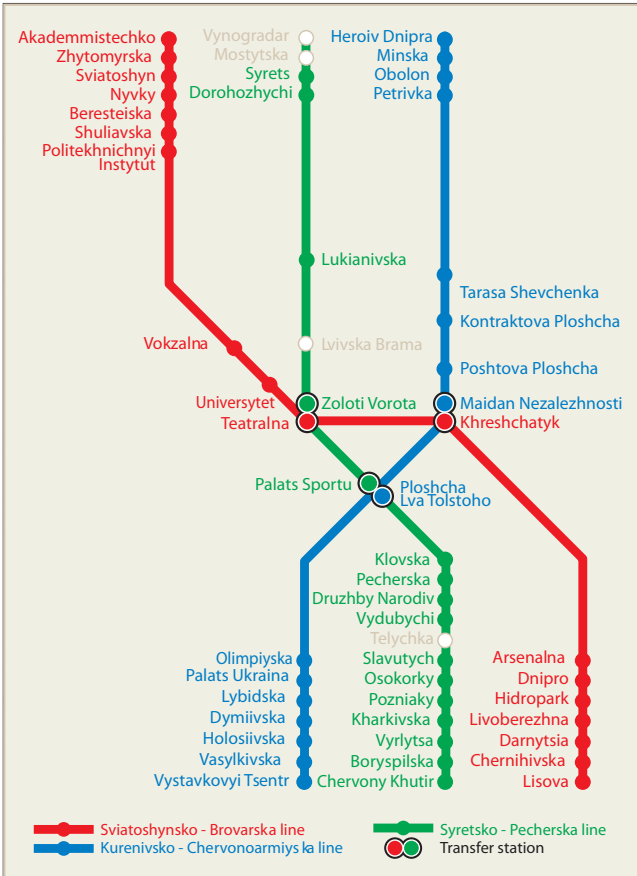
Modern Art Museum

17 Hlubochitska St. 201-4945  
modern-museum.org.ua

House of Architect's  
7 Borysa Hrinchenka St. 279-78-20

Kyiv House of Nature  
3 Rohndivska St. 234-45-47  
dom-prirody.com.ua





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## Election Watch

Oct. 28 parliamentary election



# Some voters want bribes

BY KATYA GORCHINSKAYA AND SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA

GORCHINSKAYA@KYIVPOST.COM AND TUCHYNSKA@KYIVPOST.COM

Voters routinely complain about corrupt politicians. But according to a recent survey, politicians can make the same complaint against some voters.

A June poll by GfK Ukraine shows that 6.2 percent of Ukrainians are willing to cast ballots for candidates who offer them money or presents.

Such attitudes could have a significant effect on the composition of the new parliament, whose 450 members will be elected anew Oct. 28. Polls show that the nation's political opposition has a chance of winning a majority in the nation's legislature, which would break President Viktor Yanukovich's monopoly grip on power.

Hlib Vyshlinsky, deputy director of GfK Ukraine, thinks the real number of Ukrainians who could sell their votes in such a high-stakes contest may be higher.

"There is a notion of a socially acceptable answer," Vyshlinsky said.

"Saying that you will sell your vote is not a socially acceptable answer, so the likelihood is that there are more of them in real life."

Vyshlinsky said the category of people most likely to trade their votes for favors are those with low incomes, either very young or old and not socially active. The beneficiaries are likely to be candidates from the pro-presidential ruling party. "They are most likely to be Party of Regions voters," Vyshlinsky said.

Indeed, the candidates for parliament seem to know this already.

In the past month, there have been several reports in the media highlighting politicians' doling out presents that usually contain staples like buckwheat, butter, pasta and sugar. Such gifts are usually disguised as presents for holidays like Women's Day or Victory Day, and have a card with a message from the sender. Some 5.6 percent of GfK Ukraine's respondents said that they have been offered such presents.

Party of Regions deputies Dmytro Svyatash, Iryna Berezhna and Valeriy Pysarenko have handed out such pres-

ents. So has former top Kyiv city official Oles Dovhiy, who plans to run as an independent in a single-mandate constituency in Kyiv.

Some are very creative.

Yuliya Lyovochkina, a member of parliament from the Party of Regions and sister of Serhiy Lyovochkin, head of the Presidential Administration, is giving away bicycles for mailmen in Crimea. On June 29 bicycles with the "Social Centre of Yuliya Lyovochkina" plate were distributed among local postal workers in villages of Kirov district in Crimea where Lyovochkina is expected to run. Activists from the Kirov district uploaded photos on the Internet showing dozens of mailmen gathered for the ceremony.

Another Party of Regions member of parliament, Irina Gorina, who plans to run in her native Kharkiv, was seen distributing food supplies in local school of Frunze district on May 3. According to activists from Spilna Sprava, an NGO that monitors election fraud, on other occasions Gorina also distributed Hr 500 discount cards to teacher for Brocard, a network of beauty shops.

A journalist from Kharkiv, Masha Malevska, uploaded on her Facebook a picture from Olympic Street in Kharkiv, showing a billboard promoting Gorina near pavement under repair. "The repair is done with the support of MP Irina Gorina. We apologize for the inconvenience," reads the board. When contacted by the Kyiv Post, Gorina would not comment.

Others come up with charity ideas. Ihor Lysov, an MP from the Party of Regions advertised free mammography. "Concrete deeds. Mammography. Free checks for women. Ihor Lysov" reads the billboard in Hosiiv district in Kyiv, where Lysov plans to run. The billboards are placed near the Hosiiv district hospital, which is state-owned and provides free services, including mammograms.

The good news is that a majority of Ukrainians – about 52 percent – will not change their minds for such a pittance, according to the poll, while another 30 percent said they're prepared to take a bribe without promising anything.

