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UWC holds summit in Bucharest, calls for release of Ukrainian POWs

Delegates meet with Zelenskyy to better coordinate assistance



Courtesy of Andriy Futey

Delegates from the Ukrainian World Congress meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (center) on April 12 in the southwestern city of Chernivtsi.

by Mark Raczkiewicz

CHICAGO – A summit in the Romanian capital of Bucharest held by the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), the main worldwide advocacy group of Ukrainians, was held over the past weekend for three days to address the war-ravaged country's urgent needs.

More than 200 delegates from 55 countries and five continents assembled to discuss aid for Ukraine.

"We have a large challenge in respective countries where we live to make sure Ukraine continues to receive aid for [the Russo-Ukrainian war], to get media atten-

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At least 17 dead in Ukraine as Zelenskyy laments lack of air defenses

As Russian attacks in eastern Ukraine have intensified

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service

At least 17 people have died and several were injured in a Russian air strike on the city of Chernihiv, an attack President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said couldn't be thwarted because Ukraine lacked "sufficient" air defenses due to dwindling supplies from allies, especially the United States, where politicians are deadlocked over a military assistance and aid package worth some \$61 billion.

Vyacheslav Chaus, governor of the Chernihiv region, said the air attack by Russian forces came after an air-raid alert was declared at 8:50 a.m. local time on April 17. The number of people killed was raised to 17, including two who died in the hospital, Emergencies Services said. Sixty people were injured.

Mr. Chaus said three missiles were fired at almost the center of the city, damaging 16 residential apartment buildings, a school and a hospital.

Chernihiv Mayor Oleksandr Lomako expressed his condolences to the relatives of the victims and announced that April 18 would be a day of mourning in Chernihiv for those who died. He said the strikes hit local civil and social infrastructure in the city, which lies about 145 kilometers north of Kyiv. It has been hit several times since Russian tanks swept into Ukraine from nearby Belarusian territory in February 2022.

Mr. Zelenskyy had warned earlier on Telegram that the death toll may rise.

"This would not have happened if Ukraine had received enough air-defense equipment and if the world's determination to counter Russian terror was also sufficient," Mr. Zelenskyy said in a post on Telegram.

"Determination matters. Support matters. Ukrainian determination is enough. There needs to be sufficient commitment from partners and sufficient support to reflect it," he added.

Russia has drastically stepped up its air attacks on Ukraine as Kyiv's forces run low on air defenses and ammunition while desperately needed U.S. help remains stuck in the House of Representatives due to Republican opposition.

Ukrainian officials have desperately pleaded with Washington and its allies to step up military supplies and aid, saying Ukraine's air defenses were critical for the protection of its neighbors as well.

U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson has been seeking the votes needed to pass some \$61 billion in aid for Ukraine, but many hard-right Republicans, especially those closely allied with former President Donald Trump, the party's presumptive nominee to run against President Joe Biden in a November election, have been skeptical

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Ukrainian strikes on Russian refineries aim to curtail oil production, altering war dynamics

by Roman Tymotsko

LONDON – Ukraine's recent strategic strikes on Russian oil refineries are reshaping the landscape of the ongoing war as the nation leverages offensive actions to diminish Russia's oil production capabilities.

The offensive maneuvers, despite U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's cautionary stance, signal Ukraine's assertive approach to disrupting critical sectors of Russia's economy.

As Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy emphasizes the significance of such tactics in bolstering Ukraine's defense by going on the offensive, Ukraine has continued to advocate for more Western support.

A total of 15 refineries in 10 regions of Russia have been attacked since the beginning of 2024, according to The Insider, which estimated that their total refining

capacity is 192 million tons of oil per year.

Russia has lost at least 10 percent of its oil refining capacity due to air strikes by Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles, the U.K. Ministry of Defense said on March 23, citing intelligence sources.

"These strikes are causing financial losses for Russia, affecting its domestic fuel market," the statement said. Depending on the extent of the damage, overhauling the plants could be time-consuming and costly, and Western sanctions are likely to increase the time and cost of such repairs.

Meanwhile, Mr. Austin said that Ukraine's recent attacks on Russian oil refineries could affect global energy markets and urged Kyiv to focus on military facilities, Bloomberg reported.

"These strikes could have the opposite effect regarding the global energy situation. Ukraine is better off pursuing tactical and operational objectives that can directly

affect the current struggle," Mr. Austin said at a U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee meeting.

According to Bloomberg, Mr. Austin's comments were criticized by Republican Sen. Tom Cotton, who accused the administration of hindering Ukraine's offensive actions for political reasons.

"It seems to me that the Biden administration doesn't want gas prices to go up in an election year," Mr. Cotton said.

Bloomberg also noted that U.S. President Joe Biden has spent most of his presidency fighting inflation, including gasoline prices for American consumers.

Earlier, a representative of Ukraine's Defense Ministry's Main Intelligence Directorate said in a commentary to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty that Ukraine is fighting a defensive war, but that does not mean military operations should take place on its territory alone.

Mr. Zelenskyy has previously said that he believes Ukraine's Western partners should support Kyiv's responses to Russian attacks on its critical infrastructure by hitting similar facilities in Russia, particularly oil refineries and military plants.

"Russia understands nothing but force, and all the condemnations of our illegally occupied territories, strikes on our energy sector, blackouts that we have experienced over the past two years, the blowing up of our infrastructure, our hydroelectric power plants, all these condemnations have not led to a reduction in the attacks of the Russian Federation. These people understand only one thing – when there is a powerful response," Mr. Zelenskyy said during a meeting with Finnish President Alexander Stubb in Kyiv on April 3 while answering journalists' questions about strikes on facil-

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Russian women adopt new way to protest war – one Putin cannot easily block

by Paul Goble
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Since the beginning of Russian President Vladimir Putin's expanded invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, polls have consistently shown that Russian women are more likely to oppose the war than Russian men. Unsurprisingly, Russian women have taken more steps to oppose Putin's war than their male counterparts (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, November 27, December 7; Semnasem.org, December 26). Some of these efforts have even been violent, with women forming a disproportionate share of those arrested for firebombing draft centers (Verstka.media, August 2, 2023). Most women have been quieter, organizing groups to denounce the war and demand that their male relatives be allowed to return home, holding one-person protests about these issues, helping Ukrainian refugees, attempting to meet or actually meeting with government officials and Duma deputies to press their case, and quietly putting up stickers or laying flowers at war memorials (Window on Eurasia, April 28, 2022; Telegram.me/Astrapress, November

7). The Kremlin has thrown a cone of silence over these activities lest they become more widely known and has harassed and even arrested those taking part. In at least a few cases, the Kremlin has threatened that, if the women do not stop protesting, the Russian military will throw their men into the most dangerous and life-threatening portions of the frontlines in Ukraine (Telegram.me/PYTY_DOMOY, December 19). Despite these actions, the Russian authorities have not succeeded in suppressing such "quiet" protests, and Russian women have taken advantage (The Insider, August 8, 2022; Window on Eurasia, September 4, 2022).

Russian women protesting Putin's war have now adopted an imaginative new tactic that is bringing their concerns to a wider audience and gaining new allies for their cause. This method of protest seeks to destroy the illusion the Kremlin has sought to promote that its reactive actions are both normal and acceptable. Perhaps most importantly, these women are putting the Russian government in the diffi-

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Multi-prong peace offensive pushes Putin into corner

by Pavel K. Baev
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Against all strategic rationale, Russian troops keep pushing Ukrainian defenses beyond Avdiivka and Bakhmut, paying a heavy price in casualties for every inch gained. The primary reason for these self-destructive attacks is to maintain the initiative necessary to prove Russia's upper hand in the "long war." This illusion of control gives Russian President Vladimir Putin the confidence to claim that all his original goals for the "special military operation" – amounting to the dismantling of Ukraine and innervation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) – will be achieved. Simultaneously, he finds it necessary to declare a readiness to end the war, a point he mentioned last week at a meeting with Belarusian President and Putin ally Alyaksandr Lukashenka (Kommersant, April 12). Increased international calls for peace talks have painted the Kremlin leader into a corner as Moscow seems unable to provide effective solutions for quelling domestic strife and achieving victory in Ukraine.

Putin's lengthy reflections on the "nearly done" peace deal in March 2022 in Istanbul can barely camouflage his unalterable ultimatum that Ukraine can only end the war by capitulating (RBC.ru, April 11). He has been prompted to declare his readiness to resume talks due to the confirmation of a mid-June conference in Switzerland, where officials will discuss Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's proposed peace plan (Rossiyskaya Gazeta, April 12). Serious multilateral efforts have been invested in this event, which could yield more results than the three previous conferences in Malta, Jeddah and Copenhagen (The Moscow Times, April 10). Moscow has good reasons to worry that stronger Western unity and broader support in the Global South will be achieved in Switzerland (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, April 8). As

a result, Moscow has tried to argue that no agreement can be reached without its participation while asserting that it has no intention to partake in the conference (TASS, April 12; Izvestiya, April 13).

One particular concern is Turkey's involvement in the conference (RIA-Novosti, April 11). Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan harbors ambitions to become a key mediator and even peace-maker between Kyiv and Moscow. Mr. Zelenskyy's visit to Istanbul last month sought to encourage these aspirations while promoting military-technical cooperation (NV.ua, April 12). The new edition of Mr. Erdogan's peace initiative, released last week, is far from Mr. Zelenskyy's formula. Still, Turkey's engagement with the Switzerland conference will be no small diplomatic victory for Ukraine (Novaya Gazeta Europe, April 12). Putin's visit to Turkey has been postponed, according to the Kremlin, for the "foreseeable future." Ankara's recent preference for deepening ties with the United States and supporting a stronger role for NATO does not fit with Moscow's hopes for cultivating a closer partnership (Interfax, April 8).

The Kremlin seems more concerned with Beijing's stance on ending the war. Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov visited Beijing last week to meet with his counterpart, Wang Yi, and Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Xi Jinping (RIAC, April 11). Mr. Lavrov found it much easier to issue a joint condemnation of NATO activity in the Asia-Pacific than to determine whether China would send a delegation to Switzerland – a challenge that did not prevent the Russian official from claiming that Mr. Zelenskyy's formula and Beijing's peace plan were incompatible (TASS, April 12). China continues to play a complex war-profiteering game, showing readiness to increase support for Russia

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NEWSBRIEFS

House speaker backs U.S. aid for Ukraine

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) pushed back on April 16 against mounting anger within his own party over proposed U.S. security aid for Ukraine, Israel and other allies, and rejected a call to step aside or risk a vote to oust him from office. After meeting with fellow Republicans, Mr. Johnson said he was "not resigning" and called the motion to oust him "absurd" as he seeks the votes needed to pass the aid for U.S. allies. At least two far-right Republicans have threatened to remove Mr. Johnson as speaker if he allows a vote on assistance for Ukraine. Many other hard-right Republicans, especially those closely allied with former President Donald Trump, the party's presumptive nominee to run against President Joe Biden in the November election, have been skeptical about assisting Kyiv in its fight against Russia and fiercely oppose sending billions more dollars to Ukraine. Democrats say they will not rush to judgment on a new proposal from Mr. Johnson to consider national security assistance for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan separately, rather than as one bill. They previously stressed that the best and quickest strategy would be for the House to pass the \$95 billion package of security assistance approved by the Senate in February. "I am reserving judgment on what will come out of the House until we see more about the substance of the proposal and the process by which the proposal will proceed," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said on April 16. Mr. Schumer said he hoped to get details of the speaker's proposal later on April 16, adding that "time is of the essence." The leaders of several House committees endorsed Mr. Johnson's plan. "There is nothing our adversaries would love more than if Congress were to fail to pass critical national security aid. Speaker Johnson has produced a plan that will boost U.S. national security interests in Europe, the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific," said a joint statement from House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mike Rogers (R-Ala.), House Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Cole (R-Okla.), House Appropriations defense subcommittee

Chairman Ken Calvert (R-Calif.), House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Mike McCaul (R-Texas), and House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Mike Turner (R-Ohio). "We don't have time to spare when it comes to our national security. We need to pass this aid package this week," the statement said. Mr. Johnson said on April 15 that the House would consider the aid bills separately this week, but it could take many more weeks for the bills to become law. If the House were to pass aid to Ukraine, the bill would go back for a vote in the Senate, which is due to leave Washington next week for a two-week recess. The texts of the separate bills have not been released, and it also was not clear which country's assistance the House would consider first. Republicans have already tried to push through aid for Israel without any aid for Ukraine. Democrats in the House have blocked those efforts. Mr. Johnson told Fox News that, in addition to the three separate bills for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, there would be a fourth bill including additional sanctions on Russia and Iran as well as the REPO Act, a provision regarding the seizure of Russian assets to help Ukraine. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Reuters and AP)

Kuleba pleads for Patriot systems

Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Dmytro Kuleba on April 15 again called for Kyiv's Western allies to "urgently" deliver desperately needed additional air-defense systems, weapons and ammunition as Russian artillery and missiles continued to wreak havoc among civilians and destroy critical infrastructure. Four people were killed in Siversk in the eastern region of Donetsk, the head of the region's administration, Vadym Filashkin, said on April 14. "Four men aged between 36 and 86 died as a result of the shelling," Mr. Filashkin said. "The Russians are trying to kill as many of our people as possible, and the only way to protect themselves is to evacuate to safer regions of Ukraine." Mr. Kuleba, in a video address to the Second Black Sea Security Conference jointly co-hosted by Ukraine and Bulgaria in Sofia, said Ukraine's air

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From aid parcels to emotional bonds: Tromsø offers support for Ukraine

by Roman Tymotsko

TROMSØ, Norway – In the northern reaches of Norway, Tromsø stands as a proud gateway to the Arctic, one that has in the past two years become a small hub of support for Ukraine.

Home to approximately 60,000 residents, it ranks among the largest cities situated above the Arctic Circle. Yet, as it sits near Norway's border with Russia amid escalating geopolitical tensions surrounding emerging Arctic Sea routes, the city is a blend of isolation and global involvement.

In 2023, the United States even reopened a special purpose overseas diplomatic post – known officially as an American Presence Post (APP) – in Tromsø.

The Biden administration's release of a National Strategy for the Arctic Region in October 2022 outlined a vision for the next decade of a peaceful, stable, prosperous and cooperative Arctic region.

"The opening of our presence post in Tromsø, the United States' northernmost diplomatic mission, and the only one above the Arctic Circle, is yet another demonstration of our close partnership with Norway and our commitment to this vital region – one whose importance will only grow in the coming decades. The United States is a proud Arctic state and takes seriously our role as one of the region's stewards," said U.S. Ambassador to Norway Marc Nathanson.

Against this backdrop, Tromsø has also become a sanctuary for hundreds of Ukrainians since the full-scale Russian invasion began in 2022. Some 800-1,000 Ukrainians now call the city home. Thanks to the town's familiarity with diverse popu-

lations, the integration of these Ukrainians has proceeded relatively smoothly compared to elsewhere.

A correspondent for The Ukrainian Weekly spoke with Tromsø Mayor Gunnar Wilhelmsen, who said that just a little more than 1 percent of the town's population is now composed of Ukrainians.

"We have people from more than 140 nationalities in Tromsø, and we are the biggest indigenous city in Norway," Mr. Wilhelmsen said.

"At first, when we started to accept Ukrainians here in Tromsø, the process was quite unorganized. After two or three weeks, things became better. The city authorities, locals and some Ukrainians who lived here before the war started to prepare a lot of apartments for people who came. Apart from housing, we also provided food and some funds. I think people were satisfied with how we organized it," the mayor said.

"Some newcomers are going to the university, kids are studying at local schools, and others are going to work. We want all of them to work or study to integrate," Mr. Wilhelmsen said.

Norway, in general, continues supporting Ukraine and providing military and humanitarian aid to the war-torn country.

Mr. Wilhelmsen says that the people of Tromsø tend to show that they care about others. But the country, a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), is likely to feel the potential threat from Russia more acutely, considering Moscow's potential desire to have control over the Arctic region.

"We tend to think more about it because Norway has a border with Russia. However, I think the security situation is more or less



Roman Tymotsko

Gunnar Wilhelmsen, the mayor of Tromsø, Norway, said the city of roughly 60,000 residents now has about 1 percent of its population made up of Ukrainians.

alright as Sweden and Finland went to NATO so that we can cooperate with them," said Mr. Wilhelmsen, referring to the alliance's newest members.

But those tensions won't stop people here from helping others in need. In fact, they may have accelerated their desire to help Ukrainians who recently found themselves displaced from their homeland.

"People in Tromsø actively volunteer; they help in different fields like culture and sports and also help organize aid for Ukraine. We fill cars with aid, and lately we decided to get a fire truck for Ukraine," the city mayor told The Ukrainian Weekly.

Marianne Astrup is among local Norwegian volunteers who actively support Ukraine. She leads an organization in Norway called Team Tromsø for Ukraine which began with only her and a couple of her friends. They started sending parcels to Ukraine during the autumn of 2022.

The organization grew massively when, in January, several other people expressed their interest in finding cars to send to Ukraine. The organization sent soldiers 12 vehicles and nearly 7 tons of aid, including dry food, sleeping bags, wool socks, shoes and personal hygiene items. They initially focused on supporting soldiers but later expanded to providing aid for civilians, wounded soldiers, hospitals and rehabilitation clinics.

"We have a group of Ukrainians raising money to help soldiers and civilians. The group consists of four people on the board, 30 of whom are close to us and perform various tasks, and 120 donors, including different businesses and enterprises that provide food," Ms. Astrup said.

She believes that the source of motivation for local Norwegians to support Ukraine is a mix of many things, but she has a particular theory in mind.

"In 1944, during the German occupation of Norway, we felt the war; we had many casualties, many dead. For example, in Finnmark, one of the Norway regions, Germans used scorched earth tactics. It's not so long ago if you think about it. I was only born a few years after that. And we have these emotional scars in people's minds. We understand the problems that Ukraine is suffering now," Ms. Astrup said.

