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## Big debate: Should Podil landmark be developed or preserved?

BY OKSANA FARYNA  
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The site of the protests is a picturesque, white-walled courtyard on Kontraktova Square in Kyiv. For nearly three months, a handful of activists have occupied Hostynny Dvir, or Hospitable Courtyard, to save it from privatization and preserve it as a city landmark.

The public activists have picked up garbage, organized classes and art events as part of their protests against plans that would turn the historical building into the city's newest trade and office center.

It looks to be an uphill battle.

The government has excluded Hostynny Dvir from a list of architectural landmarks, with parliament sanctioning privatization. After a private company with offshore roots presented a multimillion-dollar reconstruction project, volunteers do not dare leave their vigil to preserve what they describe as a rare cultural public space.

"I understand pretty clearly that our chances are not big because, on the opposite side, there are our opponents, powerful state authorities and unimaginable money," said Vladyslava Osmak, a Kyiv guide and activist who comes to Hostynny Dvir almost daily and takes a night shift once a week. "We are [just] a bunch of intellectuals who are eager to sacrifice our time, efforts and health for it to be possible to live in this city, not only to survive; to create, not only to consume," she added.

At present, Hostynny Dvir houses a state library, a state research institute and private company Ukrrestavracia. It used to have several shops, a bank outlet and a photo studio, but → 11

## Korolevska: Our party is 'definitely in opposition'

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO  
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

By now, Natalia Korolevska's face is famous, thanks to many months of heavy advertising spending on billboards and TV by the leader of the new Ukraine-Forward Party.

But what she stands for – and who stands behind her – remain mysteries for many, even though she has recently published a

60-page book outlining her views.

These are important puzzles for voters to solve before the Oct. 28 vote. Polls show that Korolevska's media blitz has put her star-studded party close to the 5 percent threshold for getting elected into parliament, giving her a potential kingmaker role in a close election.

To the Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko, which kicked Korolevska out of the opposition faction in March, she is a

traitor who is now a not-so-secret pet political project of President Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions. Her mission, critics say, is to be a spoiler – to siphon off opposition votes by posing as an independent political force.

In an Aug. 17 interview with the Kyiv Post, however, Korolevska categorically denied that she would join the Party of Regions-led ruling coalition in the 450-seat legislature.

"Our political party is definite- → 2



Natalia Korolevska

# Independent Generation



Kateryna Gladka (far left) participates in a vyshyvanka parade on Sofiivsk Square in Kyiv in May. (Courtesy)

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA  
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As young as their nation, Ukrainians born in 1991 are blazing a trail that differs radically from past generations who grew up under totalitarian rule.

The nation's post-Soviet generation dares to be free and open-minded. They enjoy more freedom of speech, assembly and movement than their parents and grandparents.

A recent study shows that 43 per-

cent of Ukrainians between the ages of 16 and 21 find it unfathomable to spend one day without a cell phone. The same goes for the use of social networks like Facebook and Twitter and tablet computers.

Ukrainians aged 21 and younger are accustomed to traveling abroad. They devote more time to learning foreign languages. Yet they strive to preserve their national identity.

"We don't think whether we need Ukraine as an independent country

or not. It's obvious. And at last patriotism is becoming natural for us," said Yevhen Bentsa, a 20-year-old TV reporter, referring to people born in 1991 or later.

In 1998, the nation's first generation of schoolchildren received a symbolic gift from then-President Leonid Kuchma. The supplies they received included a book with the national anthem, a precious document that embodied centuries of struggle for national identity.

But as the generation grew older, frets over school grades developed into concerns about the deterioration of life around them.

Ukraine's post-Soviet generation is not a homogenous group, with diametrically opposing views about how their nation should develop.

Nearly 38 percent of youth want Ukraine to become a European Union member, the Gorshenin Institute found in March. Nearly 25 percent want Ukraine to forge closer ties with

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# Korolevska says she's no presidential project

ly in opposition to the Party of Regions and those in power. We are not going to unite with the Party of Regions and the parties which are now in coalition with them," Korolevska said.

Still, suspicions abound about her high visibility, the sources of her funding and her unfettered access to advertising outlets and news programs, especially at a time when the administration is squeezing or imprisoning leading opposition leaders.

There are historical reasons to be cynical: Deputy Prime Sergiy Tigipko ran for president in 2010 as an opposition leader of the new Strong Ukraine Party, only to join Yanukovich's forces after the election. A decade ago, the supposedly new and genuine Winter Crop Generation featured the likes of Valeriy Khoroshkovsky and Inna Bohoslovka, now administration fixtures.

Korolevska, a wealthy former businesswoman, definitely has money to spend, whether it's her own or someone else's.

Artem Bidenko, an advertising industry expert, estimates that Korolevska's party in July spent about Hr 10 million on advertisements blaring off TV screens and covering billboards. While considerably less than the Party of Regions or the Communist Party, her spending is impressive.

Maksym Lazebnyk, head of the All-Ukrainian Advertising Coalition, said the spending spree is impressive – and revealing. "The funds are so huge that we can talk only about the richest people in the country" financing her, Lazebnyk said.

So where does the money come from? Not from oligarchs, said Korolevska.

"Read our party list," Korolevska told the Kyiv Post. All the financing comes from party members, both on and off the list, she said, with famous footballer Andriy Shevchenko and current parliamentarian Yevhen Suslov, also a former member Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko, as her top backers. (Another star backer, more famous than rich, is Ostap Stupka, an actor and son of the late acting legend Bohdan Stupka.)

Shevchenko's 2011 earnings – declared at just over Hr 13 million – would have barely covered Korolevska's ad campaign for a month. Korolevska said she made Hr 167,000 in 2011, while Suslov received about Hr 200,000, according to their declarations.

However, as recently as 2008, Focus magazine estimated Korolevska's net worth at \$243 million. By 2012, she did not even crack the journal's top 200 list, which would have required a fortune of at least \$27 million.

Korolevska promised to publish the full report of her party's expenses and contributions – but only after the elections, as required by law. But that may not be terribly revealing since a lot of her spending took place before the campaign's official start at the end of July.

The 37-year old Korolevska was brought into parliament on Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna's Party ticket in 2006 and 2007. She was in charge of Tymoshenko's 2010 presidential campaign in Korolevska's native Luhansk Oblast. Now Tymoshenko is in jail on charges widely to be trumped up, and Korolevska is looking more like Tymoshenko's political double, having inherited her elegant dress style, her no-nonsense – even severe – manner and her spin.

She was elected party leader of the Ukrainian Social-Democratic Party the same day Tymoshenko's seven-year prison sentence was confirmed by the Court of Appeals on Dec. 23. The party was renamed into Ukraine-Forward shortly after.

In March, Korolevska was kicked out of the Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko faction "for cooperation of this party with the president's administration and the ruling regime," the official statement said.

That was not the only accusation of betrayal. Her ex-allies say she failed to support a resolution by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe demanding the release of Tymoshenko. Korolevska shoots right

back, saying Tymoshenko's party leaders wanted to get rid of her to sell seats on the election list.

Korolevska, who was known to be quite close to Tymoshenko at one time, now says she has lost touch with her former boss. "I don't write her letters," she said, adding that she supports the release of Tymoshenko. "She has to be free, and only people voting on the elections should make judgment of her political actions."

Korolevska remains critical of the president's policies and Party of Regions. "The [economic] model of Party of Regions can take some 20 people to the top of the list of the world's richest, but it can't bring the country out of economic decay," Korolevska said.

As a lawmaker, Korolevska used to be quite prolific, pushing for some useful initiatives for business. Now she claims the government has blocked them all.

"I have raised issues of [Prime Minister Mykola] Azarov's resignation not because I personally don't like him, but because the laws that were adopted don't work, and the small and middle business has been left to the mercy of small clerks. Of course, the president is responsible for everything in the country," she said.

Her former Tymoshenko camp allies are not convinced.

"It is clear that even with big money it would be impossible to hold such a campaign without the support of those in power," says Serhiy Pashynsky, a lawmaker from BYuT. Some observers point to her Russian connections. Korolevska's brother is a businessman living in Moscow, who used to hold the post of Russian deputy minister of regional development in 2010-2011. This has raised suspicions that she is a Kremlin project.

But Korolevska insists she's a self-made businesswoman. She says she started her career in business at the age of 17, working as a secretary for her brother's firm. Six years later she started her own business trading scrap

metals, raising cattle and pigs and producing ice cream. The ice cream is available in most supermarkets under the Korolevske brand.

Her political luck – or skill – seems to have spread to her party members.

