

**INSIDE:**

- Two largest Ukrainian-American credit unions plan to merge – **page 5**
- National Ballet of Ukraine kicks off US tour at Washington's Kennedy Center – **page 8**
- Strong Paralympics showing encourages disabled Ukrainian veterans – **page 14**

# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## Trump says Zelenskyy takes billions while refusing to 'make a deal' to end war

RFE/RL

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump accused Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on September 25 of taking billions of dollars from the United States while at the same time refusing to "make a deal" to end Russia's full-scale invasion.

Mr. Trump, who has been highly critical of the aid Washington has disbursed to Kyiv, said Ukraine should have made concessions to Russian President Vladimir Putin in the months before Russia's February 2022 attack.

"Any deal – the worst deal – would've been better than what we have now," Mr. Trump said. "If they made a bad deal, it would've been much better. They would've given up a little bit and everybody would be living, and every building would be built, and every tower would be aging for another 2,000 years."

Mr. Trump made the remark at a campaign rally in North Carolina as Mr. Zelenskyy attended the United Nations General Assembly in New York ahead of a visit on September 26 to Washington, where U.S. President Joe Biden is expected to announce an additional aid package for the war-ravaged country.

Mr. Trump has frequently claimed that Russia never would have invaded Ukraine if he had been U.S. president and that he would swiftly put an end to the war if he returned to the White House. But he has not presented any concrete explanation of how he would accomplish that.

In a debate earlier this month with Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, Mr. Trump refused to say whether he wanted Ukraine to win the war.

Russia and Ukraine held several negotiations before the full-scale invasion was

(Continued on page 10)

## At UN, Zelenskyy claims Russia plans attacks on Ukraine's nuclear plants



Office of the President of Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addresses the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 25.

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on September 25 said that he has received reports saying Russian President Vladimir Putin is planning to attack nuclear power plants and infrastructure in Ukraine with the goal of disconnecting the plants from the power grid.

Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Mr. Zelenskyy said he recently received "yet another alarming

report from our intelligence" saying that Russia is using satellites to gather images and detailed information about Ukraine's nuclear infrastructure.

"Any missile or drone strike, any critical incident in the energy system could lead to a nuclear disaster, a day like that must never come," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Moscow "needs to understand this, and this depends in part on your determination

(Continued on page 7)

## Zelenskyy unveils victory war plan to Biden during weeklong trip to U.S.



Office of the President of Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (front, left) signs a 155-millimeter shell on September 22 at a defense munitions production plant in Scranton, Pa.

by Mark Raczkiewicz

CHICAGO – Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy embarked on an agenda-filled weeklong trip to the U.S. over the past week that culminated in a White House meeting with outgoing U.S. President Joe Biden that included a presentation of the Ukrainian president's "victory plan."

Ahead of Mr. Zelenskyy's September 26 visit to the White House, Mr. Biden approved a historic security package for Kyiv worth \$7.9 billion.

"I am announcing a surge in security assistance for Ukraine and a series of additional actions to help Ukraine win this war," Mr. Biden said.

The outgoing president used his remaining drawdown authority to approve \$5.55 billion in aid, as well as \$2.4 billion via the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI).

The former is for weapons and equipment while the latter is for long term weapons contracts.

(Continued on page 7)

## U.S. House Speaker Johnson urges Zelenskyy to fire Ukrainian ambassador Markarova

Move comes after president visits Pennsylvania munitions manufacturing plant

RFE/RL

WASHINGTON – The speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Mike Johnson (R-La.), has called on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to fire his ambassador to the United States after Mr. Zelenskyy took part in a tour of a manufacturing plant in Pennsylvania, which is seen as a battleground state in the upcoming U.S. presidential election.

Mr. Johnson said in a letter to Mr. Zelenskyy on September 25 that Ambassador Oksana Markarova organized the tour of a Pennsylvania arms plant that produces munitions critical for Ukraine's country's war effort.

The Scranton Army Ammunition Plant is one of only two sites in the United States that produce 155-millimeter artillery shells, which are among the most important aspects of U.S. military aid to Ukraine with more than 3 million shipped to the country.

Mr. Zelenskyy visited the plant on September 22 ahead of his meetings this week at the United Nations in New York and with President Joe Biden in Washington.

Pennsylvania is one of the most important of seven swing states that will determine the U.S. election on November

(Continued on page 4)



## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Russia's disinformation campaign in North America becomes smarter and more flexible

by **Sergey Sukhankin**  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

On September 13, the United States introduced sanctions against three entities and two individuals for their connection to the Russian state-funded RT (formerly "Russia Today") disinformation outlet for its interference in Moldova's sovereign affairs before the country's October 20 elections (RBC, September 13). Prior to this, on September 4, the United States introduced sanctions against the aforementioned RT, as well as Russian news outlets MIA Rossiya Segodnya, RIA Novosti, Sputnik and the Germany-based Ruptly agency. Also sanctioned were individuals including, among others, Russian propagandist and RT Editor-in-Chief Margarita Simonyan and her deputies Elizaveta

Brodksya and Anton Anisimov (RBC, September 4). The United States has effectively taken charge of the international coalition of allies and like-minded nations, such as the United Kingdom and Canada, in countering Russia's disinformation efforts (RIA Novosti, September 13). This struggle, however, will be difficult. Having practiced (and perfected) its skills, Russia has become one of the world's top sources of first-class disinformation, which, based on the most recent examples, is becoming smarter, more elaborate and adapting to local needs (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, May 13).

In its new disinformation efforts directed at the North American audience, Russia has seemingly taken a new approach. It is

(Continued on page 3)

# Level of violence in Russia reaches new high as veterans return from war

by **Ksenia Kirillova**  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Independent Russian media outlet Vot Tak posted an article on September 8 containing statistics on the criminal activities of veterans of Russia's war on Ukraine. While Russian President Vladimir Putin touts these returning veterans as the "new elite" of Russia, reports show that there are hundreds of criminals among them (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, March 13). An uptick in violence in Russia has been exacerbated by the return of former prisoners from the front who, upon coming home, have returned to their previous criminal activity, including rape and murder. Since the beginning of 2024, no fewer than 15 people – including children – have been murdered by these veterans (Vot-tak.tv, September 8). Numerous cases of rape and attempted rape have been reported, including a case of a 70-year-old woman who was attacked in Moscow by a 25-year-old veteran in July (MK.ru, July 18). Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, not only has there been a growth of violence, but it has also transitioned to a fundamentally different level (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, January 29, February 29). Numerous shootouts have occurred in Moscow, and the army is increasingly merging with organized crime. The growing violence in Russian society will only increase as the long war continues, further contributing to Russia's rupture.

This uptick in violence in Russian society has become so serious that even the Russian government has discussed the issue. According to statistics from the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, more serious crimes were committed from January through August than during the past 13 years (Deutsche Welle-Russian service, September 12). On September 18, there was a massive shootout not far from the Kremlin, which left seven people wounded, including three police officers. The incident arose from a conflict between the married owners of the "Wildberries" company, one of which was supported by Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov. The other secured the patronage of Suleiman Kerimov, a member of the Federation Council and a "shadow cardinal" of Dagestan (Kazkaz.Realii, September 19). As a

result, an attempt to split up a family business turned into a large-scale, 1990s-style reorganization of the spheres of influence between two competing clans (Novaya Gazeta-Evropa, September 18).

The general director of "Transparency International-Russia," Ilya Shumanov, suggests that against the backdrop of growing state weakness, armed showdowns over assets will increase as people return from the war and the "shadow sector" of the economy expands. He opines that this is the direct result of the government surrendering its monopoly on violence, which was best on display during former Wagner Group leader Yevgeniy Prigozhin's uprising (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, August 3, 2023; Novaya Gazeta-Evropa, September 20). These tendencies are especially evident against the background of the dwindling size of the police force in Russia, largely a result of low pay. Police officers frequently prefer to leave the service and go to the front as contract soldiers than serve in Russia itself (Istories.media, September 16).

The front in Ukraine itself is becoming a separate "hotbed" of organized crime. Not only has there been the removal of an internal barrier to violence and killing in Russia among people who have been to war, but there has also been a trend of common crimes within the Russian Army. Notably, a video created by two Russian soldiers – unmanned reconnaissance specialists Dmitriy Lysakovskiy and Sergey Gritsay, known by the call signs "Goodwin" and "Ernest," respectively – has gained the attention of the pro-war "Z-community." In their video, the soldiers accused their command of allowing drug trafficking, looting and theft of equipment to occur in the regiment under the direct supervision of the commander. According to them, the command ordered that information obtained during reconnaissance not be used, and the best drone specialists in their unit were transferred to assault troops, who were sent to their deaths because they tried to prevent this lawlessness. "Goodwin" and "Ernest" recorded this message in case they did not return from battle (YouTube/@Monte-Kristo, September 14). According to Russian war correspondents, both soldiers died in a Ukrainian drone

(Continued on page 6)

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Russia won't participate in second peace summit

Moscow will not participate in a second peace summit planned by Ukraine for later this year, Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on September 21. Kyiv organized the first peace summit in June in Switzerland with more than 80 countries backing a communiqué that called for Ukraine's territorial integrity to be the basis of any peace agreement. Russia was not invited to that summit. Ms. Zakharova said that any peace agreement should reflect the "situation on the ground and geopolitical reality." Russia controls about 20 percent of Ukraine's territory. Ukraine last month invaded Russia, seizing a swath of territory that would strengthen its negotiating position in any eventual peace talks. (RFE/RL's Russian Service)

### EU announces \$39 billion loan for Kyiv

The European Commission will provide Ukraine with a new loan of up to \$39 billion, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced in Kyiv on September 20, calling it "another major E.U. [European Union] contribution to Ukraine's recovery." "Relentless Russian attacks means Ukraine needs continued E.U. support," Ms. von der Leyen said in a post on X. Speaking in a joint press conference with Ms. von der Leyen, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country's "victory plan" in the war against Russia depended on quick decisions being made by allies this year. Mr. Zelenskyy said Ukraine plans to use the funds for air defense, energy and domestic weapons purchases. The loan is part of a wider plan among the Group of Seven (G-7) countries to raise funds to support Kyiv using proceeds from some \$300 billion in Russian financial assets frozen as part of sanctions against Moscow for invading Ukraine. After months of discussions, the E.U. in May struck a deal among its member states under which 90 percent of the proceeds would go into an E.U.-run fund for military aid for Ukraine, with the other 10 percent going to support Kyiv in other ways. Ms. von der Leyen's visit to the Ukrainian capital comes a day after she announced the E.U. will provide an additional \$178 million

to help Ukraine repair damaged energy infrastructure, expand renewable energy and finance shelters. Ahead of the meeting with Mr. Zelenskyy, the E.U. chief said she was in Kyiv to discuss Europe's support to Ukraine "from winter preparedness to defense, to accession and progress on the G-7 loans." "My 8th visit to Kyiv comes as the heating season starts soon, and Russia keeps targeting energy infrastructure," Ms. von der Leyen said in a post on X early on September 20. Mr. Zelenskyy met with top military leaders later on September 20 to discuss the deployment of Patriot missile systems to protect Ukraine's energy infrastructure in the winter. He said the meeting covered the level of protection for energy infrastructure, the schedule for the completion of fortifications and the placement of air defense systems, including U.S.-made Patriot systems, which are expected to be delivered "in the near future." Earlier this week, the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) warned that the coming winter could be the hardest yet for Ukraine, as the country's energy infrastructure is under significant pressure amid Russian strikes on its power plants, heating plants and transmission networks. "Strains that are bearable in the summer months may become unbearable when temperatures start to fall and supplies of heat and water falter, triggering further displacement of affected populations across the country and abroad," the IEA said. Ukraine's air force said on September 20 that air defenses destroyed 61 out of 70 Russian drones and one out of four missiles launched overnight. "The air defense system operated in Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Vinnytsya, Cherkasy, Kirovohrad, Sumy, Poltava, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Khmelnytskyi, Mykolayiv, Odesa and Kherson regions," the air force said on Telegram. There were no immediate reports of any casualties in the latest nighttime attacks. Officials in the Lviv region reported that falling debris caused a fire in a village and also damaged three vehicles and shattered windows in residential buildings. "The premises of the former collective farm caught fire, which firefighters promptly extinguished," the head of the regional military administration Maksym Kozyskiy wrote on Telegram. (RFE/RL's

(Continued on page 10)

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# U.S. pledges \$8 billion in military aid ahead of Biden-Zelenskyy talks

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service

U.S. President Joe Biden on September 26 announced more than \$8 billion in military aid for Kyiv ahead of a crucial meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Washington as Russia launched a fresh round of deadly strikes on Ukraine while pressing ahead with an offensive in the east.

"Through these actions, my message is clear: The United States will provide Ukraine with the support it needs to win this war," Mr. Biden said in a statement.

The package includes for the first time a system called a Joint Standoff Weapon – a precision-guided glide bomb with a range of up to 81 miles launched from fighter aircraft – as well as an additional Patriot air-defense battery and hundreds more Patriot missiles and AMRAAMs (advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles).

Mr. Biden, who is leaving office in January, said the training for Ukrainian F-16 pilots in the United States will also be expanded, including the training of an additional 18 pilots next year.

He said Washington and its partners were taking steps to disrupt a global cryptocurrency network used by Russia to evade sanctions and launder money, without elaborating.

Mr. Biden added that he has called a top-level meeting of the 50 or so members of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group in Germany next month to better coordinate efforts to back Ukraine's defense against Russian aggression.

Mr. Zelenskyy thanked Mr. Biden in a message on X.

"I am grateful to [U.S. President] Joe Biden, [the] U.S. Congress and both parties, Republicans and Democrats, as well as the entire American people for today's announcement," he wrote.