"At the beginning, the situation with the war in Ukraine both scared and angered me. It made me feel frustrated. I thought everybody was just sitting. So what could I do, even though I was already an old lady? Finally, in October-November 2022, I encountered a Ukrainian man living in a town called Halden. He sent cars with aid to Ukraine, letting me fill most of his car with aid. Then people started coming to me with various things, leaving them on my porch – clothes, shoes, etc. It started getting out of control, so I had to organize it. I thought we couldn't just send anything; we must give what is needed. Around Christmas, I made friends with people in Ukraine and asked them specifically about their needs. Now we only send things that are on the lists," Ms. Astrup said.

"In May 2023, I had my first visit to Ukraine. I went there to meet friends I had been in contact with online, greet people, and see how they lived. I met with our distributor in Ukraine, with soldiers and volunteers," she said.

"It was wonderful coming to Ukraine for the first time. This is one of my strongest experiences in life, and I am 65. I've seen the world, you know. That was a very emotional trip for me. In Kyiv, we experienced about six missile attacks in three days. The strongest feeling for me was the realization that I could leave at any minute, but my friends have to live in the war, endure it," Ms. Astrup said.

She said that it is essential for Norwegians to support Ukraine to help to maintain democracy in the world.

"Democratic systems have a lot of flaws, but I am afraid if we don't take any measures, we're going to lose even this. I see that the biggest threat to democracy is the totalitarian regimes that are taking over more and more countries. It seems like people are sleeping while totalitarian systems threaten all of us. We have a common enemy. Ukraine is defending us, fighting for our common peace," she said.



Roman Tymotsko

Marianne Astrup, a Norwegian volunteer and leader of the volunteer group Team Tromsø for Ukraine, has helped secure 12 vehicles for Ukrainian soldiers.

Ukrainian American Dorian Mazurkevich receives U.S. Department of Commerce Gold Medal

by David Godfrey-Thomas

PHILADELPHIA – Dorian Mazurkevich, a Ukrainian American lawyer and U.S. diplomat from Philadelphia, has been awarded the U.S. Department of Commerce Gold Medal for his work in supporting U.S. commercial interests in Ukraine during Russia's war. The Gold Medal is the highest honor granted by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for distinguished performance.

Mr. Mazurkevich, who is currently serving in the American Embassy in Kyiv as first secretary and as intellectual prop-

erty attaché for Eurasia, works as the principal officer within U.S. embassies and consulates throughout the region on matters related to the protection and enforcement of international property rights.

Mr. Mazurkevich previously served as the first U.S. intellectual property attaché to Latin America, where he was based out of the U.S. Consulate General in Rio de Janeiro.

Mr. Mazurkevich is the son of the late architect Zenon Mazurkevich and the political activist Ulana Mazurkevich. He is married to Christina Sawicky of Philadelphia.



Jay Premack

Ukrainian American lawyer and U.S. diplomat Dorian Mazurkevich

'Send them to Ukraine': E.U.'s Borrell urges Europeans to donate air defense systems

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service

The European Union's foreign policy chief called on E.U. member states to give Ukraine more air defense systems as the embattled country grapples with increasingly intense Russian air strikes on its infrastructure while its stocks of weapons and ammunition dwindle as critical U.S. aid remains stuck in Congress.

"We have Patriots [U.S. air defense systems]. We have anti-missile systems. We have to take them [out] from our barracks where they are just in case and send them to Ukraine where the war is raging," Josep Borrell told the media on the sidelines of a meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) foreign affairs ministers on the Italian island of Capri, where Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine is topping the agenda.

The United States has been by far the main provider of military assistance to Ukraine since the start of Russia's invasion in February 2022.

But a desperately needed \$61 billion military aid package for Ukraine remains blocked in the U.S. House of Representatives amid opposition from hard-liners in the Republican Party who want to tie domestic

policy issues such as immigration to a decision on foreign aid.

The House is expected to vote on April 20 on new military aid, including the long-delayed package for Ukraine.

"We cannot only rely on the U.S. We have to take our [own] responsibility and stop saying, 'Oh, the U.S. will do it,'" Mr. Borrell said, adding, however, that he regretted that "internal politics" in the United States was delaying the critical aid package.

Without more air defenses, "the electricity system of Ukraine will be destroyed. And no country can fight without having electricity at home, in the factories, online, for everything," Mr. Borrell added.

Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Dmytro Kuleba, who was invited to attend the Capri meeting, thanked Germany for providing Ukraine with a Patriot battery while urging Congress to approve the aid package.

"We will work here at the ministerial level to make other allies deliver air defense systems to Ukraine. Because it's of fundamental importance," Mr. Kuleba said after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Mr. Kuleba pointed to the Russian mis-

sile strike on Ukraine's historic city of Chernihiv that killed at least 18 people on April 17 as evidence of his country's urgent need for military assistance.

"This is a matter of death and life for thousands of people, and in a broader sense, it's a matter of Ukraine's survival in this struggle against a much stronger enemy," he said.

The G-7 meeting is also being attended by North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO] Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

Earlier on April 18, Ukraine shot down all 13 drones launched by Russia at its territory.

The Ukrainian Air Force said most of the drones were launched at infrastructure targets in the western region of Ivano-Frankivsk.

Russian news agency RIA Novosti claimed the drones struck Ukrainian military installations in Ivano-Frankivsk, but the mayor of the regional capital of Ivano-Frankivsk, Ruslan Martynskiy, told RFE/RL that only civilian infrastructure had been targeted.

Mr. Martynskiy said debris from the drones caused a fire that was extinguished.

But a Russian missile attack on an infrastructure facility in the Dnipro region on

April 18 caused substantial damage, regional administration head Serhiy Lysak said on Telegram.

"Two fires are still raging. We are clarifying the information," Mr. Lysak wrote.

Meanwhile, Andriy Yusov, spokesman for Ukraine's Main Intelligence Directorate at the Defense Ministry, has confirmed to RFE/RL reports of a "successful" attack by Ukrainian armed forces on a military airfield in the city of Dzhankoy in Ukraine's Russian-occupied Crimea.

Mr. Yusov told RFE/RL on April 18 that the attack, conducted a day earlier, destroyed Russia's launchers of anti-missile and anti-aircraft defense systems, radar systems, and damaged some planes.

Social media channels reported powerful explosions in the area of the airfield early on April 17, but the reports had not been verified.

(With reporting by Reuters, AP and AFP)

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Ukraine's three-front war: Advancing Russians, depleted artillery, exhausted troops

by Mike Eckel
RFE/RL

The column of Russian armored vehicles carefully approached Chasiv Yar from the east, threading its way along dirt roads, skirting patches of forest and avoiding Ukrainian-laid minefields while dodging incoming drones and artillery.

The April 4 assault on the Donetsk region city was repelled, according to Ukrainian commanders, open-source intelligence and reports from soldiers on the ground. But more troublingly for Ukraine's beleaguered frontline troops was what the grainy black-and-white drone video released by Ukraine's 67th Separate Mechanized Brigade showed: a potential weakness in Ukraine's defense, hastily built in some cases, and smarter tactics by Russian forces than earlier in the invasion.

Chasiv Yar is slowly being wiped from the map as Russian jets drop heavy guided bombs that flatten apartment blocks and elite airborne assault units edge into the city's eastern outskirts.

Ukrainian forces are exhausted, starved for artillery shells, desperate for reinforcements and rotations, struggling to hold back Russia's offensive in several locations across the 745-mile front line. After the loss of the bigger city of Avdiivka in February, Chasiv Yar is the next crucible, for Ukraine's troops and for the West's will to arm and support them.

"The battle for Chasiv Yar ... is a litmus test for both sides," said Frontelligence Insight, a Ukrainian open-source research organization run by a Ukrainian reserve officer that analyzed the 64th Brigade drone video. "If Ukraine were to lose control of Chasiv Yar, it could have dire consequences as it would provide a direct route for the Russian Army to advance towards key cities in the Donbas, such as Kostyantynivka and Kramatorsk."

Chasiv Yar "is one of the hottest spots on the front line," said Oleksiy Melnyk, a retired Ukrainian Air Force officer and former pilot, as Russia moves closer to the goal of occupying the entirety of the two eastern Ukrainian regions that make up the



A map shows the territorial control of the area around Chasiv Yar, a town in eastern Ukraine, as of April 17.

Donbas: Donetsk and Luhansk.

"That's why it's where the most intensive fighting is nowadays, and I assume that in the next weeks, there will be even bigger-scale attempts to capture Chasiv Yar," Mr. Melnyk, now a researcher at the Razumkov Center, a Kyiv think tank, told RFE/RL.

The situation on the front line is "extremely critical, possibly turning catastrophic," one Ukrainian special forces senior sergeant, who asked to be identified only by his call sign, Frenchman, told RFE/RL.

A faltered counteroffensive

Last summer, Ukraine pinned its hopes for a decisive shift on the battlefield on a major counteroffensive, armed by Western weaponry and bolstered by nine newly formed, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) trained brigades.

The effort faltered by late fall, however. Ukrainian soldiers ran into a buzz saw of extensively prepared Russian defenses: trenches, tank traps, "dragon's teeth," and minefields, collectively known as Surovikin

Lines, after the Russian general who ordered them. An ambitious effort to establish a bridgehead on the Dnipro's eastern bank, break through Russia's defenses in the south and draw its troops away from other locations sputtered.

Russian commanders, meanwhile, redoubled their effort to capture Avdiivka, an industrial city on the cusp of the regional administrative city of Donetsk. Despite heavy initial losses of tanks and armor, Russian forces utilized "meat grinder" assaults by prison-inmate infantry units, along with extensive use of glide bombs – air-dropped, high-explosive munitions outfitted with satellite guidance systems and pop-out wings – and captured the city on February 17.

The loss was a blow for Ukraine – and highlighted problems with its tactics, equipment and strategy for personnel.

Experts criticized civilian and military leaders for not prioritizing the construction of defenses, as the Russians had.

Grumbling from Ukrainian commanders about the need for more soldiers grew

louder. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy replaced the country's commander-in-chief, Gen. Valeriy Zaluzhnyi, in early February, in part because of Mr. Zaluzhnyi's public comments that the government needed to find more soldiers.

After months of wrangling, Ukraine's parliament this week passed legislation that formalized a new system for mobilizing personnel, aiming to replenish the country's exhausted forces.

Ukraine has disclosed little about the extent of its casualties since Russia launched its mass invasion in February 2022. This past February, Mr. Zelenskyy made his first official acknowledgment of the country's combat losses, saying 31,000 troops had been killed in the previous two years. U.S. officials said in August that the total number of dead and wounded on both sides was roughly 500,000 – a figure that has climbed since.

Russia is estimated to have suffered as many as 350,000 dead and wounded, according to Western officials.

"I don't remember a day when we did not have work at our triage unit," Volodymyr, a senior lieutenant and medic with the 10th Separate Mountain Assault Brigade, deployed in the Donetsk region, said by telephone. He asked not to give his surname.

"The situation is more controlled than in 2022, but people are dying every day," he said. "We lack the life-saving equipment to quickly and safely evacuate people from the front line, such as armored vehicles and unmanned platforms."

Undermanned, outgunned

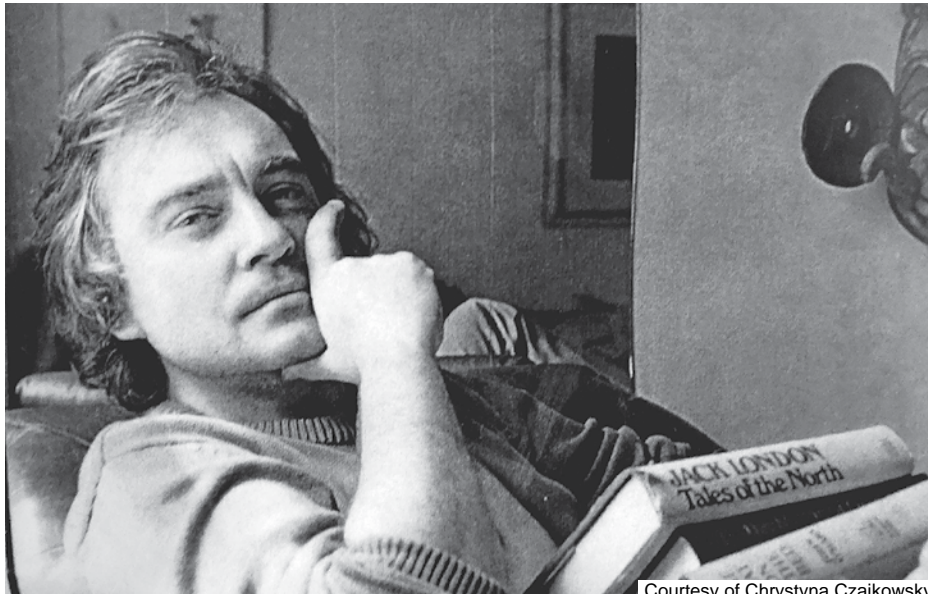
Located on higher ground relative to surrounding areas, Chasiv Yar is seen as a key stepping stone to Kostyantynivka, a town to the south where a major rail line is located. Russian capture of that site would put pressure on two bigger cities to the north: Kramatorsk and Sloviansk.

It's not just a lack of soldiers that Ukraine is struggling with. Commanders are grappling with a severe shortage of

(Continued on page 7)

OBITUARY

Noted activist, journalist and author Roman Jaroslav Czajkowski dies



Courtesy of Chrystyna Czajkowsky

Roman Jaroslav Czajkowski

by Donald Frazier


Roman Jaroslav Czajkowski, a noted Ukrainian American activist, journalist and author died on March 25 of complications from COVID-19 in Venice, Fla. He was 74.

One of a new wave of Ukrainian nationalists born outside the country after World War II, Mr. Czajkowski was devoted to nurturing Ukraine's culture, protecting its history and celebrating its hard-won independence. As a journalist, writer and organizer, he aroused the world's awareness of Ukraine's tragedies and triumphs. Along the way, he cultivated an appreciation of

Ukrainian art, writing about it, as well as its artists and collectors, curating exhibits and collecting paintings, photography and sculpture.

To advance awareness of Ukraine in the U.S., he served on the board of the New York-based Ukrainian Institute of America for 20 years, helping to refine the organization's mission and develop ideas for cultural and educational programs, exhibits and symposia to share Ukraine's rich history and culture and inform the American public that Ukraine is not Russia. He created

(Continued on page 21)



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STAND WITH UKRAINE

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Urging action on Congressional aid

The United States stands at a critical juncture, facing the imminent decision on a vital aid package for Ukraine. This moment demands decisive action, and yet, amidst political discord, the urgency risks being overshadowed. It falls upon us, the Ukrainian diaspora, to rally and ensure that our voices are heard in the corridors of power. The fate of millions hangs in the balance, and our advocacy can tip the scales toward a future of security and stability.

The recent announcement by Republican Speaker Mike Johnson of the impending House vote on aid for Ukraine is a glimmer of hope in tumultuous times. However, this beacon of progress is dimmed by the fierce objections from within his own party. The \$95 billion aid package, including \$60.84 billion earmarked for addressing the war in Ukraine, presents a lifeline for a nation besieged by the Kremlin's aggression. Yet, political infighting threatens to stall its passage.

The reluctance among some Republicans, particularly those aligned with former President Donald Trump, underscores the uphill battle we face. Skepticism towards aiding Kyiv in its struggle against Russian aggression runs deep within certain factions. But now is not the time for partisan bickering; it is a time for unity in the face of adversity.

The proposed aid package is not merely about providing financial assistance; it is about reaffirming America's commitment to defending democracy and upholding international order. By replenishing U.S. weapons stocks and facilities, we bolster Ukraine's ability to resist aggression, sending a clear message to authoritarian regimes worldwide that their expansionist ambitions will not go unchallenged.

The need for swift action cannot be overstated. Every moment of delay risks further destabilization in the region and emboldens aggressors. As Speaker Johnson aptly stated, "time is of the essence." We must urge our representatives to set aside partisan differences and prioritize the common good.

The Ukrainian diaspora holds a unique position of influence, serving as a bridge between our ancestral homeland and the corridors of power in Washington. Our voices carry the weight of history, resonating with the shared struggles and aspirations of our people. Now is the time to leverage this collective strength and make our voices heard.

Calling upon Congress to pass the aid package is not merely a moral imperative; it is a strategic necessity. As the leaders of several House committees have affirmed, failure to act would be a boon to our adversaries, emboldening them to further undermine global security. We cannot afford to let politics overshadow pragmatism when the stakes are so high.

Moreover, the proposed aid package extends beyond Ukraine, encompassing vital support for Israel and the Indo-Pacific region. In a world fraught with uncertainty, solidarity among democratic nations is our greatest asset. By standing shoulder to shoulder with our allies, we fortify the bulwarks of freedom and democracy against the tide of authoritarianism.

In the coming days, as the House deliberates on the aid bills, let us make our voices heard. Let us flood the phone lines, fill the inboxes and march upon the hallowed halls of Congress. Our advocacy can turn the tide of history, ensuring that the promise of a brighter future is not extinguished by the shadows of apathy and indifference.

The time for action is now. Let us rise to the occasion and fulfill our duty to our homeland, our allies and future generations. The fate of millions hangs in the balance, and together, we can forge a path toward peace, security and prosperity.

April
26
1986

Turning the pages back...

Thirty-eight years ago, on April 26, 1986, the nuclear power plant at Chernobyl suffered a catastrophic meltdown that released radiation and resulted in an evacuated exclusion zone.

Bohdan Bocurkiw, a noted expert on the Soviet Union, observed, "The nuclear disaster at Chernobyl has major implications and undermines the credibility [both domestically and internationally] of the Gorbachev regime."

Mr. Bocurkiw, who spoke with The Ukrainian Weekly on May 1, underscored that the extraordinary Soviet effort to restrict information about the nuclear accident was incongruous with Gorbachev's policy of Glasnost or "openness." Relations between Moscow and its neighbors were expected to sour because of the early silence from the Soviets about the disaster. It was likely, Mr. Bocurkiw said, that Poland received much more information about the effects of the nuclear disaster than officials in Ukraine.