Shevchenko, for example, was allowed to run for parliament by the Central Election Commission despite the fact that he did not live in Ukraine for the last five years, as required by law. Until 2009, he played for Chelsea and lived in Britain. Other candidates with similar circumstances have been denied registration. Korolevska denies any favoritism. She says Shevchenko proved in court that he spent enough time in Ukraine during those years, playing for the national team, and the laws are vague enough to allow this loophole.

The party leader said Shevchenko is now working 14-hour days, campaigning all over Ukraine. But the slogans she campaigns on are mostly crowd-pleasers or clever-sounding buzzwords like "industrial parks."

In her recently published book, which she said she wrote at night, Korolevska sets some spectacular goals. She says her ideas are capable of increasing the nation's gross domestic product by 80 percent in the next five years (or 12.5 percent annual growth, while 2013 growth is estimated at 3.5 percent by the World Bank). This, she claims, would push average wages up to at least \$1,200 a month, compared to around \$360 currently.

The book was endorsed by prominent economists, including Igor Burakovsky and Aleksandr Pashaver. But others are unimpressed, including Viktor Nebozhenko, a political analyst, who says Korolevska has nothing to offer.

"The huge financial abilities and support of the authorities played a cruel joke on her," Nebozhenko says. "People started to pay attention to her, started to listen her, but she has nothing to say."

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# Young forge post-Soviet identities

Russia. Some 19 percent surveyed said they want the nation to find a proper balance between both. Almost the same amount struggled to answer this question.

Social instability appears to have pushed young people into civic movements and social projects.

"Despite their positive (outlook) the youth is ... frustrated with the situation (in the country). Most protests and demonstrations make no sense, (but) I took

part, for example, in the 'Stop Censorship' project, because it reflects my own opinion," said TV reporter Bentsa.

According to Svitlana Zalizhchuk, head of the non-profit Centre UA and coordinator for election watchdog Chesno, the younger generations of Ukrainians reflect the country's progress.

"Every generation that has risen in independent Ukraine is like another layer on the surface," said Zalizhchuk. "(For mine it was) computer games, cell phones, the Internet, Odnoklassniki and Facebook, the loss of valuing education, global integration. But it's merely a label."

"Ukrainian politics need not only younger generations, but also changes of values. For example, [former Kyiv City Council member] Oles Dovhyi is a young politician but he has all the faults of old regime," Zalizhchuk said. "Political renovation will be possible when honest politicians become a real need for the parliament. And their age doesn't matter. But, young people have better chances to create a European state."

Youth in independent Ukraine also read less, surf the Internet more and are more connected with the world. "New generations should be free from

the aftertaste of the Soviet Union," Zalizhchuk said.

But important values – such as patriotism – are sometimes lacking, as are some of the social protections enjoyed by older generations. "It's a pity that (successive) governments couldn't make young people feel proud of their country," Zalizhchuk said.

Polls back her up. More than 52 percent of Ukrainians aged 18 to 34 years aren't proud of their country, according to a 2010 study by the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation. Iryna Bekeshkina, the head of the foundation, acknowledged that the 18-to-34 year old generation is less idealistic than others.

"They need to be pragmatic, because the youth is the most unprotected part of society. They have no (social) guarantees and aren't confident in their future. When a person graduates they can't be sure to land a well-paying job as it was in the former Soviet Union. Meanwhile, my generation couldn't even dream of an internship or education abroad. Youngsters today have many possibilities to succeed in life; on the other hand, unemployment figures

[are] considerable," said Bekeshkina.

Others want to take the situation into their own hands. Kateryna Gladka was among the first to start demonstrating at Kyiv's Ukrainian House against the language law that elevated the status of Russian. She's not indifferent to her country's fate.

"I think our generation is free from stereotypes and it's difficult for us to find good role models. We should constantly take steps forward to be real activists in social life, to create environmental projects. Young people need to know more languages, understand the major points of the law and to be proud of our cultural heritage," said Gladka.

For some, the hopes for the post-Soviet generation have paid off. Serhiy Terepyshchyi is the coordinator of Gifted Youth of Ukraine, a forum that matches talented youth to potential sponsors and employers.

"Independence-era Ukrainians can hardly be given one characteristic. They are rather heterogeneous and it's very good," said Terepyshchyi. "Of course, there's a point that unites them – they want to have money. Besides this, they are more active in social life than previous generations."

There were about 121 student protests held nationwide in 2011, stated the Centre for Society Research.

In part, the large number of protests by Ukraine's post-Soviet generation reflects growing frustration with the difficulties of succeeding in their homeland. Faced with what they view as insurmountable hurdles, some have opted to move abroad.

One of them is Anastasia Vykholdtseva, a figure skater from Dnipropetrovsk who later trained in Kyiv's Kryzhynka ice rink. Conditions at the Soviet-era venue, she said, were outdated. So, she set off to Poland, where she now trains Polish figure skaters in Torun.

Only 21 years old, she has found a new life abroad. She rents a small flat in the center of historic city and lives, more or less, the life she wants. She misses her friends though, and the Ukrainian atmosphere. "Everyone with whom I work is older than me," Vykholdtseva said, adding that she keeps in touch with friends back home through online social networks.

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

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## Editorial

## Not yet free

To mark Ukraine's 21st birthday, the Kyiv Post would like to take stock of the nation's fragile statehood.

In short, internal factors still pose the largest threat to sovereignty. Political and government institutions are weak, which is why the transfer of power is always chaotic, and why the rule of law and its application is discretionary and abused by the powers-that-be. Watchdogs say that Ukraine under President Viktor Yanukovich's rule is swiftly slipping towards an authoritarian regime, being managed by a grouping of corrupt officials and greedy oligarchs much like it was under Leonid Kuchma from 1994 through 2004.

The legislature has been reduced to a rubber-stamp institution. Debate is absent in Ukraine's parliament. Legislation is adopted by people heavily influenced by vested business interests whose lives – from where and how they live – are different as night and day of the people they represent. If they seek medical care and send their children abroad, how could they be expected to ensure the same services at home?

And corruption continues to enrich those in or close to power at the expense of the public and state budget.

In this cesspool of cronyism, nepotism, choking bureaucracy, kleptocracy and oppression, ordinary Ukrainians remain immobile. They are subject to heightened scrutiny and prejudice when applying for travel visas – whereas the business elite and political leaders keep their money offshore and freely travel to Europe and North America.

Thus the Ukrainian people today suffer to make ends meet in an oligarch-captured economy that is for the most part monopolistic in the majority of sectors and industries. This means the economy is under-supplied with affordable quality goods because competition is low.

To that end, industry and households are heavily dependent on energy imports, mainly natural gas and nuclear fuel from Russia. Although economically unjustified, Russia is pursuing the South Stream pipeline system which will greatly reduce Ukraine's geopolitical importance as a transit country.

This leads to Ukraine's biggest foreign threat – Vladimir Putin-led Russia.

The nation's former ruler and colonizer has due to President Viktor Yanukovich's great gas-for-fleet blunder preserved long-term its right to keep a naval base in the constant hotspot Crimean peninsula until 2042. Security experts widely acknowledge that Putin's Russia is the only country that conducts openly subversive activities in Ukraine. They range from unmitigated distribution of Russian passports to Ukrainian citizens, the derailment of NATO and European integration efforts, to NGO funding aimed at promoting the Russian language and culture to the detriment of Ukrainian.

Ukraine is too weak to maintain a neutral military stance yet it does little to modernize and transform its armed forces into a professional, quickly deployable unit. In fact, a booming shadow economy leaves the defense budget and other crucial public services severely under-funded.

Now the Russian language has legislative backing to squeeze the Ukrainian language out of public use in officialdom, mass media and schools.

Economists and business associations are quick to point out that the business climate is at its worse since 1994. Red tape, raider takeovers and tax pressure discourage markets from opening up and foreign investment from coming in.

Corporate executives and human resource managers complain that the nation's universities – which have yet to make the global top 500 list of educational institutions – aren't preparing students for jobs that are supposed to propel the country forward.

Capital flight is rampant, enabled by tax loopholes and outdated treaties with tax haven countries, as is emigration. The gloomy demographic outlook the nation faces is exacerbated by the declining population which stands at 45 million, seven million less than the 1991 independence year. People aren't having children because they don't see a future for themselves.

Yet patriotism is high, at 82 percent, found the Rating polling firm in August. The Euro 2012 European football championship that Ukraine co-hosted with Poland in June showed that Ukrainians are proud, tolerant and freedom-loving.