Mr. Zelenskyy was expected to lay out a

"victory plan" during his meeting with Mr. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris at the White House on September 26.

Messrs. Biden and Zelenskyy spoke briefly on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on September 25.

The United States, Ukraine's main supporter, and Western allies have given Kyiv billions of dollars in military aid and other assistance while also slapping several rounds of sanctions on Moscow.

Few details are known about the plan put together by Mr. Zelenskyy, who has been on an intensive diplomatic mission since he arrived for the annual UNGA event to convince American policymakers to maintain its crucial support for Ukraine.

Mr. Zelenskyy has said that the plan will be a "bridge" toward ending the conflict, while media reports said it would ask for stepped-up U.S. military and financial backing and security guarantees, as well as further sanctions on Russia.

People close to Mr. Zelenskyy have said the main security guarantee that Kyiv is pursuing is North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) membership, a longtime demand that has been met with skepticism by the United States and its allies.

Mr. Zelenskyy has also indicated that he will again seek permission to use long-range missiles to strike military targets deep inside Russia to prevent attacks on its cities and infrastructure, a move Ukraine's allies are divided upon.

But an unnamed U.S. official told Reuters that Mr. Biden will not announce that Washington would let Kyiv use U.S. missiles to hit targets deeper in Russia.

At least eight people were killed and 44 were wounded in Russian strikes on Ukraine over a period of 24 hours, regional officials reported on September 26.

A child was wounded in Kyiv as the Ukrainian capital and more than 10 other

regions came under a wave of Russian strikes early on September 26.

Vadym Filashkin, the governor of Donetsk, said that four people were killed and 19 were wounded across the region whose civilian areas were shelled 28 times.

In Kherson, Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said that two people were killed and 14 were wounded. A 62-year-old woman was killed in a rocket attack in the Odesa region, according to Gov. Oleh Kiper, while one person died in the Russian shelling of the Sumy region.

Overnight shelling of the southern Zaporizhia region wounded 8 people, one seriously, Gov. Ivan Fedorov reported.

Separately, Russia's Defense Ministry said its forces had captured Ukrainka, a town in Donetsk some 18 miles south of Pokrovsk, a key hub that has been in Moscow's crosshairs for the past months.

The White House said that Mr. Biden will host Mr. Zelenskyy in the Oval Office at 1:45 p.m. local time. Mr. Zelenskyy and Ms. Harris are due to deliver remarks at 3:05 p.m. before holding talks in the vice president's office.

Mr. Zelenskyy, who is also due to visit Congress, told the UNGA on September 25 that he had received reports saying that Russian President Vladimir Putin is planning to attack nuclear power plants and infrastructure in Ukraine with the goal of disconnecting the plants from the power grid.

"Any missile or drone strike, any critical incident in the energy system, could lead to a nuclear disaster. A day like that must never come," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Republican presidential candidate and former President Donald Trump, who faces Ms. Harris in November's poll, had also been due to hold talks with Mr. Zelenskyy, but their meeting appears to be on hold after Mr. Trump on September 25

said Ukraine was taking billions of dollars from Washington while at the same time refusing to "make a deal" to end Russia's full-scale invasion, launched in February 2022.

Mr. Trump's comments at a rally in North Carolina appeared to be in response to Mr. Zelenskyy's comments in an interview with The New Yorker in which he said that Mr. Trump "doesn't really know how to stop the war even if he might think he knows how."

Mr. Trump told his audience that Mr. Zelenskyy was making "little nasty aspersions toward your favorite president: me."

Mr. Trump has frequently claimed that Moscow would never have invaded Ukraine if he had been U.S. president and that he would swiftly put an end to the war if he returned to the White House. But he has not presented any concrete explanation of how he would accomplish that.

In a debate earlier this month with Ms. Harris, Mr. Trump, who has been highly critical of the aid Washington has disbursed to Kyiv, refused to say whether he wanted Ukraine to win the war.

Mr. Trump has said that Ukraine should have made concessions to Putin in the months before Russia's invasion.

"Any deal – the worst deal – would've been better than what we have now," Mr. Trump said. "If they made a bad deal, it would've been much better. They would've given up a little bit and everybody would be living, and every building would be built, and every tower would be aging for another 2,000 years."

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## Russia's...

(Continued from page 2)

using so-called "embedded" propaganda, increasingly utilizing local voices to sound more plausible and credible. Two associates of RT and other Russian disinformation outlets, Konstantin Kalashnikov and Yelena Afanasyeva, have been accused of giving \$10 million to Nashville-based Tenet Media. According to available information, Tenet Media, which was established in 2023, has generated over 2,000 videos that have garnered around 16 million views. Bloggers and the founders of the company – including Tim Pool, Benny Johnson, David Rubin, Matt Christiansen and Lauren Southern (a Canadian citizen) – primarily concentrate their reporting on the United States and its domestic socioeconomic problems, such as immigration and inflation. They claim that these challenges are made worse by current U.S. foreign policy, especially its support for Ukraine, which they argue has caused politicians to disregard domestic issues (Voice of America, September 6). Notably, embedded propaganda and disinformation dispersed by Tenet Media have attracted attention and found support among representatives of the American financial and business elite. For example, multi-billionaire Elon Musk, owner of the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter), re-posted tweets from the outlet on at least 60 occasions (X.com/@elonmusk, July 29, August 26).

It has been discovered that Tenet Media was (at least in part) paid by RT for content via Mr. Kalashnikov and Ms. Afanasyeva.

This provides evidence for the theory that RT engages in the sponsorship of "clandestine" disinformation projects abroad to influence the opinions of foreign citizens. As revealed by Ms. Simonyan herself, "Through such projects [as Tenet Media], RT, which has been evicted from Western countries, continues to influence Western public opinion" (Korrespondent.net, September 20).

Another example of Russian soft power in media is a film by Russian-Canadian documentary director Anastasia Trofimova, who has occasionally collaborated with the RT. Her notorious documentary "Russians at War" has caused significant controversy in Western media. The movie – which attempts to present Russian soldiers as "deceived victims" of the war in Ukraine and Russia's aggression against Ukraine as a "brotherly conflict" – was first shown during the 81st annual Venice International Film Festival between August 28 and September 7. While it was screened in Europe, its reception in North America was very different. In Canada, under pressure from the local Ukrainian diaspora (the Ukrainian Canadian Congress), the Canadian policymaking community, Ukrainian officials and organizers of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) collectively decided not to screen the movie (TIFF, September 12). Later, when it was revealed that the movie was partially financed by the Canada Media Fund (CMF) – said to have allocated \$340,000 Canadian to the film – the scandal was further magnified (Voice of America, September 11).

Despite Ms. Trofimova's claim that she had not collaborated with the Russian

Federal Security Service (FSB) nor the Russian Ministry of Defense (MoD) when filming the movie, both security experts and notable filmmakers do not believe her claims. She and her crew spent seven months on the frontline in the territories of the so-called Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics and later traveled to Russia to film the graves of soldiers killed in Ukraine. It seems unbelievable that a foreign citizen (from a so-called "unfriendly country") could spend seven months at the frontline of a war and later film burials in Russia without the explicit permission of the Russian Ministry of Defense. As stated in an interview by Ukrainian film director Alexander Rodnyansky, "The absolute majority of those who are being filmed are [Russian] contract soldiers [kontraktniki] who do not even conceal the fact that they came [to Ukraine] to fight for money. Having put her camera among them, ... she has solidarized with them. ... A journalist who is dressing up like a soldier is becoming a combatant. It is virtually impossible to imagine that she managed to move from [Krasnyi] Lyman to Bakhmut into the high-intensity combat zone without prior approval from the MoD. She denies this. However, I do not believe her."

Mr. Rodnyansky argued that, after having watched this movie, it appears to be an "element of soft power" that could have been commissioned by the MoD (Vot-tak.tv, September 9).

Ms. Trofimova's other statements do little to support her claims of not being attached to Russian entities. For instance, Ms. Trofimova argued in an interview that Russian soldiers were "normal guys with a

sense of humor" and that she "had not seen any war crimes" committed by the Russian side in Ukraine (Meduza, September 10). She also stated that she "does not support either party" in the war. Public figures who follow this approach in the majority of cases support Russia but do not want to reveal their position publicly because supporting "either party" means being "pro-war" (Baikal-journal.ru, September 5). Additionally, Ms. Trofimova, when explaining why she was wearing a Russian military uniform, stated that "a commander of a [Russian] brigade made her wear the uniform so that one of 'ours' [svoi, the Russian possessive pronoun referencing the subject of the sentence] would not accidentally shoot her" (BBC Russian Service, September 13).

The post-COVID-19 era was marked by an economic slowdown and growing domestic polarization in both the United States and Western Europe over various socioeconomic and political issues. Russia aims to exploit these differences through covert influence operations in Western media. To sound more credible, in the future Russia will likely use more "local voices" to promote its narrative. These might include native-born or naturalized citizens of the United States or Canada, whose commentary would cast a lesser doubt on the credibility of information supplied to the North American target audience.

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# A critical trip for Zelenskyy as battlefield worsens and U.S. election looms

by Todd Prince  
RFE/RL

WASHINGTON – At a Pennsylvania munitions factory where 155-mm artillery shells are churned out by the thousands, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy grinned and shook hands, and he signed one of the shells that the Ukrainian military is heavily dependent on.

“It is in places like this where you can truly feel that the democratic world can prevail,” he said in a post on X, “thanks to people like these – in Ukraine, in America and in all partner countries – who work tirelessly to ensure that life is protected,” he said.

The munitions plant was Mr. Zelenskyy's first stop on a weeklong visit to the United States, a trip shaping up to be one of the most consequential trips for the Ukrainian leader since Russia launched its all-out invasion in February 2022.

In speeches at the United Nations and meetings at the White House, Mr. Zelenskyy is hoping to rally the world to his cause fighting Europe's largest land war since World War II – and also get permission to expand his military's ability to hit Russia more forcefully inside the country itself.

Global attention on the Ukraine war is waning, increasingly eclipsed by the widening conflict in the Middle East. In the United States, Americans are increasingly impatient with U.S. support for Ukraine, sentiments channeled by Donald Trump, the former president and Republican candidate in the November 5 election. And on the ground, Russian troops continue to grind forward in eastern Ukraine even as they suffer immense losses, closing in on the key cities of Pokrovsk and Vuhledar.

“It's important for Ukraine to present some kind of consistent and realistic vision on how specifically assistance from the West can help it achieve its strategic goals,” Mikhail Alexseev, a political science professor at San Diego State University, told RFE/RL.

## Global South in focus

Mr. Zelenskyy addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 25, where he reminded the world of Russia's invasion, launched in February 2022.

Mr. Zelenskyy needed to focus his address in particular on the Global South, said Andriy Veselovskiy, Ukraine's former representative to the European Union.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (left) and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz attend a meeting during the United Nations summit in New York on September 23.

That's a term that refers to the countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East, most of which are ambivalent at best about the war, concerned more about the dangers of economic turmoil or spiking food prices. Many nations in that loose grouping view the fighting as a proxy war between the United States and Russia.

All of the 40 nations that abstained or voted against a March 2022 U.N. resolution condemning Russia's invasion were located in the Global South.

“Ukraine needs to avoid the separation of the West and South on the question of Ukraine,” Mr. Veselovskiy told RFE/RL. “We need to at least make the positions of some countries milder. We need to change the mood on the question of Ukraine.”

The Global South broadly speaking has leverage with Russia, experts said, given that the Kremlin has destroyed its relationship with the West. But right now, the mood is that Ukraine should make the effort to hold talks with the Kremlin, said Richard Gowan, the U.N. director for International Crisis Group, a Brussels-based research organization.

“There's a sense that it's really time for Ukraine to sit down and negotiate with Russia,” Mr. Gowan told RFE/RL. “There may not really be an appreciation of how difficult it would be for the Ukrainians to get a viable deal with Moscow.”

## West Wing

Mr. Zelenskyy's visit to the White House on September 26 will be just as consequential, if not more so.

Despite Ukraine's daring incursion into Russia's Kursk region in August, Russian forces continue to grind forward in Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine.

Ukrainian officials have pleaded for months for not only more weaponry; Washington is the single largest supplier of arms and equipment, including the artillery shells from the Pennsylvania factory.

During his meeting with President Joe Biden, Mr. Zelenskyy will also request permission to use U.S. long-range missiles to strike military targets deep inside Russia like depots and airfields housing fighter jets.

Those jets are being used with devastating consequences by Russia, dropping heavy, guided bombs that flatten entire city blocks or obliterate Ukrainian defensive positions and are difficult to shoot down. The bombs have also heavily damaged the country's energy infrastructure.

Up to 4,000 such bombs are being dropped on eastern Ukraine each month, Mr. Zelenskyy told CNN in an interview last week.

For that reason, Ukrainian commanders want to use Western weaponry to hit Russian airfields.

Biden administration officials have so far denied Ukraine's request, fearing it would cross a red line for Russian President Vladimir Putin. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin earlier this month suggested such long-range fire would turn the tide in the war.

Mr. Alexseev said Kyiv cannot outright win in a war of attrition, but it can push

back Russian troops by disrupting supply lines.

Last week, Ukraine hit two ammunition depots far beyond the front line, apparently with homemade drones. At one depot in the Tver region, up to three months of munitions may have been destroyed, according to estimates by Estonia's defense intelligence agency.

Critics of the U.S. policy have pointed out that several of the Kremlin's apparent red lines have already been crossed in the past with no repercussions.

However, Mr. Biden may be more cautious this time with the U.S. presidential election just six weeks away, experts said.

Kamala Harris, Mr. Biden's vice president, is running neck-and-neck with Mr. Trump in the election campaign, according to many polls.

Some Republicans, such as Mr. Trump's running mate Sen. J.D. Vance, say the United States should not give more aid, arguing Kyiv has little chance of driving Russia out.