The Soviet handling of the Chernobyl disaster reminded Mr. Bocurkiw of how, following the 1965 earthquake in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the Soviets withheld information about the death toll. TASS news service reported initially only four deaths, and then Soviet citizens were shocked to learn that more than 8,000 people had died.

"This, along with the misleading Soviet coverage of the South Korean airline incident [the Soviets shot down commercial airliner KAL 700] exposes the Soviet predilection for lying," Mr. Bocurkiw said, and he expected the Soviets to name a scapegoat for the disaster – likely the personnel at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant or the Soviet ministry responsible for energy. The Soviets were also likely to use the disaster to shake up the leadership in Ukraine.

A 1985 CIA and Pentagon top secret report, first revealed by columnist Jack Anderson, indicated that thousands of Soviet people had died as a result of accidents at nuclear power plants and weapons complexes and on nuclear submarines. One such disaster in the 1950s in the Urals came when an explosion of radioactive waste released strontium 90 into the air and other deadly elements that forced the evacuation of 30 villages and several hundred square miles of contaminated land. Additionally, three lakes remain poisoned with high levels of radiation. Hundreds of people died initially from the disaster, while hundreds more died from long-term illnesses associated with radiation exposure.

Source: "Ramifications of Chernobyl catastrophe," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, May 4, 1986.

Moscow to build drone bases along Arctic coast

by Paul Goble
Eurasia Daily Monitor

On April 12, Russian news outlet Izvestiya reported that sources in the Russian Defense Ministry (MoD) are saying that Moscow plans to build a network of drone bases along its entire Arctic coast. The goal of this endeavor is to monitor foreign activity along the Northern Sea Route (NSR) and the largely unpopulated Russian Far North. Such a network would also counter any challenge to Russia in the Arctic (Izvestiya, April 12). These articles, which have attracted limited attention in the West, sparked a flood of others in the Russian media highlighting that these bases would stand ready to counter threats emanating from Ukraine and the West. Kyiv has already demonstrated its ability to use drones to attack the Russian fleet and parts of Russia, and the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are expanding their drone capacity in the north. As a result, some Russian commentators suggest these realities are already threatening the NSR and Russia's claims on the Arctic (e.g., SM News, March 30; TASS; Silovoi Blok; Pro Gorod, April 12; The Barents Observer, April 15; ASTV.ru, April 17).

According to the Izvestiya reports, Russian drone centers are already being established in Kamchatka and Sakhalin from existing infrastructure. These centers will eventually be expanded westward along the NSR to as far away as Murmansk. The MoD did not indicate when these centers would open or become operational. Izvestiya, however, acknowledged that, in some cases, new bases will have to be constructed for the drones. Russian experts quoted by the Moscow news outlet insisted that these bases could be smaller, cheaper and easier to supply (by air) than ordinary air and naval facilities. These bases could thus be opened relatively quickly, with a significant portion of the network potentially being set up this year. This is perhaps one of the primary reasons why the project is so attractive in Moscow (Izvestiya, April 12). Notably, these reports suggest that, on the one hand, Moscow has focused on the use and development of flying drones rather than sea drones or unmanned underwater vehicles. On the other hand, Russian outlets have talked a great deal about Norway's undersea drone capacity and are likely considering an expansion of the Russian capacity in that sector (The Barents Observer, March 26).

The specific timing of these articles is linked to reports in Western media that Ukraine may be considering a drone attack on the Arctic and that Norway, a NATO country, has developed a drone program (Info24.ru, April 5). Oslo's drone program is sufficiently worrisome to Moscow. Consequently, last month, the Russian military staged two exercises premised on Norway's use of drones against Russian targets (The Barents Observer, March 20, April 4; Nezavisimaya Gazeta, March 30). More generally, however, the appearance of such reports now almost certainly reflects both Moscow's own experience with drones during its expanded war against Ukraine and a broader trend among all countries with significant territories adjoining the Arctic. These states have begun to shift from helicopters to drones (having earlier shifted from all-

terrain vehicles to helicopters due to global warming) to monitor the situation there, make up for the shortage of population centers and bases, and provide new search-and-rescue capabilities and defense capacity (Sever Press, February 23).

The relatively low cost of drones and the accompanying bases compared to conventional weapons systems is especially important in the Russian case. Since the start of its expanded war, Moscow has had to cut back on its defense and other programs in the north. It has been forced to shift funding for shipbuilding and base development in the Arctic to the military campaign in Ukraine. The disproportionate mobilization of residents from this region has exacerbated the population's outflow and made it increasingly difficult to support existing bases and the surrounding infrastructure, let alone expand these facilities (Window on Eurasia, October 15). These challenges have grown to the point that many of the Kremlin's most ambitious plans for the Arctic, including asserting control over much of the region and transforming the NSR into a replacement for the Suez Canal, are now on hold or in retrenchment. This has led some analysts in Moscow to question whether Russia can ever hope to achieve Putin's goals (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, March 12). This suggests that the Russian North is becoming a "black hole," into which Moscow is pouring money with no hope of return (The Moscow Times, March 15).

Notably, Russian senior officials have not followed up Izvestiya's reporting of the MoD leaks with a public statement. The absence of an official statement may be more indicative of an effort by some in the Russian military to offer a cheap alternative to expensive programs, such as the construction of more icebreakers or the opening of more bases in the Arctic, than about a new program that builds on what Russia already has there. Moscow's position in the Arctic is now being threatened by population outflow, global warming and treasury raids on spending in the region to procure money for the war in Ukraine. Kyiv's success in using drones, especially against the Russian Black Sea Fleet, means that it would be folly to underestimate what a Russian drone program in the Arctic may be able to achieve in the future (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, January 17). The threat from Russia in the NSR may escalate if Moscow does succeed in developing a drone network and chooses to produce not only drones in the air but also sea drones that can carry cameras for surveillance and explosives to destroy the ships of other countries.

Ramping up such programs under conditions of budgetary stringency, the immediate needs of war and the impact of sanctions will not be easy. This endeavor is certainly not impossible, especially if Moscow received help from Beijing, Tehran and others. That makes last week's announcement of the Kremlin's intentions quite consequential despite all the obstacles Russian efforts in this direction will undoubtedly face (For a survey of some of the most important bottlenecks, see Window on Eurasia, April 13).

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Ukraine's...

(Continued from page 4)

weaponry – everything from rifle ammunition to artillery shells. The shortages are overwhelmingly due to the inability of Ukraine's largest supplier, the United States, to agree to fund and ship new tranches of weapons.

"Ammunition is our sore spot. We have constant shortages," one Ukrainian soldier deployed near Avdiivka who asked to be identified by his call sign, Odin, said in an interview with Current Time. "For example, last spring in this area, the situation with ammunition was much better. We probably fired six or seven times more rounds then. We are very dependent on the political situation, and very dependent on aid."

Ukrainian troops report having to ration artillery shells, with Russian forces currently firing five times as many shells. U.S. Army Gen. Chris Cavoli, the head of U.S. European Command, told lawmakers this week that that number would go up to 10-to-1 "in a matter of weeks."

"We're not talking about months. We're not talking hypothetically," he said.

Despite strong backing from the White House and both Democrats and most

Republicans in Congress, a new \$60 billion package of new weaponry has been bogged down by a small group of Republicans who are conditioning its passage on major reforms to U.S. immigration and border policies.

"There is never enough ammunition," said Lt. Serhiy Skibchuk, a press officer from the 65th Separate Mechanized Brigade, deployed near Robotyne, in the southern Zaporizhia region. "If our allies continue to delay the supply of ammunition, we will have to choose between holding territory and [saving] the lives of our soldiers."

Mr. Zelenskyy made another public appeal for U.S. elected officials to approve the aid package on April 7, arguing that a Ukrainian defeat would lead to threats, or outright attacks, on other European nations.

"It is necessary to specifically tell Congress that, if Congress does not help Ukraine, Ukraine will lose the war," he said during a meeting of an international fundraising campaign called United24.

"If Ukraine loses the war, other states will be attacked," he said.

'Critical juncture'

Ukrainian officials have also pleaded for anti-aircraft missiles, in particular those used in the U.S.-manufactured Patriot sys-

tem, which are seen as effective against Russia's hypersonic ballistic and cruise missiles. At least two systems have been deployed, limiting their ability to defend crucial targets; Mr. Zelenskyy has asked for 25 to be supplied.

"We are at a critical juncture on the ground that is beginning to be able to impact not only morale of the Ukrainians that are fighting, but also their ability to fight," Rep. Mike Turner, the Republican chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, told CBS News. "[Russian President Vladimir] Putin knows this. This is obviously an area where we cannot allow Putin to win. Our European allies are saying that Putin's goal is a war beyond Ukraine with Europe. We need to stop him in Ukraine."

Ukraine may get a small reprieve, in the form of artillery shipments spearheaded by the Czech Republic, which rallied a group of nations to purchase shells from other countries. The current head of Ukraine's forces, Col. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy, said the country was also ramping up its ability to repair howitzers within Ukraine.

"The only advantage that Ukrainian forces have, which helps to mitigate this significant disproportion, is the quality of the Western weapons; not just guns, or artillery itself, but other systems that allow

Ukraine to reach the same effect using less in number," Mr. Melnyk, the former air force pilot, told RFE/RL.

Still, Ukrainian and Western officials warn that Russia may be gearing up for a new offensive in the coming months. Russian commanders have been able to continue recruiting men, relying on high wages and other lucrative compensation.

Last month, the commander of Ukraine's ground forces said Russia was prepared to deploy up to 100,000 troops by the summer, and fears have mounted that Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, could be a primary objective.

"It will not necessarily be an offensive; perhaps they will replenish their units that lost combat capability. But there is a possibility that at the beginning of the summer they may have certain forces to conduct offensive operations," Lt. Gen. Oleksandr Pavlyuk said on Ukrainian television.

(Aleksander Palikot contributed to this report from Kyiv.)

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UWC holds...

(Continued from page 1)

tion and [to ensure that] we have the same message as a global Ukrainian community," said Andriy Futey, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, which is a member of the UWC.

The summit "was a roadmap for our activities that are pillars" of the organization, he said.

Ukraine winning the war is the main goal, he said, as is the effort "to rebuild, strengthen our international communities," fight Russian propaganda and help "displaced people for positive change."

Mr. Futey emphasized that "we need to adjust to changing times."

Releasing about 900 Ukrainian captives who defended Mariupol, the second most populous city in the Donetsk region who are still being held by Russia was one of the priorities identified by delegates at the summit.

UWC President Paul Grod called on "the global community to make efforts" to ensure that Russia releases the remaining Ukrainian captives who defended the Azov Sea port city.

Attending the summit was Ukrainian Col. Denys Propenko who said that 900

military and other personnel from that city have been held as prisoners of war (POWs) for more than two years.

The Romanian hosts were "very warm," Stefan Romaniw, first vice president of the UWC, told The Ukrainian Weekly in an audio interview from Melbourne.

In turn, Mr. Futey said that "Romania has been a strong partner of Ukraine" and has helped refugees. The fact that the UWC summit was held at the country's parliamentary building didn't go unnoticed, he added. "We met to coordinate a united message."

One panel discussion involved youth development and the role that the scouting groups of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Ukrainian American Youth Association (CYM) play where their brethren live, he added.

When asked how Mr. Stefaniw says he coordinates with other delegates and groups worldwide, he responded: "We [in Australia] operate like McDonald's, we operate 24 hours a day; I hold meetings at 3 a.m. in the morning."

The common goal that will help Ukraine win the war Russia started 11 years ago is for "everybody to get enthused ... and the strength in the UWC is for everybody to work closely, including with the Ukrainian government," he said.

Such meetings are the result of "people yearning for face-to-face contact. ... We want to bring people together under the structure of the UWC," Mr. Stefaniw said.

Zelenskyy meeting

Before the three-day summit, some delegates met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Chernivtsi, Ukraine. That was "one of the better meetings we've had with the president," Mr. Futey said. "He recognizes and appreciates what we are doing with governments"

The main priority, he said, was military assistance and continued efforts jointly with the countries who are a part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO].

Once in the southwestern region of Ukraine, the UWC delegates witnessed an in-person and virtual meeting of members of local governments that included some 4,000 participants.

Mr. Zelenskyy stressed in the meeting that they should work together "with the UWC and diaspora organizations," Mr. Futey said.

In Australia, Mr. Stefaniw has been in touch with his country's defense ministry for the supply of more Bushmaster-protected vehicles and has informed the office of "what Ukraine needs. We want to

put our backs behind this effort."

From Melbourne, he is also advocating for Australia's ambassador to move back to Kyiv from Warsaw where he is based after moving to Poland in 2022 before the all-out invasion began.

"We are saying that it is imperative to have an ambassador in Kyiv," Mr. Stefaniw said. "We are working hard and sent a formal inquiry to the parliament for a hearing [on the issue] in the future."

A major issue leading up to the UWC summit was Ukraine's repeated calls for additional weapons and assistance from the United States. A \$60 billion supplemental aid package passed in the U.S. Senate but it has not been brought to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives for a vote.

The House introduced its own bill for additional Ukraine aid, as the body has not voted on the Senate measure.

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) on April 17 said, "I'm doing here what I believe to be the right thing," concerning the separate bill worth more than \$60 billion for Ukraine.

If the new measure passes in the House, it would need Senate approval. If the Senate passes the bill with no amendments, it would then go to President Joe Biden for his signature.

Ukrainian strikes...

(Continued from page 1)

ities in Tatarstan, Russia.

Mr. Stubb said that he also considers such attacks on Russian territory acceptable.

"The question is the price of oil, or are we having some difficulties with that?" Mr. Stubb said. "Whoever is attacking knows what they are doing; they are doing it skillfully because they are not hitting civilians. We have to keep that in mind all the time."

In Russia, production of gasoline and diesel fuel continues to decline due to drone attacks on refineries. According to the Federal State Statistics Service, by the end of March gasoline production in Russia was down 14 percent from last year, and diesel production was down 7 percent.

Last week, Novaya Gazeta Evropa estimated that by mid-March drone strikes had managed to disable about a sixth of Russia's automotive fuel production.

In March, facilities such as Rosneft's Ryazan refinery and Lukoil's Kstovo plant in Nizhny Novgorod Oblast were attacked. Both are among Russia's 10 largest refineries and supply gasoline to Moscow. Their primary oil refining units were damaged and it was not clear how long repairs would take.

The Slavyansk refinery in the Krasnodar Territory and the Syzran and Kuibyshev refineries in the Samara Region were also attacked.

According to Reuters, after the March 23 drone attack on the Kuibyshev refinery in the Samara region that disabled one of its two primary oil refining units, about 45,000 tons of gasoline and 55,000 tons of diesel fuel "disappeared" from the monthly market.

Due to the risk of a fuel shortage in the domestic market, Russia has sharply increased its gasoline purchases from Belarus, Reuters reported, citing four Russian sources. In the first half of March, the volume of fuel purchased from Minsk

amounted to almost 3,000 tons, while in February, 590 tons were imported, and in January Russia did not buy gasoline from Belarus at all, the sources said.

The nighttime drone attack on the oil refinery in Nizhnekamsk in the Russian Republic of Tatarstan was a joint operation of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) and the Main Intelligence Directorate, a source familiar with the situation told Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

"A Ukrainian long-range drone hit the primary oil refining unit at the Nizhnekamsk oil refinery, after which a fire broke out. The capacity of this unit was 8 million tons of oil, which is 2.6 percent of Russia's total annual refining per year," the source said.

Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Dmytro Kuleba said he saw no connection between the strikes on oil refineries in Russia and the possible problems in the global energy market.

Mr. Kuleba, responding to earlier statements by Mr. Austin, said the U.S. defense

secretary is "a great friend of Ukraine" who has done much for it.

"But in this matter, frankly, I do not see a cause-and-effect relationship. When an oil refinery explodes in Russia, we see problems in the Russian energy market. But I don't see any problems in the global market. We have a growing list of dead civilians because of the lack of Patriot batteries. Doesn't anyone care?" Mr. Kuleba said.

He also pointed out that Russia's strikes on the Ukrainian energy sector led to power cuts for civilians in Ukraine and that Ukrainian air defense systems need more munitions.

"We need to think in our own interests. If our partners give us Patriot batteries tomorrow but ask us not to do certain things, then there is a subject for discussion. And if we don't have these batteries, we don't have an aid package, and we are asked not to do something, then there is no subject. Then what is there to talk about? Then everyone survives as best they can," Mr. Kuleba said.



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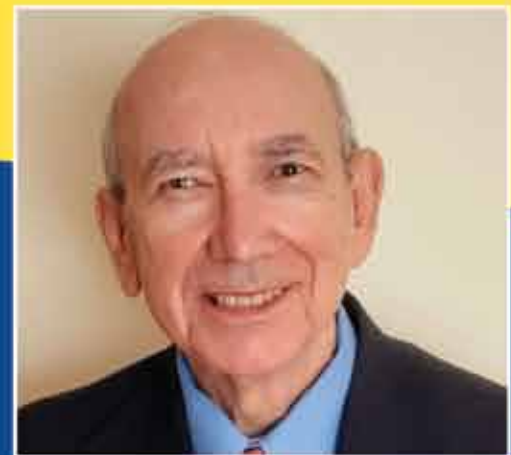
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2024 Holodomor student competition announces award winners

by Oksana Kulynych

YONKERS, N.Y. – Building on last year's success, the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor Genocide Awareness announced the winners of the 2024 Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Student Competition.

The winners of the competition in the grade 11-12 category are Rose Martin of Immaculate Heart Academy in Washington Township, N.J., who took first place; Yuliana Kovtunencko of Oliver Ames High School in North Easton, Mass., took second place; and Kayla Maceda of Lincoln High School in Yonkers, N.Y., took third place.

The winners of the competition in the grade 9-10 category are Victoria Hawkins of Jefferson Forest High School in Forest, Va., who took first place; Melania Sydor of Walsh Jesuit High School in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and Maria Ustymenko of Ukrainian Sunday School at Epiphany of Our Lord in St. Petersburg, Fla., shared second place, while Iryna Dukas and Sofiia Dymitska of James B. Conant High School in Hoffman Estates, Ill., took third place.