But self-identity remains murky for many who, according to findings from a June Razumkov Center poll, are overwhelmingly more concerned with unemployment (59 percent), overcoming the economic crisis (52 percent), increasing their salaries, pensions and student stipends (52 percent) and getting cheaper basic goods and services (43 percent).

Language issues ranked 31 on Razumkov's list of public concerns.

So if Ukraine is leaving a decisive mark on history, it is by becoming the poster child of how not to build a nation. The Ukrainian people deserve better, if not for historical justice after generations of Ukrainians who strove for statehood.

The upside and huge potential is still there.

Ukraine is endowed with plenty of human capital and natural resources to become an economic and political regional player. But no one will respect and treat it as an equal until the nation's leadership lives up to those expectations.

Happy birthday, Ukraine!

Let's hope it's one of your last under kleptocrats and autocrats.



## Happy Independence Day!

**NEWS ITEMS:** Many eyes will be on the soaring statue of the nation's guardian – "Berehyniya" – on Independence Square this weekend. To commemorate Ukraine's 21st birthday, Kyivans will be treated to 13 hours of official festivities on Khreshchaty Street that will include basketball, street graffiti, an exotic car show, an in-line roller skate race, a parade of traditional embroidery, a flower fest in Pechersk, and folk, classical and modern musical concerts throughout the day. Centers of action will be European Square, Sophia Square, Spivoch Pole and Independence Square. A fireworks show starts at 10 p.m.

**NEWS ITEMS:** On Aug. 17, when three members of Russian punk band Pussy Riot were sentenced to two years in prison for an anti-Vladimir Putin protest in the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow, Ukrainian protest group Femen supported them in their own way. A topless Femen activist cut a wooden cross at Maidan Nezalezhnosti with a chainsaw. The cross, established in memory of victims of Joseph Stalin's repressions, was replaced the next day, and the Femen activist ended up with a criminal case opened against her. The scandalous and insulting action prompted speculation that Femen was jealous of the international attention and support enjoyed by Pussy Riot, and were simply making an ill-considered bid to steal some of the spotlight. Femen activists noted they were the first to protest against the Russian president near the Cathedral of Christ the Savior in December 2011, three months before Pussy Riot.



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# Language law: liberal rhetoric, radical agenda



EMMET TUOHY

With its new law on state language policy, the pro-presidential Party of Regions (PR) has cloaked a radical effort to redefine the basis of Ukrainian statehood and society under the guise of human-rights concerns.

Although it has so far attracted little attention in the West, the bill – which grants official status to “regional languages,” especially Russian – is a key example of a familiar pattern in the context of recent battles around Russia’s former Soviet periphery.

The grievances proclaimed by the “defenders of Russian culture” in Ukraine are strikingly similar to those expressed by similar groups in places from Estonia and Latvia to Moldova and even Central Asia. Not surprisingly, they share a common historical origin – and a common “rodina” from which to draw inspiration – to say nothing of financial or organizational resources.

As the Russian state grew stronger after Vladimir Putin’s rise to power, and especially as its fears of “contamination” grew after Georgia’s Rose and Ukraine’s Orange Revolutions, it began to intervene more forcefully on behalf of its “countrymen” in the so-called near abroad. For example, Russia has granted citizenship to residents Georgia’s breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, later using this as a pretext for military intervention on behalf of its “citizens.”

Furthermore, political movements such as the youth group Nashi have harassed Estonia’s diplomats and vandalized its websites, while “soft-power” organizations like Russkiy Mir (Russian World) actively work to promote cultural and linguistic ties to the homeland.

Certainly, Ukraine is no Russian puppet. Though cooperation between the two countries has deepened considerably under President Viktor Yanukovich, the divergent interests of pro-presidential Ukrainian elites from those of their Russian counterparts provide a natural limit to cooperation in the long term.

The short term is, however, a different story: as a weaker economy and a stronger political opposition have endangered the Party of Regions’ electoral prospects, the language issue has become the perfect way to distract voters while rewarding the pro-Russian activists in the party’s base.

During the campaign for the language law, its pro-



Pro-Ukrainian language supporters clashed with police on Aug. 20 at the Kharkiv City Council as it voted to grant official status to Russian as a regional language. A handful of similar clashes have erupted after President Viktor Yanukovich’s Party of Regions spearheaded adoption of legislation that could boost usage of Russian, in turn undermining the state language, Ukrainian. (Ukrinform)

ponents have perfected the art of political distraction by portraying themselves as the victims of human-rights abuses. For example, Simferopol activist Serhiy Shuvaynykov told the BBC’s Ukrainian Service that Russian-speakers’ language rights are being violated “everywhere,” as they are “taunted with Ukrainian on local television, cinemas, billboards, and road signs.”

Similarly, the law itself is defended primarily in human-rights terms. Its authors, Regions deputies Vadym Kolesnichenko and Serhiy Kivalov, have consistently argued that the legislation is merely a means of implementing Ukraine’s commitments under the European Charter on Minority Languages. Even after the Council of Europe’s Venice Commission – at Ukraine’s request – released an opinion deeming the draft law “unnecessary” as it “diminish[es] the integrative force” of

Ukrainian, Kivalov valiantly sought to emphasize points of mutual agreement, praising the Commission for “finally recogniz[ing] the well-known fact” of the historical basis for Russian in Ukraine.

In reality, Ukraine has done

quite well in terms of accepting and meeting its obligations to minority language communities. Although the law’s proponents trumpet the benefits of the legislation for Hungarian- and Romanian-speaking populations, the concerns of these groups have been effectively addressed through bilateral and regional agreements. And while the linguistic rights of the Crimean Tatars are still at risk, this threat comes not from Ukrainian but from Russian, the dominant government language in the Crimean autonomous republic.

The faulty logic of groups like Russkoyazychnaya Ukraina [Russian-Speaking Ukraine] is best revealed with reference to the case of Ireland. There, Irish is the sole “language of state,” a status specifically not granted to English – the native tongue of 97 percent of the country’s population. And despite eight decades of Irish-language official publications, road signs, television stations, etc., the

English-speaking majority has in no way been marginalized. English continues to be the language of Ireland’s culture, economy, and society. Linguistic survival, then, cannot be the real concern of the pro-Russian language camp in Ukraine.

Just as the Irish did after independence, the voters of Ukraine made the democratic decision to choose a different official language for their state. This decision was made with full provision and consideration for the rights of linguistic minorities, with Russian given special prominence.

By ignoring the legal and practical reality of the situation of Russian in Ukraine, the pro-Russian language movement in Ukraine has fatally weakened its own argument. The fact that Ukrainian is the state language in no way “endangers” the viability of the Russian-speaking community.

Certainly, there have been hiccups along the way, but both major language communities continue to be in vibrant health two decades after independence. In seeking a change to this status quo, the Party of Regions clearly wants something different. By removing Ukrainian from its position at the local level, the law is virtually guaranteed to promote Russian monolingualism in the south and east of the country.

For clarity’s sake, the Party of Regions should simply admit it.

Emmet Tuohy is a researcher with the Tallinn-based International Centre for Defence Studies.

VOX populi

WITH OLENA GONCHAROVA



What is the biggest achievement and biggest failure during Ukraine’s 21 years of independence?



**Tetiana Dehtyaryuk,** unemployed  
“The Orange Revolution is the greatest thing to happen in Ukraine. Our country has also become well-known by its sport achievements. I’m very proud of our sportsmen. Unfortunately, we have chosen the wrong road, far away from Europe.”



**Hazil Fazirov,** pensioner  
“Now we have no plants and factories. Ukrainians are so poor. For me, independence means nothing good. Our politicians are thieves. We’re less democratic than Poland. Maybe in 100 years, life will turn out better in Ukraine.”



**Iryna Berezova,** unemployed  
“I live in Vyshgorod. We have good roads there. The infrastructure is ok. It’s the best achievement. But I am ashamed of our president. I don’t know a person who likes him! The other problems I see are aggressive privatization of property and no middle class.”



**Taras Zhukovskiy,** lawyer  
“The biggest achievement is the proclamation of independence. So Euro 2012 or Eurovision 2005 is less important for Ukraine’s heritage. On the other hand, the last presidential elections were the worst thing. It’s a pity, but politicians are becoming less intelligent. We’ll hope but we’ll prepare for the worst.”



**Aiv Alporin,** Israeli businessman  
“Consumerism is rising dramatically and it’s because an open market began to appear in Ukraine. The level of life is slowly but gradually improving. On the other hand, due to capitalism, there are big differences between people. Some of them are desperate because they see oligarchs with their smart cars and villas and understand they can’t achieve such a level.”