Though Ukraine is not at the top of most Americans' concerns for the election, the question has resonated with some voters, and polls have shown growing American impatience.

## Victory plan

Mr. Zelenskyy is also expected to unveil his “victory plan” – a detailed road map to end the war as Ukraine sees it.

Few details of the plan have been released, though Zelenskyy administration officials have signaled that they think it is realistic and achievable, so long as it gains Western backing.

“Decisive action now could hasten the just end of Russian aggression against Ukraine next year. Our victory plan will help bring Russia to peace in practice,” Mr. Zelenskyy said after meeting with a group of Republican and Democratic senators on September 24.

“Now, at the end of the year, we have a real opportunity to strengthen cooperation between Ukraine and the United States,” he said in a post on Telegram.

## More money, more weapons, more aid

Regardless of who wins the presidency and control of Congress on November 5, U.S. aid to Ukraine next year is most likely to decline from the \$61 billion package passed in April, analysts said.

(Continued on page 6)

## U.S. House...

(Continued from page 1)

5. U.S. aid to Ukraine has become an issue in the election after Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives held up the last aid package for six months in part because they said the money could be better spent at home.

Democrats argued that most of the aid is spent on military equipment manufactured in the United States and therefore protects and creates American jobs.

Mr. Johnson said the tour was led by a top political surrogate for Vice President Kamala Harris and “purposely excluded Republicans.” He did not identify that person, but Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro, a Democrat and vocal supporter of Ms. Harris, took part in the tour.

Mr. Johnson added that Republicans have lost trust in the ambassador's “ability to fairly and effectively serve as a diplomat in this country” and demanded that Mr. Zelenskyy immediately remove her from



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (center, right) talks with Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Oksana Markarova (center, left) at the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant in Scranton, Pa., on September 22.

her position.

“As you have said, Ukrainians have tried to avoid being ‘captured by American

domestic politics,’ and ‘influencing the choices of the American people’ ahead of the November election,” Mr. Johnson said in

the letter. “Clearly that objective was abandoned this week when Ambassador Markarova organized an event in which you toured an American manufacturing site.”

He claimed the tour intentionally failed to include a single Republican, making it “clearly a partisan campaign event designed to help Democrats.”

The Ukrainian Embassy to the United States did not return a call from RFE/RL requesting comment.

Mr. Johnson added that support for ending Russia's war against Ukraine “continues to be bipartisan,” but he said that U.S.-Ukrainian relations are “tested and needlessly tarnished when the candidates at the top of the Republican presidential ticket are targeted in the media by officials in your government.”

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## Two of nation's largest credit unions serving Ukrainian-American community to merge

*Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union and Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union*

NEW YORK/PHILADELPHIA – Two of the nation's largest credit unions serving the Ukrainian-American community in North America, headquartered in New York City and suburban Philadelphia, announced on September 26 that they have agreed to merge into a single credit union in 2025 pending regulatory approval from National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and a vote authorizing the move by members of both credit unions.

Upon finalization of the merger, the combined credit union will have assets of \$1.9 billion, serve over 31,285 members, and operate all current branches of the two credit unions in the states of Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

Subject to regulatory approval, the members of the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, which is currently headquartered in Philadelphia, and the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, which is headquartered in New York, are expected to vote on the proposed merger in the first half of 2025.

The two financial institutions are both federally char-



Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union and Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union

**Bohdan Kurczak (left), president and CEO of the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union and Anatoli Murha, CEO of the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, announced on September 26 that the two organizations intend to merge.**



Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union and Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union

**The boards of directors of the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union and the Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union are seen during a meeting to discuss the planned merger.**

tered credit unions with compatible fields of membership.

The driving factor in merging the two institutions with a combined 145 years of history was the recognition that each credit union has strengths to complement each other. The scalability created from the merger will offer members expanded access to personal finance opportunities and more investment into the communities that the combined credit union will serve.

Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union will be the continuing charter. However, the merged credit union will operate two regional centers in New York City and in suburban Philadelphia to ensure responsiveness to members financial needs. Furthermore, with unanimous support from the board of directors of both institutions, the merged credit union will announce a new name in 2025.

"Our missions have long been the same," said Bohdan Kurczak, president and CEO of the \$1.4 billion Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, "and both of our boards believe the synergy that can come from partnering together as one credit union will maximize the value of the credit union to the Ukrainian American community."

"This unique opportunity offers us the ability to invest more into our members, and our employees' inclusive of new career opportunities and our communities on a scale that will secure the future of the Ukrainian American community," Anatoli Murha, CEO of the \$535 million Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union in Philadelphia, said.

"That investment will deliver enhanced service, new products with faster delivery and a greater menu of solutions that will help Ukrainian Americans further solidify their financial well-being," Mr. Murha said.

Upon Mr. Kurczak's planned retirement as president and CEO in 2025 after 23 years with the organization, Mr. Murha is designated to assume the role of president and CEO of the new credit union following the merger.

Mr. Murha has been with Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union in Philadelphia since 2011. The two men emphasized that the staff of both credit unions will be retained, and that members will continue to see the familiar credit union representatives in their neighborhood branches.

In a joint statement announcing the merger, both Messrs. Kurczak and Murha emphasized that "better meeting our members' financial needs with the strongest and most responsive credit union possible" is the impetus for the merger and that "uniting the talent and expertise from both organizations will make for a smooth transition."

Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union is a federal credit union chartered in 1951 that serves primarily the Ukrainian American community in New York and the surrounding metro area. Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union is a federal credit union chartered in 1952 that serves primarily the Ukrainian American community in the Philadelphia and Baltimore metro areas.

## SavED Foundation works to restore in-person educational opportunities for Ukraine's children

by Adrian Karmazyn

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The first day of school in any country is normally a day of joy and hope as excited children return from their summer vacations to begin another year of learning, acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary for building a successful future.

Sadly, the "start of the new school year in Ukraine was marred by deadly and destructive attacks" by Russia, says the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

In a statement, John Marks, the organization's representative in Ukraine, lamented attacks on educational facilities in the regions of Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih, Kyiv, Lviv and Sumy during the first week of school and the continued evacuations from frontline areas with "education once again disrupted as children flee their homes."

The scale of the disruption of primary and secondary



Courtesy of SavED

**Learning at SavED takes place underground at a school in Mykolayiv, Ukraine, which is supported by the organization.**

learning in Ukraine is simply shocking.

"Russia has destroyed or damaged every seventh school in Ukraine," says Anna Novosad, a former Ukrainian minister of education.

In an interview with The Ukrainian Weekly, she explained that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's subsequent full-scale invasion this "is the fifth September when more than one million little Ukrainians do not go to school, where they do not see each other, they do not learn how to work in teams, they do not know what it actually means to be in the classroom."

Ms. Novosad is co-founder and director of strategy of SavED, a charitable foundation devoted to restoring educational access for Ukraine's children. This is accomplished primarily by creating centers called EduHives for in-person (rather than online) learning, typically in areas liberated from Russian occupation but where immediately rebuilding a destroyed school is not an option. EduHives are also created in areas that remain more susceptible to Russian bombardment due to their proximity to the frontlines of the war.

SavED has already "established more than 90 EduHives and we plan to do 30 more this year," explained Ms. Novosad, emphasizing that these are "extracurricular learning spaces where we provide a nice and comfortable place, [electronic] devices, learning materials, but most importantly tutors. ... Most of our EduHives are in places where Russians left no schools [undamaged] or where education is not possible above ground, for instance in the Kharkiv region."

In that area, above-ground teaching is prohibited due to the intensity of Russian attacks.

Ms. Novosad noted that, if a school in a vulnerable area survived and requires only minimal repairs, the EduHive will usually be set up in an upgraded underground bomb shelter of that building.

In some places, such as the Mykolayiv region where there are barely any schools that are left, EduHives are set



Courtesy of SavED

**SavED co-founder Anna Novosad (left) is seen at a digital learning center in the village of Ripky in the Chernihiv region of Ukraine.**

up in unused parts of a hospital "or in local cultural houses – those old Soviet cultural houses that are basically in every village. And we invest a lot in their repair and the provision of everything that is needed," she said.

What was the motivation for creating SavED? Just prior to Russia launching its full-scale invasion, Ms. Novosad was studying at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., under the auspices of the Hubert H. Humphrey academic exchange program.

As the storm clouds of war gathered, she decided she needed to be back home in Kyiv. After the liberation of Chernihiv from Russian occupation, Ms. Novosad reached out to local education authorities and learned that 27 of the 34 schools in the city had been bombed or damaged to various degrees. It was quite obvious to her that the

(Continued on page 6)



## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### A victory plan

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's recent visit to the White House and presentation of his "victory plan" marks a pivotal moment in Ukraine's ongoing struggle against Russia's invasion. The meeting, which came just after U.S. President Joe Biden announced \$8 billion in new military aid, underscored the United States' continued support for Ukraine. Mr. Biden reiterated that Russia "will not prevail" and vowed that the U.S. will stand by Ukraine "every step of the way." However, Mr. Zelenskyy's plan and his request for long-range weapons reflect his desire to go beyond the status quo and chart a path toward a decisive end to the war.

The details of Mr. Zelenskyy's plan remain largely undisclosed, but its core goal is clear: achieving a definitive victory that forces Russia to the negotiation table on terms favorable to Ukraine. This vision rests on three primary components: increased military support from the West, particularly in advanced weaponry; security guarantees, such as eventual North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) membership; and robust sanctions to further isolate Russia economically and politically. Despite broad alignment between Kyiv and Washington on the need to support Ukraine, Mr. Zelenskyy's specific request to strike deeper inside Russia using U.S.-provided weaponry remains a point of contention.

The significance of long-range weapons in Mr. Zelenskyy's strategy cannot be understated. By targeting Russian military bases and supply lines far from the front-line, Ukraine hopes to weaken Moscow's capacity to launch strikes on Ukrainian cities and disrupt its logistical networks. Yet, Washington has so far been hesitant to greenlight such measures, fearing escalation that could pull NATO into a direct conflict. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, who met with Mr. Zelenskyy during his visit, expressed frustration with the administration's cautious approach, warning that Ukraine could be "doomed to lose" if it is not given the tools it needs to directly pressure Russian forces from within their own territory.

Beyond weapons, Mr. Zelenskyy's plan also calls for more comprehensive political and economic measures. While NATO membership remains a distant prospect, stronger security guarantees and economic partnerships with Western countries could serve as a substitute in the short term. Meanwhile, Mr. Zelenskyy wants to tighten the economic noose around Russia through expanded sanctions, targeting critical sectors and closing loopholes that allow Moscow to evade existing measures.

The timing of Mr. Zelenskyy's visit and the presentation of his plan are noteworthy, occurring just as the United States is entering a high-stakes presidential election. With President Biden set to leave office in January and Vice President Kamala Harris campaigning to succeed him against Donald Trump, Mr. Zelenskyy is aware that continued U.S. support is not guaranteed. Mr. Trump's earlier suggestion that Ukraine should have struck a deal with Putin before the war began and his recent comments favoring a negotiated settlement suggest that Kyiv's military strategy could face renewed scrutiny should he return to power.

Ultimately, Mr. Zelenskyy's victory plan is about transforming U.S. and Western support from one of maintaining Ukraine's defenses to one of achieving a decisive victory. By pressing for offensive capabilities that would allow Ukrainian forces to hit Russian targets within Russia, he aims to shift the war's momentum. Whether Washington will embrace this more assertive approach remains to be seen, but the stakes are high. As Mr. Graham put it, the decisions made in the coming weeks could determine the war's outcome. If Mr. Biden and the West truly want Ukraine to prevail, they must be willing to take calculated risks and empower Mr. Zelenskyy to implement his strategy. Otherwise, the war risks becoming a protracted stalemate, with devastating consequences for Ukraine's sovereignty and stability in Europe.

Oct.  
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### Turning the pages back...

Seven years ago, on October 6, 2017, The Ukrainian Weekly marked its 84th anniversary of its inaugural issue, dated October 6, 1933. Founded as a publication for the new generation of Ukrainians born and raised in North America, it continues to strive to keep the English-speaking world, especially the Ukrainian community, engaged and informed.

In 1933 the Soviet-orchestrated famine, known as the Holodomor, was the main news from Ukraine at the time, and the newspaper sought to underscore the genocidal nature of the man-made famine that resulted in millions of Ukrainians killed.

The Ukrainian Weekly, and its sister publication, Svoboda (founded in 1893), continue to serve as community newspapers. The editorial highlighted the local community stories written by volunteer contributors, as well as reports from The Weekly's Kyiv-based correspondent, which are not published anywhere else. "The keystone of our community reporting is the involvement of local activists who share information from their areas and thus are our partners in community journalism," the editorial explained. "We are ever grateful to them!"

At the time of the editorial's publication, more than 4,300 issues of The Ukrainian Weekly had been published, with the newspaper serving as a vehicle for rallying the Ukrainian community behind national causes, such as independence for Ukraine, the defense of human rights activists, the erection of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington, D.C., the creation of Ukrainian studies chairs at Harvard University, the establishment of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, international recognition of the Holodomor as genocide and the construction of the Holodomor Memorial in Washington, D.C., and, more recently, appeals for increased military assistance to Ukraine. Even prior to Ukraine's renewed independence in 1991, and a source of pride for The Weekly, has been its Ukrainian American journalists based in Kyiv who have played an instrumental role in

(Continued on page 14)

### SavED Foundation...

(Continued from page 5)

Russians were "very intentionally" targeting schools. By obstructing Ukrainian education, they hoped to erase any trace of Ukrainian identity, she said.

Having been involved in the process of assessing the devastation, Ms. Novosad and her colleague, Anna Putsova, decided to launch a charitable foundation with the goal of restoring educational opportunities for schoolchildren lacking access to in-school learning. And the needs continue to grow as Russia's attacks on schools have been relentless.