Honorable mention was also given to Sofia Voitiuk of Hopewell Valley Central High School in Pennington, N.J., and to Rachel Abbott of Padua Academy in Wilmington, Del.

Winners of the competition received prizes of \$500 for first place, \$300 for second place and \$100 for third place. In the case of ties, prize money was split among the winners. Winning schools also received awards of \$75, \$50 and \$25, respectively, to be used for the purchase of Holodomor-related materials. Schools were provided with a list of suggestions that could be used to enhance their Holodomor curriculum.

The objective of the competition is to promote students' understanding of the Holodomor, the genocide perpetrated on the people of Ukraine during Stalin's regime in the 1930s, resulting in the deaths of millions by extermination and starvation. Studying the Holodomor is increasingly relevant today as the same intentions to destroy the Ukrainian nation can be seen in the war-ravaged country.

To encourage students to take part in the Ukrainian Holodomor Genocide Student Competition, event organizers conducted extensive outreach to high schools and Ukrainian organizations throughout the United States.

Competition entries came from students in Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Competition organizers expressed a goal to



Courtesy of Dr. Sue Kenney

Dr. Sue Kenny (left) and her students of Immaculate Heart Academy in Washington Township, N.J.

expand the participation of more states in the competition and consequently add the Holodomor-Genocide to school curriculums in more states.

The judging committee, consisting of Elizabeth Buniak, Lidia Choma, Christine Tymkiw-Hanifin, Daria Horbachevsky, Lesia Kaszczak, Oksana Kulynych and Donna Voronovich, commended the students and their teachers for their hard work and participation in the competition. They said it was heartening to see that a considerable number of the participants were newly-arrived refugees from Ukraine.

Of particular importance is the feedback

from teachers when learning about the Holodomor through a student's presentation.

Aaron Lewy, a teacher of world history from New Jersey, said that many students revealed that this was the first time they had been confronted with information about the Holodomor.

Students of Betsy Engel from Ohio were stunned to learn of the horrors of the Holodomor, while teacher Peter Ruzinka from Illinois said that his student spoke passionately about the topic, using personal connections and noting that the impact

(Continued on page 17)

Ukrainian Free University Foundation holds annual meeting

UFUF Press Office

NEW YORK – The annual meeting of the Ukrainian Free University Foundation (UFUF) was held in hybrid fashion at the foundation's office in New York and via Webex on March 23. The meeting was conducted by a presidium consisting of Askold Lozynskyj (chairman) and Stefan Slutzky (secretary). The participants elected a Nominating Committee consisting of Bohdan Harhaj, Mr. Slutzky and Andriy Lastowecky.

Information about the activities of the Ukrainian Free University (UFU) in Munich was provided by Rector Maria Pryshlak and Prof. Myroslaw Kyj.

Members of the outgoing board of directors presented their reports, among them Mr. Lozynskyj (president), Mr. Slutzky (secretary), Ruslana Rossi (treasurer), Olga Wolyanyk (head of the Literary and Scientific Contest and office director), with additional remarks by Ihor Nykoliuk, Alexander Chornoknyzhnyi (webmaster) and Mark Hatalak (technical adviser). Bohdan Harhaj reported for the Auditing Committee.

During the summer semester of 2023, 445 registered students studied at the UFU at the faculties of Political and Economic Sciences, Philosophy, and Ukrainian Studies. Almost all students were from Ukraine – both from the east and the west of the country. In addition, there were various conferences, panel discussions, author's evenings, meetings, as well as concerts and exhibitions. Students of UFU collected transferred military aid of a humanitarian and medical nature and transmitted it to the front lines. The German government also helped the university by providing facilities and funds.

The UFU Foundation is primarily a source of scholarships for the university's financially needy students. Last year, the foundation donated \$130,000 to support these students. The UFUF also organized a competition of literary and scientific publications through its Wolanyk Shwabinsky

Fund. In the last year, 13 awards were given at two gatherings in Ukraine, one at the Lviv Polytechnic and the second at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy in Kyiv.

It should be noted that the financial activity of the foundation has not experienced a deficit for more than 10 years. Its assets, in addition to real estate holdings, which are difficult to appraise in this market, amount to approximately \$2.25 million, of which more than \$800,000 is invested in stocks, bonds, mutual funds and money market accounts, while the rest is in credit cooperatives. In the last year, the total income was \$165,000, and expenses were \$159,000.

In addition, UFUF has operated a separate fund for aid in Ukraine's war effort with ambulances, bulletproof vests, helmets, and primarily drones in the last year. \$1,043,000 has been collected so far. The list of donors is on the UFUF website and was published in the Svoboda newspaper. All expenses are accounted for and posted as well. The UFUF performs its missions thanks to the generosity of the Ukrainian community in the United States.

Governing bodies of the foundation were elected for the next term in the following composition: Mr. Lozynskyj (chairman), Ihor Nykoliuk and Maria Pryshlak (vice chairs), Mr. Slutzky (secretary), Ms. Rossi (treasurer), as well as members Olga Wolanyk, Andriy Lastowecky, Mark Hatalak, Alexander Chernoknyzhnyi, Andriy Szul and Lada Kyj.

The newly elected Control Commission included Mr. Harhaj (chairman), and members Petro Paluch and Myroslaw Kyj.

Mr. Lozynskyj, Ms. Rossi and Mr. Hatalak were elected trustees and Ihor Nykoliuk, Olya Wolanyk and Larissa Zanyk were elected jurors.

The budget of the UFU Foundation for 2025 of \$192,000 and \$500,000 for the Military Fund were also approved, while \$140,000 was designated for the UFU.

The promotion of duties of the UFU on the North American continent was assigned to Mr. Szul.

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Chicago's CYM branch hosts chess tournament as part of organization's 75th anniversary commemoration

by Mark Raczkiewicz

CHICAGO – Chess runs in the veins of Ukrainians.

There is evidence that chess – considered to be one of the oldest board games in the world – was played in the 10th-century kingdom of Kyivan Rus'. A group of Ukrainian historians tracked the spread of the game through trade routes from India and ancient Persia where the strategic board game of 64 squares originated.

The game is now played around the world, and Ukrainians have demonstrated both an affinity for and mastery of the game.

Ten children took part in a chess tournament on April 13 at the Chicago branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (known by the acronym CYM) as part of a series of events to commemorate the organization's 75th anniversary.

The event was part anniversary and part revival, harking back to when CYM's founders in the city also held their informal chess club activities in the 1950s-1960s on the third floor of the building where this week's matches were held.

Back then, dueling tournaments were also conducted with members of Chicago's Lions sports club, said Yaroslav Vereshchak, a senior member of CYM, who added that the "old-timers would have a [separate] table set beside the bar downstairs after

work."

"Chess is a part of our program interest areas to develop and nurture youth," said Olena Vasilik, head of the Chicago CYM branch. "We think it is beneficial to not only promote physical health, but also the mind, and the game has cognitive health benefits."

This correspondent was a co-organizer with Lesia Kral of the four-round tournament that had a time control of 10 minutes with three-second increments that were added to each move.

Her son, Christian Kral, shared first place with Danylo Marchuk, while Andrew Raczkiewicz (this correspondent's son) took second place and Adrian Splavskyy came in third.

The CYM building was bought by Ukrainians after Kremlin dictator Joseph Stalin's death in 1953 from communists who had been the previous occupants of the premises. The space is now a community pillar that helps preserve Ukrainian heritage and develop youth. It acts as a field house, much as public parks help keep children off the streets.

CYM in Chicago had many chess enthusiasts who went to play informally after work on the third floor of the premises or near the bar, said Mr. Vereshchak.

Ukrainian chess legacy

Chess was also used by the Soviet Union's propaganda machine to promote



Mark Raczkiewicz

Christian Kral (left) shakes hands with an opponent after winning the third of his four games in a chess tournament in which he shared first place at the Chicago branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association on April 13.



Public domain

Former U.S. world chess champion Bobby Fischer is seen at a tournament in 1960 in Leipzig, the second most populous city of the German state of Saxony.



Ruslan Ponomarev's official Facebook page

Ruslan Ponomarev of Horlivka in Donetsk region became Ukraine's first world chess champion in 2002 at the age of 18.

communism as being superior to other forms of government. The Soviets argued that being dominant in chess demonstrated the superiority of their system.

The USSR dominated chess throughout much of the 20th century, and Ruslan Ponomarev of Horlivka – currently occupied by Russia in the Donetsk region of Ukraine – became the country's first world chess champion in 2002 at the record-breaking age of 18. The Donbas youth was a product of the prestigious chess school in

the Donetsk regional town of Kramatorsk, which is still under Ukrainian control.

During that championship, Mr. Ponomarev emerged victorious with a score of 4.5-2.5 over his compatriot Vasyl Ivanchuk, an older opponent who was the favorite to win.

Lviv, Kharkiv, Odesa and Kyiv also have prestigious chess schools and clubs that are part of the Soviet legacy.

(Continued on page 21)



Courtesy of Taras Drozd

Pictured are three of four finalists of a chess tournament held on April 13 at Chicago's Ukrainian American Youth Association. Danylo Marchuk (right) shared first place, while Andrew Raczkiewicz (center) placed second and Adrian Splavskyy took third.

Multi-prong...

(Continued from page 2)

while feigning compliance with the Western sanctions regime (Forbes.ru, March 21).

The lack of enthusiasm among the Russian population for the war effort has further upset Moscow. Unreliable as opinion polls in Russia are, recent polling shows that, in the 18-24 age group, only 22 percent support continuing combat operations; 59 percent prefer peace talks. Only half of the respondents in the 55 and older age group agree with the Kremlin's war-drumming propaganda (Levada.ru, April 4). Natural disasters, such as the catastrophic flooding in the Orenburg region, produce more public resentment against Moscow's colossal expenditures on the war. Simultaneously, critical infrastructure, such as dams and bridges, remains significantly underfunded (The Moscow Times, April 9).

Putin has opted, as usual, to distance

himself from bad news, focusing instead on the successful (though long-delayed) launch of the new Angara-A5 space rocket from the Vostochny Cosmodrome (Svoboda.org, April 12; see Eurasia Daily Monitor, April 15). This achievement can hardly lift public spirits, however, particularly because Russia's leadership in space has been reduced to Gagarin-era legends and Roscosmos' new projects remain seriously underfunded (Eurasia Daily Monitor, February 23; Nezavisimaya Gazeta, April 11).

Mounting anti-war sentiments in Russian society could encourage numerous military-age men to dodge the ongoing spring draft and desert the shrinking battalions in Ukraine exhausted by trench warfare (CurrentTime.tv, April 13). They also accentuate the political risks of a looming new wave of mobilization (The Insider, April 12). Plans for a new summer offensive demand a surge in manpower, but the Russian economy has already been slowed down considerably by acute labor shortag-

es (Svoboda.org, April 9). This limbo contrasts with Ukraine, which passed a new mobilization law last week (Re: Russia, April 8). The law is controversial, and passing it was rather difficult. Russian propaganda has tried to emphasize these facts as signs of Ukraine's weakness (Eurasia Daily Monitor, April 10). In reality, these disagreements demonstrate the resilience of democratic processes, even in wartime (Izvestiya, April 12).

A new anti-war driver appeared in Russia after the terrorist attack on Crocus City Hall, which highlighted the growing threat of Islamist extremism (Meduza, April 3). "Military-patriotic" pundits are eager to pursue the fake Ukrainian connection while demanding harsh measures against labor migrants from Central Asia (TopWar.ru, April 10). Putin's reassurances that Russia cannot be a target of attacks by Islamist fundamentalists are hardly convincing, particularly as the Middle East has become engulfed by violence (RBC.ru, April 4). The Kremlin's close military partnership with

Iran has made it impossible for Moscow to utter a word of criticism against the attack on Israel on April 14, in which some 185 Shahed-136 loitering munitions (the same drones Russia uses against Ukraine) were shot down (RIA Novosti, April 14).

Putin may cherish the illusion that he is winning the long war against Ukraine. In reality, the Kremlin is losing as the traumatized Russian society faces ongoing degradation and international stakeholders increasingly come together with demands for ending hostilities. The peace plans and initiatives may diverge and differ in feasibility and legal integrity, but none is acceptable for Putin, who has pinned his corrupt regime's survival on a perpetual war. The idea of peace, however, is gaining momentum that looks to eventually overcome the Kremlin leader's war-making folly.

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Ukrainian Debutante Balls

Ukrainian American Youth Association hosts 59th annual debutante ball



Bitcon Photo Video

Some 1,000 guests gathered to celebrate the formal debut of 20 young women into the vibrant Ukrainian American community during the Ukrainian American Youth Association's (UAYA) 59th annual debutante ball at the Sheraton Parsippany Hotel on February 10.

by Stephanie DeBruin

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Some 1,000 guests gathered to celebrate the formal debut of 20 young women into the vibrant Ukrainian American community during the Ukrainian American Youth Association's (UAYA) 59th annual debutante ball at the Sheraton Parsippany Hotel on February 10.

The ball, a longstanding tradition among members of the UAYA (also known by its Ukrainian language acronym CYM) in the northeast of the United States, symbolizes the transition of young adults into active members of the Ukrainian American community.

It not only showcases the talent and

grace of the debutantes but it reinforces the importance of cultural preservation and community engagement. This year's debutantes join a distinguished lineage of over 900 young women who have participated in this cherished rite of passage since the 1960s.

The evening commenced with a lively cocktail hour, followed by formal presentations led by organizing committee co-chair Natalia Kudryk Kucyna (UAYA Passaic branch) and emcees Peter Kolinsky (UAYA Hartford branch) and Nataliya Kukil-Moroz (UAYA Yonkers branch). Each debutante was introduced and led by her escort around the ballroom as the emcees shared her academic accolades, hobbies and

involvement in the UAYA and the Ukrainian American community. Amid thunderous applause, each debutante concluded her presentation with a curtsy.

This year's debutantes were Olena Borisevich (of Wethersfield, Conn.; UAYA Hartford branch) escorted by Markian Fil; Christina Anna Borsa (Middletown, N.J.; UAYA Irvington branch) escorted by Matthew Telyczka; Kalyna Dannenberg (Manlius, N.Y.; UAYA Syracuse branch) escorted by Yarema Folk; Karolina Fedunka (Garfield, N.J.; UAYA Passaic branch) escorted by Anatolli Fedunka; Zoriana Holyk (Mississauga, Ont., Canada; UAYA Mississauga branch) escorted by Matviy Mykytyn; Oleksandra Klymowych (Garfield, N.J.; UAYA

Passaic branch) escorted by Matthew Sledge; Vivian Kowalczyk (Cross River, N.Y.; UAYA Yonkers branch) escorted by John Czernyk; Sofiya Kushper (Fairfield, N.J.; UAYA Passaic branch) escorted by Eneas Olensky; Giana Nadeya Mikula (Rockaway, N.J.; UAYA Whippany branch) escorted by Taras Chornyy; Ivanka Stephania Olearchyk (Cherry Hill, N.J.; UAYA Philadelphia branch) escorted by Nicholas Conway; Melania Perebrazak (Totowa, N.J.; UAYA Passaic branch) escorted by Roman Mazurets; Julianna Powzaniuk (Washingtonville, N.Y.; UAYA New York branch) escorted by Taras Kosciolk; Mariya Pychil (Norwalk, Conn.;

(Continued on page 16)

Washington, D.C., Ukrainian debutante ball a celebration of elegance and heritage

by Liala Johnson

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In the heart of this city, amid historic venues and the cultural tapestry of the nation's capital, the Ukrainian American community gathered at the Omni Shoreham Hotel on January 13 to celebrate four young ladies who made their debut at the Washington, D.C., Ukrainian debutante ball.

The event – a showcase of elegance and a celebration of the rich customs and cultural heritage of Ukraine – also helped raise funds for the Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies in Bethesda, Md.

The evening began with a lively cocktail hour in which guests enjoyed refreshments, socialized and took part in a silent auction where they bid on over 20 items ranging from artwork to wine and spirits. Esteemed



Caren L. Hoehner

The Carpathia Folk Dance Ensemble mesmerizes the audience with their captivating performances of traditional Ukrainian dances.



Caren L. Hoehner

The 2024 Washington, D.C., debutantes and their escorts are (from left to right) Sonia Breslawec (escorted by Peter Bilaniuk), Sonia Chornodolsky (escorted by Patrick Kemp), Naoma Huta (escorted by Teodor Vretsona) and Melania Kolcio (escorted by Luke Rakowsky).

masters of ceremony, Lydia Chopivsky-Benson and Oleh Vretsona, greeted guests and presented the debutantes. As family and friends looked on with excitement and pride, four former students of the Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies were presented by their parents.

This year's debutantes were Sonia Breslawec (escorted by Peter Bilaniuk), Sonia Chornodolsky (escorted by Patrick Kemp), Naoma Huta (escorted by Teodor Vretsona) and Melania Kolcio (escorted by

(Continued on page 15)



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

defense was critical for the protection of its neighbors as well and urged faster moves to supply its forces with defensive systems such as the U.S.-made Patriot. "Ukrainian air defense is now protecting not only Ukrainian skies from Russian air terror, it also shields neighboring Moldova, Romania and Poland from the immediate threat of missiles and drones entering their airspace," Mr. Kuleba said. "We urgently require additional Patriot and other modern air-defense systems, weapons and ammunition," Mr. Kuleba said. "I take this opportunity to once again urge all our partners to take extraordinary and bold steps." On April 14, Mr. Kuleba told Ukrainian television that negotiations were underway for the delivery of more Patriots, but voiced disappointment that the process was too slow. "With all my due respect and gratitude to the United States of America, do you believe that the U.S. Army does not

have one spare Patriot battery that it can transfer to Ukraine?" he said. Meanwhile, on April 15, traffic was halted on the bridge that links Moscow-occupied Crimea with Russia, as the Russia-appointed chief of Sevastopol, Mikhail Razvozhayev, announced an air-raid alert in the city. Social media reports said explosions caused by the work of Russian air defense systems could be heard in the area, but the information could not be independently verified. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, with reporting by Reuters)

New law on military mobilization signed

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on April 16 signed into law legislation on mobilization that is expected to address a shortfall in troops by requiring men to update their draft data with the authorities. The legislation also increases payments to volunteers and has provisions to allow some convicts to serve. Though lawmakers watered down some amendments to draft dodging, the law does allow for punishment of those convicted of avoiding service.