Russian spreads like wildfire in dry Ukrainian forest

Sources: 2011 Survey by Kyiv-based Razumkov Centre think tank.

The Russian language is swiftly gaining official status as a “regional” language across eastern and southern regions of Ukraine. Since President Viktor Yanukovich on Aug. 8 signed the controversial language legislation spearheaded by his Party of Regions into law, about a dozen regional legislatures in Russian-speaking regions of Ukraine voted to grant it official status as a “regional language.” In these regions, Russian is now sanctioned for broader use by public officials, regional government, in education and business. According to the new language law, regional legislatures in territories where more than 10 percent of the population consider Russian or other minority languages as a native tongue can adopt it as a “regional” language. Citizens in Ukrainian-speaking western parts of the nation and other opponents believe the new language rules will deepen the nation’s political and cultural divide, and undermine the official state language, Ukrainian. The latter has made a comeback since being belittled and oppressed in prior centuries.

# Global slowdown erodes government tax revenues

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI  
PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM

Tighter rules on currency trading for businesses and a 20 percent fall in state revenues in July both point to an increasingly shaky state of Ukraine's finances. Aggressive tax collection has also weighed heavy on businesses' coffers, experts say, which are already suffering from the increasingly gloomy global economic situation.

In mid-August, the National Bank of Ukraine announced tighter rules for companies engaged in international trade, forcing them to use a single bank to settle the foreign currency denominated payments. It will also require proof of sales in Ukraine from companies buying foreign denominations to purchase products abroad for re-sale at home. Experts note this will dampen demand for foreign coin in Ukraine, and is the latest move aimed at protecting the state's falling dollar reserves.

"Authorities are using every possible measure or tool at hand to construct tight safeguards against the pressure on the local currency that has plagued it nearly since last fall," investment bank ICU wrote in a note to investors.

"On the eve of the elections, credibility of the pegged FX regime is wearing thinner and thinner, and is in fact nearly worn out."

Debate over possible hryvnia devaluation started almost a year ago, when the NBU's foreign currency reserves began dropping from their August high of \$38.2 billion, compared to \$30.1 billion in July 2012.

A \$2 billion Eurobond placement in July alleviated the pressure, albeit at a cost of 9.25 percent, the highest in 12 years. A \$450 million loan from the World Bank, that ministry of finance officials say is in the works, will no doubt help.

Nonetheless, interventions to stabilize the hryvnia doubled in July compared to June. As the Oct. 28 elections approach, authorities will likely contemplate more extreme measures to keep the hryvnia stable, experts say, among which is the introduction of mandatory currency sales by exporters to the NBU. Yet even this may not be enough.

"Our base case view also assumes that NBU reserves will decline to \$25 billion [covering 3 months of imports] by end-2012 on foreign currency market

intervention and repayments to the IMF, and drop further to \$23 billion (2.6 months) in 2013," Kyiv-based investment bank Dragon Capital wrote in a note to investors.

State revenues have also been hit. According to ICU, these fell 20.2 percent in July compared to June, and 20 percent compared to last year. At Hr 23.5 billion (\$2.9 billion) July's income was the second lowest this year, behind a traditionally lean January. It was also the first time monthly revenues dropped compared to last year, when authorities began to step up revenue collection.

The lower revenues can partially be attributed to a weaker external environment and seasonal corporate tax payments, said ICU research head Alexander Valchyshen. But excessive tax collection, which has depleted businesses resources also played a role, he added.

The situation has two sides, confirmed Oleksandr Zholud, senior economist at Kyiv-based think tank International Center for Policy Studies. Tax collectors have indeed been overzealous, he said, but a general slowdown of the economy is also making itself felt. The original government forecasts for 2012 saw consumer prices rise 7.9 percent, Zholud explained, but now we even have deflation, so the collection of nominal taxes is much lower.

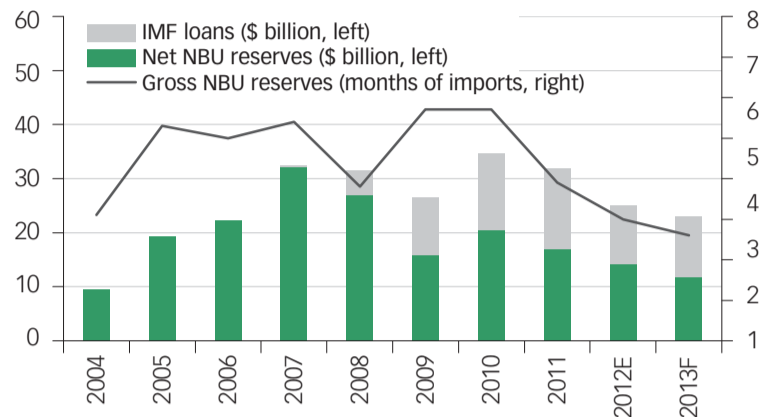
"On top of that, aggressive tax collection like advance payments has limited the funds available to businesses," Zholud summed it up.

The European Business Association, which gathers companies throughout Ukraine, has long been critical of the authorities' attempts to boost state revenues. These include pressuring companies to buy state bonds, demanding taxes in advance and conducting an ungrounded amount of inspections looking for reasons to issue fines.

Nonetheless, Valchyshen believes the shortfall in revenue means the practice is unlikely to stop, with even more pressure on businesses to pay in advance, more fines and more inspections to find cases of tax avoidance.

"Going forward the government

## National Bank reserve cushion growing thin



Source: Dragon Capital

Falling international reserves have raised concerns about whether Ukraine will be able to keep the hryvnia at its current value to the dollar. Experts expect devaluation after the Oct. 28 elections.

would like to correct this," he said. Meanwhile, beyond Ukraine's borders, the storm clouds are once again gathering. Italy and Spain are looking closer and closer to Greek-bailout territory, while manufacturing, considered a top indicator of where the economy is going by experts, is taking a plunge. Eurozone unemployment is at its highest in the single currency's history and most of the region's economies are either in recession or just hovering above zero.

September is looming large as analysts forecast a brutal return from the summer holidays for Europe's leaders. According to a recent study by the International Monetary Fund, a

quarter of banking crises since 1970 erupted precisely in that month. It was in Sept. 2008 that a 40 percent devaluation of the hryvnia began – a crack in the dam which exploded into a crisis that cost the country 15 percent in gross domestic product.

A repeat of those drastic times is unlikely, experts agree. Despite a distinct slowdown, Ukraine will almost certainly see 2012 growth above 1 percent, which is more than can be said for most of Europe. But coming back from vacations will be tough indeed.

Kyiv Post staff writer Jakub Parusinski can be reached at parusinski@kyivpost.com.

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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

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).



Aug. 28

Young musicians playing classics

This event is not to be missed by those who are impartial to classical music. I CULTURE Orchestra, a unique and innovative ensemble of 97 young musicians from Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and European Union nations, is coming to Kyiv to give a gala concert at the National Philharmonic of Ukraine on Aug. 28. The ensemble will be conducted by 19-year old Venezuelan Ilyich Rivas who is considered one of the most talented conductors of the young generation. The young musicians will play Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Ottorino Respighi, Yuri Shymanovsky and Antonin Dvorák. The Kyiv concert is a part of the orchestra's ongoing tour across Poland, Moldova, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine. The entrance is by invitations only. To get a free invitation, call the Polish Institute 278-16-01 between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. through Aug. 26. **I CULTURE concert. Aug. 28. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. By invitations only [CLA1]**

Thursday, August 23

Classical music

**Summer Music Streams Festival.** Symphony Orchestra of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine Playing Mozart, Brahms. National Philharmonic. Hr 40-80

Movies

**Bound** (action). Kinopanorama. 7 p.m. Hr 40  
**Total Recall** (action). Ukraine. 4:40 p.m., 7:10 p.m. Hr 40-80

Live Music

**Docker Pub's 10th Birthday With Animals & Oh My Guts & Crazy Train.** Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free  
**Karnavalnaya Zhara** (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30  
**Innokentyi Ivanov** (vibraphone). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 40  
**Maria Kudryavtseva & CooCoo**

Chanel. Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Clubs

**Independence Bass.** Green Theatre. 11 p.m. Hr 30-50  
**Independent Night.** Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 20-40 for females, Hr 25-50 for males  
**Independence Day Pre-Party.** Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 15-30 for females, Hr 20-40 for males