And, of course, there is no guarantee



A present for the voters from Iryna Berezhna, a member of parliament from the ruling Party of Regions. (blogspot.com)



Dozens of postal workers received bicycles supporting pro-presidential member of parliament Yuliya Lyovochkina. (Olexandr Danyluk)



This billboard shows that work on Olympic Street in Kharkiv is "supported" by pro-presidential Party of Regions member of parliament Irina Gorina. (Masha Malevska)

## Court delays hearings in Tymoshenko tax case

**KHARKIV (Reuters)** - The tax evasion trial of Yulia Tymoshenko was put off until July 23 due to the former Ukrainian prime minister's inability to attend hearings on health grounds, a court ruled on July 10.

Tymoshenko, sentenced to seven years in prison last October on a separate abuse-of-office charge, is being treated for back trouble in a state-run hospital.

The conviction of Tymoshenko, a key political opponent of President Viktor Yanukovich, has soured Ukraine's ties with the European Union, which sees the ruling as an example of selective justice.

In a hearing in the city of Kharkiv, Judge Kostyantyn Sadovsky adjourned

further hearings into the tax evasion case until July 23 as court-appointed doctors had yet to complete Tymoshenko's examination and establish whether she is fit to attend her own trial.

Tymoshenko, 51, denies wrongdoing. She has said she is not well enough to attend the court proceedings.

The case involves tax evasion and embezzlement charges dating to the 1990s when Tymoshenko was a prominent businesswoman.

According to state prosecutors, Tymoshenko's now-defunct gas trading company caused damages equivalent to about \$4 million to the state, while she personally evaded paying \$85,000 in taxes.

The EU has already shelved agreements on free trade and political association with the former Soviet republic in response to Tymoshenko's conviction last year, and has called for her release.

Tymoshenko helped lead the 2004 Orange Revolution protests that doomed Yanukovich's first bid for the presidency, but lost the 2010 presidential election to him in a close run-off.

She and a number of her opposition allies have since faced corruption-related charges which Tymoshenko has dismissed as political revenge.

She has appealed her abuse-of-office conviction and hearings in her appeal resumed on July 12 in Kyiv.



**For the love of Ukrainian**

Singer Nina Matvienko performs during a poetry marathon in support of the state status of the Ukrainian language near Ukrainian House in Kyiv on July 11. (Sohei Yasui)



# In Kirovohrad, soul-searching about why so many abort

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO  
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

**KIROVOHRAD** – A dozen women wait in line in the corridor of the Kirovohrad regional consultancy for pregnancy.

Many of them are deciding whether to keep their babies. Two out of 100 will choose to abort. This central Ukrainian city has the highest abortion rate in Ukraine, where the average number of abortions is 13.9 per 1,000 pregnancies, according to the Health Ministry – or six times the rate in Western Europe.

Olena Makaruk, head of the family planning department of the center, is sitting in her modest, Soviet-style office in the hospital, where she has just finished trying to persuade an unmarried 22-year-old woman not to have an abortion. “So many tears,” she says. “Three doctors barely managed to persuade her to keep the child.”

Basically, they scared the young woman by telling her that aborting her first pregnancy can cause severe health consequences.

About 70-80 percent of women’s

infertility is traced back to surgical abortions, and there are still rare cases in Ukraine when women die during the procedure, doctors say. There were 800,000 infertile couples in Ukraine, according to 2010 data, the latest available.

But despite the risks, many women still opt for abortions. Some of them have little knowledge about contraception options or limited access to it. Others simply choose to ignore the options.

“There are women, who don’t even want to hear about contraception and choose abortion,” said Olga Hryshchenko, professor of the Kharkiv Medical Academy.

In economically depressed regions like Kirovohrad, it is common for women not to use contraceptives.

Experts in rural areas say that oral contraceptives are hard to come by. And with an average price of Hr 60 per package of contraceptive pills, some women decide it’s much cheaper to have an abortion, which is supposedly free of charge in public hospitals. In private clinics, abortions start at Hr 1,000.

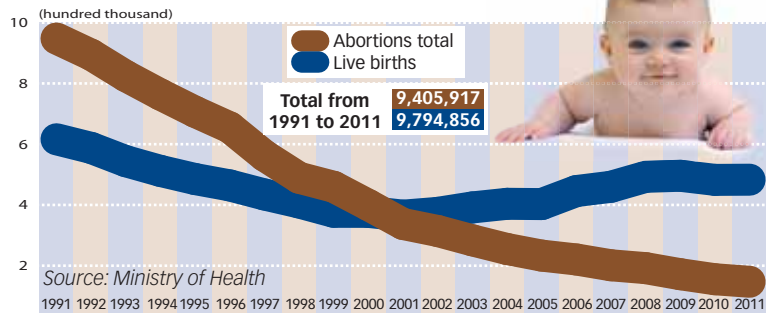
Apart from being economically depressed, religion does not have a strong influence in Kirovohrad Oblast. Abortions tend to be fewer in areas where churches are strong since many Christians and others consider abortion to be murder. A case in point is western Ukraine, where abortion rates are lower than the national average.

In Kirovohrad, by contrast, “women here don’t have fear that they are killing a human inside them,” said Makaruk of the family planning department.