"We see kids of primary school age who can barely speak, who cannot write or read," said Ms. Novosad. "You know, they've basically had no schooling for years. ... It's a really huge blow that maybe you do not feel day by day like a missile strike but we all will definitely feel it in four, five, six years. And then it's going to snowball and grow bigger and bigger."

SavED was recently recognized by Forbes Ukraine as one of the top 50 largest charitable foundations in Ukraine, a testament to the success of the non-governmental organization in mobilizing and organizing resources to improve access to education. SavED has partnered with a wide range of stakeholders, including USAID, the European Commission, the World Bank, IREX, various businesses, media, bloggers and influencers, which provide financial

and in-kind support as well as publicity.

SavED accepts donations through its website and welcomes volunteers, including those who can provide English-language instruction online, for example. The organization's UActive program for teens, which engages high school students in implementing tangible wartime recovery projects in their communities, has established partnerships with schools in Purcellville (Virginia), Santa Catalina (California), Honolulu (Hawaii) and Lake Forest (Illinois). The foundation has also offered mental health support programs for educators from liberated areas.

SavEd serves as yet another example of Ukrainian wartime resilience. Some 60,000 students in the Chernihiv, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mykolayiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions have been able to take advantage of new opportunities for in-person instruction provided by SavED and its partners.

Creating spaces for offline learning – what Ms. Novosad refers to as "little islands of first educational needs" – brings many benefits beyond just making up for learning losses caused by the war. It facilitates socialization, energizes community life, creates a welcoming environment for the return of refugees and helps develop Ukraine's human capital, which will be essential to the nation's future reconstruction and growth.

Adrian Karmazyn can be reached at <https://www.facebook.com/adrian.karmazyn.9>.

### A critical...

(Continued from page 4)

By how much will depend on various factors, including which party comes out on top.

Democrats would likely support a larger package than the Republicans. Ms. Harris has clearly stated that she wants Ukraine to prevail in the war.

Mr. Trump, meanwhile, has dodged the question, saying only that he wants the war to end, but has given few details of how that would happen.

Mr. Zelenskyy's visit to the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant in Pennsylvania was in part aimed at reminding lawmakers and American voters that aid to Ukraine

also generates jobs in the United States, Mr. Alexseev said.

"It's obviously important to highlight that benefit as it has a broad appeal to the traditional Democratic base but also to the Republican base, since a lot of support for [Mr.] Trump is based on grievances about the loss of manufacturing jobs," he said.

(RFE/RL multimedia producer Stuart Greer in Prague and correspondent Aleksander Palikot in Kyiv contributed to this report.)

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### Level...

(Continued from page 2)

attack (Smotrim.ru, September 17). Their deaths caused a wave of unrest among journalists and bloggers who favored the war. War correspondents were not so much outraged by the information provided by the authors but instead because they found evidence that the crimes listed by "Goodwin" and "Ernest" were common occurrences.

The pro-war resource "Stalingrad Channel" (Канал Сталинград) published a selection of statements by Z-propagandists listing similar episodes. The Telegram channel "News: Crimea, Donbas" (Новости: Крым, Донбасс) confirms that "this is not an isolated case" and "commanders kill soldiers they do not like." "North Channel" (Северный канал) noted that transferring qualified soldiers to assault troops "continues everywhere." The Telegram channel "Rybar" (Рыбарь) – considered quite credible in the Z-community, with an audience of over a million subscribers – also states that along the entire front, with the appearance of assault units, "scoundrel commanders remain in power, while truth-telling soldiers and officers die." This is echoed by Anastasia Kashevarova, the former advi-

sor to Chairperson of the State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin, noting that "we regularly receive letters about similar situations in various departments" (Stalingrad. life, September 15).

These testimonies demonstrate the true state of the Russian Army, where torture and violence against servicemen have long been rampant (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, December 11, 2023, June 27, July 29). Now, crime has reached a new level as commanders have effectively been given the power to send anyone they see as a threat to certain death on the battlefield so that they do not interfere with the officers' own corruption and drug trafficking. Several propagandists are trying to use the example of "Goodwin" and "Ernest" to normalize this situation, emphasizing that the soldiers themselves committed a crime by recording the incident and that, as a part of the armed forces, it is necessary to fight, even if you are sent to certain death (YouTube/@Borovskih, September 19). This trend of normalizing crime both on and off the battlefield will undoubtedly continue in Russia as criminals return from war and corruption runs rampant among troops.

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## Zelenskyy unveils...

(Continued from page 1)

Notable in the security package is a long-range Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW) long-range munition; an additional Patriot air defense system and money to train 18 more Ukrainian pilots to fly F-16 Fighting Falcon jets.

The Biden administration has indicated that the drawdown will be executed incrementally and USAI won't quickly deliver the pledged aid as it procures defense material from the industry sector.

"I am grateful to President Joe Biden, [the] U.S. Congress and both parties, Republicans and Democrats, as well as the entire American people for today's announcement of major U.S. defense assistance for Ukraine totaling \$7.9 billion and sanctions against Russia," Ukraine's second war-time president said on X.

### Victory plan

The president's plan to end the war envisions Ukraine joining the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO), presidential office head Andrii Yermak said in New York at the Council of Foreign Relations.

The two main components of the plan are "military and diplomatic," he said.

"We must have an advantage on the battlefield to force Putin into stopping the hostilities. We are trying very hard," Mr. Yermak said. "Without ships, we have

destroyed the Black Sea Fleet. Without air superiority, we have stopped the Russian advance in most directions, including Kharkiv. Without fear, we brought the war back to Russia."

The contents of the plan were not made public before The Ukrainian Weekly went to print on September 26, though U.S. officials told the Wall Street Journal that they were "unimpressed" with it for lacking a "strategic comprehensive plan."

A bipartisan U.S. Senate delegation also was shown the plan, Mr. Zelenskyy said on X.

### Additional G-7 aid

The U.S. and the European Union are close to sealing a deal to provide Ukraine with \$50 billion in a non-refundable loan, which would be repaid with a portion of the roughly \$280 billion in frozen Russian assets that were seized when the all-out invasion broke out in February 2022.

The funds would derive from the Group of Seven (G-7) democratic nations and the U.S. is willing to contribute \$20 billion to that amount, Bloomberg reported.

"A U.S. official said Washington fully intends to participate in the \$50 billion commitment to Ukraine and that the scale of its contribution will depend on what assurances the E.U. can give that the Russian assets will remain immobilized," the news agency said.

However, as a condition for its contribution, Washington is reportedly seeking



Office of the President of Ukraine  
**Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (right) visits the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant in Scranton, Pa., on September 22.**

assurances from the E.U. that it will adjust its sanctions regime toward Russia so that they are renewed every 36 months.

E.U. leaders are expected to meet in Brussels on October 17-18 to discuss ongoing support for Ukraine.

### Zelenskyy addresses UN

In the middle of the week, the Ukrainian president spoke at the United Nation's General Assembly and held meetings on

the sidelines with world leaders.

"There can be no just peace without Ukraine," Mr. Zelenskyy said on September 25. "It is the Ukrainian people who are forcefully separated because Vladimir Putin decided he could do whatever he wants."

A U.N. Security Council meeting devoted to Ukraine was also held.

In order to achieve peace, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said it was essential to stop attempts by Iran, North Korea and China to support Russia.

While speaking at the Security Council meeting, he said that "these actions by Iran, North Korea and Russia have violated multiple Security Council resolutions – resolutions that Russia voted for, and, as a permanent member, has a special responsibility to enforce," Mr. Blinken said while adding that Chinese dual-use goods, such as machinery, microelectronics and other components have been used to bolster Russia's war machine.

Mr. Zelenskyy's first day in the U.S. included a trip to one of two plants that make 155-millimeter shells on September 22. Located in Scranton, Pa., the plant employs 400 people. Ukraine has already received 3 million of the shells from the U.S.

"It is in places like this where you can truly feel that the democratic world can prevail," Mr. Zelenskyy wrote on X. "Thanks to people like these – in Ukraine, in America and in all partner countries – who work tirelessly to ensure that life is protected."

## At UN...

(Continued from page 1)

to put pressure on the aggressor," he told the annual U.N. meeting in New York.

"If, God forbid, Russia causes a nuclear disaster at one of our nuclear power plants, radiation will not respect state borders," he said.

Mr. Zelenskyy also appealed to world leaders to keep his country's fight against Russia's invasion a top priority and warned that Putin is intent on seizing more territory, calling "more land" for a country the size of Russia an "insane" proposition.

"I think every leader, every country that supports us ... sees how Russia, a country more than 20 times larger than Ukraine in territory, still wants even more land," he said.

Mr. Zelenskyy has been on an intensive diplomatic mission since his arrival in the United States for the annual UNGA event, meeting with key U.S. lawmakers and appearing on U.S. media to urge Washington to maintain its crucial support for Ukraine.

The Ukrainian president plans to lay out a "victory plan" to U.S. President Joe Biden at the White House on September 26 amid relentless strikes on Ukraine's cities and a grinding Russian offensive that is making slow but continuous advances into the eastern part of the country.

He dismissed efforts by China and Brazil to end the war, questioning why the pair were proposing an alternative to his peace formula.

Proposing "alternatives, half-hearted settlement plans, so-called sets of principles" would give Putin the political space to continue the war, he said.

China has been trying to enlist developing nations to join the six-point peace plan it issued with Brazil in May.

Their proposal calls for an international peace conference "held at a proper time that is recognized by both Russia and Ukraine, with equal participation of all parties as well as fair discussion of all peace plans."

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da

Silva advocated for the plan when he addressed the General Assembly on September 24.

"Any parallel or alternative attempts to seek peace are, in fact, efforts to achieve a lull instead of an end to the war," Mr. Zelenskyy told the 193-member assembly.

"When the Chinese-Brazilian duo tries to grow into a choir of voices – with someone in Europe, with someone in Africa – saying something alternative to a full and just peace, the question arises, what is the true interest? Everyone must understand, you will not boost your power at Ukraine's expense," he said.

The Ukrainian president told the U.N. Security Council on September 24 that Russia can only be "forced" into peace, and denounced Iran and North Korea as "accomplices" who have helped Moscow by providing weapons it has used in attacks on Ukraine.

Putin has "broken so many international norms and rules that he won't stop on his own. Russia can only be forced into peace, and that is exactly what's needed: forcing Russia into peace as the sole aggressor in this war, the sole violator of the U.N. Charter," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on September 25 that Mr. Zelenskyy's stance was "a fatal mistake" that would have grave repercussions for Ukraine.

"A position based on an attempt to force Russia into peace is an absolutely fatal mistake, because it is impossible to force Russia into peace," Mr. Peskov said in a call with reporters.

"This is a profound misconception that will inevitably have consequences for the Kyiv regime," he said.

Details about Mr. Zelenskyy's victory plan remain unknown, but he said the blueprint will be a "bridge" toward ending the conflict.

Media reports say the plan will ask for stepped-up U.S. military and financial backing and security guarantees, as well as further sanctions on Russia.

The United States, Ukraine's main supporter, and Western allies have given Kyiv billions of dollars in military aid and other assistance while also slapping several

rounds of sanctions on Moscow.

Mr. Zelenskyy's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, has said the main security guarantee that Kyiv wants is North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) membership, a demand Kyiv has been advancing for years but which has been met with skepticism by the West, including Washington.

Mr. Zelenskyy has also indicated that he will again seek permission to use long-range missiles to strike military targets deep inside Russia, a move Ukraine's allies are divided upon.

On September 24, he called on Washington to take "decisive" action to bring the end of the war closer. In a meeting with a bipartisan delegation of U.S. lawmakers, Mr. Zelenskyy voiced Kyiv's gratitude for what he called Washington's unwavering support for Kyiv and highlighting the critical U.S. role in defending Ukraine's freedom.

"Decisive action now could hasten the just end of Russian aggression against Ukraine next year. Our victory plan will help bring Russia to peace in practice," Mr. Zelenskyy said on Telegram after the meeting.

"Now, at the end of the year, we have a real opportunity to strengthen cooperation between Ukraine and the United States," he said.

Even without the details of Mr. Zelenskyy's plan, some of Ukraine's most stalwart Western allies have pointed to the need to find a compromise solution to the conflict.

Czech President Petr Pavel, whose country has been one of Kyiv's strongest backers and the driving force behind a multibillion-dollar program known as the Czech Ammunition Initiative that has provided Ukraine with hundreds of thousands of artillery shells, told The New York Times in an interview published on September 23 that Ukrainians "will have to be realistic" about their chances of recovering all territories occupied by Russia.

"To talk about a defeat of Ukraine or defeat of Russia, it will simply not happen," the newspaper quoted Mr. Pavel as saying. "So the end will be somewhere in between."

Mr. Pavel added that Ukrainians also need to be "realistic about the support that

they can achieve" from allies who are increasingly under domestic pressure to scale back help against Russia after more than 2 1/2 years of war.

Kyiv, which has around a fifth of its territory occupied by Russia, has repeatedly opposed such a possibility.

"There can be no half-hearted solutions when it comes to human lives, freedom, common values, justice for Russian crimes, restoration of international peace and security," the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a post on Telegram after Mr. Pavel's interview was published.

"Temporary solutions will not restore full-fledged peace but will only postpone war," he said.

Mr. Zelenskyy's diplomatic offensive came as Russia stepped up its strikes on Ukraine. On September 25, Ukrainian air defenses shot down 28 drones and four missiles launched by Russia at 10 regions, Ukraine's air force said in a statement on Telegram.

Russian drones and missiles were downed over the regions of Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Cherkasy, Kirovohrad, Sumy, Poltava, Mykolayiv, Odesa and Kherson. Four more drones were "locally lost" in several regions of Ukraine, the statement said.