Since a major Ukrainian counteroffensive last year failed to make significant gains, Russia has used its significant advantage in manpower and equipment to erode those gains in the east. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

U.S. sanctions Belarus entities

The United States on April 15 imposed sanctions on 12 Belarus entities and 10 individuals over their alleged support for Russia's war on Ukraine, the Treasury Department said in a statement. Among the entities targeted are a machine tool-building firm, a company that sells control systems for the Belarusian armed forces, and a company that produces radio communication equipment. The department said its action "builds on U.S. sanctions imposed in response to Belarus's fraudulent August 2020 election, as well as President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's support for Russia's illegal full-scale invasion of Ukraine." (RFE/RL)

Bolton: U.S. isolationism threatens war effort

Ukraine faces "danger" if the United States does not quickly pass much-needed military aid, former U.S. national-security adviser John Bolton told Current Time, as Russia's advantages in troops and weaponry help the Kremlin edge deeper into its neighbor more than two years into the war. Speaking in an exclusive interview with Current Time, the Russian-language network run by RFE/RL in cooperation with the Voice of America (VOA), Mr. Bolton noted that Russia is currently firing five or six artillery shells for each one fired by Ukraine, a rate he said is "not sustainable over a long period of time." "I think the best we can hope for until the [November U.S. presidential election] is a stalemate," Mr. Bolton added, highlighting the growing isolationism inside the U.S. Republican Party "due to the effect of Donald Trump," the party's presumptive nominee for the upcoming vote. That isolationism, he said, was paralyzing efforts to counter threats from Iran, Russia and China. The recent Iranian air strikes against Israel, though, might serve as "shock therapy" to many Republicans in Congress, he added. "Ukraine needs aid; Taiwan needs aid," he said. "It is all part of the same endeavor. I'm hoping this week there might be real movement on all these fronts, but particularly on Ukraine aid." U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson, an ally of Mr. Trump, appeared on April 15 to be making a push toward adopting measures this week on \$95 billion in aid for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan through an elaborate plan that would break the package - of which \$61 billion is earmarked for Kyiv - into separate votes. Mr. Bolton, who spoke with Current Time from Washington, served as Mr. Trump's third national security adviser in 2018-2019 before being asked to resign after months of division over policy. He was also the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under President George W. Bush and an outspoken advocate of the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003. He is currently a Republican foreign policy consultant and conservative political commentator. If Mr. Trump, as expected, is the Republican candidate in November and if he wins the election, Mr. Bolton warned he thinks Mr. Trump "will try to withdraw from NATO [the North Atlantic Treaty Organization]." "It would be a catastrophic mistake for the United States all around the world if he did," he said. "The withdrawal of the United States would render NATO essentially ineffective, not just for Ukraine, but for the entire alliance," Mr. Bolton said. Russia under President Vladimir Putin "remains a threat, particularly as its axis with China grows, and I think it will grow," Mr. Bolton

said. "It's a threat until somehow the Putin regime is removed from power and Russia and democracy get another chance," he told Current Time. "I don't know when that's going to occur. I'm not optimistic." Mr. Bolton argued that no mechanisms for the peaceful transfer of power exist in Russia, where Putin has been in power for a quarter-century and elections are "clearly rigged." "It's going to be a very dangerous period for Russia," Mr. Bolton said. "And the chances of becoming part of the West again are far more limited now ... than they were before." (RFE/RL's Ksenia Sokolyanskaya and Anton Zolotykh)

Ukraine downs 9 drones launched by Russia

Ukrainian air defense systems shot down all nine drones launched by Russia at Ukraine's territory early on April 16, the country's air force said in a statement. The drones were destroyed above the Kherson, Mykolayiv, Khmelnytskyi, Poltava, Cherkasy and Dnipropetrovsk regions, the air force said. In recent weeks, Russia has drastically stepped up its attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure as Ukrainian forces are running out of sufficient air defense systems and ammunition while desperately needed U.S. help remains stuck in the House of Representatives due to Republican opposition. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

Fire at zoo leaves over 200 animals dead

More than 200 animals died on April 16 in a fire at a zoo in Yevpatoria in Russian-occupied Crimea. A zoo representative was quoted by TASS as saying that all 200 animals in the Tropicpark Zoo died, but RIA Novosti reported that Emergency Ministry employees managed to save two bears. A zoo employee was also rescued, according to RIA Novosti. The Russian-installed Investigative Committee for Crimea reported that a five-story building housing lemurs, chameleons, parrots, turtles, large snakes and other animals burned to the ground. The preliminary cause of the fire is an electrical short circuit in refrigerator wiring. (RFE/RL's Russian Service)

Russian radar destroyed by Ukrainian drones

Drones belonging to the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) have destroyed a military radar installation in Russia's Bryansk region, according to an SBU source, in what would be another blow to Russia's ability to monitor activities deep inside Ukraine. The Nebo-SVU radar complex monitored the skies some 700 kilometers into Ukraine, offering Russian troops better control during attacks and supporting bombers that were targeting Ukraine's territory. "Radars worth \$100 million were struck by seven kamikaze drones," a source, speaking on condition of anonymity told RFE/RL, adding that it had confirmation that the Nebo-SVU complex was no longer functional and "probably turned into a colander." The source did not specify when the alleged attack had taken place and the information could not be independently confirmed immediately. Russia has not mentioned any attempted Ukrainian strikes on Bryansk recently. On April 16, Russia's Defense Ministry said that its forces had "prevented an attempted Ukrainian drone attack," shooting down three Ukrainian drones over the Belgorod region. Confronted with a worsening lack of air defenses, weapons and ammunition as Western aid is drying out, the Ukrainian military has increasingly resorted to air and naval drone strikes deep inside Russian territory, targeting both military installations and critical oil-refining capabilities. On April 9, Ukrainian military intelligence said it had hit an aviation

(Continued on page 16)

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Plast launches 'Warm Hearts' initiative

by Sofia Shyprykevych

The Board of Directors of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in the U.S. along with the group Scouts for Ukraine announced the launch of the Warm Hearts initiative to involve cub scouts and scouts in collecting and sending warming kits to Ukraine for soldiers defending their homeland on the front lines.

Plast chapters in Philadelphia, New York, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis Seattle and Newark, N.J., took part in the initiative. Together Plast members assembled more than 3,200 kits.



Inessa Kolomayets

Members of Plast in Minneapolis assembling kits that included warm wool socks, energy bars, hand warmers, emergency medical blankets and silicone earplugs.

The warming kits included warm wool socks, energy bars, hand warmers, emergency medical blankets and silicone earplugs. Scouts from Minneapolis also added warm blankets to the kits.

The cub scouts and scouts met at special gatherings to pack individual kits, which were then put into large containers for shipping to Ukraine. The children also wrote letters and drew pictures to support the soldiers.

Plast officials expressed their appreciation to all of the scouts who contributed to the collective effort. They also said they hoped the warming kits have helped Ukrainian soldiers endure the harsh, cold winter and that the children's letters and drawings have boosted their courage and belief in victory.

The "Warm Hearts" initiative not only benefited the soldiers on the front lines but it also provided valuable educational opportunities for the scouts. By assembling these kits by hand, Plast members understood that each package



Nusia Pohorylo

Plast cub scouts from Philadelphia assembling kits for Ukrainian soldiers.



Roman Shyprykevych

Plast members from the organization's Newark branch writing letters to soldiers in Ukraine.

was a small contribution to Ukraine's victory. Such daily acts of kindness are a core part of the organization's scouting principles. Organizers also thank all of the mentors and scout leaders who organized their groups locally for the noble cause.

Plast officials extended their gratitude to the companies Meest and TRT Express, which helped ship the warming kits to Ukraine, and to the Scouts for Ukraine group, which funded the shipment. They also encouraged individuals to continue their collaboration in the diaspora to support Ukraine's soldiers and do all that can be done to help Ukraine win the war.

Washington, D.C. ...

(Continued from page 12)

Luke Rakowsky).

Guests listened as the achievements and aspirations of each debutant were read to guests, showcasing the talent, intellect and ambition of the next generation of Ukrainian American women. The debutante presentation is a poignant moment, embodying the timeless tradition of coming of age and the passing of legacy from one generation to the next.

After the group flawlessly performed two beautifully choreographed dances, created by Orlando and Larisa Pegan, they shared a special dance with their fathers, as the escorts danced with the debutantes' mothers. Each presentation, performance and dance was met with a room full of

cheers and clapping in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

Dinner guests then enjoyed lively performances by the Carpathia Folk Dance Ensemble, which captivated the audience with dances showcasing the rich artistic heritage of Ukraine.

The night continued with a delicious dinner and a room filled with chatter and laughter. Friends could be heard conversing with one another and reconnecting with people they hadn't seen in decades.

The band Hrim energized guests with a variety of Ukrainian songs, upbeat polkas and elegant waltzes, inviting every guest to the dance floor. The floor was alive until the early hours of the morning. As the evening drew to a close and guests bid farewell to one another, they carried with them memories of an unforgettable night filled with elegance, tradition and the vibrant spirit of Ukraine.

Beyond the glamour, the debutant ball is a celebration of heritage and identity, serving as a testament to the enduring bonds that unite the Ukrainian American community. It is also a moment to honor the sacrifices of past generations, celebrate the achievements of the present and inspire the dreams of the future.

Organizers thanked The Washington Group, the Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies, and the debutant organizing committee for creating these amazing memories and bringing the community together. They also thanked everyone who attended and supported the event. With their help, not only were organizers able to continue the timeless tradition, but they were able to raise funds for the Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies. The school has helped generations of Ukrainians maintain their language and history, appreciate and celebrate their culture.

Russian women...

(Continued from page 2)

cult position of being unable to respond without helping spread the protesters' message (Sever.Realii, April 14). For the past two Saturdays (April 6 and 13), thousands of Russian women in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kazan, Chelyabinsk, Novosibirsk and other cities across the Russian Federation have opened the windows of their homes, gone out onto their balconies, and wordlessly banged pots and pans together in what they are calling "the march of empty pots." These women say that they plan to continue until their goals are met and that their demonstration symbolizes the problems they have endured as their male relatives and friends have been forced to take part in Moscow's war against Ukraine.

Organizers of these "marches" say "their goal is to draw attention to the problems of their families. Their male relatives have not been released from front-line service for 18 months or more, and no one knows when this will happen." The women taking part are "tired of raising children alone and caring for elderly relatives." This often occurs without any support from their husbands, fathers and sons, despite talk from Putin and other regime officials that Moscow is now giving Russian women more opportunities to fill in for their male relatives fighting in Ukraine (Rossiyskaya Gazeta, December 7, 2022). By acting in this way, these women are tapping into the sympathy of most Russians for

female citizens and especially children. Some women evoked the same emotions last year when they used a similar method of protest to complain about high inflation. Thus, they are advancing their interests without any frontal attack on the war itself – something that would allow the Kremlin to exploit "military-patriotic" sentiments against them (News.ru, June 6, 2023).

Russian women have suffered even more than Russian men on the home front. The new tactic some have adopted will likely attract far more attention to their plight in Russia and the West. Putin's war has given rise to ever-more sexist and patriarchal comments and policies by Russian officials from Putin on down. They openly suggested that the primary duty of Russian women is to give birth and raise more children to be soldiers for the country's next war. Such officially supported attitudes have reduced still further the possibilities women have to join the workforce and driven many into poverty. Such measures have also increased the amount of violence against women in Russia by their partners and family members, with legislatures and courts limiting their ability to defend themselves against such actions (Eurasianet, September 30, 2022; Riddle Russia, November 2, 2022; Semnasem.org, April 5, 2023).

Unsurprisingly, the harm these developments have inflicted has contributed to the rise of an often radical feminism in Russia. In response, attacks by the Putin regime to delegitimize the movement as a Western import are also on the rise (Fondsk.ru, May 2, 2022; Window on Eurasia,

September 11, 2022). Some of those involved in the "march of empty pots" spring from the most prominent organization of these new feminist movements, the Feminist Anti-War Resistance (FEM). As a result, the Putin regime is likely to expand its attacks on feminism and women's rights yet again. At the same time, FEM's involvement gives the new effort additional chances for success. Unlike many Russian organizations, FEM is a networked group without a hierarchy. Thus, suppressing it will be much more difficult (Semnasem.org, April 19, 2022).

An especially noteworthy element of these "marches" is that many women taking part do not have husbands, fathers or sons in Ukraine. Instead, they have joined the effort because they believe their sisters have good grounds for protest and feel that this is their duty (Sever.Realii, April 14). Such additions will make it more difficult for the Kremlin to play up the idea that the women involved are selfish and only a narrow swath of the population. It will become increasingly obvious to more Russians that the problems of Russian women are the problems of Russian society as a whole under Putin. The sound of empty pots beating together from Russian windows may not be a minor distraction but an alarm bell calling Russians together – simultaneously undermining Putin and triggering demands for wider change.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

training center in Russia's southwestern Voronezh region. On April 8, Ukrainian intelligence reportedly carried out a special operation that damaged Russia's Serpukhov missile corvette docked off the exclave of Kaliningrad on the Baltic Sea. Last month, it said Ukrainian sea drones struck and "sunk" the Russian patrol vessel Sergei Kotov off the coast of occupied Crimea. In February, Ukraine's military said it had destroyed the Tsezar Kunikov, one of the largest Russian landing ships, also off the Crimean coast, and had sunk the missile-armed corvette Ivanovets in the Black Sea using naval drones. Russia has not commented on the Ukrainian claims. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

UAYA hosts...

(Continued from page 12)

UAYA Stamford branch) escorted by Oleksander Pastushenko; Iryna Romaniv (Yonkers, N.Y.; UAYA Yonkers branch) escorted by Max Banaryk; Anastasiya Samoylyuk (Bristol, Conn.; UAYA Hartford branch) escorted by Maksym Podolyuk; Christina Semenko (Yorktown Heights, N.Y.; UAYA Yonkers branch) escorted by Yuriy Hrytsay; Yana Shturypita (Newington, Conn.; UAYA Hartford branch) escorted by Ivan Khrystenko; Liana Soltys (Roslyn, Pa.; UAYA Philadelphia branch) escorted by Julian Holyk; Zoe Willis (Frisco, Texas; UAYA New York branch) escorted by Michael Lysiak; and Natalie Zborowski (Southington, Conn.; UAYA Hartford branch) escorted by Vlad Dyrbavka.

Following the presentation, National Executive Board President Lesia Harhaj-Kudryk delivered congratulatory remarks, encouraging the new generation of young adults to remain involved in UAYA activities and the Ukrainian American community. Following her speech, debutante Yana Shturypita had the honor of delivering the annual dedication.

To conclude the formal portion of the program, the debutantes and their escorts gracefully performed an intricate group waltz, choreographed by the talented Grygoriy Momot. Each debutante was then invited by her father to share a special dance.

The remainder of the night saw guests dancing until the early hours, fueled by spectacular performances by the bands Hrim and Volya. A rousing kolomeyka, as in years past, was a highlight of the evening.

The ball was a joyous night for all in attendance and it continues to be an event many Ukrainians in the northeast look forward to annually. It is not only an evening

full of festivities, but an event that fosters a sense of unity and pride among attendees, reminding them of their rich and enduring shared Ukrainian heritage.

The debutant ball would not be possible without the generous support of its sponsors and supporters, including SUMA Federal Credit Union in Yonkers, the Ukrainian National Association, Selfreliance Federal Credit Union of New Jersey, and the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union of Philadelphia.

The debutant ball committee also wholeheartedly thanked the numerous volunteers, as well as debutantes, escorts and parents whose efforts contributed to a wonderful evening.

The UAYA Debutante Ball Committee for 2024 was composed of Tatiana Palylyk Andersen, Natalia Kudryk Kucyna, Stephanie DeBruin Bono, Ola Bihuniak, Larissa Gojdyecz Hirota and Adrianna Kobyleckyj.

The UAYA invites all to save the date for next year's 60th annual ball, which will take place on March 1, 2025.



Andrew Wolodymyr Browar

(April 7, 2024)

Dr. Andrew W. Browar passed away after a long illness on Sunday, April 7th. He was 67. Beloved husband of Dr. Taisa Browar, devoted father of the late Irena Anna Browar, fond son-in-law of Stefania (the late Dr. Swiatoslaw) Szeremeta, dearest brother of the late Orest Theodore (Regina) Browar, dear uncle of Nicholas Browar, cherished nephew, cousin and uncle of many, too numerous to mention, in the U.S.A., Canada, Ukraine and Poland. In addition, Dr. Browar will be missed by his patients and colleagues.



Visitation was held on Monday, April 15th, from 4-9 P.M. with a Parastas (Ukrainian Wake Service) at 7:00 P.M. and Tuesday, April 16th, from 4-9 P.M. with a Panakhyda (Ukrainian Wake Service) at 7:00 P.M. Funeral Wednesday, April 17th, at 10:30 A.M. from Chapel with a procession to Sts. Volodymyr & Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church for a 11:00 A.M. Funeral Liturgy. Graveside interment at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery, Chicago.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his name may be made to: 1) Sheptytsky Institute Foundation, 81 St. Mary Street, University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto, Toronto, ON M5S 1J4, Canada (Canadian charitable registration no. 89 1 47 5972 RR0001; A U.S. 501.c.3) 2) Plast.org (in the Memo portion: OX-Orden Chrestonostsiv - in memory of Andrew Browar) (Andrew's Scout Fraternity) Tax ID# 1357001 for Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, 501.c.3. 3) Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation, 2247 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60622 (www.UCEF.org).