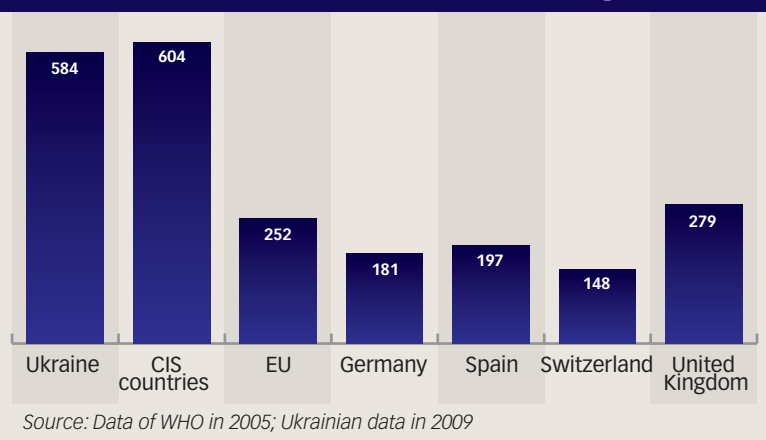
Because abortions are cheap and easily available, Ukraine has become a popular destination for Polish women who seek them. Because of the strong Roman Catholic influence in Poland, abortions were banned in 2011, but exceptions were made for medical reasons.

Poor education is also a contributing factor when it comes to high abortion rates. Anna Storchak, trainer of the Healthy Women of Ukraine program, funded jointly by United Nations Population Fund and the U.S. Agency for International Development, says too many Ukrainian women believe that oral contraceptives are harmful,

## Abortion rate in Ukraine

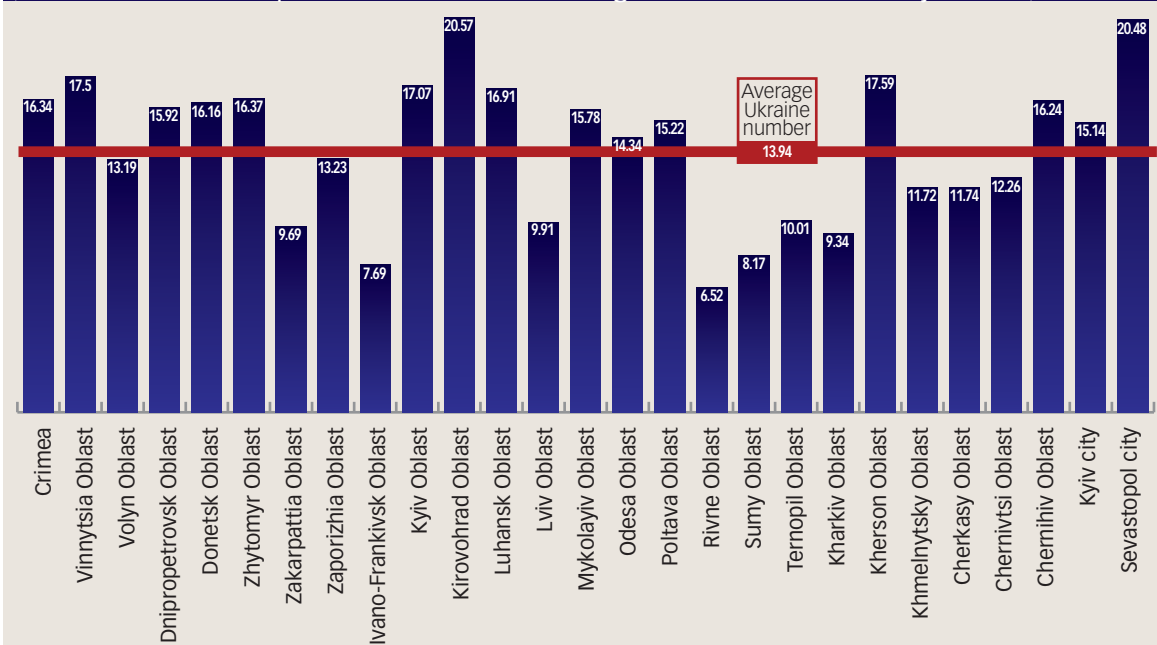


## Number of abortions per 1000 children born alive in some countries and regions



## Frequency of abortions in different Ukrainian regions

(Number of abortions per 1000 women of fertile age. Data of Health Ministry in 2010)



Source: Data of WHO in 2005; Ukrainian data in 2009

for example, a myth inherited from the Soviet Union.

That fear was valid in the 1960s–70s, when the pill only just became available. “These days, one pack of contraceptives contains the same amount of hormones that one pill used to have,” says Storchak.

International donors working in Ukraine say education is the key to fighting high abortion rates. “The high rate of abortions could be decreased with proper information campaign,” says Kateryna Pryshchepa, communication associate of United Nations Population Fund in Ukraine.

Her organization started a program for training gynecologists in oblasts like Kirovohrad, teaching them modern methods of contraception so that they can suggest them to their patients.

Overall, however, the news is good, with fewer women nationally having abortions each year.

In the first years after independence in 1991, Ukraine had about one million abortions per year, while in 2011 there were only 180,000 registered cases of medically interrupted pregnancies.

Meanwhile, experts say the real figures are much higher than the official data as private clinics don’t report all abortions. Also, use of the abortion pill at the early stages of impregnation also tends to go unreported.

Doctors say that the younger generation of Ukrainian women is more aware of modern contraception than their mothers. Makaruk says there are almost no young women who say in her office that they “don’t remember how many abortions they had in their lives,” a phrase she used to hear a lot from the older generation.

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Grytsenko can be reached at grytsenko@kyivpost.com

# Tests show quality of bottled water varies

→ 10 revealed that two producers – Pan Vodny and Feofanivska – did not list the date when the water was produced or the expiration date for consumption.

## Light penalties criticized

Karlash from Arzinger said, that according to Ukrainian legislation, substandard products should be confiscated if they do not match current regulations, are wrongly labeled or do not match legal requirements to the quality of water. Production should be stopped until the problem is solved. If any of the violations are confirmed, the producer has to pay a fine equal to 50 percent of the price of the consignment, but not less than Hr 170. Fines of up to Hr 425 are called for involving violations of the sanitary legislation.

“Legal responsibility is insignificant.

That’s why producers are not afraid, while authorities often close their eyes on such violations,” Karlash said.