In eastern Ukraine, Russian troops have stepped up their attacks on the Donetsk stronghold of Vuhledar as they seek access to the logistics hub of Pokrovsk, some 50 miles to the north.

Denis Pushilin, the Russian-installed head of Ukraine's Donetsk region, said on September 25 that fighting was ongoing in Vuhledar, although the Ukrainian military said the city was not yet surrounded by Russian forces.

Moscow's advances in the east appear to be the fastest over the past two years, despite a shock Ukrainian counteroffensive into Russia's Kursk region last month.

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# Silvashi Circles exhibition celebrating a Ukrainian art pioneer unveiled in Kyiv

by Roman Tymotsko

KYIV – The Ukrainian Museum of Contemporary Art (UMCA) and the Ukrainian House National Center opened the Silvashi Circles exhibition in Kyiv. The show, which runs from September 13 to October 27, is a major museum retrospective dedicated to the work and extraordinary personality of one of the leading Ukrainian artists of the second half of the 20th and early 21st centuries.

Silvashi Circles is one of the largest and most expensive exhibitions to be unveiled in Ukraine since the country gained its independence in 1991. Researchers have been exploring Tiberius Silvashi's legacy for a year, consulting with the artist and architects, selecting pieces, and working on the concept for the exhibition. The result is a five-floor retrospective at Ukrainian House, featuring 170 works of art and a record-breaking budget of \$350,000.

Despite Russia's ongoing full-scale war on Ukraine, the exhibition will likely not go unnoticed in Kyiv. It is being held in the capital's central art venue, Ukrainian House (Ukrayinskyi Dim). Silvashi Circles brings visitors to its circular expositions through a vast advertisement campaign.

Walking through Kyiv's streets, individuals are likely to see numerous posters inviting them to witness Silvashi Circles – an uncommon event in the local art scene. Furthermore, social media is filled with pictures of the exhibition's central object – a big deep-blue circle pool that welcomes visitors to the venue's central hall.

This central feature was the most challenging element in producing the exhibition, which was done by How Production agency.

"We wanted to create an abyss," How Production CEO Yuriy Stetsiuk told Forbes Ukraine. "How can an abyss be built on the ground floor of the monumental Ukrainian House? The team painted the water and the pool blue, making it look very deep."

"People are afraid to come to the edge," Mr. Stetsiuk said, "but in reality, the water is about 3 centimeters [1.18 inches] deep."

Mr. Silvashi's first museum retrospective presents his evolving practice in different contexts and media with projects that have changed or not been realized. Along with his works, 86 artists are represented on the five floors of Ukrainian House. The curatorial team of the new UMCA exhibition includes Lidia Apollonova, Olha Balashova, Anna Maria Kucherenko, Borys Filonenko and Yaroslav Futymyski.

"Tiberius Silvashi is an anchor figure of Ukrainian contemporary art. A painter, theorist and curator, he brings together artists of three generations. His artistic practices, texts, collective projects and personal communication with the participants of the cultural field have become crucial for shaping the Ukrainian artistic landscape as it is today," the curators of the exhibition note in printed materials that introduce the show.

Mr. Silvashi, one of the most active figures in the contemporary Ukrainian art scene, also participated in the preparation of the exhibition.

"In the existential loneliness of man in the world, art remains the only way to establish harmony. In such



Roman Tymotsko

The Silvashi Circles exhibition is on display at Kyiv's Ukrainian House from September 13 to October 27.

(Continued on page 14)

# National Ballet of Ukraine kicks off US tour celebrating Ukrainian culture at Washington's Kennedy Center



Oleksandra Zlunitsyna

The National Ballet of Ukraine (NBU), pictured above, kicks off a 16-city tour of the United States with a performance at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., on October 8.

by Nick Harkin

NEW YORK – The National Ballet of Ukraine (NBU), one of the world's premier ballet companies and the country's official ballet company, will grace the stages of the United States this October with the dancer's exceptional talent and magnificent highlights from its repertoire. The 16-city tour will debut at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., on October 8.

Joining the ballet company on tour will be the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, thrillingly bringing folk dances, including the audience favorite Hopak, to life with jaw-droppingly athletic choreography, powerful traditional music and historic costumes.

Forty-four elite dancers from the two companies will celebrate Ukrainian culture before a state-of-the-art, massive 3-D screen, immersing the audience in breathtaking scenic elements to enhance the companies' world-class artistry. The tour marks the first time any dance company has performed with this groundbreaking technology.

Portions of the proceeds from the tour, generated through ticket purchases, merchandise and individual donations, will benefit two organizations: HUMANITE, an organization that works to meet the diverse challenges the war has inflicted on the citizens of Ukraine by restoring and improving the lives of Ukrainian families (donations to

HUMANITE can be made online at [www.humanite.org](http://www.humanite.org)); and Ukraine House, opened in Washington, D.C., in 2021 by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, which raises funds to help Ukrainians affected by the war and serves as a cornerstone of cultural and public diplomacy.

"This production will be a thrilling showcase of the artistry of the National Ballet of Ukraine's superb dancers and Shumka's unbelievably exciting choreography. The 3D LED screen will envelop the audience, erasing the line between viewers and the stage," said Producer Ed Kasses of Princeton Entertainment Group.

"As the only dance company officially touring under the auspices of the Ukrainian government, NBU's company serves as ambassadors to the United States, affirming that even during the most difficult of times Ukrainians remain strong, vigilant and proud of their nation and heritage," Mr. Kasses said.

The tour is produced and presented by Princeton Entertainment Group, HUMANITE, and The Edward E. Haddock, Jr. Family Foundation. The performances in New York are presented in association with New York City Center. The U.S. performances follow a recent, sold-out Canadian tour hailed as "a magical evening" (Chronicle-Telegraph Québec), "art from the ashes ... powerfully presented, very artistic" (Globe and Mail), "not only phenomenal art, but in the midst of war, they are also an effort to

guard what's most precious to Ukraine: peace," (Global News) and an opportunity for the dancers "to share their art with the world and show that Ukraine remains strong under harrowing circumstances" (Pointe Magazine).

The NBU will perform highlights from its classical repertoire selected to showcase and preserve Ukrainian culture and identity. The program for the performance will include some of the most beautiful, challenging and emotionally gripping dances from the classical ballet repertoire, including "La Bayadere," "Giselle," "The Dying Swan," "Don Quixote" and "Harlequinade," many of which were adapted for the company by Ukrainian choreographers.

"The National Ballet of Ukraine is indisputably one of the world's foremost ballet companies," said Ukrainian Ambassador to the U.S. Oksana Markarova. "That said, this tour represents much more than a typical dance performance; it is a symbol of the resilience and bravery of the embattled Ukrainian people, and an opportunity for Ukraine to celebrate its rich and remarkable cultural legacy. The dancers are not just showcasing Ukrainian culture, they are preserving it. Even more importantly, this tour will raise urgently needed funds to help the embattled citizens of my home country as they bravely continue to combat the harrowing onslaught of the Russian military."

"Ongoing violence across Eastern Ukraine leaves huge humanitarian gaps in its wake – gaps that most affect children, elderly people, the poor and displaced. There are still huge parts of the country without regular access to food, water, electricity, medicine and shelter," says Jeremy Courtney, founder and CEO of HUMANITE Peace Collective. "This tour is not just an incredible performance and celebration of culture, but a bridge between Ukrainians in need and Americans who want to help. This is an opportunity for us to stand with our Ukrainian friends and make a bold statement that something beautiful really can help mend something ugly and destructive."

Following the tour, the dancers will return to Kyiv to perform for the holiday season and will subsequently return to the U.S. for additional performances in venues to be announced.

The National Ballet of Ukraine is considered one of the top-ranked ballet companies in the world and is responsible for keeping the national and classical repertoire standards for the Taras Shevchenko National Opera House in Kyiv. Following Ukrainian independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, the National Ballet of Ukraine began extensive international touring, performing across North America, Europe and Asia. Before the full-scale war began in February 2022, the company staged 16 productions

(Continued on page 13)



# Two-week exhibition opens to highlight Plast's 75 years in Chicago

by Mark Raczkiewicz

CHICAGO – A two-week multimedia exhibition on Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization's 75th anniversary in Chicago is on display at the Ukrainian National Museum.

Starting on September 21 and running through October 6, the exhibition features a slide show of archival pictures, various Plast publications in English and Ukrainian throughout the years, emblems, patches, pins banners and even handmade dolls.

A textual layout presented on three panels of one of Ukraine's oldest scouting organizations provides a detailed history since the group's inception 113 years ago in Ukraine.

The first groups "were formed at the Academic Gymnasium in Lviv by Oleksandr Tysovsky, Ivan Chmola and Petro Franco," the exhibition materials read.



An array of Plast emblems throughout the years is on display at Chicago's Ukrainian National Museum on September 21.

Former Ukrainian nationalist leader Stepan Bandera and the first commander of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, Roman

Shukhevych, were among notable Plast members.

In Ukraine, the scouting movement boasts more than 10,000 members spread across 118 branches in every region of the country, the historical section of the exhibition states.

In Chicago, Plast came into existence in 1949 and seven years later a building was purchased with the help of senior scout member Yulian Kamenetsky, who took part in opening the organization's premises in the heart of the city's Ukrainian community along Chicago Avenue.

A new facility opened on the same street in 1982.

The Chicago branch of the group currently has approximately 300 members in the metropolitan area.

Since Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, more



Mark Raczkiewicz

Ukrainian National Museum archivist Halyna Parasiuk is largely responsible for putting together a two-week exhibition that opened on September 21 on the 75-year existence of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in Chicago.

than 500 Plast members have joined the Armed Forces, according to an April dispatch by the Ukrainian service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

More than 60 Plast scouts have been killed as of August 29, the group's X page says.

The most recent Plast member killed in action was Yevhen Lemeshenko who commanded a special forces unit. He fell in battle on September 18.

The Ukrainian National Museum is located at 2249 West Superior Street, Chicago, Ill., 60612. The museum can be reached by phone at 312-421-8020, and it is open Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



A picture from the 1950s of Plast youth members in Chicago hangs in Chicago's Ukrainian National Museum as seen on September 21.

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Ukrainian Service, with reporting by dpa, AFP and Reuters)

### Glide bomb attack on Kramatorsk kills 2

The number of people killed in a Russian attack on the eastern Ukrainian city of Kramatorsk rose to two people, regional Gov. Vadym Filashkin said on September 25. "As of 5:30 p.m. we know of 2 deaths in Kramatorsk. This afternoon, the Russians dropped three guided aerial bombs on the city. 2 people died and at least 12 were injured. Three children are among the wounded," Mr. Filashkin said on Telegram. Local authorities said Russian troops targeted the center of Kramatorsk, damaging two high-rise buildings, shops and cars. Kramatorsk, which lies about 12 miles from the front line, has been hit by two deadly missile strikes that took numerous lives since the full-scale invasion began in

February 2022. One killed 13 in June last year, and the other hit the city's train station in April 2022, killing more than 60 civilians. The Kherson region also came under Russian shelling on September 25, local authorities reported. An 80-year-old woman was killed, and two people on the street were injured. In addition, a 48-year-old local resident was taken to the hospital with injuries to her face and forearm, Kherson Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said on Telegram. Mr. Prokudin said earlier that Kherson city was under attack by Russian aircraft. Russian forces also used glide bombs in that attack. One of the bombs hit a cultural institution, seriously damaging the building and setting off a fire. There was no information about victims, he said. Later in the day, Mr. Prokudin said Kherson remained under attack and called on the townspeople to remain in shelters. Earlier on September 25, the Ukrainian Air Force said the country's air defenses shot down 28 drones and four missiles launched by Russia at 10 regions. In eastern Ukraine,

Russian troops have stepped up their attacks on the Donetsk stronghold of Vuhledar as they seek access to the logistics hub of Pokrovsk, some 50 miles to the north. Denis Pushilin, the Russian-installed head of the occupied part of Ukraine's Donetsk region, said on September 25 that fighting was ongoing in Vuhledar, although the Ukrainian military said the city was not yet surrounded by Russian forces. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

### Ukrainian jailed for espionage in Crimea

The Supreme Court in Ukraine's Russia-occupied Crimea region said on September 23 that it sentenced a Ukrainian citizen identified as M. Seleznev to 14 years in prison for espionage. The Mediazona website identified the man as Mykhaylo Seleznev, whose trial was initially held in Russia's Sverdlovsk region in March and later transferred to Crimea. Mr. Seleznev was found guilty of collecting data about Russian military equipment in the partially occupied region of Zaporizhia for Ukrainian intelligence. It is not known how Mr. Seleznev pleaded. (RFE/RL's Current Time)

### Belarus reeducating Ukrainian children

Rights groups have called on the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate Belarus and Russia, saying they have proof that hundreds of Ukrainian children were forcibly taken to Belarus during Russia's full-scale invasion and are being "reeducated" to turn against their homeland. The Ukraine-based Zmina human rights center said on September 23 that its experts, along with colleagues from Freedom House and Ukraine's Regional Human Rights Center, filed a report with The Hague-based court documenting the "political indoctrination and military reeducation of Ukrainian children on the territory of Belarus." The groups said docu-

ments and exclusive data confirm the "participation of Belarusian agents in the eradication of the Ukrainian ethnic identity of children, turning them into enemies of their own people." The report says that 18 entities in Belarus were identified as being involved in exposing at least 2,219 Ukrainian children aged 6 and older to forms of "discriminatory pressure." Russia has come under heavy criticism for transferring Ukrainian children to Russia, with the ICC issuing an arrest warrant in March 2023 for President Vladimir Putin over the issue. Earlier this year, evidence gathered by RFE/RL's Belarusian Service and Schemes, the investigative unit of RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, found similar evidence to the report from the rights groups on September 23. RFE/RL found that Belarus was organizing "vacations" for children from Russian-occupied parts of Ukraine where the children were taught to identify with concepts that both Moscow and Minsk promote. According to the United Nations, Russian agents have taken at least 19,546 children to that country from Ukraine since February 18, 2022. The report by the rights groups also gives a detailed look at the financing and ways the "reeducation program" was being implemented. The rights organizations said the "indoctrination and militarization of Ukrainian children" carried "elements of crimes against humanity." Zmina did not disclose the identities of the Belarusian, Russian and Ukrainian citizens implicated in the crimes. The authoritarian ruler of Belarus, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, said last week while speaking with the Russian-installed leader of occupied parts of Ukraine's Donetsk region that Ukrainian children in Belarus "are provided with medical treatment and [are] resting." (RFE/RL's Belarusian Service)

(Continued on page 11)

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## Trump says...