Andrew was born on July 8, 1956 in Gary, Indiana. At the age of 4 his family moved to Chicago, Illinois. He received his dental degree and post-graduate degree in periodontics from University of Illinois School of Dentistry as the youngest in his class. He married Taisa (an endodontist) on September 19, 1981 after meeting on a blind date at a dental meeting. They established a practice together in 1982 in Hinsdale, IL, which they ran for over 30 years. In 2014 he became a full-time assistant professor and researcher at Midwestern University Dental School in Illinois, receiving challenging diplomat status in his specialty in his 60's and publishing. He truly enjoyed teaching from his heart. Andrew was extremely active in his dental and specialty organizations, holding several leadership positions culminating with directorship of the Chicago Dental Society. In 2019 he became a part-time dental consultant. In 1984 and 1986, Andrew and Taisa attended a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend - a religious marriage enrichment program - and became a presenting couple for the Roman Catholic weekends, eventually starting Weekends in the Ukrainian language and bringing Marriage Encounter to Ukraine in 1994 at the request of the Bishops. The Weekend also spurred their involvement in their own parish organizations and Andrew became head of parish council at Sts. Volodymyr & Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church for a term in 1988. For many years they helped prepare couples for marriage at Sts. Volodymyr & Olha, St. Nicholas Cathedral and some Chicago Melkite parishes. In 1990 they were invited by now-Archbishop Borys Gudziak to present on sacramental marriage at the Youth for Christ Convention in Lviv, Ukraine. Andrew was also on the Board of Directors of the Sheptytsky Institute Foundation for several decades, including being president for a short time. He served for a year as head of the parents' committee for the Vasyl Stus School of Ukrainian Studies and was an avid Plast (Ukrainian Scout) member, serving in Chicago leadership and proud of his OX (Crusader's) fraternity and its charitable work. Andrew was an accomplished pianist and played in the band Mria. He enjoyed gardening and computers, and loved sitting on the patio. In 1997, Andrew and Taisa adopted their daughter Irena Anna from Serhii, Ukraine. She was his great joy and he was devastated by her passing in 2019. Andrew was a devoted husband, father, son and son-in-law and a gracious and caring person to his friends, neighbors, colleagues and students.

May His Memory Be Eternal!



Провід 5-го куреня Уладу Старших Пластунів
і 20-го куреня Уладу Пластових Сеньорів
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св.п.

пл. сен.

д-р Ігор Масник

лицар „Кавалер“

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З Хрестом і Мечем!



With great sadness we announce that

Alexander Eugene Shypailo

passed away on March 27th, 2024
in Rutherford, New Jersey. He was 60 years old.

Born on January 6th, 1964, in Passaic, New Jersey, Alex was an active member of the Ukrainian-American community, where he was involved in PLAST Ukrainian Scouting Organization. He attended Rutherford High School and later pursued a career in culinary arts and hospitality.

Throughout his life, Alex was known for his commitment to the Ukrainian-American community and his infectious sense of humor. He had a passion for cooking and could often be found sharing his favorite recipes on his social media.

Alex will be remembered for his ability to make others laugh and his devotion to his nieces and his many grand nieces and nephews.

He is survived by his two brothers, George Shypailo (Romana née Figol) of River Vale, New Jersey, 69, and Roman Shypailo (Sherry née van Dijk), 66, of Galveston, Texas. He is also survived by his nieces and several grand nieces and nephews.

A panykhyda was held at Marrocco Memorial Chapel, 470 Colfax Avenue, Clifton, New Jersey on April 19th, 2024, between 7:00 and 9:00 PM. A funeral liturgy was held at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 217 President St, Passaic, New Jersey, on April 20th, 2024, at 10:00 AM.

The family wishes to express their everlasting love and gratitude for time they had with their dear 'Ol'ho'. He will be missed dearly.

Vychnaya Pam'yat and Memory Eternal.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to PLAST INC. / Vovcha Trova and mailed to care of:

Paul Liteplo, 960C Heritage Hills, Somers, New York 10589

2024 Holodomor...

(Continued from page 9)

of the current war on his family was heart-breaking.

Teacher Leanne Schwan from New York indicated that her student took great pride in researching and presenting information about her culture and her nation's past, while Brittany Potts, a sponsor of a Ukrainian Club at her school in Illinois, noted that the perseverance of the students was inspiring and that they continue to find new ways to share their love of Ukraine. Many teachers said their students responded very positively to the topic and were deeply engaged by it.

Similarly, teacher Emma Wells from Massachusetts said that students asked questions and made connections to other genocides in the world. Students in Jonah Pichette's 9th grade world history class in Ohio were eager to learn about the Holodomor and how it connects with current events. Another student in Sue Kenney's U.S. II honors history class in New Jersey commented that the Holodomor project was the most profound project she had ever researched and that she was deeply moved by it.

According to teacher Matthew Auger in Massachusetts, his students did not previously know about the genocide, so it was informative and shocking at the same time. It provided them with a window into the struggles and perseverance of the Ukrainian people. One student's entry from Virginia went on to win her school's history day first prize and will advance to the district-level competition.

Organizers of the Holodomor student competition commended Dr. Sue Kenney from New Jersey, winner of the 2020 HREC (Holodomor Research and Education

Consortium) Educator Award for Holodomor Lesson Plan Development, for offering an extra credit assignment on the Holodomor. Many students took advantage of that opportunity. When one of the students told her father that she was doing a project on the Holodomor, he said, "What is Holodomor?"

The Ukrainian Holodomor Genocide Student Competition is a tool that enables students not only to research the topic but also to present their findings to others. As part of the competition criteria, students were required to present their work to a group. The competition provided students with an opportunity to promote knowledge about the Holodomor not only to their peers and teachers but also to the community at large, thus widening knowledge about Ukraine. Many of the students made a clear connection from the Holodomor to the present Russian genocidal war against Ukraine.

A teacher feedback form indicating the preparedness and impact of the student's presentation was also part of the competition. Educators said they would like their students to participate next year and will now be including the Holodomor as part of their studies.

The Holodomor student competition can have far-reaching effects. Ellery Franceschini, a winner of the 2023 Holodomor competition, emailed organizers, saying, "Since the competition, I have learned so much about Ukraine and even became a volunteer to help young Ukrainians learn English. It has become an important cause for me."

Individuals interested in helping to work on the project can email ukrainecompetition@gmail.com for more information.

Oksana Kulynych, a retired NYC educator, is the chair of the Holodomor Student Competition subcommittee of the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness.



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THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024
3:00 P.M.

Ukrainian National Home
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Bohdan Kurczak and Andrew Juzeniw

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Attn: Nominating Committee

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Name	Branch	State of Appl.	Name	Branch	State of Appl.	Name	Branch	State of Appl.	Name	Branch	State of Appl.
USA											
Adams, William	008	NY	Dubyna, Irene	037	NJ	Kapulos, Olga	379	IL	Mareczko, Lillian	112	OH
Andrews, Joseph	155	NJ	Duda, Kataryna	102	OH	Karpe, Vera N	414	CT	Maslanka, Osypa	414	CT
Andrusyszyn, Olga	042	NJ	Dudycz, Mike	102	OH	Kasian, Nicolaus	397	PA	Maslo, Melanja	356	NE
Babala, Paraskewia	013	NY	Dziamia, Mykola	127	NY	Kaszuba, Maria	287	NJ	MC Laughlin, Mary	277	CT
Bajko, Sofia	127	NY	Dziamia, Rozalia	127	NY	Katynski, John	102	OH	Melech, Irene	234	NJ
Balaban, Timothy	221	IL	Egan, Helen J	362	PA	Kawczak, Bohdan	238	MA	Melko, Joseph	010	PA
Baldun, Joseph	325	NY	Elliott, Ann	397	PA	Kerak, Anna	163	PA	Melnyk, Walter	241	RI
Bandura, Dmytro	367	NY	Ellison, Teresa	171	NJ	Ketchow, Olga	027	NJ	Melvin, Olga	096	PA
Baran, Kathrine	234	NJ	Ezovski, Peter	206	RI	Kikta, Eugenia	102	OH	Mencinskyj, Daria	379	IL
Barefield, Helen C	112	OH	Farylo, Anna	102	OH	Kimock, Helen	137	PA	Merdich, Mike P	112	OH
Bass, Bohuslava Z	010	PA	Fatiuk Jr., Michael	008	NY	Kin, Michael	039	NY	Michalak, Olga	194	NY
Beck, Irene	008	NY	Fecat, Eva	056	OH	Klepacz, Ksenia	131	IL	Mills, Yaroslawa	005	NY
Beeley, Clellan E	161	PA	Fechushak, Olga	120	PA	Klimovsky, Peter	283	NY	Mischtschuk, Ludmyla	397	PA
Belan, Jaroslaw	257	CT	Fedij, Alexander	423	IL	Kocerha, Rose	007	PA	Misiurak, Illia	423	IL
Bida, Wira P	221	IL	Fedirko, Antonina	292	MI	Kochaniuk, Jurij	399	IL	Misterman, Jaroslaw	083	PA
Bilo, Michael	452	IN	Fedkiw, Anna	379	IL	Kochirka, Walter	096	PA	Miz, Lubomyr	423	IL
Bilobran, Gregory	292	MI	Fedoryshyn, Katherine	367	NY	Kolodrubetz, Anne O	139	IL	Mizur, Roman	088	NY
Bilyk, Mary	161	PA	Ferenc, John	121	NY	Kolodzinski, Helen	008	NY	Mojsej, Iwan	221	IL
Biruk, Helena	221	IL	Ferenz, Sophia	362	PA	Koltowski, Sophie	037	NJ	Mojsej, Stefan	221	IL
Bitin, Stefania	173	PA	Ficula, Stephania	155	NJ	Kondryszyn, Anna	379	IL	Morelli, Mitchell	112	OH
Blemly, Fay	292	MI	Figel, George	287	NJ	Kopynec, Mychajlo	005	NY	Mudri, Marian M	155	NJ
Blidy, Michael	125	IL	Finiak, Wasyl	488	AZ	Kopytko, Jennie	206	RI	Musiol, Helen	096	PA
Bochno, Michael	015	NY	Forskyj, Valentyna	292	MI	Kormylo, Anna	076	NJ	Mychalenko, Walter	175	MI
Bodnarsky, Michael	137	PA	Frank, Lydia	171	NJ	Korowajczuk, Klawdia	102	OH	Myga, Kateryna	367	NY
Bodnyk, Anne	147	PA	Furczak, Nadia	083	PA	Korytowski, Sophia	083	PA	Mytrosevich, Michael	102	OH
Bohanek, D'Anne	102	OH	Gablej, Dmytro	379	IL	Kosti, Wasyl	283	NY	Nahirniak, Daria	399	IL
Bojduj, John	292	MI	Galan, Orest M	381	FL	Kostyniuk, Maria	015	DC	Nakoneczny, Anna	112	OH
Booras, Harry J	083	PA	Gard, Jeanette	399	IL	Kovalchick, Mike	096	PA	Nazarow, Maria	076	NJ
Boroskie, Katherine	130	NY	Gardner, Matilda C	320	MD	Kovalchuk, Anna	399	IL	Neboshynsky, Feodosja	327	NY
Boyko, John	022	IL	Gazdziak, Mary	022	IL	Kowal, Ewa	112	OH	Nestorowycz, Halyna	381	FL
Boyko, Kathryn	367	NY	Geleta, Bohdanna	015	DC	Kowal, Irena	379	IL	Nezowy, Stefania	397	PA
Boyko, Lillian	027	NJ	Golda, Jaroslawa	037	NJ	Kowalchik, William B	283	NY	Nikulicz, Anna	010	PA
Boyko, William	367	NY	Gora, Andrew	367	NY	Kowalchuk, Maria	221	IL	Nishko, Tekla	379	IL
Brenio, Anna	112	OH	Gouwens, Ann	022	IL	Kowalchuk, John	096	PA	Norr, Mary D	083	PA
Brewka, Myron L	102	OH	Grabiec, Elsie O	253	MA	Kowalchuk, John	096	PA	Norris, Stephania	362	PA
Brochinsky, Myron R	414	CT	Greta, Eugene	234	NJ	Krayniewski, Olga	161	PA	Noseworthy, Mary	174	MI
Brozina, George	125	IL	Gromow, Alla	283	NY	Kraynik, Elsie	102	OH	Nykolajczyk, Nykola	423	IL
Burbelo, Gregory M	387	CT	Grudecki, Mary	221	IL	Kril, Kateryna	257	CA	Oceretko MD, Arkadij	488	AZ
Burbelo, Katharina M	015	DC	Gulachok, Myron	283	NY	Krip, Wasyl	496	WA	Ohm, Anne	147	PA
Casoli, Dan L	120	PA	Gulick, Sophie	112	OH	Krislatyj, Semen	112	OH	Onufrychuk, Jacob	088	NY
Cassidy, Jacques E	283	NY	Gural, Michael	161	PA	Kroll, Janet	452	IN	Oryszczak, Weronica	283	NY
Chadshay, Roman	005	NY	Gut, Anna	131	IL	Kruk, Mirosława L	086	NY	Osinchuk, Ada	086	NY
Chajkiwsky, Lucy	238	MA	Hajdariwska, Sophia F	397	PA	Krynyckyj, Dr Borys Z	327	NY	Owsiany, Pelahia	162	PA
Chalusiak, Ewa	397	PA	Halewich, Eudokija	047	PA	Krywa, Katherine	501	NJ	Paduchak, Michael	367	NY
Chaniewycz, Julia	155	NJ	Halliday, Michael	112	OH	Kuc, Jaroslawa W	083	PA	Pak, Ihor	362	PA
Choma, Lidia	194	NY	Halulko, Alex	147	PA	Kuches, Elaine	102	OH	Palochak, Anna F	007	PA
Chomyn, Helen	397	PA	Haluschak, William	102	OH	Kuczer, Ksenia	174	MI	Paluga, Sophie	142	NJ
Chreptowska, Wira	423	IL	Halycky, Sam	007	PA	Kulick MD, Michael	102	OH	Paprocky, Maria	010	PA
Cieply, Loretta W	161	PA	Halyk, Maria	379	IL	Kulikowsky, Raymond P	287	NJ	Parchuc, Helen A	027	NJ
Cihowski, Anna	037	NJ	Hawryszczuk, Hnat	367	NY	Kunzer, Helen F	367	NY	Parijczuk, Stella	452	IN
Coan, Irene C	161	PA	Hayes, Sonya	292	MI	Kupustensky, Lillian	007	PA	Patra, Bohdan	292	MI
Coltan, Iwan	221	IL	Helvak, Kathryn A	112	OH	Kushnir, Irene	153	PA	Patra, Olga E	292	MI
Coltan, Maria	221	IL	Hendricks, Walter P	325	NY	Kuzmicki, Nikolaj	022	IL	Paulina, Anthony	037	NJ
Cook, George	287	NJ	Hlynsky, Sophie	221	IL	Kysilewskyj MD, Roman M	025	NJ	Pawlisz, Julius	096	PA
Curry, Olga	362	PA	Hlywa, Walter	067	CT	Lastowicka, Andrew	121	NY	Pawliw, Maria	039	NY
Cybak, Maria	131	IL	Hnatiw, Kataryna	283	NY	Lema, Petro	292	MI	Pawlow, John	037	NJ
Cyca, Stefania	112	OH	Hnot, George	005	NY	Lenec, Oksana	088	NY	Pawlyshyn, Anna	233	OH
Czapsky, Michael	102	OH	Hockenberry, Olga	102	OH	Lepkaluk MD, Nikolaj J	088	NY	Pedalino, Mary A	102	OH
Czerkawskyj, Maria	367	NY	Holonko, Martha M	112	OH	Lesyk, Mychajlo	501	NJ	Petfield, Helen K	147	PA
Dananay, Janet T	161	PA	Holowata, Iwanna	452	IN	Lindsay, Julia	161	PA	Petrenko, Alexandra	423	IL
Danczewsky, Barbara H	112	OH	Homzak, Frank	102	OH	Lipynsky, Teddy	327	NY	Petruniak, Maria	221	IL
Danko, Alexander F	234	NJ	Horbachewski, Andrej	114	IL	Liss, Olga	007	PA	Pich, Wasyl	130	NY
Danylowitz, Clemens E	253	MA	Horbez, Andrei	254	CT	Logusz, Iwan	221	IL	Pidhirny, John	005	NY
Danylyshyn, Michael	367	NY	Horvath, Stefania	137	PA	Logusz, Maria	221	IL	Pikulyk, Iwan	379	IL
Demczuk, Anton	102	OH	Hoshowskyj, Wolodymyr	005	NY	Lubas, Marie	125	IL	Placuszok, Marija	221	IL
Demczuk, Maria	102	OH	Hozyash, John	362	PA	Lubinsky, Irene	096	PA	Pope, Olga	005	NY
Demjanjuk, Vira	112	OH	Hrycak, Olga	155	NJ	Luciw, Mykola	452	IN	Popivchak, Michael	096	PA
Demkiw, Veronica	174	MI	Hrycyk, Marta	399	IL	Luhowyj, Anna	379	IL	Poporys, Ilko	367	NY
Demy, Basil	005	NY	Hucul, Ilko	112	OH	Lukehart, Elberta	161	PA	Porytko, Damian	325	NY
Denega, Natalia	379	IL	Hurko, Marta	112	OH	Lutz, Rose	162	PA	Posikan, Frieda	083	PA
Derbil, Eleanore G	055	MD	Hurmak, John	102	OH	Lytwyn, Wasyl	399	IL	Preschlack, William	130	NY
Dezmelyk, Daniel A	397	PA	Hursky, Petro	102	OH	Macewko, Kataryna	131	IL	Procyk, Petro	452	IN
Diakon, Rostislaw	423	IL	Hyzinski, Mildred	007	PA	Macikanycz, Mike	379	IL	Protas, Stefan	379	IL
Dickey, Alla	194	NY	Ilkow, Walter A	005	NY	Mack, Olga A	112	OH	Pruessner, Jennie P	112	OH
Dicky, John	127	NY	Imo, Stella	367	NY	Magola, Rose K	292	MI	Ptaszek, Walter R	088	NY
Dmytriw, Eugene	076	NJ	Jaculak, Anastazia	379	IL	Majstruk, Anna	292	MI	Pytlowanyj, Wolodymyr	082	MI
Dnistrian, Nadia	005	NY	Janyk, Olha	379	IL	Makar, Catherine	096	PA	Radko, Joseph	007	PA
Dobrenski, Mary	155	NJ	Jasinowsky, Wasylyna	269	NJ	Makar, John	257	CA	Randiuk, Stephen	114	IL
Dowhal, Eufrozyna	379	IL	Jaworskyj, Irene A	055	MD	Makarenko, Anna	042	NJ	Ratych, Alexander	320	MD
Draznowsky, Anna	153	PA	Josepczuk, Anna	102	OH	Maksymczuk, Iwan	379	IL	Ratycz, Lubomyr	037	NJ
Drohobycky, Michael	086	NY	Judkas, Sofia	234	NJ	Maksymczuk, Stefan	155	NJ	Relick, Michael	113	PA
Drozd, Anastasia	096	PA	Jurkewych, William	292	MI	Maksymiw, Stefania	131	IL	Remes, Helen	254	CT
Dub, Teodor	194	NY	Kachnij, Michael	175	MI	Malanchuk, Olga	125	IL	Richesson, Mary	112	OH
			Kamenec, Robert A	175	MI	Malysiak, Mary	452	IN	Roberts, Joanne V	010	PA



UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC., SEARCHING FOR OUR MEMBERS (cont.)