The Kyiv Sanitary-Epidemiological Service, responsible for the control of the quality of drinking water, said there is no point in talking about credibility of the Kyiv Post test results because water sampling was not conducted by specialists of the Kyiv sanitary service.

## Consumers get little help

Consumers will have to mainly rely only on themselves when choosing their bottled water.

Here are some tips, however, for making the best choice:

The Health Ministry recommends drinking bottled water from artesian wells, not from tap water. So check the label on the bottle or producer’s website to find the number and location of well. If there is no such information it

is very likely that this water is not from a well.

Pay attention to the technology used in water purification. Producers are not obliged to put this information on the label, which is why checking their website or calling their office is helpful. Depending on the technology which is used by producers, the water can be natural or treated.

According to the Ukrainian sanitary legislation, water can be called natural only if it is taken from aquifers and is cleaned with the help of mechanical filters, such as sand or ceramic filters, for example.

If a producer uses reverse osmosis technology or different types of filters which reduce the hardness of water or remove iron and other chemicals, or if ultraviolet or ozone is used to disinfect the water, then such water cannot be called natural. It is treated water. According to this definition, none of

the water brands tested by the Kyiv Post provide consumers with natural water.

Less-treated water is closer to natural water.

Choose physiologically sound water. Total hardness of such water should be between 1.5 and 7 mmol per cubic decimeter. For making tea or coffee or cooking choose water with a total hardness not more than three millimoles per cubic decimeter otherwise their might be residue left.

Order water in polycarbonate bottles because PET bottles affect the composition of water.

Remember also that the Health Ministry does not recommend water with artificial mineralization and water stored in 18.9 liter bottles for children up to three years old. Artificial mineralization increases toxicity of water, experts say, while 18.9 liter bottles are often left open for more than 24 hours,

which may be enough for bacteria to start breeding. Therefore, children should drink water in bottles not more than one liter, the quantity a child is supposed to drink per day.

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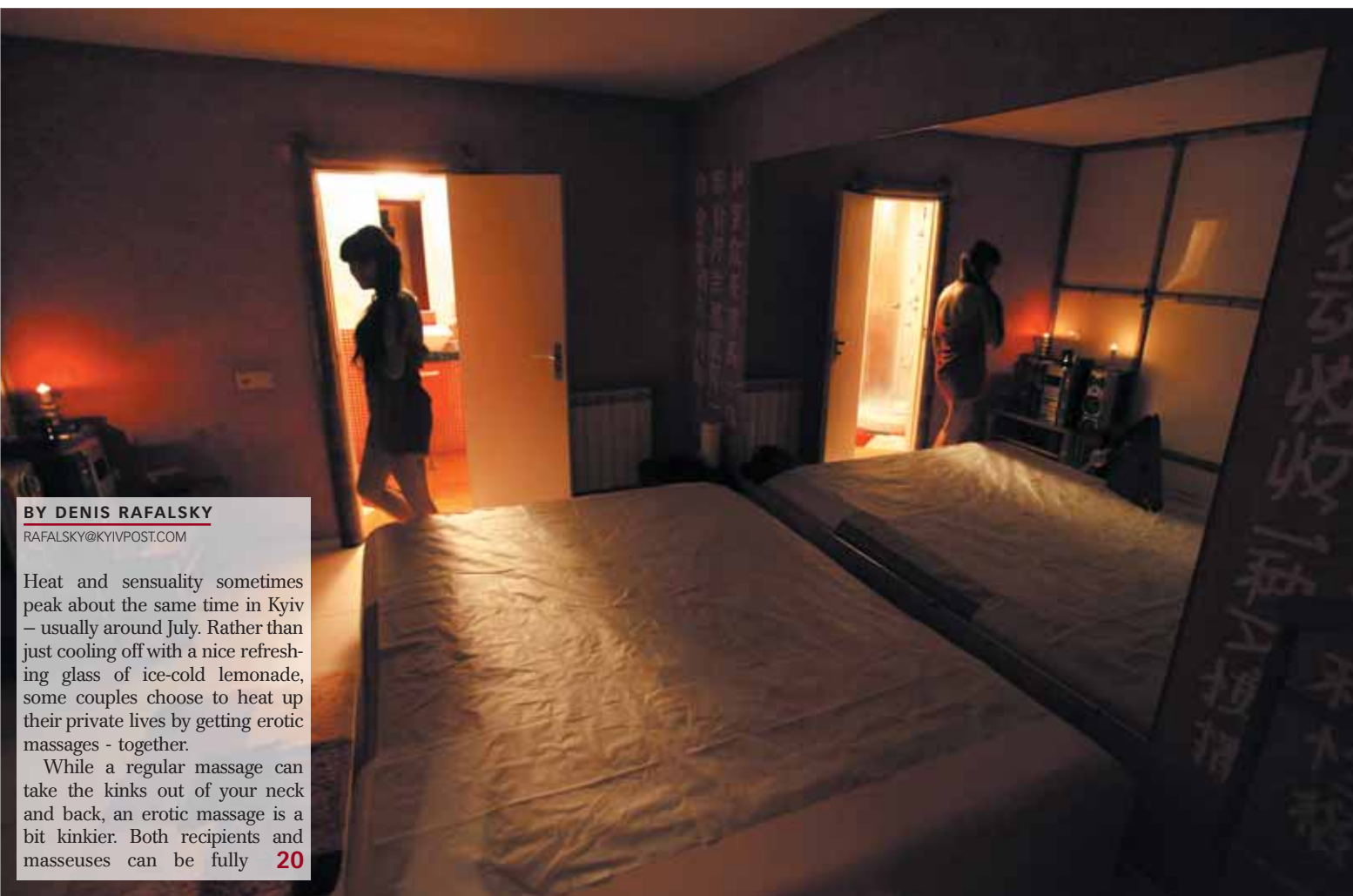
**This project was funded by SCOOP, an international network of investigative journalists that receives funding from the Danish government. More information is available at i-scoop.org.**

- Part 1:** What is in your water? (May 25)
- Part 2:** Pumped deep for a cool drink (June 1)
- Part 4:** What’s a person to do? (July 20)





## Couples find joys of erotic massage



BY DENIS RAFALSKY  
RAFALSKY@KYIVPOST.COM

Heat and sensuality sometimes peak about the same time in Kyiv – usually around July. Rather than just cooling off with a nice refreshing glass of ice-cold lemonade, some couples choose to heat up their private lives by getting erotic massages - together.