(Continued from page 1)

launched in February 2022, but Kyiv rejected the demands put forth by Moscow, which included recognizing Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and separatist-controlled entities in Luhansk and Donetsk.

Mr. Trump's comments in North Carolina appeared to be in response to Mr. Zelenskyy's comments in an interview with The New Yorker in which he said Mr. Trump "doesn't really know how to stop the war even if he might think he knows how."

Mr. Trump noted that Mr. Zelenskyy was in the United States and said he was making "little nasty aspersions toward your favorite president, me."

He also described Ukraine as a country in ruins outside of Kyiv that is short on soldiers and questioned whether it had any bargaining chips left to negotiate an end to the war.

"What deal can we make? It's demolished," he added. "The people are dead. The country is in rubble."

Mr. Zelenskyy said he would present Mr. Biden with what he calls a victory plan for the war that is expected to include a request for permission to use long-range weapons provided by the United States to strike Russian targets.

There had been reports that a face-to-face meeting between Messrs. Trump and Zelenskyy would take place in New York, but the meeting was expected to be scrapped, according to U.S. media.

The White House said that Mr. Biden launched a joint declaration of support for Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction involving more than 30 countries, including the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations, and the European Union.

Messrs. Biden, Zelenskyy and European Commission President Ursula von der

Leyen gathered with other world leaders on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in a strong display of unity for Ukraine.

"We're committed to providing Ukraine with the resources that it needs to build back stronger than before. ... You're not alone in this fight," Mr. Biden said in launching the joint declaration.

A copy of the document distributed by the White House said it was Russia's responsibility under international law to pay for damages it had caused in Ukraine.

"We reaffirm that, consistent with all applicable laws and our respective legal systems, Russia's sovereign assets in our jurisdictions will remain immobilized until Russia ends its aggression and pays for the damage it has caused to Ukraine," it said.

Mr. Biden said more U.S. actions to accelerate support for Ukraine will be announced on September 26.

In his remarks, Mr. Zelenskyy mentioned the U.S. Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after World War II and said: "Today we are laying the foundation for a similar architecture of recovery."

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department announced on September 25 that Washington will provide \$375 million in additional military aid to Ukraine.

The package includes high mobility artillery rocket systems (HIMARS) and mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles, as well as Javelin and tube-launched, optically-tracked, wire-guided (TOW) missiles.

(With reporting by Reuters and AFP)

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## Ukrainian American Archives and Museum hosts exhibit on Ukrainian-themed tattoos



Courtesy of the UAAM

The exhibit *Ink as Identity* at the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum in Hamtramck, Mich., highlights Ukrainian-themed tattoos during a time of war and displacement. The exhibit, which opened on July 12, has been extended to October 5.

by Donna Voronovich

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. – On a beautiful summer evening in July, a group of over 150 people gathered for the opening of a highly unusual art exhibition. The exhibit, *Ink as Identity*, highlights Ukrainian-themed tattoos during a time of war and displacement, demonstrating how individuals use ink to assert their Ukrainian identity and persevere through adversity.

The exhibit, which opened at the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum on July 12 and has been extended to October 5, was inspired by the rise in popularity and influence of tattoo art in Ukraine and throughout the diaspora. The curators solicited photographs and personal narratives submitted by individuals from around the globe for the exhibition.

The images of tattoos with accompanying quotes from the narratives submitted with each work comprise the majority of the exhibit. Through the encounter with each submission, the visitor has an opportunity to admire the artistry of the tattoo work as well as to gain insight into the personal stories of each individual. Collectively, the exhibit presents a compelling story about Ukrainians, expressed in an art form seldom considered as such.

Though historically controversial, tattoos have attained a degree of mainstream acceptance, allowing tattoo artists to enjoy appreciation for their artistry and technical skill.

The broad cross-section of imagery displayed in the exhibit demonstrates the abundant possibilities of this art form and also helps to explain the growing appeal of

the tattoo industry.

As many of the works demonstrate, traditional patterns and motifs from Ukrainian embroidery and other art forms serve as popular inspirations for tattoo art. In addition, there are patriotic symbols, historical figures, literary references, personal messages and inspiration from popular culture.

When looking at the tattoos submitted by Roman Wonsul, the visitor will recognize many of the images, as they were inspired by the drawings and paintings of his great uncle, Edward “Eko” Kozak. With their bright colors and striking linework, the tattoos naturally prompt questions that allow Mr. Wonsul to share information about his famous uncle as well as about Ukrainian culture.

The exhibit also includes the work of professional artists working in a variety of media who find inspiration in tattoo imagery. Among them are Ukrainians as well as those who have no prior connection to Ukraine but have become staunch supporters since February 2022.

Several of the artists created work especially for the exhibition and spoke of their desire to use their artwork to bring attention to Russia’s unjust, unprovoked and inhumane war on Ukraine.

One such piece, “Orc Tattoo” by Luke MacGilvray, is comprised of a piece of human skin being pierced by a 5.56-millimeter bullet suspended in liquid encased in a glass cylinder. It speaks at once of human fragility and resilience, of the nature of skin as protective and permeable, as barrier and

(Continued on page 14)



Courtesy of the UAAM

A soldier from Ukraine (who asked to remain anonymous because he is returning to the war-ravaged country) and Olena Danylyuk, a member of the Ukrainian American Civic Committee, are seen at the exhibit *Ink as Identity*, currently on view at the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum in Hamtramck, Mich., until October 5.

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 10)

### Ukraine bans Telegram use for officials

Ukraine’s National Coordination Center for Cybersecurity on September 20 banned the use of the Telegram messenger app for state officials, military personnel and employees of key infrastructure, citing security issues. The center quoted intelligence chief Kirill Budanov as saying that

there was “grounded information” about Russian intelligence’s ability to access correspondence by Telegram users and their personal data. Those who use Telegram as “part of their job duties” will not be affected by the move. Last month, Telegram founder and CEO Pavel Durov, a native of Russia, was detained in Paris and later released on bail for alleged “complicity in the administration of an online platform to allow an illicit transaction, in an organized gang.” (RFE/RL’s Current Time)

### IN MEMORIAM



## Jaroslav “Jaro” Bilocerkowycz

age 72, passed away unexpectedly on September 5, 2024, at his home in Kettering, Ohio. He was born on December 2, 1951, in Chicago, Illinois, to loving parents † Dmytro and † Nina Bilocerkowycz (née Kasianchuk), both émigrés from Ukraine.



In his youth, Jaro was an active member of the Chicago branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA), where he participated in weekly youth meetings and summer camps, first at Dr. Smuk’s farm in Indiana and later at the UAYA oselya «Beskyd» in Baraboo, Wisconsin. He developed a lifelong passion for soccer as a member of the UAYA soccer team «Wings», a love he continued to nurture in college.

The middle of three sons, Jaro defied the stereotypes with his inquisitive nature, intellectual curiosity, and passion for teaching. His older brother Bohdan described him as “polite, friendly, gentle, kind, and welcoming. Jaro was a smart, talented educator with outstanding communication skills. He was the original ‘Family Guy!’” Named after Ukrainian Prince Jaroslav the Wise, Jaro truly lived up to his namesake.

Jaro earned his undergraduate degree from Eastern Illinois University, followed by a Master’s and PhD in political science from the University of Washington in Seattle. He began his academic career as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville before finding his academic home at the University of Dayton (UD) in Ohio. For nearly 40 years, Jaro was a beloved faculty member in UD’s political science department as is evidenced by the makeshift memorial outside his office shortly after the news of his passing reached the students and faculty. He cherished his work with students and colleagues and was a passionate supporter of Flyers athletics, attending countless women’s and men’s soccer games, as well as UD basketball matches.

Jaro was also an enthusiastic traveler, teaching study abroad courses in cities like Barcelona, Florence, and Athens, enriching the lives of his students beyond the classroom.

The Bilocerkowycz family instilled in Jaro and his brothers a deep love for Ukraine’s heritage, culture, and history. Jaro was a passionate advocate for Ukraine, using his expertise to educate the public on Ukrainian resistance movements and the nation’s ongoing fight for sovereignty. He was a sought-after political commentator, frequently appearing on national and local media in both the U.S. and Canada, with his final interviews occurring just days before his passing. In light of Russia’s recent invasion of Ukraine, Jaro felt it was his duty to share the truth about Russia’s historical genocidal ambitions against Ukraine. He also taught classes at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where he briefed high-ranking military personnel and State Department diplomats on the fall of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, and the global impact of these events.

Jaro authored *\*Soviet Ukrainian Dissent: A Study of Political Alienation\** and contributed numerous articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia entries.

As a devoted father, Jaro passed on his activist spirit to his daughter, Sonya, frequently engaging in discussions about current events, writing, research, and teaching. Family was always his top priority, and he found great joy in sharing meals and meaningful conversations with loved ones. He maintained a particularly close bond with his brother Bohdan and sister-in-law Linda, whom he visited often. Jaro is sorely missed by all who knew him.

Though we may never understand why such a talented individual was taken from us too soon, we take solace in the belief that God must have needed another teaching apostle in His Heavenly University. Jaro’s family now has another angel watching over us.

Jaro is survived by his daughter, Sonya Bilocerkowycz, and son-in-law, Chris Stevens; by his brother, Bohdan “Bob” Bilocerkowycz, and sister-in-law, Linda Bilocerkowycz; by his nephews, Ryan Bilocerkowycz (Mandy Begley) and Rory Bilocerkowycz (Lindsey Waters); by his grandniece, Marley Bilocerkowycz; by his aunt, Maria Fiszer; and by numerous beloved cousins, extended family members, and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Dmytro and Nina Bilocerkowycz, and his younger brother, Wolodymyr Bilocerkowycz.



## Ukrainian pro sports update

by Ihor N. Stelmach

### Usyk detained at Krakow Airport

Ukrainian boxing heavyweight champion Oleksandr Usyk was detained on September 17 at Krakow Airport in Poland and later released with the help of Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry. A source told ESPN that Usyk was detained while trying to board a Ryanair flight to Valencia, Spain, where he is set to begin training for his December 21 rematch with Tyson Fury. Usyk and his trainer, Sergey Lapin, were denied boarding after airline officials deemed them unfit for travel.

Usyk explained that the two were simply exhausted from a nearly 14-hour travel day from Kyiv that included a 557-mile drive. A language barrier and Usyk's insistence they were not impaired in any way led to their detainment and Usyk being led away in handcuffs.

Usyk's promoter, Alex Krassiyuk, clarified the matter by explaining that Lapin fell asleep in the waiting area and, when Usyk returned to the boarding area to retrieve his trainer, he was told that airline staff had prevented him from boarding the plane because they believed he was intoxicated. Usyk refused to fly without Lapin and was placed in handcuffs.

The matter was then quickly resolved with the assistance of Ukrainian diplomats. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on social media that he spoke with Usyk after he was detained and had instructed Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrii Sybiha and Minister of Internal Affairs Ihor Klymenko to look into the incident.

Usyk's wife, Kateryna, was traveling with her husband and his trainer. She posted a video on social media and said the matter was "nothing criminal."

#### Usyk lobbies for sports minister post

In a September 13 interview with Polish Channel Kanal Sportov, Usyk expressed serious interest in becoming minister of youth and sports in his native Ukraine. His deep desire to work with children – teaching them psychology, sports and how to live a healthy lifestyle – motivated Usyk to seek a future position in Ukraine's government. He said he wants to prioritize the education of Ukraine's youth on physical and mental health issues.

#### Ukraine urges IOC to further sanction Belarus

Ukraine's sports minister has urged the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to take action against Belarus after President

Alyaksandr Lukashenka awarded state honors to three medalists from the 2024 Paris Olympics. Bidnyi, Ukraine's sports minister, said the ceremony in Minsk on September 17 was a violation of the IOC's neutrality rules instituted for the 2024 Games. He asked for additional sanctions against Belarusian athletes.

Lukashenka paid tribute to the athletes on Belarus' National Unity Day, which marks the 1939 unification of eastern and western Belarus.

Seventeen Belarusian athletes competed in Paris as individual neutral athletes with four winning medals, including gold medalist Ivan Litvinovich, whose eligibility for the Olympics was in question before the Games.

Bidnyi condemned the event, saying it confirmed that sports in dictatorial countries such as Russia and Belarus reflect state policy and their athletes are used by their regimes as tools of hybrid informational warfare.

The IOC established a neutrality rule to prevent displays of support for Russia, its ally Belarus and Russia's ongoing war on Ukraine. The rule stipulates that Russian and Belarusian athletes "must refrain from any activity or communication associated with the national flag, anthem, emblem or any symbol" of their countries.

The rules were put in place before the 2024 Paris Games. They remained in force during the Games and included "any national events" related to the athletes' participation in Paris. Athletes would have their results disqualified for violations.

Bidnyi said that "the conferral of state awards ... once again proves that athletes with Russian and Belarusian citizenship have never been, are not and cannot be 'neutral.'"