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Name	Branch	State of Appl.	Name	Branch	State of Appl.	Name	Branch	State of Appl.	Name	Branch	State of Appl.
Rogalcheck, Lillie	155	NJ	Stadnyk, Wolodymyr	013	NY	Tymkiw, Jaroslaw	155	NJ	CANADA		
Romanyszyn, Ketryn	423	IL	Stalenyj, Stanislaw	022	IL	Tymkiw, Katherine	155	NJ	Atamanczuk, Albina	498	BC
Rubel, Jaroslawa P	088	NY	Stanley, Helen J	206	RI	Tymoch, Michael	005	NY	Bulakowski, Paul	465	QC
Rudy, Ludmila	083	PA	Stasiuk, Mary	088	NY	Umnysz, Petro	356	NE	Byj, Paul	461	ON
Rybak, Roman	345	MN	Steciuk, Petro	025	NJ	Van Gelder, Irene S	501	NJ	Chemerynsky, Gloria M	445	MB
Salik, Nick	125	IL	Stecko, Michael	221	IL	Venanzio, Michael	161	PA	Chorostil, Olga	461	ON
Salo, Martha	010	PA	Stelmach, Theodore	257	CA	Wagner, Anna	452	IN	Duda, Iwan	432	ON
Sawa, Mary	253	MA	Stevenson, Irene	345	MN	Waitkoff, Helen	125	IL	Fedorchuk, John	441	ON
Sawchuk, Antonia	452	IN	Storozynsky, Walter	367	NY	Walchuk, Katherine	005	NY	Filipowicz, Sofia	461	ON
Sawchuk, Zen	088	NY	Stoyko, Walter	257	CA	Walchuk, Walter	005	NY	Harasym, Michal	461	ON
Sawczuk, Anna	367	NY	Stryhun, Kateryna	112	OH	Wankewycz, Kataryna	379	IL	Helash, John W	441	ON
Scopel, Mary	292	MI	Studenyj, Laura	397	PA	Waskul, Michael	292	MI	Hrubeniuk, Justyna	407	ON
Sefczek, Elise	155	NJ	Sullivan, Zinaida O	238	MA	Waskul, Nicholas	292	MI	Hrynewich, Danica	461	ON
Seifert, Marguerite M	055	MD	Supilnyk, Eleanor	379	IL	Wasyluk, Stefania	102	OH	Kmita, Bernard	434	QC
Seniuta, John	257	CA	Supilnyk, Roman	379	IL	Wasylyk, Ewa	379	IL	Kowal, Paul	445	MB
Serneik, Sarah	379	IL	Supyk, Maria	360	NY	Weis, Elizabeth R	113	PA	Kowalchuk, Lew	498	BC
Shabaturs, Donald	385	MN	Sus, Apolonija	423	IL	Wengryniuk, Emily	233	OH	Kucyj, Sophie	461	ON
Shepko, Louis	102	OH	Swift, Joan	367	NY	Werbowecky, Anna	125	IL	Kulchycky, Maria	434	QC
Sherbanenko, Sina	345	MN	Syrota, Maria	088	NY	Wijtyk, Maria	362	PA	Leibycz, Bohdanna W	461	ON
Shipka, Helen	102	OH	Szajda, Michael	221	IL	Wladyka, Genevieve	452	IN	Lishchynskyj, Sofia	461	ON
Shkapiak, Anna	234	NJ	Szczybria, Maria	360	NY	Wojtichinsky, Adam	005	NY	Lishchynskyj, Wolodymyr	461	ON
Shoturma, Anna	397	PA	Szkolny, Anna	125	IL	Wojtowycz, Olena	221	IL	Maga, Olga	407	ON
Shtohryn, Dmytro M	194	NY	Szmagala, Anna	137	PA	Woloschyn, Stefania	112	OH	Maibroda, Lena	465	QC
Shumsky, Sviatopolk	257	CA	Szpiech, Stefan	005	NY	Worobec, Stefania	356	NE	Makaran, Czeslawa	461	ON
Sikora, Eva	292	MI	Szuszniak, Maria	039	NY	Woroniak, John	127	NY	Marushchak, Hryhorij	461	ON
Simanick, Rose	088	NY	Taylor, Rose Marie	452	IN	Wozniak, Dmitry	042	NJ	Melnychenko, Kateryna	461	ON
Sinkosky, Kathleen	112	OH	Tennant, Margaret	056	OH	Woznyj, Iwanna	362	PA	Morenec, Paul	461	ON
Skic, Lew	367	NY	Terefinko, Nellie	047	PA	Wrobel, Mildred	174	OH	Nowak, Victor	461	ON
Skrobala, Mykola	127	NY	Thomas, Lilliam P	067	CT	Yawney, Natalie	047	PA	Palamar, Anna	461	ON
Slobodian, Paul	125	IL	Thompson, Amalie	360	NY	Zajac, Alexander	238	MA	Polonoski, Olga	441	ON
Slobodynsky, Michael	367	NY	Tkachuk, John	325	NY	Zajac, Anna	114	IL	Prodanyk, Anna	402	ON
Small, Russell	114	IL	Tkaczuk, Illa Roman	131	IL	Zapoticzny, Andrew	175	MI	Rusyn, Jurko	461	ON
Smolley, Virginia	005	NY	Tomaszewski, Thomas G	194	NY	Zapuchlak, Joseph	379	IL	Semenych, Stefania	445	MB
Solomon, Stephen J	007	PA	Topoliuk, Stepan	367	NY	Zawalniak, Maria	221	IL	Sharan, Wasyl	407	ON
Sopp, Sally	001	PA	Trehubchuk, Anna	022	IL	Zmur, Yaroslawa	039	NY	Sirko, Nadia	461	ON
Soroka, Jean	174	MI	Tretiak, Joseph	147	PA	Zmutyn, Jennie	083	PA	Skocylak, Theodore	432	ON
Soroka, Wasyl	163	PA	Tulsiak, Olga	053	PA	Zorij, Anna	367	NY	Snihur, Mary	434	QC
Sosnowsky, Nellie S	292	MI	Turczyn, Maria	360	NY	Zubik, Peter	414	CT	Towarnycky, Eva	461	ON
Sosnowy, William	163	PA	Tymiak, Sydir	053	PA	Zubryckyj, Maria	194	NY	Uchacz, Maria	432	ON
Sowycz, Anthony	013	NY	Tymkin, Walter	367	NY	Zwarycz, Maria	221	IL	Wolosewych, Paul	432	ON
Sozansky, Michael	221	IL	Tymkiw MD, Stephan	055	MD				Wowk, Michael	461	ON
									Wozniak, Mykola	500	AB

At least 17 dead...

(Continued from page 1)

about assisting Kyiv in its fight against Russia.

Confronted with a worsening lack of enough air defense systems, weapons and ammunition as Western aid dries up, Kyiv has increasingly resorted to air and naval drone strikes deep inside Russian territory, targeting both military installations and critical oil-refining capabilities.

In Ukraine's Russian-occupied Crimea region, a series of explosions rang out early on April 17 in the area of the military airfield in the northern city of Dzhankoy.

The Telegram channel Astra showed several videos from local residents that showed flames shooting skyward amid large plumes of smoke at what reportedly was the airfield.

The reports could not be independently confirmed. Russian authorities in Crimea did not immediately comment on the reports.

Meanwhile, Russian attacks in eastern Ukraine have intensified and conditions for Kyiv's forces have "deteriorated significantly" as dry, warmer weather is allowing the easier movement of Russian tanks and troops, according to Ukraine's top military commander.

"The situation on the eastern front has deteriorated significantly in recent days," Col. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy said on Telegram on April 13.

"The enemy is actively attacking our positions in the Lyman and Bakhmut directions with assault groups supported by armored vehicles," he said. "In the Pokrovsk direction, they are trying to break through our defenses using dozens of tanks and infantry fighting vehicles."

Mr. Syrskiy said the "dry weather favors the use of armored vehicles at the front – the weather has made most of the open areas tank-accessible."

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who won a new term in a March election that critics say was held under conditions of "intense repression," has intensified attacks, especially targeting power plants and substations to cripple Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

Ukrainian authorities have increasingly signaled alarm over dwindling supplies of artillery shells and air-defense missiles as a military aid package from the United States has been tied up in Congress, with a small number of Republicans saying that domestic matters should take priority over assistance to Kyiv proposed by President Joe Biden.

Christopher Cavoli, the top U.S. general in Europe, on April 11 warned that further assistance to Ukraine to repel Russian aggression is crucial and that Moscow poses a "chronic threat" to the world.

On April 13, Germany announced it would immediately send another Patriot air defense system to bolster Ukraine in its fight against Russia's latest onslaught.

German leader Olaf Scholz, in a call with

Mr. Zelenskyy, reaffirmed Berlin's solidarity with Ukraine and discussed ways to further strengthen the embattled country's air defenses, German government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said.

Mr. Zelenskyy thanked Mr. Scholz for approving the delivery of the additional Patriot missile system and for supplying further air-defense weaponry at this "critical time" for his country.

A week ago, Mr. Zelenskyy said the U.S.-made Patriot systems were desperately required to protect the entire country.

In a Telegram post following his call with Mr. Scholz, Mr. Zelenskyy said the talks were "important" and "productive."

"I am grateful to the chancellor for the decision to supply another additional Patriot system to Ukraine and missiles to the existing air defense systems," Mr. Zelenskyy wrote.

"I call on all other leaders of partner states to follow this example," Mr. Zelenskyy added.

Mr. Scholz later left Germany for China on a three-day trip in which he was scheduled to meet with President Xi Jinping.

Beijing is the Kremlin's most crucial ally. It has remained outwardly neutral but hasn't condemned Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

According to the AP, a U.S. assessment has detected a large rise in sales by China to Russia of machine tools, microelectronics and other technology that is used by Moscow in the production of tanks, planes and other weaponry for use against Ukraine.

The report cited two senior officials in the U.S. administration who discussed the findings on April 12 on the condition of anonymity.

On the battlefield, Yevgeny Balitsky, the Kremlin-installed head of the Zaporizhia region, said at least 10 people were killed when shelling hit an apartment building in the Russian-occupied town of Tokmak.

"Rescuers continue to search for and extract the bodies of the dead, dismantling the structures. Rescue units have been provided with everything necessary," he wrote on Telegram, adding that 18 people had been injured in the town of some 30,000 people.

Separately, Russia's Defense Ministry said its forces had captured the village of Pervomayske in Ukraine's Donetsk region, where Moscow has centered much of its attacks in recent months.

Ukraine did not immediately comment on the Russian reports, and battlefield claims on both sides cannot immediately be verified due to the intense fighting in the region.

(With reporting by Reuters, AP, AFP, and dpa)

Ukrainian pro sports update

by Ihor N. Stelmach

Boxers in Kyiv fight on despite war

The co-main event featuring junior welterweights Nazri Rahimov of Ukraine and Jorge Moya of Colombia was rudely interrupted by air raid sirens warning of potential danger falling from the sky in Kyiv on March 30. Russia attacked Ukraine's capital with ballistic missiles, according to promoter Vlad Eliseev who runs TBG Promotions. The sirens actually sounded two fights before the co-main event. Rahimov (14-3, 8 KO) would go on to a victorious second-round knockout over Moya (15-5-1, 4 KO) to lay claim to a minor title in the 140-pound weight category once the event resumed. Following a comfortable opening round, Rahimov moved forward and launched a sharp overhand right to Moya's head, sending him to the canvas. The referee called the fight after Moya struggled to his feet.

There were some additional boxing matches on the card at the Kyiv arena and the sirens interrupted the announcement of the fight results. Spectators initially did not want to retire to the bomb shelter without first hearing who won the fight. Eventually, the arena was temporarily evacuated.

Eliseev said Ukraine's defense forces quickly reacted to the threat and boxing fans returned to their seats after a 30-minute delay. The entire event concluded before Kyiv's midnight curfew.

Husky Karaban a two-time NCAA champion

For the second straight year, Scar-

borough, Mass., native and Ukrainian Alex Karaban helped the University of Connecticut basketball team win the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) men's championship. Karaban was not the Huskies' top scorer, top rebounder or top assist man, but he was the glue that helped hold the team together. In the championship game against Purdue on April 8, Karaban didn't put up big numbers, but the sophomore did what he does best as UConn won their second consecutive title. Namely, he did a whole lot of everything.

Karaban earned plaudits by getting grime under his fingernails while taking care of UConn's dirty work. He was always ready to box out a bigger opposing player, hit a clutch three-pointer with his team badly needing a score and change in momentum, or make an extra pass to find an open teammate.

Karaban was perhaps the most unselfish player on a team made up of unselfish players, always ready, willing and able to do whatever head coach Dan Hurley asked of him.

Although he scored only five points against Purdue, he put in a sensational defensive effort, including guarding 7-foot-4 center Zach Edey when UConn's big men were in foul trouble and the Huskies went small. Giving up eight inches to Edey, he stood his ground and, with the help of some timely double teams, Karaban and his mates kept the big man flustered in the second half.



Stjepan Cizmadija/IHIF

Ukraine captain Valeriia Manchak-Jensen (12) rushes the net against Romania at the 2024 International Ice Hockey Federation Women's Worlds Division III A tournament on March 17 in Zagreb, Croatia.

The end result was a 75-60 win for UConn and for the second straight year Karaban's season ended with a confetti shower and the forward got to add some more nylon to his collection of basketball hoop netting.

The back-to-back titles leave Karaban with nothing to prove in college basketball. His next move will probably be to the National Basketball Association (NBA). Already a projected first-round pick before UConn's roll through the 2024 NCAA tournament, his draft status will likely rise over the next few months.

He was not a flashy player in his two years in Storrs, Conn., but he was one of the most intelligent and unselfish players on the court. He will own two championship

rings as proof of how important he was to the UConn Huskies.

In a late-March interview with Boston's WBUR-FM radio station, Karaban's mom, Ukrainian Olga Karaban, said her son "has been shooting hoops since he was about 8 years old." He started playing on town teams in Southborough, then with travel teams. Mother Olga never expected her son to win a championship, let alone two of them. The potential was there and Karaban loved the sport.

Manchak-Jensen a remarkable athlete

Valeriia Manchak-Jensen was born in Lviv, Ukraine, but lived mostly in Kharkiv.

(Continued on page 23)



Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor N. Stelmach

New coach Huska, rookie Zary provide spark for Flames

For new National Hockey League (NHL) head coach Ryan Huska, younger players should get a chance, though playing time is not guaranteed, and communication is key. Mixing and matching lines is okay, though his team's game is a work in progress. But Huska's first couple of months as the new head coach of the Calgary Flames have been a spark for the team. The 47-year-old Ukrainian was promoted to head coach on June 12, 2023, after serving as an assistant for the past five years.

Huska has kept his promise that there would be opportunities for young players to earn spots on the team. Fellow Ukrainian

and prospect Connor Zary, as well as Martin Pospisil, has not only played his way onto the Flames roster, but both players are being utilized in key situations because they deserve to be there. In Zary's very first game, he saw ice time in the last minutes of Calgary's loss to Dallas on November 1, charged with trying to tie the game and salvage a point in the standings for his team. Pospisil (a Slovak), went from the third line to the second grouping alongside Zary and Nazem Kadri after contributing some needed offensive production. Youngsters Matthew Gronato and Jakob Pelletier are two others who have tasted life in the NHL

under Huska.

The new coach has been willing to sit players when they're not producing results. Star Jonathan Huberdeau was benched in early November, an early-season message sent to the team's \$ 10.5-million-a-year player. Forwards Dillon Dube and Adam Ruzicka have been bounced from first-line duty to reduced roles as Huska's patience with slumping players is offset by his belief that players need to earn the right to play major minutes. Proving he's fair, Huberdeau got 21 minutes and 34 seconds of ice time in his next game when he played in a more energized manner.

The Huberdeau benching also illustrates Huska's open lines of communication between the coaching staff and players. Huberdeau and his head coach "talked it out" and the issue seemed to be resolved. Media members covering the team have noted that former coach Darryl Sutter was not known for his conversations with players. As a head coach, Huska is tasked with making difficult decisions. He has taken his responsibility a step further by explaining the decisions and talking them through with players, showing who he is as a coach.

Huska is not afraid to make a change if something is not working. Among the forward lines, it seems everybody has skated with everybody else with the club mixing and matching to see what sticks. There is hope that the forward lines eventually stabilize with players developing chemistry with each other and building consistent offensive production and defensive accountability.