While a regular massage can take the kinks out of your neck and back, an erotic massage is a bit kinkier. Both recipients and masseuses can be fully

20

The candle-lit rooms in Egoist massage salon in Kyiv are among the places where couples get erotic massages. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

### Food Critic



WITH MARK RACHKEVYCH  
RACHKEVYCH@KYIVPOST

### My Thai serves up spicy Thai at no-fuss prices in Kyiv corner

*Editor's Note: Eating out in Ukraine is a gamble. To bring you honest food reviews, Kyiv Post writers go to restaurants unannounced, pay for their own meals and never accept favors from restaurateurs.*

Okay, never mind that this place has the name of a Hawaiian cocktail. It nevertheless serves up some tasty wok-fried food, Thai-style. It's the closest to authentic Thai food in Ukraine's capital that the Kyiv Post could find downtown, aside from empty posh restaurants that ask diners whether they reserved a table.

MyThai is located underground in the underpass between the Mandarin Plaza shopping mall and Baseyna Street. You'll have to turn right (from Mandarin Plaza) along the passage, into a side room. It's a bit hard, but worthwhile to find.

Don't be fooled by the meager six-table cafeteria setting. Diners even share the place with a kitchen whose chefs make food fresh right on the spot. The joint offers some of the spiciest Thai-like flavors in Kyiv. With two-course meals below Hr 100, prices are reasonable – two to three times cheaper than Podil's Sakurakai Thai eatery that the Kyiv Post reviewed on Feb. 11, 2011.

→ 21

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Match	Date	Team 1	Team 2	Time
<b>Semifinal &amp; Final - fixtures</b>				
Semifinal 1	13.07.2012	KCC	Kings XI	4:00 PM
Semifinal 2	14.07.2012	Friends XI	Seniors XI	10:00 AM
Semifinal 3	14.07.2012	Winner of semifinal 1 vs loser of semifinal 2		3:00 PM
Final	15.07.2012	<b>FINAL OF KCL-2012</b>		2:00 PM

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# How one law student came to be a local fashion guru

BY OLGA RUDENKO  
RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Kostya Omelya is 23. But his brand, Omelya Atelier, is probably one of the best known in the European fashion world among young designers. And he only launched it a year ago.

Not bad for a young man whose parents desperately wanted him to become a lawyer.

Sucking on his cigarette in a small, white-walled apartment close to Bessarabska Square that serves as his sewing studio and boutique, Omelya said: "I finished law school and I am not even sure I know where my diploma is."

He knew nothing about the fashion world when he started. The only thing he had going for him was a blurry and elusive "love for aesthetics."

He started off by getting a job as close to fashion as he could. At 17, he became a shop assistant in the men's department of one of Kyiv's fanciest stores and started learning fashion brands. Soon he met established show business stylist Anna Osmekhina and started working as her assistant, taking another step closer to fashion.

"At the very beginning, Anna told me 'In a year's time I see you working on your own in this business' - and that's exactly what happened," Omelya recalls.

That year he learned about how the business works, and made some useful contacts. And then he took a leap into designing his own collection. He studied a bit of dressmaking before he started.

His first collection was small, just 10 full looks, mostly dresses. But it was ready when he was only 19. Typically, a designer prepares 25 or more looks for a single collection.

The clothes were all made by a single tailor he hired, a woman whom he says "knew the basics of cutting." His budget was \$1,000, and the money came from his last styling contract.

At that point, he couldn't even dream about taking part in a full-scale fashion show. He showed his collection at a charity event that was vaguely related to fashion. But what it did was give him his very first sale.

"Strangely, the first sale was shoes," Omelya remembers. "Nice booties, actually. A model hired for the photo shoot saw those and totally fell for them. She made a call and someone brought her money and she bought them right away. They cost about \$200."

Now his dresses go for up to \$1,000. He prefers working with silk. Asked why he mostly makes dresses, he simply says: "Because they're beautiful."

Right after his first collection, he started a brand named O.K., which



Kostya Omelya adjusts a dress top on a mannequin in his workshop. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

originally stood for his initials. Then, another young designer joined in, Kseniya Kireyeva, but the initials handily covered both last names.

The union was needed for both to survive. "A couple of years ago times were hard for young designers," he said. Only several stores in town stocked clothes by young designers, and few buyers appreciated such work anyway.

The duo worked together for a year and a half. Then, Omelya took off to start his own atelier. By now, his business is self-supporting.

He has seven people working for him, costing him "several thousand dollars" per month in wages, rent and operating expenses. In addition, his initial investment into the sewing equipment totaled \$5,000, but he says costly extra pieces of equipment have been added up ever since. Nevertheless, he invested only his own money as he

feels having investors would limit his creative freedom.

Omelya sells his dresses to four stores in Ukraine, but says the sales are good. He also sells an exclusive line through the website Dash (d-a-s-h-store.com). The two dresses, a long and a short one, sell for Hr 600-800, and he claims they're best-sellers of the site's young designers' line.

A lot of sales are made through his downtown showroom, where ready-made items can be purchased or individual orders made. Omelya says he has close to 100 regular clients, and says taking part in Fashion Weeks is one of the best ways to find them.