#### Ukraine's chess federation appeals to FIDE

Ukraine's national chess team has appealed to the General Assembly of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) to ask the body to consider not lifting sanctions against the Russian and Belarusian federations, stating that doing so would be immoral and premature due to the ongoing war on Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Chess Federation (UCF) said chess is a game based on the principles of justice and respect and it should not be associated with groups that support violence and oppression of other people. Lifting sanctions against the two aggressor

countries could possibly embolden them and undermine the integrity of the game, the UCF said.

#### FIDE general assembly upholds ban

FIDE's General Assembly upheld the ban on Russian and Belarusian players on September 22 while backing a move to consider easing restrictions on junior and disabled players. Delegates from 66 countries supported a last-minute proposal by the FIDE Council to consult the IOC about allowing those with disabilities or children under 12 a return to international events.

Forty-one delegates voted to maintain the current ban, 21 favored lifting the ban entirely and 27 abstained or were absent during the vote.

#### Bidnyi praises extension of sanctions against Russians and Belarusians

Ukraine's Minister of Youth and Sports Bidnyi welcomed the European Chess Union's (ECU) decision to extend sanctions against Russia and Belarus on September 19. Bidnyi called for stricter sanctions and proposed an initiative to impose personal sanctions against FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich if Russian players are allowed to enter international competitions.

The ECU called on the FIDE to continue the restrictions imposed in 2022 while condemning the Russian Chess Federation's actions for including temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories in its sporting purview.

#### Ukraine enters round of 16 at Futsal World Cup

The 10th edition of the FIFA Futsal World Cup, being held in Uzbekistan from September 14 to October 6, has entered the round of 16. After suffering a humiliating opening match defeat of 7-1 by Argentina, Ukraine rebounded nicely with a pair of victories in Group C play, defeating Angola 7-2 and Afghanistan 4-1, thus qualifying for the next round of action. A September 24 matchup against underdog Netherlands had Ukraine one step away from a berth in the tournament's quarterfinals after the team's disastrous start.

Ihor Korsun is Ukraine's top goal-scorer with three after three opening round matches. Danyil Abakshyn is tops in assists with two and Rostyslav Semchenko leads with 23 attempts on goal.

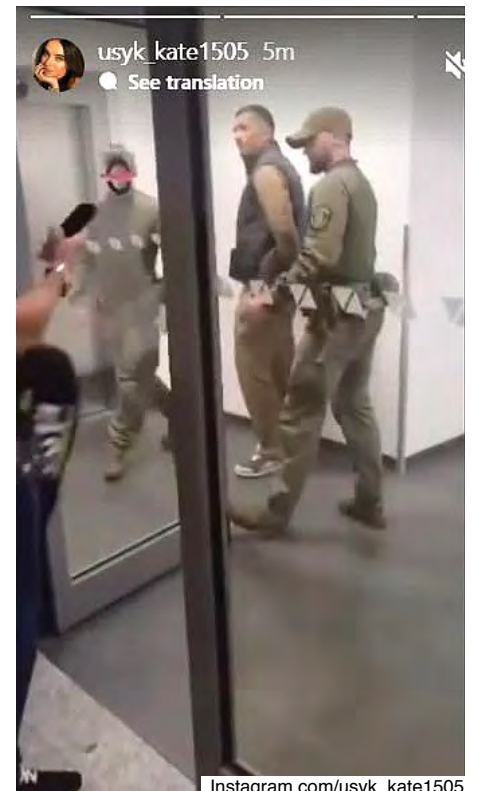
#### Zelenskyy honors Paralympians with state awards

Proudly stating that Ukrainians are capable of overcoming all obstacles and difficulties, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy awarded state honors to Ukraine's Paralympic medalists and coaches for their outstanding performance at the 2024 Games in Paris. Ukrainian Para athletes won 82 medals, ranking them seventh in the medal standings and fifth in overall medals.

Zelenskyy presented the Paralympic athletes and their coaches with state awards and honorary titles. Para-cyclist Pavlo Bal gifted the president an official Team Ukraine Paralympic uniform at the ceremony in Kyiv on September 19.

#### Svitolina undergoes foot surgery

Shortly after announcing a premature end to her 2024 season, Elina Svitolina underwent foot surgery to address a persistent issue that troubled her for quite some time. Svitolina shared a few photos from her hospital bed on Instagram, includ-



Ukrainian boxing heavyweight champion Oleksandr Usyk (center) is seen being detained by authorities at the Krakow Airport on September 17. A misunderstanding led to the incident, and Usyk was released without being charged.

ing one with husband Gael Monfils. She said that the foot injury was the same issue that forced her to end the 2023 season early and hampered her for most of the 2024 campaign, affecting not only tennis but also her everyday life. A photo posted of Svitolina showed her lying in a hospital bed with her right foot bandaged to above the ankle.

#### Shakhtar draws 0-0 with Bologna in Champions League

Shakhtar Donetsk introduced a new club kit (jersey and shorts) based on Ukraine's national colors for its UEFA Champions League away match against Bologna on September 18. The jersey has blue and yellow stripes while the shorts are blue. The club normally wears orange kits for home matches and black for away games.

The new kit did not bring the club much luck as the two squads battled to a 0-0 draw on a rainy night at the Stadio Renato Dall'Ara. Four minutes into the game, Bologna goalkeeper Lukasz Skorupski saved a penalty shot by Heorhiy Sudakov, which may have been the play of the match. Shakhtar controlled play most of the first half with Bologna coming close on its last of three corner kicks before halftime.

The second half again saw the visitors dominate the action, but there were unable to score. Shakhtar then dropped back defensively as the game played on with Bologna unable to penetrate the offensive zone. Both sides looked competent, but neither was threatening.

#### Mahuchikh wins Diamond League high jump

For the third consecutive time, Ukrainian Yaroslava Mahuchikh won the Diamond League high jump final. Teammate Iryna Gerashchenko took third place, clearing a height of 1.95 meters. Mahuchikh cleared 1.97 meters on her first attempt, beating out arch-rival Australian Nicola Olyslagers, who took two attempts to clear the 1.97-meter height. Both Mahuchikh and Olyslagers failed three times to clear 2.01 meters at the event held in Brussels,

(Continued on page 14)



Heorhii Sudakov (No. 10) winds up for a powerful strike as Shakhtar Donetsk battles Bologna (Italy) on September 18 during a UEFA Champions League match in Italy. Shakhtar's uniform colors (typically orange and black) have been replaced with the blue-and-yellow of the Ukrainian national flag.



# Strong Paralympics showing encourages disabled Ukrainian veterans

by Ihor N. Stelmach

Continued success by Ukrainian Para athletes at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris has not only provided cause for celebration, joy and a respite from Russia's ongoing war on Ukraine, but it will also assist injured Ukrainian veterans in dealing with their life circumstances. Previous superb medal results in Rio de Janeiro 2016 (third in the medals table) and Tokyo 2021 (sixth) raised the level of respect for disabled persons in Ukraine.

For those who have endured life-altering injuries on the battlefield since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, there is also the monumental challenge of adjusting mentally. This is why it was of the essence that Ukraine's Paralympians carried on their country's prominence at the Paris Games, boosting morale back home for society's disabled.

This is particularly relevant today because there are a large number of wounded Ukrainian soldiers who have lost their arms or legs.

Ukrainian Paralympians had to persevere through their own challenges, primarily during training and preparing for the international sporting competition. They, like all of their fellow citizens, experience adversity as they go about their daily lives.

Some were fortunate enough to train abroad, but others were not so lucky. Ukrainian Para fencers enjoyed training in Germany, but some Para swimmers had



Fedir Sydorenko (right) receives a state award from President Volodymyr Zelenskyy after Ukraine's goalball team won silver at the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris.

their training sessions at home interrupted by missile attacks, shelling and constant air raid sirens, all of which alter their routine while also affecting their state of mind.

For some, training outside Ukraine had its downsides. Para badminton player Oksana Kozyna moved to France soon after the Russian invasion, but could not find a practice partner. She also has a brother fighting on the frontlines, making it difficult to leave her family behind. She accepted

that she was going to another country to showcase Ukraine on the sports front, but she still fears for her family's well-being and safety every day.

Ukraine's Paralympians had to deal with the unsettling proposition that 96 Russians and Belarusians also took part in the Paris Games. The 88 Russians and eight Belarusians competed under a neutral flag and were banned from taking part in the opening and closing ceremonies. Despite

those rule, Ukrainian athletes nonetheless had to be near these opponents, knowing that many of them support Russia's war on Ukraine.

Kozyna adopted a calm and cool-headed approach heading into the Paralympics. She simply imagined that every opponent was a Russian.

Goalball player Fedir Sydorenko, who has been blind from birth due to a congenital illness, believes that more disabled Ukrainian veterans should seriously consider taking up sports, as competition offers a reprieve from daily life and potentially a new career. It is an opportunity to start a new life and continue fighting for Ukraine, but in stadiums and tournaments around the world, including national competitions within their homeland. Sydorenko maintains that it is "important for the country, for family, for themselves."

For disabled people in Ukraine, seeing the country's Paralympians competing in Paris was an empowering moment.

Sydorenko experienced this for himself at the age of 10 while living in Crimea before it was annexed by Russia. He was selected to Ukraine's national team in 2017 and actively contributed to the squad's attempt to win its first Paralympic medal in Paris. The team made it all the way to the finals before losing to Brazil 4-3 in overtime, though Sydorenko and his teammates won a silver medal.

(Based on reporting by Yahoo!sport via AFP and France 24.)

## Young Ukrainian rowers travel 1,550 miles to compete

by Ihor N. Stelmach

It was possibly one of the longest journeys ever to a youth regatta. It took almost two entire days for four boys, four girls and coaches Nataliya Lyalchuk and Svitlana Dashkevych to travel by bus from Novomoskovsk, Ukraine, to Waltrop, Germany, to enter a competition against the team's German peers on May 13.

The youngsters did not seem to mind the tiring 1,550-mile trek, as it seemed to bring a little joy back into their difficult lives for a few days. Their parents, who watched the unique regatta via teleconference, were quick to express their thanks in comments on social media. One of the competitor's mothers was grateful for the "hospitality, attention and care" for the children. The boys and girls had a bit of time to recover from the constant noise of sirens warning of incoming missile and drone attacks in their homeland. Those attacks are now a part of their daily lives.

The eight youngsters who train in Lyalchuk's group are part of a group of some 60-70 children enrolled in the Novomoskovsk Rowing Club. For over two years these youths have been educated online, unable to physically attend school because of Russia's ongoing war on Ukraine. After classes, they try to engage in



Ukrainian rowers enjoy lunch during a youth regatta on May 13 in Waltrop, Germany.

sports activities unless there is an air raid. There are days when they have to seek shelter more than 10 times.

Lyalchuk established the club in Novomoskovsk following her return from Azerbaijan. After competing in two Olympic Games, in 2008 for Ukraine in quadruple sculls and in 2012 for Azerbaijan in single sculls, she felt a need to give back to her

homeland and support the oppressed region of Donbas and those victimized by Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014.

The club experienced steady growth and received strong support from her former coach in Azerbaijan, Ruediger Hauffe of Germany. Hauffe organized many boats for Lyalchuk and even offered her an invitation to relocate to Germany.

It was through Hauffe that contact was made with the Waltrop Rowing Club. In his coaching days, the German frequented the children's regatta in Waltrop and one day he floated the idea to Lyalchuk. Host families were found, one of Hauffe's former clubs provided boats, and the plan was realized.

The trip began on a Tuesday from Novomoskovsk, as the group traveled by bus to Dnipro, Ukraine, then by train to Lviv near the Polish border and by bus to Dortmund, Germany, where the guests were greeted by their host families on Thursday morning. Four fun days featured sightseeing, a visit to the boat lift, an excursion to town hall to meet the mayor and two days of the regatta, where the Ukrainian children made new friends and had a number of new experiences.

The 2024 Waltrop Regatta had a good turnout with many young people taking part. Lyalchuk and fellow coach Dashkevych got to take part in several new experiences. Their youngsters had never rowed a slalom race before and had never practiced it. The long distance that included a turn was new for the Ukrainian competitors. The coaches could not assess their children's performance ahead of time since

(Continued on page 14)

## National Ballet...

(Continued from page 8)

every month at the Taras Shevchenko National Opera House.

Established in Edmonton, Alberta, in 1959, the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers is Canada's only professional Ukrainian dance company. Shumka presents dance-theater touring productions, as well as intimate concert repertoire across the country and around the world. Seen by millions on

international television broadcasts, the company has presented command performances for queens, prime ministers and presidents, and have performed alongside the likes of Andrea Bocelli, Julie Andrews and Ukrainian artists including Ruslana. Along with Alberta Ballet and Edmonton Opera, Shumka is a resident company of the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. More than 60 years of performance history have shaped Shumka's signature music and dance style. While maintaining deep respect for their heritage, Shumka continu-

ally challenges conventional boundaries to define the experience of Ukrainian dance in the context of today's society. More information about the group can be found at Shumka.com.

Since its founding in 2021, Ukraine House has become a cornerstone of cultural and public diplomacy. Officially opened on September 1, 2021, with a distinguished ceremony featuring Mr. Zelenskyy, Ukraine House has successfully hosted over 300 events and cultural diplomacy programs. Its philanthropic initiatives, among others,

include a notable unbreakable prosthesis and rehabilitation project, which helps Ukrainian children who lost limbs due to Russia's war crimes and atrocities to receive medical treatment in the United States and continue living actively and happily.

Tickets for the National Ballet of Ukraine tour, as well as a detailed tour schedule, are available online at nationalukraineballet.com. More information about the tour can also be found on social media via @NationalBalletUkraine\_ustour.