Miscellaneous

**Immersiveness. Diego and Frida** (photo exhibition). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Free  
**Anish Kapur Personal Exhibition.** Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free  
**Moments of Time** (Yefrem Lukatskyi's photo exhibition). Ukrainian House. 11 a.m. Free  
**Volodymyr Yakovets** (art exhibition). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. Free



Sept. 7-8

Fireworks championship

Perhaps the most spectacular outdoor competition is scheduled for Sept. 7-8 on Spivoche Pole, located on the hills of Dnipro River close to Pecherska Lavra. Top pyrotechnical teams representing Ukraine, France, Finland and Estonia will compete for the champion's title with stunning fireworks displays synchronized to music. Visitors will be able to pick and award their own favorite by taking part in sms-voting. **Fireworks championship. Sept. 7-8. Spivoche Pole. 8.30 p.m. Hr 80-180 [MIS15]**

**Time Revealed** (photo exhibition). Camera Photo Gallery. 11 a.m. Free  
**Sleeping Beauty.** National Art Museum of Ukraine. Hr 20

Shows

**Red Rocks.** Underground Music Hall. 9 p.m. Free

Friday, August 24

Movies

**Best Summer Shorts** (shorts festival). Zhovten. 1:15 p.m., 4:25 p.m. Hr 25-35  
**Future Shorts Summer 2012** (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5:10 p.m., 9:10 p.m. Hr 30-40  
**Seven Days in Havana** (7 dias en La Habana). Kyiv. 11:20 a.m. Hr 35-45  
**Total Recall** (action). Ukraine. 4:40 p.m., 7:10 p.m. Hr 40-80

Live Music

**Dyadya Vasya & Red Rocks** (rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 75  
**Red Rocks & Tex-Mex Company.** Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 50  
**Wake Up** (sexy covers). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50  
**Real Jam** (jazz). Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Clubs

**Independence Rave.** Saxon. 11 p.m. Hr 40-50  
**Love is... 90s Disco.** Green Theater. 11 p.m. Hr 50  
**Happy Birthday, Ukraine.** Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 25-50 for females, Hr 30-60 for males  
**Made in Ukraine Party.** Seven Music Club. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 50 for males  
**Freedom Party** (free cocktails before midnight). Egoist. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 50 for males

Theaters

**Azalia** (premiere). Koleso Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 70

Miscellaneous

**The Ballades of Ancient Kyiv IX — XI** (historical festival). Kyivska Rus park. 10 a.m. Hr 50-100  
**StreetFest Kiev 2012.** Khreshchatyk St. 2 p.m. Free  
**Vyshyvanka Parade** (embroidered shirt parade). Khreshchatyk St. 10 a.m. Free

**Immersiveness. Diego and Frida** (photo exhibition). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Free  
**Fun Starts For The Roller-Skaters.** Khreshchatyk St. 2:30 p.m. Free

**Ukrainian Ice-cream Festival.** Maidan Nezalezhnosti. 12:01 p.m. Free

**Anish Kapur Exhibition.** Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free

**Cossack Mamay Fest.** Ethnic Festival. Mamayeva Sloboda. 2 p.m. Hr 40-100

**Auto Sports Festival of the Kyiv City Motor Club.** Khreshchatyk. 12:01 p.m. Free

**Moments of Time** (Yefrem Lukatskyi's photo-exhibition). Ukrainian House. 11 a.m. Free

**Volodymyr Yakovets** (art exhibition). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. Free

**Time Revealed** (photo exhibition). Camera Photo Gallery. 11 a.m. Free

**Sleeping Beauty.** National Art Museum of Ukraine. Hr 20

Shows

**Independence Day** (cover party). Underground Music Hall. 9 p.m. Free  
**Concert of Opera Singers.** Sofiyivska square. 8 p.m. Free  
**Real JAM.** Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Saturday, August 25

Movies

**Future Shorts Summer 2012** (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5:10 p.m., 9:10 p.m. Hr 30-40  
**Seven Days in Havana** (7 dias en La Habana). Kyiv. 11:20 a.m. Hr 35-45  
**Total Recall** (action). Ukraine. 4:40 p.m., 7:10 p.m. Hr 40-80

Live Music

**Mad Heads UkrainSka & Tex-Mex Company.** Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Hr 100  
**Bangladesh Orchestra & More Huana** (best world hits). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 50  
**Mama Mia** (cover band). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50  
**A Banda Brasil.** Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Clubs

**Dance Therapy.** Home. 10 p.m. Hr 20 for females (free before midnight), Hr 50 for males  
**Whiskey Party.** Egoist. Free for females, Hr 50 for males  
**Kachalka** (hip hop party). Green Theatre. 11 p.m. Hr 50

Theaters

**Night Of Love** (premiere). Koleso Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 70

Miscellaneous

**The Ballades of Ancient Kyiv IX — XI** (historical festival). Kyivska Rus park. 10 a.m. Hr 50-100  
**Immersiveness. Diego and Frida** (photo exhibition). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Free  
**Anish Kapur Exhibition.** Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free  
**White Nights** (ethnic festival). Hydropark. 10 p.m. Hr 40+15 (ferry boat)  
**Moments of Time** (Yefrem Lukatskyi's photo-exhibition). Ukrainian House. 11 a.m. Free  
**Volodymyr Yakovets** (art exhibition). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. Free  
**Time Revealed** (photo exhibition). Camera Photo Gallery. 11 a.m. Free  
**Sleeping Beauty.** National Art Museum of Ukraine. Hr 20

Sunday, August 26

Movies

**Future Shorts Summer 2012**



Sept. 1

Contemporary dance festival

This festival is set to bring together professional dancers and choreographers from Britain, Brazil, Italy and USA. Jaïson Beitel, Hugo Cortez, Michel Olive, Mandy Montanez and Francesca Dario will be giving master classes in contemporary, modern and postmodern dance and ballet for eight hours straight. A special concert-improvisation featuring modern dance stars and choreographers is also on the schedule. To get a free transfer to the festival grounds place call 0665776464 to register. **Contemporary dance festival. Sept. 1. Golfstream club. 12 a.m. Hr 900 [MIS46]**

(shorts festival). Kyiv. 5:10 p.m., 9:10 p.m. Hr 30-40

**Seven Days in Havana** (7 dias en La Habana). Kyiv. 11:20 a.m. Hr 35-45

**Cosmopolis** (drama). Kinopanorama. 12:30 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 7:10 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 20-40

**Total Recall** (action). Ukraine. 4:40 p.m., 7:10 p.m. Hr 40-80

Live Music

**Chill Out** (disco rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free  
**Rockfour** (rock covers). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free  
**Soyuz 44** (jazz jam session). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free  
**Vojtech Prochazka Trio** (jazz). Divan. 8 p.m. Free

Clubs

**R'n'B Boom.** Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 10-30  
**Hen Party.** Bionica. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 30 for males

Theaters

**Golden Dragon** (premiere). Koleso Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 70

Miscellaneous

**The Ballades of Ancient Kyiv IX — XI** (historical festival). Kyivska Rus park. 10 a.m. Hr 50-100  
**Immersiveness. Diego and Frida** (photo exhibition). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Free  
**Anish Kapur Exhibition.** Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free  
**Moments of Time** (Yefrem Lukatskyi's photo-exhibition). Ukrainian House. 11 a.m. Free  
**Volodymyr Yakovets** (art exhibition). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. Free  
**Time Revealed** (photo exhibition). Camera Photo Gallery. 11 a.m. Free  
**Sleeping Beauty.** National Art Museum of Ukraine. Hr 20

Monday, August 27

Classical music

**Summer Music Streams Festival.** National Chamber Ensemble "Kyiv Soloists" Playing Vivaldi, Piazzolla-Desyatnikov (violin). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80

Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80

Movies

**Future Shorts Summer 2012** (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5:10 p.m., 9:10 p.m. Hr 30-40

**Seven Days in Havana** (7 dias en La Habana). Kyiv. 11:20 a.m. Hr 35-45

**Cosmopolis** (drama). Kinopanorama. 12:30 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 7:10 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 20-40

**Total Recall** (action). Ukraine. 4:40 p.m., 7:10 p.m. Hr 40-80

Live music

**Inzhyr.** Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free  
**Tres Deseos** (latino party). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free  
**MosBrass & TopOrchestra.** Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Fee to be announced

Miscellaneous

**Volodymyr Yakovets** (art exhibition). M17 Contemporary Art Center. 11 a.m. Free  
**Time Revealed** (photo exhibition). Camera Photo Gallery. 11 a.m. Free

Tuesday, August 28

Classical music

**I CULTURE Orchestra** Playing Tchaikovsky, Respighi, Shymanovsky and Dvorak. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. By Invitations Only