Omelya's triumphant show at Mercedes-Benz Kiev Fashion Week in the fall of 2011 was his breakthrough. It brought clients, attention of owners of fashion stores, and even a mention in Vogue Italy. By spring, he was already a

headliner at the same Fashion Week.

His latest show took place on June 23-24 in Odesa. His summer collection was dominated by dresses of delicate fabrics of mild colors, including mint, pink and white.

When preparing the collection, he was particularly inspired by the news coming from Marie Claire USA, which put him on the list of "10 Eastern European fashion designers to keep on your radar."

His name featured alongside designers like Ulyana Sergienko, a Russian oligarch's wife, whose debut caused a furor last year and Alexander Terekhov, one of Russia's most successful designers and another fashion prodigy.

And from here, it seems that the sky is his limit.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olga Rudenko can be reached at rudenko@kyivpost.com



Masters cut fabric that will become part of Kostya Omelya's collection. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



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# Massage salons treat couples

→ **18** nude during the massage, which often has a climactic ending, sometimes for all involved.

Ukraine's police are amazingly tolerant about the erotic massage industry. In the opinion of a police spokesman, as long as sexual intercourse doesn't happen between the masseuse and patient, the trade is not worth disturbing.

But Ivan Babayev, an Interior Ministry spokesman, acknowledges that "sometimes salons mask their services as 'massage' when they are, in fact, places of [prostitution] where sexual contacts are present."

Numerous websites of Kyiv massage salons promote erotic services along with candid photos of almost naked massage specialists, both male and female. The customer can make his or her choice and then get ready for pleasure.

Margarita Golchenko, administrator of the massage salon Rakuena, says couples are frequent visitors.

An erotic massage costs Hr 1,000 per hour for a couple and is meant to help break up the monotony of their sexual lives. "I understand this wish of couples," Golchenko says. "Man and woman, having being married for 10-15 years and now undergoing a crisis in their intimate relationship, come to arouse eroticism."

Young, unmarried couples come also.

"These need sexual diversity, seek some new impressions," says Golchenko, an attractive brunette in

decollete dress, says. "Age doesn't matter. Massage is for everyone."

Couples usually prefer young women as masseurs. "Females are more delicate, tactful," Golchenko says. The women of Rakuena, besides having good massage skills, must be good-looking and sociable. They also need to be good psychologists in order to find the right approach for each client.

According to Rakuena's administrator, the salon hires only qualified masseurs with certificates in courses after studying different massage techniques.

Daria Biben, one of the owners of entertainment center Egoist, which also offers erotic massage, adds that all masseurs have regular medical checkups and upgrade their skills with on-the-job training from more experienced colleagues.

Nervous, first-time visitors are shown the room where the session will take place and told what will happen. Masseurs offer aromatic body oils believed to enhance the sensitivity of the skin and open "energy channels." Candles are lit. Calm music is played.

After applying oil to a visitor's body, masseurs begin to use a mixture of Thai, tantric, ayurvedic and other Eastern techniques of massage. Attention is paid to erogenous zones.

"The couple leaves satisfied, happy," Golchenko says. "The masseuse teaches a man with a woman how to touch each other, what points to caress, what oils to use. So they get both satisfaction and experience."

In Rakuena, female masseurs



Margarita Golchenko from Rakuena salon prepares a room for the next massage session. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

work in underwear. Some other massage salons choose the "completely naked" method. Egoist offers two masseuses, mirrored rooms and a bubble bath.

"An erotic massage for two is a more interesting thing than a session for a single," Biben says. It especially appeals to the voyeuristic side. "Some intrigue comes when one partner watches how another is pleased," Biben adds.

While women are sometimes reluctant to have another naked woman massaging their men, Golchenko says that usually women are usually satisfied after the sessions. Men, however, are more strongly opposed to have another naked man massage their wives or lovers.

The end of the session is euphemistically called relaxation. Metaphorically, it's the fireworks at the end of the show. Directly, the masseuse might bring the client to climax.

"Our massage is, of course, a release of tension and, at the same time, a way around the routine in intimacy, a method to add colors to relationship of man and woman," Biben says. "A married man wants diverse sex but he doesn't

want to betray his wife. So she comes with him and participates in an erotic session. Thus it is not unfaithfulness."

Kyiv Post staff writer Denis Rafalsky can be reached at rafalsky@kyivpost.com



For some, nothing relieves stress better than a massage. (blogspot.com)

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# Giving blood and positive energy

BY DENIS RAFALSKY  
RAFALSKY@KYIVPOST.COM

The world and Kyiv, especially, need more people like Maria Tkachenko to fill the chronically short supply of lifesaving blood needed for victims of accidents or those in need of surgery and transplants.

Since 2010, Tkachenko of Kyiv has voluntarily parted with 4.5 liters of hers – and she is ready to do it again to relieve suffering and save lives.

“I understand that there is a great lot of people who feel much worse than I do, who can die without my help,” says Tkachenko, a 33-year-old housewife who has no money to share, but definitely produces enough healthy blood to give.

According to Kyiv city blood donor center chief Lyudmila Zanevska, there are about 800 regular donors registered in the main downtown center. Hemo-transfusion departments under Ministry of Defense and Pivdenno-Zakhidna Railways Hospitals, several medical research institutes and specialized hospitals have their own donors.

Zanevska says that 12 to 14 milliliters of donated blood per Kyivan is needed each year for the capital to have enough blood and blood products.

But not enough people are giving like Tkachenko, who was fatefully (she thinks) born on June 14 – World Blood Donor Day. Now she has given 10 times, a process that is easy and painless, she said.

In Ukraine, a person can give blood up to five times a year, if between the ages of 18 and 60, and healthy. The volume drawn is 450 milliliters, or one pint.