Zary a most impressive surprise

General Manager Craig Conroy and new

head coach Huska definitely did not expect Zary to make such a huge offensive impact so early in the 2023-2024 season. Fifty-eight games into his NHL career and the 22-year-old forward is the club's biggest surprise with his dozen goals and 18 assists, placing him 10th among NHL rookies in points. Those numbers are not too shabby for a youngster who missed the first nine games of the Flames season while spending the beginning of his fourth professional year in the American Hockey League. He has suffered through a few minor injuries that resulted in a scoring slump.

Zary even surprised himself with his start once he got to the parent club, saying "I think I've been able to play at a higher level I kind of knew I had in me." Calgary's 24th overall pick in the 2020 NHL Draft had the confidence and was ready for the opportunity, but he wasted no time in getting comfortable and making the plays he knew he was able to make.

He scored on his first NHL shot on goal, which came on his third shift. The quick start built immediate confidence and allowed him to play his style of offensive hockey that relies on holding on to the puck and creatively making plays.

While Zary was a big-time scorer in juniors, he tries not to focus too much on scoring points, but he aims to stay in the moment and approach every game as a chance to show he belongs in the NHL.

(Based on reporting by the Calgary Sun.)

Ihor Stelmach may be reached at ihor-nia@sbcbglobal.net.



Ryan Huska, 47, was promoted to head coach of the National Hockey League's Calgary Flames on June 12, 2023, after serving as an assistant coach for the past five years.



hockeydb.com

Fifty-eight games into his National Hockey League career, 22-year-old forward Connor Zary has been a big surprise for the Calgary Flames, scoring a dozen goals and adding 18 assists, placing him 10th among NHL rookies in points.

Dolgoplov still fighting Russians on frontline

by Ihor N. Stelmach

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022 and war broke out, Alexandr Dolgoplov returned home to Ukraine and enlisted in the army. He has been fighting the Russians ever since. A former world No. 13 ranked player on the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour, he had retired one year before returning to join the military. In his playing days he defeated players like Rafael Nadal of Spain, but today his pro tennis career feels very far away after more than two years of fighting to defend his homeland. One might say Dolgoplov went from serving aces on the court to serving at the front line.

His success on the tennis court included winning three titles, reaching the quarterfinal of the Australian Open and two Masters semifinal tournaments. The Ukrainian beat Nadal on two occasions and last played in the 2018 Rome Masters. He formally retired in 2021 and since then his life has drastically changed after returning to Ukraine as a volunteer when the war broke out.

The 35-year-old serves as a drone operator and helps gather information on the ground for ongoing offensive operations. He helps in controlling assaults from the sky, studying the enemy's weaponry, location and movement. He has learned how to react in the trenches and is used to eluding Russian shelling. He has spoken about thoughts running through his mind inside trenches and how the urge to run out to a vehicle and drive to safer ground is not usually a wise choice.

He has been confronted with the dire realities of war and has watched people die around him. The war has taken its toll on him, but, like all Ukrainians, he is very resilient, refuses to give up and awaits his next deployment.

Last summer when some of his ex-rivals were getting ready for the U.S. Open, Dolgoplov was huddled in a trench in the Zaporizhia region of Ukraine. His small unit

had been spotted and the firing toward them was approaching. Having spent so much time on the front line, he had become somewhat of an expert on the trajectories of 120-millimeter shells.

He explained that after a few rounds, he catches the sequence: one mortar being fired every two minutes, a second one 40 seconds later and they're getting closer. The first lands within 20 meters and then within 15. When they do land the feeling is as if they go through your body. With 120 mm shells, a landing less than eight meters away from a soldier will result in body damage, possibly ruptured internal organs. This is where the challenge of sitting, waiting and knowing that a shell is about to strike plays with one's mind.

On one such occasion, he and two others in his group sustained serious concussions. Fortunately, the Russians have a limited supply of shells, firing non-stop is expensive and the barrage always stops. The Ukrainian soldiers then go out and continue their work.

Mail Online caught up with Dolgoplov in early December, one year after interviewing him about his new life as a full-time army man. He readily admitted to not being as happy as he used to be, not as easy-going, smiling and joking around. His life is more stressful and mentally exhausting.

Ukrainian forces are not being supplied with the tools needed to combat a strong war machine, Dolgoplov argues, and he agrees with the perception that it is difficult to defeat an enemy that can throw an endless number of young men into the war effort, backed up by an enormous stockpile of military hardware.

It is Dolgoplov's opinion that Western allies have not adopted a goal of Ukraine winning the war – Ukraine's partners are supplying the victims of Russia's aggression with enough to keep up the battle, but not enough to win it.

He cites the Nissan Patrol cars used in an attack forma-



Former professional tennis player Alexandr Dolgoplov seen in the trenches on the frontlines in Ukraine.

tion that are not outfitted with armor. Driving over an anti-tank mine flipped the vehicle and the soldiers inside were lucky to escape with their lives, although one lost a leg. A typical day in battle sees 15 Russian armored vehicles to Ukraine's five. Russia owns an advantage in shells, heavy armor, bodies, and more of almost everything.

His new life is far removed from the life he led as a top tennis pro. It is, however, one still enjoyed by dozens of

(Continued on page 23)

Noted activist...

(Continued from page 5)

and produced a long-standing exhibit, Windows on Ukraine, in its prominent headquarters building.

Mr. Czajkowsky's advocacy of political prisoners in the Soviet Union exerted a lasting impact on U.S. foreign relations. Serving on the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor Genocide Awareness for 20 years and becoming the organization's vice-chairman, he pressed for recognition of the millions who died in the Soviet-engineered famine of 1932-1933.

He was particularly proud of his role in the campaign to strip the Pulitzer Prize from Walter Duranty, the Moscow bureau chief of The New York Times in the 1930s, a Kremlin apologist who denied Stalin's brutal effort to destroy Ukrainians and their national identity. That effort was covered heavily in the press, bringing pressure on The Times to publicly repudiate Duranty.

Born in Paris on July 12, 1949, Mr. Czajkowsky moved with his family to Munich in 1954 where his father worked as a publicist for Ukrainian national causes. But the family was under surveillance by Soviet operatives, who once attempted to abduct the 13-year-old Roman Czajkowsky.

As an activist for Ukrainian statehood, the elder Mr. Czajkowsky was persecuted by two regimes as the Nazi-led German occupation forces held him in three concentration camps, among them at Auschwitz, and the Soviet secret police targeted him for assassination.

His father's experiences in the war motivated much of Roman Czajkowsky's advocacy of Ukrainian culture and independence for the rest of his life.

Speaking almost no English when his family immigrated to the United States in 1967, Mr. Czajkowsky first studied at St. Basil Seminary where he was mentored by his relative, Lubomyr Husar, a cardinal and head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and soon immersed himself in pro-Ukraine causes.

Graduating from St. Peter's College in Jersey City, N.J., with a major in English literature, he earned a master's degree in journalism from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York in 1974.

After a brief stint as a press officer at the United Nations, he began a career in communications that spanned everything from travel writing to political news. He became the national bureau chief in Washington, D.C., for the Hudson Dispatch of Union City, N.J., covering the White House, Congress and the Supreme Court. He later served as editor for a New York-based business publication and co-founded a business-to-business marketing agency,

Blue Sky Ad Group, in 2000.

At that time, he continued to pursue many projects on behalf of Ukraine, such as contributing to the widely-read Smoloskyp publications on the plight of political prisoners in the Soviet Union; co-edited and took part in the translation of the book "The International Sakharov Hearing" on the physicist and human rights activist Andrei Sakharov, and facilitated Ukrainian Americans' access to their elected representatives in Washington under the auspices of the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS).

A member of the Ukrainian Institute of America and secretary of its board, Adrianna Melnyk, spoke of Mr. Czajkowsky.

"He was genuine, he was kind, he had an incredibly strong ethical and moral compass. He will be remembered for all of his good works, for what he inspired in others, for his leadership, and, most of all, for his friendship. He understood well the debt of gratitude we owe to our hard-working ancestors and those who paved the way for us. He believed in justice and in bringing truth to light, in both the possible and the seemingly impossible," Ms. Melnyk said.

"He was elegant in every way: in his writing, and in his presence," another former colleague recalled. "He was curious about people and known as a good listener who sought to collaborate on new ideas. His contagious energy and tireless involvement strengthened the Ukrainian American

community, particularly in his mentorship of younger professionals."

Mr. Czajkowsky passed away with his wife, Chrystyna (nee Obushkevich), at his side. He was preceded in death by his parents, Danylo Sas de Trunko Czajkowsky, an activist, journalist and author from Myshkiv, Ukraine, and Lubomyra (nee Huhlevych), a community organizer and librarian from Przemyśl, Poland.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Czajkowsky is survived by his sister, Sirka DiBono (with husband Michael), and their children, Daniel (with wife Samantha), and Francesca; and relatives from the families Tyshynsky, Goudy, Hirschback and Rypan in North America; and Tchaikovsky, Betsko, Lukomska, Plachtyna, Krugliy and Marushchak in Ukraine.

A memorial mass was held on April 13 at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in North Port, Fla., with Bishop Bohdan Danylo of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and Rev. Dmytro Kasiyan of St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church officiating. Mr. Czajkowsky's ashes will be interred at St. Andrew Cemetery in Bound Brook, N.J., at a later date.

Individuals may donate to the Ukrainian National Women's League of America's Orphans' Fund at unwla.org, or to any charitable organization that provides aid to children in Ukraine.

Chrystyna Czajkowsky contributed to this obituary.

Chicago's CYM...

(Continued from page 11)

Former world chess champion Gary Karasparov, a Russian pro-democracy dissident and supporter of Ukraine, has said that Mr. Ivanchuk, who was born in Ternopil Oblast but considers Lviv to be his hometown, was the "only player I feared" from across the chess board.

However, U.S. chess prodigy Bobby Fischer truncated the Soviet Union's dominance of chess in 1972 when he defeated reigning champion Boris Spassky who hailed from Saint Petersburg (then Leningrad).

After that, Anatoliy Karpov and Mr. Kasparov retook the reigns beginning in 1975.

Chess is documented to have been introduced to what is modern-day Ukraine from the East, mainly India and through the Persian Empire, in the 8th to the 10th centuries.

Archeologists have found chess pieces under water and at excavations that date to at least the 10th century during the rule of the Slavic kingdom of Kyivan Rus', according to a 2013 study conducted by the Lviv-based State University of Sport Science.

Yukhym Boholiubov, the son of a Kyiv regional priest, was perhaps one of the best-known Ukrainian chess players before the Soviet Union's emergence. He was a high-ranking player who won numerous prestigious tournaments in Europe and twice played for the chess crown but lost to Russian chess master Alexander Alekhine in two matches in 1929 and 1934.

There are currently five active Ukrainian chess players who are ranked in the top 100 in the world as of April, according to the World Chess Federation, which is known by its French acronym FIDE.

The highest-ranking player is grandmaster Pavlo Elyanov of Kharkiv, ranked at 32 with a rating of 2706.

As is the case with Ukraine, the United States boasts only one world chess champion – Mr. Fischer – who won his match in the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik.

Numerous studies have proven that the study and playing of chess helps keep cognitive skills sharp.

Those skills include memory, calculation and problem solving. One of the most cited studies, "Chess Expertise in Children," was conducted by the University of Memphis in 1990, and many additional research papers have documented the benefits of learning the age-old game.

The beloved Ukrainian restaurant is now a *feature documentary*.

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Ukrainian pro...

(Continued from page 20)

She is a multi-sport athlete who excelled in youth, collegiate and professional ranks. She was a four-time national boxing champion, World and European boxing champion, winning top technical boxing awards in 2014 and 2015. She won six medals as a Ukrainian national team member at the World Karate Championships in 2015. She has played youth, prep, collegiate and professional hockey, earning All-Tournament and All-Conference honors with Liberty University. Professionally, she played with Team Adidas in the Professional Women's Hockey Players Association (PWHPA).

She began her hockey career playing seven years for the Ukrainian Druzhba 78 club. Her brother, Oleksandr, got his sister interested in boxing as a way to maintain her physical conditioning. After some five years away, Manchak-Jensen returned to the sport when women's hockey took hold in Ukraine, playing for the Queens of Dnipro before relocating to Canada for two years and eventually enrolling at Liberty University. In her two years playing in the American Collegiate Hockey Association, Manchak-Jensen earned top rookie and forward of the year honors. She was the first-ever Ukrainian to be selected to play professional hockey in the PWHPA.

Most recently, Manchak-Jensen was team captain for Ukraine's national women's team, which won the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Women's World Hockey Championship Division 3A to gain promotion to Division 2B in 2025. She was the tournament's top scorer with 8 goals and 10 assists for 18 points and tied for leading goal scorer with her eight tallies.

She is also the owner of Infinite Edge and Power, an enterprise that trains and develops athletes, working with various associations and programs across the United States, teaching skills and offering evaluations for college hockey showcases. She has trained, developed, mentored and coached numerous collegiate, junior and professional athletes in the past several years, including working with the Luverne

Hockey Association in Minnesota.

Despite growing up in a single-parent home in a politically unstable Ukraine, Manchak-Jensen thrived. Her father left the family when she was two, but her mother's great influence to become a leader taught her that she needs to fight for everything and always do her best.

The 26-year-old earned a master's degree in public policy at Liberty University where she met her future husband. The Jensens reside in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Lomachenko-Kambosos, Jr., bout set for May 12

The International Boxing Federation (IBF) lightweight world title will be contested in Perth, Australia, on May 12 when Greek Australian George Kambosos, Jr., takes on Ukrainian Vasiliy Lomachenko. Both boxers look at the bout as an opportunity to make a statement in the lightweight division with both suffering losses to Devin Haney, knocking them down a peg in the rankings.

Both fighters have enjoyed stellar careers with pronounced ups and downs. Kambosos' 2021 win over American Teofimo Lopez earned him the unified lightweight world championship, while Lomachenko, who has been labeled the top pound-for-pound fighter in the world, is one of boxing's most technically sound fighters who owns two Olympic gold medals and world titles in three different weight divisions.

Lomachenko's legendary ring intelligence and superb skills make him the decisive favorite entering the contest. His established style of feints, counterattacks and outstanding footwork that tactically break down his opponents are a proven winning style. He can apply pressure when on the offensive and yet be very responsibly defensively.

Kambosos usually boxes as a pressure fighter, banking on his super aggression, speed and excellent physical conditioning in an attempt to overwhelm his opponents.

A victory on May 17 will go a long way in cementing Lomachenko's legacy in the sport and a lasting place in Boxing's Hall of Fame.

(Based on reporting by Boxing Scene, mysouthborough.com, X Sport, Skinner Hockey and Greek Reporter.)

Ihor Stelmach may be reached at ihornia@sbcglobal.net.

OUT & ABOUT

April 24 Cambridge, MA	Seminar, "MAPA: The Chornobyl/Chernobyl Project," Harvard University, https://huri.harvard.edu
April 24 New York	Presentation by Edward Verona and Natasha Udensiva, "The Russo-Ukrainian War: Sanctions, Energy, Asymmetrical Warfare," Columbia University, https://harriman.columbia.edu
April 25 Fox Chase, PA	Discussion with Ambassador Oksana Markarova, Robert J. Desousa, and Ambassador Roman Popadiuk, "Diplomacy in War: Roles and Functions of an Ambassador," Manor College, www.manor.edu/ukraine
April 25 New York	Conversation with Tim Mak, "Reporting from Ukraine in Times of War Fatigue," Razom for Ukraine, www.razomforukraine.org
April 25 New York	Book talk with Sasha Vasilyuk, "Your Presence is Mandatory: A New Lens on the Ukraine War," Columbia University, https://harriman.columbia.edu
April 25 Montreal	Film screening, "Ukrainian in Quebec 1891-1945," (French version), directed by Yuriy Luhovy, Association Jeunesse-Ukraino-Quebecoise, Ukrainian National Federation Auditorium, 514-481-5871 or www.yluhovy.com
April 30 New York	Pre-launch reading and discussion, "The God of Freedom" by Yuliya Musakovska, Columbia University, https://harriman/columbia.edu
May 1 New York	Conversation with Ahmet Evin, "Russia's Invasion of Ukraine and China's BRI Ambitions," Columbia University, https://harriman.columbia.edu
May 3-9 Charlotte, NC	Film screening, "Veselka: The Rainbow on the Corner at the Center of the World," Independent Picture House, https://independentpicturehouse.org
May 9 New York	Panel presentation, "Stand with Ukraine Through Poetry: 'In the Hour of War,'" with Ilya Kaminsky, Yuliya Musakovska and Olena Jennings, Razom for Ukraine, New York Public Library (Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library), www.razomforukraine.org
May 10 Toronto	Film screening, "Veselka: The Rainbow on the Corner at the Center of the World," Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, https://hotdocs.ca/whats-on/veselka
May 11 Jenkintown, PA	Perelaz fundraiser, Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation, St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church, 415-314-1845 or ihaluha@ucufoundation.org
May 11-12 South Bound Brook, NJ	St. Thomas Sunday pilgrimage weekend, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church and Cemetery, www.ucofusa.org

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.

Dolgopolov...

(Continued from page 21)

Russian and Belarusian players who are still allowed to compete in all international tournaments, including Wimbledon where British tennis was forced to backtrack from their stance of banning them under threat of sanctions.

Dolgopolov was disgusted over an unofficial exhibition tournament played in St. Petersburg, Russia, over the first weekend of last December. A few of his contemporaries, such as Europeans Roberto Bautista Agut (Italy) and Adrian Mannarino (France), took part as independent contractors and Dolgopolov was incensed over their participation, not understanding their thought process in playing there strictly for money.

While Russia threatens Europe with a possible nuclear attack, energy blackmail and wages war on an independent European neighbor, some European tennis players chose to go to Russia and make some money, which, according to Dolgopolov, they really don't need. (Both European players mentioned above have been on the ATP Tour for some 15 years.)

Regarding the ongoing war with Russia, Dolgopolov has no idea how long he will be directly engaged in the battle. His future plans remain on hold and his current life allows him to plan one or two days ahead at best.

(Based on reporting by Daily Express and Mail Online.)



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