Movies

**Future Shorts Summer 2012** (shorts festival). Kyiv. 5:10 p.m., 9:10 p.m. Hr 30-40

**Seven Days in Havana** (7 dias en La Habana). Kyiv. 11:20 a.m. Hr 35-45

**Cosmopolis** (drama). Kinopanorama. 12:30 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 7:10 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 20-40

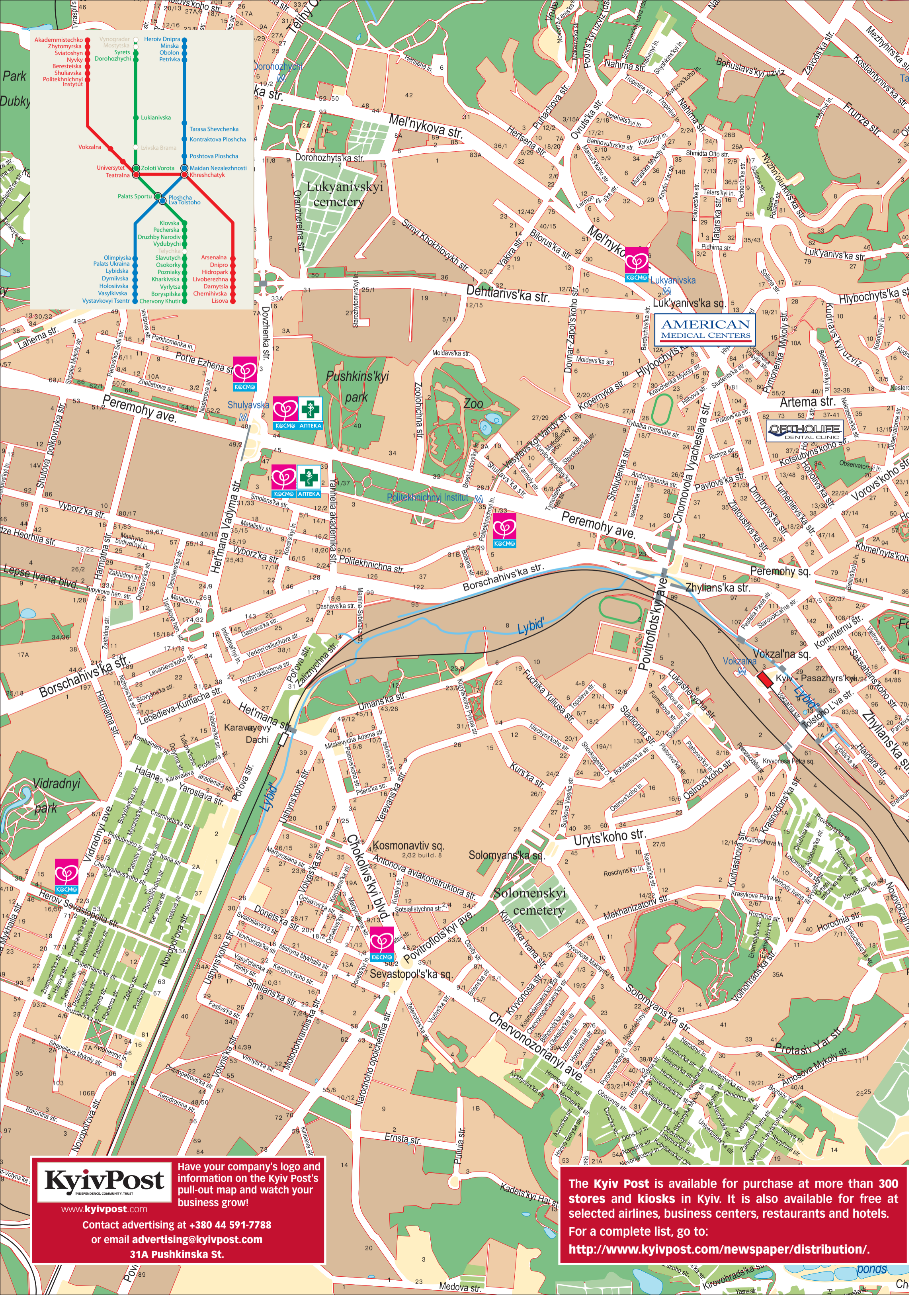
**Total Recall** (action). Ukraine. 4:40 p.m., 7:10 p.m. Hr 40-80

Live music

**Animals Session** (classic rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free  
**More Huana** (cover band). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 20  
**Khoroshyi Plokhoi Zloi.** Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free







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# Battle intensifies over Podil's Hostynny Dvir

→1 they left the building recently because of the reconstruction.

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov signed a decree depriving Hostynny Dvir of its status as an architectural landmark last August, but this attracted public attention only in April. The Kyiv City Administration then issued a permit for Ukrrestavracia to develop a reconstruction plan for Hostynny Dvir. Holding the right to lease Hostynny Dvir from the State Property Fund, Ukrrestavracia wants to reconstruct it into a trade and office center.

Learning a lesson from numerous reconstructions and constructions in the past, including the recent overhaul at Andriyivsky Uzviz where old buildings were mistakenly demolished, city activists moved first and fast, entering the building's yard during Kyiv Day celebrations on May 26.

Activists proclaimed Hostynny Dvir a Hospitable Republic and launched its official website at <http://hostynny-idvir.org.ua> (in Ukrainian only). Since then more than 4,000 Kyivans signed on in support of preserving Hostynny Dvir. Several thousand hryvnia have been donated to the activists, who are using the money to light the courtyard at night, buy food and to clean the facilities.

"We took away 10 trucks of garbage from here to make this place look more aesthetic," said Osmak. "I paid myself for the first two trucks. Then a friend of one activist made an enormous donation and we took away six more loads. After that, another supporter donated money for one more truck load. And then a woman came in, heard the problem we were talking about, took money from her pocket and gave it to us. This is how the last truck was taken away. Miracles are happening here. Fantastic people are coming," she added.

Hostynny Dvir also became a place for numerous events such as language and yoga classes, lectures and seminars, art performances, literature presentations, movie screenings and music concerts.

"During this time we have tried different kinds of activities which can take place in the courtyard in the future,"

said Osmak who personally gave a dozen lectures on Kyiv history there.

Activists say they don't mind book stores or art cafes here but don't want yet another average shopping mall or office center. They also want an architectural library and a state research institute to stay in the building where they are now.

Ukrrestavracia sticks to another point of view.

"It will be a trade and office center," Dmytro Yarych, director at Ukrrestavracia, told the Kyiv Post, adding that he doesn't see any room for the library nor the institute.

"There is no sense in it. They do not pay money [for rent]," he said adding that the project should be profitable.

of architecture landmarks protected by the state. The argumentation was that the modern building of Hostynny Dvir was constructed in 1971-1990.

"It would be illegal to know that this is a newly constructed building and to keep it in the lists of monuments of architecture," Yarych said.

While the current reconstructed version of Hostynny Dvir is standing only since the 1971-1990 period, its history dates back much further. This lithography made from Nikolai Sazhyn's watercolor depicts old Hostynny Dvir with a market inside it at the end of the 1840s. (Vladyslava Osmak's family archive)

Valentyna Shevchenko, an architect who headed that Soviet construction argues that the modern building of



The modern Hostynny Dvir was built in the late 20th century, but its history dates back much further. This lithography made from Nikolai Sazhyn's watercolor depicts old Hostynny Dvir and a market inside it at the end of the 1840s. (Vladyslava Osmak's family archive)

According to this plan, the basement of the two-story building will be significantly strengthened to withstand vibrations of the subway which passes under it. The external galleries will be covered by glass, the attic will be

firmed the Hr 109 million reconstruction plan with the State Property Fund, still legally owner of the building. But Yarych said they will have to invest three times more to complete the project.

Ukrainian legislation allows tenants to apply for privatization of a property they rent. Moreover, if a tenant made improvements which amounts to 25 percent of the property's value, then they can privatize the object without a competitive tender. Yarych does not dismiss his company exercising this option now that Hostynny Dvir has been removed from the list of cultural monuments that cannot be privatized.

"If we are disturbed in our reconstruction plan of this building, then we will have to exercise our right [to privatize it]," Yarych said.

Meanwhile, Kyiv's District Administrative Court is hearing lawsuits filed by activists and a company to cancel government decrees depriving the site of architectural landmark status. Suitors also requested construction works inside the building be stopped while the case is being heard. The judge denied the request and scheduled the next court hearing for Sept. 12.