And they can get paid for doing so. Although the amounts vary by city and center, some Kyiv donors can receive Hr 76 for giving blood and another Hr 13 for a meal to help restore one's energy.

While Tkachenko considers giving blood an act of charity, more needs to be done to encourage people to keep up the available supply of the highly perishable product.

The law gives donors additional benefits, such as paid time off work. But in reality, employers rarely abide by it, says Zanevska, who has given blood 45 times.

Donors are required to bring a passport and have their blood screened for HIV and other problems, as well as answer questions about their medical history.

Zanevska said the laboratory of the Kyiv blood donor center has been using infection detection equipment from the American firm Abbott since 2007. “This is a robot tester that eliminates the human factor in blood analysis,” says donor center chief.

Tkachenko has seen colleagues come to donate blood for another person's needed blood transfusion. On another occasion, military cadets turned out on orders – once a common practice in the USSR, when mass

blood donations were organized for factory workers and other groups of people.

Then, donating blood was seen as patriotic and humane. People who served as donors 100 times and more were awarded the title of honorary donor, and their portraits were pinned on boards awarded at their places of work.

But now the number of donors has dropped significantly, so advocates such as Tkachenko stress the positive and life-saving possibilities of giving.

“I do hold the opinion that a donor voluntarily giving his blood passes on part of his positive energy,” Tkachenko said.

Zanevska considers donating blood as synonymous with mercy, loving one's neighbor and generosity. She thinks Ukrainian society has not completely lost these feelings, but they are somewhere deep inside, coming out when awful tragedies happen. Crowds of volunteers appear ready to give their blood to the injured, as in the case of Oksana Makar, the victim of one of Ukraine's most heinous crimes in recent years.

“However, few people think there is an everyday need of blood,” Zanevska says.

The Kyiv city blood donor center chief is sure that if the nation learns how much blood is needed and how many lives it could save, donations would be more significant. “We are in need of promotion,” Zanevska says.

Kyiv Post staff writer Denis Rafalsky can be reached at rafalsky@kyivpost.com.

Everyone is welcome to donate blood in the following hospitals:  
**Kyiv specialized children's hospital Okhmatdet**  
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tel. (044) 483-10-56  
**Kyiv City Blood Donor Center**  
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My Thai is located in the underpass between the Mandarin Plaza shopping mall and Baseyna Street. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

## Food Critic: Fresh and authentic Thai food is in short supply in Kyiv

→18 When ordering, make sure to clarify whether you want your food hot or suicide hot.

The Thai salad (Hr 35), for example, comes with a pinch of zest. But if you ask for spicy, the server can provide you with a sauce dish for this and other meals compromised of everything from Thai fish sauce to red hot chili.

Prepared with a base of fish stock and coconut cream, the curry flavored Thai shrimp soup (Hr 49) guarantees you'll sweat bullets.

The shrimp spring rolls (Hr 39) came in abundance, were crisp to perfection and served with sweet-and-sour sauce, but lacked a hearty filling and traditional spices like coriander root or ginger.

But the stir-fried vegetables and

breaded shrimp (Hr 59) had a nice combination of ginger and light soy sauce with red chili pepper rings and were accompanied with a hearty bowl of steamed rice.

The emphasis here is freshness, so expect to wait while the food is prepped. There's plenty of vegetarian entrees from which to choose, in addition to classic Thai curry and Phad Thai dishes.

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**Ukrainian contemporary art exhibition and ballet performance bring Ukraine closer to Kuwait**



Kuwait, June XX, 2012: “Kuwait Energy”, an independent oil and gas exploration and production company operating two oilfields in Ukraine, joined hands with the Ukrainian Embassy in Kuwait to hold the first “Ukrainian Cultural Days” in the Gulf country, showcasing Ukrainian folklore and dance performances, as well as the artwork of several renowned Ukrainian artists.

The May 23 and 24 event was inaugurated by the Ukrainian Ambassador to Kuwait, Dr Volodymyr Tolkach, and kicked-off with a Contemporary Art Exhibition at the prestigious Ahmed Al Adwani Hall, where artists Alexander Dobrody, Andre Dodik, Olga Sleptsova, Helena Pavlenko, and Roman Yashchuk presented their recent art collection.



The next day, popular Ukrainian folk singers Nadiya Krutova-Shestak and Bohdan Stashkiv led an amazing live concert accompanied by a ballet dance performance by the band renowned for their participation in the Eurovision Song Contest.

Kuwait Energy Chief Executive Officer, Sara Akbar, said, “We are very



Nadiya Krutova-Shestak, Bohdan Stashkiv perform live in Kuwait

proud to have initiated and worked with the Ukrainian Embassy in Kuwait to help bring the Kuwaiti public closer to the rich Ukrainian culture. Kuwait Energy has been in Ukraine for five years now, and we wanted to share with our home-country what we have learnt and seen in our years of operation in



Ukraine. We hope to see more of these events in the future, and we are always ready to co-operate with the Embassy of Ukraine in Kuwait”.

The event was also supported by the Kuwait National Council for Culture, Arts & Literature.

The Ukrainian Ambassador to Kuwait, Dr Volodymyr Tolkach, said: “The cultural event was a

great success in Kuwait, as was evident by the great audience we had received. I would like to thank Kuwait Energy for their proactive role in bringing the Ukrainian and Kuwaiti communities closer through this event and we look forward to future collaborations.”

Kuwait Energy is one of the fastest growing independent oil and gas exploration and production companies in the Middle East, and operates today in eight countries. Kuwait Energy operated two oilfields in Ukraine since 2007 and is an active supporter of social initiatives and programs within local communities where it operates.

Follow the company's twitter news feeds: @KuwaitEnergy  
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# Journalists sell their gifts to help orphaned children

BY OKSANA FARYNA  
FARYNA@KYIVPOST.COM

For many reasons, people like to give presents to journalists – especially for Ukraine's Journalist Day on June 6. Although ethics rules prevent many reporters from accepting gifts, some of the items are too minor or bothersome to return – such as pens, cups, notebooks and even more unusual presents such as a marble table clock.