Osmak said activists are willing to stay at Hostynny Dvir and organize different events as long as necessary.

"What is happening here is very important for the establishment of civil society in Ukraine. We lack public space, but here it is being created," Osmak said.

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This artist's depiction shows a proposed reconstruction project of Hostynny Dvir. The plan, presented by an architect and Kyiv City Council member Andriy Myrhorodsky, would change the Podil neighborhood building in several ways. Arches will be covered with glass, the third floor rebuilt and the courtyard covered with a glass roof. ([kievcity.gov.ua](http://kievcity.gov.ua))

"[To keep them here] is the same as giving money to someone as a gift."

Yarych confirmed information reported by local media that over 90 percent of his company's shares were owned by Cyprus-registered Afidreko Holdings Limited. But he refused to disclose who stands behind it.

Yarych said his company initiated removal of Hostynny Dvir from a list

Hostynny Dvir was constructed on the place of the old one and was built according to the 1809 project by Italian architect Luigi Rusca in Neoclassical style. Therefore, it should be a monument protected by the state, she said.

Shevchenko is also against the reconstruction project that was presented recently by Kyiv city council deputy and architect Andriy Myrhorodsky.

turned into a third floor with windows looking in the yard, a central gate will be added and the courtyard will be covered by a glass roof.

"This is nonsense. This reconstruction will change the architectural look of the building. Hostynny Dvir as we know it now will disappear," Shevchenko said.

Ukrrestavracia has already con-

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The event is Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 33 Velyka Zhytomyrska Street. Admission is Hr 20/Hr 10 for students.



A parade of vyshyvankas (Ukrainian traditional embroidered shirts) took place during last year's Independence Day celebrations on Spivochko Pole near Pecherska Lavra in Kyiv. Apart from capital celebrations, plenty of festivals will be happening around the country to commemorate Ukraine's 21st anniversary of independence. (Ukrafoto)

## Celebrating Independence Day

BY ANASTASIA FORINA  
FORINA@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukraine will mark its 21st anniversary of Independence on Aug. 24. Apart from traditional celebrations scheduled for the coming weekend in Kyiv, plenty of ethnic festivals for any taste and budget will be happening all around the country.

Kyiv Post offers you a selection of places that are worth visiting during the extended weekend that starts Independence Day:

**Etnovyr**  
Ethnic festival  
Lviv Aug. 22-26

Here's a good opportunity to learn more about the traditions and culture of Ukraine, Mexico, Martinique, Israel, Macedonia, Portugal, France, Italy, the Basque country, the Republic of Burundi, Czech Republic, Poland, India and Spain.

Traditional music, dances, handicrafts and cuisine of these countries will be featured during the five-day international ethnic fest happening in Lviv between Aug. 22 and Aug. 26. Folk bands will be giving concerts and dancing master classes and visitors will be treated to local food and drinks.

Besides the Independence Day, the festival is celebrating its own anniversary. It will be held for 5th time this year.

For the detailed schedule visit event's website <http://etnovyr.org.ua/program/>

Entrance fee - Free  
Kyiv-Lviv return ticket - around Hr 300 (overnight train or bus)

If watching movies is your thing, visit KinoLev open-air film festival that will be held in Lviv between Aug. 22-26.



One way to spend Aug. 24 Ukrainian Independence Day is to participate in multiethnic festival in Lviv that celebrates the cultures of many nations. The five-day even runs until Aug. 26. (UNIAN)

The best movies by one of the brightest representatives of the new wave of French cinema Claude Chabrol and well-known Georgian-Ukrainian filmmaker Sergiy Paradzhanov are on the schedule. As a special treat, the festival will screen a modern Ukrainian movie that featured in the 2010 Cannes festival, called "You. My joy."

Entrance fee - Hr 50  
For the location and detailed schedule of the fest go to <http://idem.org.ua/projects/kinolev/lokatsiji>  
(032) 295-69-68

**Ancient Medzhybizh**  
Ethnic festival  
Medzhybizh, Khmelnytskyi Oblast  
Aug. 24-26

The program of this festival is an exciting mixture of fencing tournaments, folk dancing, ethnic rock gigs and breathtaking fireworks displays. Moreover, it will be held on the territory of the 14th century stone fortress (currently a museum) originally built by the Lithuanians.

Participants of historical fencing clubs will clash in 2x2 and 5x5 cat-

egories to create a unique and colorful show.

At the evening the visitors will be entertained by modern ethnic rock bands from Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. Guests of the event will also have chance to shoot an arrow, taste medieval cuisine as well as attend master classes in ancient crafts and hand-made gifts fair.

Entrance fee - Hr 200  
Kyiv-Khmelnytsk return ticket - around Hr 200 (overnight train)  
Marshrutkas (Hr 15) will go to festival grounds from the central railway station at 9 a.m., 11 a.m.  
<http://medzh.info/>  
(067) 382 30 34

**Steel Rose**  
Historical fencing festival  
Lutsk Aug. 24-26

One of the oldest and most picturesque, the Lutsk castle will be hosting its own fencing fest this weekend. Also built in the 14th century by Lithuanian prince Liubart, the castle will gather crowds for two celebrations. On top of Independence Day, the city of Lutsk mark its 927th birthday.

The fanciers of fencing will be arriving from within Ukraine, and from a number of foreign lands, too. Potters and blacksmiths will also be there, teaching common folk their craft. Folk dancing classes are also planned on the castle grounds.

Entrance fee - to be announced  
Kyiv-Lutsk return ticket - around Hr 200 (train), Hr 300 (bus)  
Lutsk castle  
23 Dragomanova St., Lutsk  
(0332) 72-34-32  
<http://lutckzam.do.am>



WITH DENIS RAFALSKY  
RAFALSKY@KYIVPOST.COM

## L'Entrecote: Simple menu, easy dinner

*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.*

Do you know that feeling when you're handed a menu with pages and pages of stuff, making it agonizing to read and nearly impossible to make a choice?

Those are long gone in modern restaurants in Europe, where menus these days tend to be simple and short, and change rather frequently.

L'Entrecote, a new Kyiv restaurant, takes care of the problem in a rather unusual way. It only has one option, and if you know French (or anything about food), the name of the restaurant gives a pretty good clue.

Entrecote, or steak, is what customers are served here, accompanied with a special sauce and French fries.

Single dish joints are a new trend in America. More specifically, in New York. And now, Kyiv has one of its own, on Baseyna Street.

If you feel like an entrecote, don't bother calling for reservations. The restaurant does not do reservations. You will be assured that there are plenty of tables, and it turns out to be true.

The roof terrace, where smoking is allowed, was completely empty on the day Kyiv Post visited. Solitary clients were scattered around several other rooms, located on the first floor and in the basement.

A good choice of seating is one advantage of new restaurants. Do you want to sit by the window? Sure, there are plenty of tables to go.

The neat, modern interior is inviting. It has identical square tables and red wooden chairs to go with them, as well as snug soft seats along the walls.

The neutral walls with inscriptions let the red of the sofas stand out. The inscriptions are in French and in English. You can read the venue's slogan on the wall: Smart food for smart people. You will also be told that no choice is a good choice.

It would be a little deceiving to tell the potential customers that there is no choice whatsoever, and that all you get is entrecote. You do get the menu, laid out on the large sheet of paper that also serves as the tablecloth.

On it, you will read that the restaurant carries a number of French desserts, and will pick your drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. The wine list is → 13



Steak and french fries are what's on the menu in Kyiv's new restaurant L'Entrecote. (Courtesy)

## Food Critic: For those who love meat and french fries, L'Entrecote is great choice

→12 specially created to go well with the meat.

Before your steak arrives, you will be offered a starter of fresh baguette with a little mustard to tease your taste buds, and a simple salad of iceberg lettuce with Circassian walnuts, dressed with oil and vinegar.

While you're consuming that, the chef will cook the steak to your liking. Your entrecote and frites dish will be divided in two helpings. The first one will be served up right after the salad.

In the meantime, the second half will be prepared. You will get it as soon as you finish the initial portion.

The beef is of good quality, it melts in the mouth, and the platter is presented simply but well. The sauce is sufficiently piquant and runny. It can easily splash on your jacket while a server puts the steak on the plate right near your face. Unfortunately, we fell a victim to it.

The French fries look brown, but don't taste greasy. They're cooked through, but not dried out.

The combination of baguette starter, salad and main course is called "A smart menu" and goes for Hr 79.

It seems reasonable, like the rest

of the prices. Freshly squeezed carrot juice costs Hr 24 and goes nicely with the rest of the meal. A 100 milliliter glass of Italian Sicilia Rosso, goes for Hr 15.

A bottle of Ukrainian red demi-sec Inkerman is Hr 89, while Italian red Ruffino Aziano Chianti Classico is Hr 250.

Desserts are also both reasonable and tasty. The most expensive one on the menu is the chocolate fondant pudding (Hr 36). The staff don't seem to get tired of recommending it. And we tried it as well as the wonderful pistachio ice-cream that goes for Hr 26.

At L'Entrecote, there are no surprises on the menu. But the food they offer is good and reasonable. So, if you don't feel like making choices today, and love meat and fries, it's your kind of place.

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

5b Baseyna St.  
Hours: 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. (weekdays);  
11 a.m. - 11 p.m. (weekends)  
+380 044 323 99 77  
www.lentrecote.com.ua

# Where to celebrate Ukraine's birthday

→12

## Steel Heart of Ukraine

Blacksmith's Festival  
Ethnic festival  
Rivne

Aug 24-26

Blacksmiths from Ukraine and other countries will be the main heroes of this festival. They will show off their skills, and will forge a giant heart of steel, hence the name of the fest.

The program of the festival also features a jazz concert, a chess championship and a fair where forged steel goods will be on offer. Special master classes for disabled children will be run by blacksmiths on Aug.25.

For the detailed information go to event's website [http://rbp-rivne.com/program\\_festival.html](http://rbp-rivne.com/program_festival.html)

Entrance fee - Free  
Kyiv-Rivne return ticket - around Hr 200 (train)

Rivne, Taras Shevchenko Park  
(0362) 28-55-54, 64-30-95

If you decide to hand around Kyiv, there are at least two places within a short distance of the city where you can celebrate independence.

## The Ballads of Ancient Kyiv

Ethnic festival  
Kopachiv, Kyiv Oblast

Aug.24-26

The Ballads of Ancient Kyiv ethnic festival is scheduled for Aug 24-26 in Kyivska Rus medieval outdoor themed Park in Kopachiv village in Kyiv region.

Around 700 participants of the historical reconstruction clubs from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Poland, Lithuania and Germany are set to be dressing up and acting out medieval lives of their characters.

Period music and master classes in ancient folk arts and crafts are also on the schedule. The festival will end with a fireworks display and an ethnic disco party.

For the detailed information visit <http://www.parkkyivrus.com/>

Entrance fee - Hr 100

Marshrutkas (Hr 20) will go to the



Fencers will entertain guests of the festival in Khmelnytskyi Oblast's Medzhybizh from Aug. 24-26. (Ukrainian photo)

festival grounds place from Vydubychi metro stop every two hours.

050 385-20-35, 067 910-99-81

## Cossack Mamay Fest

Ethnic festival  
Mamayeva Sloboda, Kyiv

Aug.23-24

The festival is set to bring together Ukrainians and foreigners with the last name Mamay at Mamayeva Sloboda, Kyiv's ethnic themed park, just a short ride from the city center. The legendary warrior Cossack Mamay, is considered a symbol of Ukraine's national idea.

Visitors will have a chance to take

part in a ceremony of streaming the biggest national flag of Ukraine to mark Independence Day, as well as enjoy traditional Cossack songs performed by ethnic bands.

For more information go to <http://mamajeva-sloboda.ua/news.php?id=580>

Entrance fee - Hr 100

To get there take marshrutka 427 from Palats Sportu metro stop, 454 from Vokzalna or a trolleybus 27 or 27k from Shuliavska metro stop.

Mamayeva sloboda  
2 Mykhaila Dontsia St.

044 361 98 48

Kyiv Post staff writer Anastasia Forina can be reached at [forina@kyivpost.com](mailto:forina@kyivpost.com)

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# From one bow tie to family business

BY OLGA RUDENKO  
RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

What happens when you can't buy something that you crave? Most often, the idea just gets abandoned.

But Dmytro Kryvolap, 28, didn't give up easily when he decided this spring that he couldn't live without a tie. What he got out of it is a flourishing business.

"I went shopping for a bow tie, but Kyiv shops only had some black or white bow ties, most of them polyester, of lousy quality," Kryvolap says. "I wanted a bow tie with an interesting pattern, and there was nothing like that in shops."

Instead of dropping the idea, Kryvolap asked his wife Tetiana, who knew a bit about sewing, to make one for him. Patterns were easy to find online. The problem was they could not make up their mind what fabric to choose out of about 7,000 types offered by a U.S.-based website for the purpose.

"The fabrics were really beautiful and we couldn't just choose one or two. So we ordered enough to make 100 bow ties, and thought we would make some for Dima and sell the others," says Tetiana Kryvolap.

Since they weren't very optimistic about potential sales of

**Unlike most of Kyiv shops, Churchill offers colorful, flowery bow ties. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)**

the accessory, the couple thought they would give them to friends as presents as a last resort. But they were very wrong indeed.

Four months on, the Kryvolaps are happy owners of a successful startup, having sold 150 bow ties in three months.

The first sale came on May 4, just 10 days after their funky fabrics arrived from the U.S. Predictably, the customers came through the social networks – a typical first order for modern-day startups.

By now, the couple have a website [bowtie.com.ua](http://bowtie.com.ua), offering dozens of colorful bow ties in four designs. They decided to pick Churchill as their brand name, making a reference to the famous British prime minister and lover of bow ties Winston Churchill.

Their online catalog carries pictures of all bow ties on offer, with individual numbers and descriptions. There are classic bow ties, as well as large and narrow ones, and even bow ties with pointed ends. They all sell for Hr 280 per piece. The Kryvolaps say that income from their new business already makes up half of their family budget.

Dmytro says Hr 280 price is a bit more than bow ties cost in regular Kyiv stores, but is compensated by much higher quality of Churchill produced bow ties. Online

Tetiana Kryvolap cuts fabrics for another bow tie while her husband Dmytro Kryvolap helps her. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



shops and auctions like Ebay offer bow ties that start from just two dollars for polyester bow ties shipped from China and go up to \$296 for vintage designer items.

Most of modern bow ties, offered online, are ready-tied, while Kryvolaps only produce old-fashioned "tie-it-yourself" bow ties.

"It's a matter of good taste. Gentlemen must know how to tie a bow tie," says Dmytro.

Happy customers have sent them a number of photos, featuring trendy look, complete with somewhat eccentric bow ties. In one photo, a customer named Vladimir is pictured with a delicate flowery bow tie with pointed ends, and is quoted as saying that he was "looking for a bow tie for a long time, a quality and interesting one, with its

own soul. And thanks to you, the wish came true."

There is a picture of a female customer from Belarus wearing a bow tie over a jeans shirt, and a customer from Simferopol boasting six different ties by the Kryvolaps.

The couple sell three accessories per day on average. All of them are shipped in custom boxes carrying the brand name and logo designed by a freelancer.

But the actual sewing and processing of orders is done by the couple on their own. Tetiana makes the bow ties, using an old Soviet sewing machine, while Dmytro takes care of the rest.

"When the business picked, I suggested that we buy a modern machine, but Tanya refused," Dmytro says. "I've got so used to this one," Tetiana smiles

in response.

With some bow ties made up and waiting for new owners, Tetiana only works for three hours several times a week. She expects more work coming as the winter collection is getting ready. Some of the bow ties will be made out of high quality wool, and will be more expensive than the current lot.

Apart from online clients, the Kryvolaps sell their accessories through Be In Trend shop in Kyiv and a showroom in Moscow, which has sold about 30 bow ties since taking them up in early July.

Only half of their customers are male. "But we have never had a woman over 30 years buying a bow tie. Men over 30 are not rare though," Dmytro says.

Seeing people on the streets wearing bow ties is still rare, but they have made their way into fashion blogs and photo shoots. Some of them feature on the Kryvolaps' website, showing off the ties. The couple's next step is adding classical ties to their collection, in a little while.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olga Rudenko can be reached at [rudenko@kyivpost.com](mailto:rudenko@kyivpost.com).

#### WHERE TO FIND:

Dmytro Kryvolap and his wife, Tetiana, run Churchill's bow-tie shop online at [bowtie.com.ua](http://bowtie.com.ua), offering dozens of colorful bow ties in four designs. They also sell their wares at the Be in trend! Shop, 4a Verkhniy Val St., office 205-206, in Kyiv. They can be reached at +38-068-700-7743 and email [bowtie.kiev@gmail.com](mailto:bowtie.kiev@gmail.com).

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