What to do with all this bounty? Some throw it away. But a group of Ukrainian journalists decided to sell presents they receive throughout the year in an Internet auction. The money raised is donated to orphans. Since the start of the idea a month ago, the journalists have managed to raise \$5,000.

"Presents are a temptation for both [PR] press services and journalists," said Borys Davydenko, deputy chief editor in the Ukrainian editorial department of Forbes magazine, where the idea of a charity auction started. "Therefore a rule should be introduced in all editorial departments that journalists should not accept presents worth more than \$50."

The \$50 rule is in place at Forbes, with journalists allowed to take gifts below this threshold.

"Once I was cleaning in my apartment and was busy with packing all these presents into a big bag," Davydenko recalled. "I felt bad to



Borys Davydenko

throw all this stuff out."

Davydenko did not expect that the idea would be supported by his colleagues at Forbes and journalists from a dozen other media outlets as well as the local business community. An open group called *А́вдіа́р де́о́діві́ї є́ї А́їв æодіа́еві́о́а* (charity auction for Journalist Day) was created on Facebook, where all participants could post photographs of their stuff and make their bids.

Apart from brand pens, cups, notebooks and badges put up for the auction, there were such peculiar lots as a flashcard-flashlight-laser pointer from



Yuliya Byelinska

VAB bank, a thermo-bag from DTEK energy company, a set of serving dishes from TAS group, and a barbecue set from mobile operator Life:). Among the most bizarre presents were a shiny moneybox with a dragon from Energy Minister Yuriy Boyko and a marble table clock from Ukraine's prosecutor general Viktor Pshonka.

A thermo-cup from Ukrgasbank decorated with a holiday inscription "Akula pera," the Ukrainian equivalent for "press gang," was a longtime leader of the auction. It was sold for Hr 3,334 to a scriptwriter at STB channel Olha Murashko and 1+1 Channel journalist

Olha Vasylevska. Their joint record was broken recently by Yevheny Cherniak, an owner of the Global Spirits holding, who promised to pay Hr 10,000 for a bottle of Khortytsia "horilka," produced by his own company. A souvenir 0.5 liter bottle is wrapped in a puzzle and can be opened only after solving it.

As of July 6, organizers managed to sell all 76 items that were put up for sale to some 30 buyers and collected Hr 40,000 or \$5,000 in total.

"This idea was a success for a few reasons," explained Yuliya Byelinska, a journalist at Forbes and one of the administrators of the Facebook page where the auction is held. "First, it is exciting to participate in the bidding. Second, it is interesting for people to receive something for the money they give to charity. And third, it's trust. We all are from one professional community. We all know each other and believe that money will be spent honestly."

Byelinska said that the auction will

run until the end of summer. The money that will be collected will go to buy clothes, footwear and toiletries for orphans and socially vulnerable children from a boarding school in Trypillia, a small town in Kyiv Oblast. Everyone willing to donate or buy presents is welcome to join.

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Faryna can be reached at [faryna@kyivpost.com](mailto:faryna@kyivpost.com).



Often to win favor, many people give presents to journalists. The gifts are usually unwelcome as a violation of ethical rules. A group of journalists has decided to sell the presents they receive and give the proceeds to orphans. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

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## Happy Birthday to our dear Kyiv Post colleagues this month!

**Mark Rachkevych** on July 8  
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Participants tested their speed on the running track at Spartak Stadium in Kyiv.



## Red, white & blue

Jorge Zukoski, president of the American Chamber Commerce in Ukraine, takes on the role of Uncle Sam during the annual American Independence Day celebration in Kyiv.



A game of tug-of-war is one way to test strength and have fun.



Creating giant bubbles is a fascinating way to spend the day.

➔ The Fourth of July is one of the great national holidays in America, marking the nation's Declaration of Independence from Great Britain in 1776. Even Americans living abroad find the need to come together and celebrate with their Ukrainian friends. For at least 15 years, the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine has created the atmosphere for a U.S.-style picnic at Spartak Stadium at 105 Frunze St. in Kyiv's Podil neighborhood. This year's event took place on July 7. Thousands celebrated with fun and games, music and, of course, food and drink. Chamber of Commerce president Jorge Zukoski and his wife, Courtney, got in the spirit of the event by donning the costumes of Uncle Sam – the mythical figure representing the US government – and Lady Liberty. The business advocacy group has more than 600 member companies, including the Kyiv Post. The group's top policy priorities this year include: increasing Ukraine's competitiveness, energy Independence through equal access and fair competition and developing a more efficient and competitive agricultural industry based upon free market principles. (Photos by Sohei Yasui)



Children got to test their jumping skills during the family-friendly event.



The American-style picnic takes place every year on the football field of Spartak Stadium in Kyiv.

If you want Kyiv Post Paparazzi to cover your event, please send details or invitations to [news@kyivpost.com](mailto:news@kyivpost.com) or contact photo editor **Ganna Bernyk** at 591-3344



## Riding high

Chief of Italian team Cavalieri di Arezzo Mario Capacci greets spectators

An international knights tournament took place July 7-9 at Mamayeva Sloboda, an outdoor museum. It marked the third time when cavaliers from Ukraine and other countries met to display skills in fancy riding and staged battles for the symbolic trophy called Saber of Cossack Mamay. A Ukrainian Cossack unit led by otaman (chieftain) Oleh Yurchyshyn achieved the triumph once again. (Photos by Ganna Bernyk)



A Ukrainian Cossack with his true friend.



A Crimean Tatar rider shows his skill with a tournament spear.



Picturesque Turkish riders are ready to compete.