## Ukrainian pro...

(Continued from page 12)

Belgium, on September 13-14. This season, Mahuchikh won Diamond League stages in Stockholm and Paris, prior to the competition in Brussels. She is the second person in history to win three times in a row and may set a new record next year.

Ukrainian Oleh Doroshchuk won a silver medal in the Diamond League final men's high jump, repeating his personal best by clearing 2.31 meters.

### Mahuchikh nominated for Europe's top female athlete

In 2024, Mahuchikh broke the women's world high jump record that had stood for 27 years when she cleared 2.10 meters on her first attempt at the Diamond League stage in Paris. Several weeks later she became an Olympic champion. In addition, the Ukrainian won every competition she entered during the summer of 2024, including the European Championships and the Diamond League final. She also went undefeated during the winter season. The only indoor event where she did not win gold was the World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland, where she won the silver medal.

These achievements led to Mahuchikh being selected as a nominee for the award of Europe's best female athlete in 2024. Winners are determined by fan voting on the European Athletics website through

September 29. Winners for best male and female athletes of 2024 will be announced on October 26 at a gala ceremony in Skopje, Macedonia.

### Ukraine finishes sixth in Zagreb at judo grand prix

Ukraine's two medal victories at the Zagreb Grand Prix 2024 in Zagreb, Croatia, on September 13-15 were good enough for sixth place out of 24 countries earning medals. Forty nations had 319 competitors participating in the competition. Anton Savitsky won Ukraine's gold medal in the men's under-100-kilogram class and teammate Zaur Duniamaliev took bronze in the same category. For both judokas, it was their first medal at a World Tour tournament.

### Ukraine seventh in canoe championships

Ukraine finished in seventh place in the medal table and tied for fourth place overall with six total medals including one gold medal at the 2024 ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships held in Metkovic, Croatia, on September 19-22. The event featured competitors in junior, senior and U-23 classifications with 830 athletes representing 40 countries.

Ukraine's gold medal was won by Liudmyla Babak in the C1 Women's senior race. Ukraine won three silvers and two bronze medals. Babak added a silver medal in the C1 women's senior short race.

### Signed by Manchester United, dual citizen Zach Baumann hopes to play for Ukraine

Seventeen-year-old Zach Baumann was born in England, the son of immigrant Ukrainian parents from Kolomyia in the Ivano-Frankivsk region of Ukraine. It was reported in February that the young midfielder would like to play for Ukraine's national team in the future.

On September 20, the English Premier League's Manchester United football club signed Baumann to his first professional contract. In the 2023-2024 season, he made 21 appearances for United's Under-18 team, which enjoyed a stellar campaign, winning the league's national final. Baumann was the fourth member of the U-18 team to earn a pro contract.

His dual citizenship allows him to represent England or Ukraine in international competition. FIFA's current eligibility rules permit players to switch international allegiances provided they have played no more than three senior competitive matches prior to turning 21 years old.

### Injury ends Malinovskyi's season

Genoa's Ukrainian international midfielder Ruslan Malinovskyi suffered a serious leg injury during his club's Serie A match against Venezia on September 21, breaking his ankle. Malinovskyi went into a sliding challenge and the cleats on his shoes caught in the turf. His right ankle was visibly fractured and he was taken off the

pitch by stretcher and straight to a local hospital. The 31-year-old, under contract with Genoa until June 2027, will be out of action for close to a full year.

### Natus wins ESL Pro League final

Natus Vincere (Latin meaning "born to win"), commonly referred to as NAVI, is a Ukrainian esports organization based in Kyiv. The organization has teams and players competing in various games including Counter-Strike 2, FIFA, Fortnite and many others.

Natus Vincere defeated Eternal Fire with a 3-2 victory in the grand final of the Electronic Sports League (ESL) season on September 22 in Saint Julians, Malta. NAVI rebounded from a 1-0 deficit and hung on to win \$170,000 of the \$750,000 prize pool to go with 2,400 BLAST Premier Points.

The final victory added to a Counter-Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) season where they also won the Esports World Cup and the Copenhagen major.

The event began on September 3 with 32 teams. Sixteen teams advanced to the playoffs with NAVI advancing directly to the quarterfinal round on the strength of the 2-0 defeat of Eternal Fire in a group upper-bracket final.

(Based on reporting by ABC News, the Washington Times, UNN, Deutsch Welle, Sportskeeda, Firstpost, Ukrainska Pravda, Euromaidan Press, Get Football, The Telegraph, Calcutta, Manchester Evening News, Athleticistic, Football Italia and Deadspin.)

## Silvashi...

(Continued from page 8)

moments, existence is revealed as truth, and art becomes a tool for recording the truth, and the exhibition is its presentation," Mr. Silvashi said.

The Silvashi Circles exhibition introduces the Ukrainian audience to the creative work and outstanding personality of the artist, whose role in the history of contemporary Ukrainian art remains central.

"At a time when we need to rely on our own culture more than ever, it is vital to give Ukrainians the opportunity to get acquainted with Tiberius Silvashi's practice and with him," said Olha Balashova, chairwoman of the board and co-founder of UMCA.

"And this exhibition is largely about how culture works and its importance," Ms. Balashova said.

"Contemporary art speaks to the viewer in a modern language. It speaks about what is important to us today. Tiberius Silvashi not only stood at the origins of Ukrainian contemporary art but was and remains its theorist and long-time researcher. The Tiberius Silvashi exhibition is a very organic project for Ukrainian House, as one of

our priorities is to introduce the phenomena of Ukrainian culture and art to a wide audience, and we are pleased that the UMCA team, which aims to research and exhibit the Ukrainian contemporary artistic process, is a partner in this project," said Olha Vieru, director of the National Center Ukrainian House.

According to the curators, the budget for the Silvashi Circles exhibition is \$350,000. Of this amount, \$194,000 was spent on the exhibition's production, installation and maintenance, while another \$156,000 will be spent on the team's fees, the creation of a catalog, a 3D tour and books about the exhibition in English and Ukrainian.

Mr. Silvashi's retrospective, which is located on five floors of Ukrainian House, provides five routes through which guests can experience five different contexts in which curators placed Mr. Silvashi's work.

For example, the first floor with the blue pool is dedicated to a new version of the artist's installation, while "Malyarstvo" on the third floor houses essential works by Silvashi and artists close to him. Artists from Ukraine, Japan, Australia, Italy and Hungary have works on display on the second floor.

"We are often asked: Why Silvashi? The answer is that he constantly generates con-

texts, environments and situations in which new opportunities to create and understand art appear," said Ms. Balashova.

The researchers have been working on the exhibition for a year. Mr. Silvashi has an extensive archive of texts they researched to understand his work. After that, the team met with the artist every week. Later, architects joined the work.

"The combination of the scale of the personality and modesty is impressive," Ms. Balashova said. "Mr. Silvashi didn't even want his name in the title of the retrospective."

"He once said, 'For me, the perfect exhibition is one where artists don't sign their works. Where there is no I but only a service to art,'" Ms. Balashova said.

Mr. Silvashi is one of the most influential and active contemporary artists working in Ukraine today. He works in the genre of non-figurative painting. He was born on June 13, 1947, in Mukachevo, in the Zakarpattia region of Ukraine. His artistic education began in 1962-1966 at the Taras Shevchenko Republican Art School in Kyiv and continued at the Kyiv State Art Institute. He was a student of prominent Ukrainian

artist Tetyana Yablonska and received his artistic education under her guidance.

In 1978, Mr. Silvashi became a member of the National Union of Artists of Ukraine. His early career was fostered during the Soviet era when abstract art was considered "formalistic" and was not allowed to be exhibited officially. Therefore, many of his works were completed and displayed in the Soviet underground.

In 1992, Mr. Silvashi became one of the founders of the art group Zhyvopysnyi Zapovidnyk (Picturesque Reserve), which brought together Ukrainian artists who wanted to develop non-figurative art. The group was important as it gave rise to a new Ukrainian wave in contemporary art. Its members included Oleksandr Zhyvotkov, Marko Heiko, Anatoliy Kryvolap and Mykola Kryvenko.

Mr. Silvashi's first solo exhibition was held in 1993 in Toulouse, France. Since then, he has had some 40 solo exhibitions, including in major European and American cultural centers.

In 2022, he received the highest award in Ukrainian art, the Taras Shevchenko National Prize of Ukraine.

## Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

reporting exclusive stories for our readers.

"As The Weekly turns 84, [91 years old in 2024], we thank our loyal subscribers – generations of them – for supporting our work and appreciating the import of a com-

munity newspaper," the editorial stated. "With the continuing support of our dear readers and the patronage of our publisher, the Ukrainian National Association, our community newspaper will continue to be there for you."

Source: "84 years old," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, October 1, 2017.

## Young Ukrainian...

(Continued from page 13)

there were mostly only internal competitions, except for the Ukrainian championships in Kyiv.

It was extremely gratifying for the two Ukrainian coaches to see the development

of their young team over the course of two days. The eight youngsters meshed well together and gained valuable knowledge from other participants. The long journey seemed to be well worth it.

(Based on reporting by World Rowing.)

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## Ukrainian American...

(Continued from page 11)

vulnerability.

Equally compelling is the grouping "Inspirations," which includes 16 beautiful embroidery samples produced by Arnie Klein, each featuring a traditional motif from various regions of Ukraine. The artist chose specific patterns and colors that could easily be interpreted as tattoo art. At the same time, Mr. Klein pays tribute to the ancient history of Ukrainian embroidery, as well as the craftsmanship, symbolism and intergenerational bonds represented by this treasured art form.

Ink as Identity features the art of tattoos as markers of identity and symbols of empowerment, resilience, patriotism and honor. The exhibition is the first of its kind and offers the visitor much to ponder. Ink elicits power, and there is an unmistakable

quality of strength and sacredness associated with the act of permanently marking the human body.

As an act of defiance against the atrocities being perpetrated on the nation of Ukraine, its people and supporters around the globe are utilizing the power of ink in the battle for victory and to restore peace in their beautiful and beloved land.

The exhibit was also featured in a story by Michigan Public Radio, which can be found online at <https://www.michiganpublic.org/podcast/stateside/2024-08-09/stateside-podcast-gallery-celebrates-ukrainian-ink-and-identity>.

More information about the exhibit or the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum can be found online at [www.ukrainianmuseumdetroit.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseumdetroit.org), by calling the museum at (313) 366-9764, or via email at [uaamdetroit@gmail.com](mailto:uaamdetroit@gmail.com). It is located at 9630 Joseph Campau Avenue, Hamtramck, Mich., 48212.



# OUT & ABOUT

Through December 22 Chicago	Art exhibit, "Agency: Craft in Chicago from the 1970s-1980s and Beyond," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, <a href="http://www.uima-chicago.org">www.uima-chicago.org</a>	October 6 North Wales, PA	Ukrainian Fall Harvest Festival, Ukrainian National Women's League, of America (Branch 128), Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub, <a href="http://www.tryzub.org">www.tryzub.org</a>
September 29 Chicago	Film screening, "Bucha," followed by discussion with producer Oleksandr Shchur, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, <a href="http://www.uima-chicago.org">www.uima-chicago.org</a>	October 8 Storrs, CT	Concert, "With Ukraine in Our Hearts," featuring violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv, cellist Darrett Adkins and pianist Melvin Chen, University of Connecticut, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, 860-486-4226
September 29 Edmonton, AB	Concert, Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America, Francis Winspear Center for Music, <a href="http://www.winspearcentre.com">www.winspearcentre.com</a> or <a href="http://www.bandura.org">www.bandura.org</a>	October 8 Washington	Performance, "Hope of Ukraine," National Ballet of Ukraine, with Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, The Kennedy Center, <a href="http://www.kennedy-center.org">www.kennedy-center.org</a>
September 30 Saskatoon, SK	Concert, Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America, Broadway Theater, <a href="https://broadwaytheatre.ca">https://broadwaytheatre.ca</a> or <a href="http://www.bandura.org">www.bandura.org</a>	October 9 Cambridge, MA	Presentation by Alex Averbuch, "'He Was His Wife': Ahatanhel Krymsky's Queer Life," Harvard University, <a href="https://huri.harvard.edu">https://huri.harvard.edu</a>
October 1 Winnipeg, MB	Concert, Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America, Burton Cummings Theater, <a href="http://www.ticketmaster.ca">www.ticketmaster.ca</a> or <a href="http://www.bandura.org">www.bandura.org</a>	October 9 Philadelphia	Performance, "Hope of Ukraine," National Ballet of Ukraine, with Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, Miller Theater, <a href="http://www.ensembleartsphilly.org">www.ensembleartsphilly.org</a>
October 2 Cambridge, MA	Presentation with Oleksandra Keudel, Harvard University, <a href="https://huri.harvard.edu">https://huri.harvard.edu</a>	October 10 Boston	Performance, "Hope of Ukraine," National Ballet of Ukraine, with Ukrainian Shumka Dancers, Boch Center Shubert Theater, <a href="http://www.ticketmaster.com">www.ticketmaster.com</a>
October 3 Dickinson, ND	Concert, Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America, Dorothy Stickney Auditorium - May Hall, Dickinson State University, <a href="http://www.eventbrite.com">www.eventbrite.com</a> or <a href="http://www.bandura.org">www.bandura.org</a>	October 10 Cambridge, MA	Book talk with Oksana Lutsyshyna, "Love Life," Harvard University, <a href="https://huri.harvard.edu">https://huri.harvard.edu</a>
October 4 Minneapolis, MN	Concert, Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America, Protez Foundation, Hopkins High School, <a href="http://www.eventbrite.com">www.eventbrite.com</a> or <a href="http://www.bandura.org">www.bandura.org</a>	October 11 Lansdale, PA	Golf outing, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Pinecrest Country Club, <a href="mailto:registration@ucca.org">registration@ucca.org</a> or 212-228-6840
October 5 Skokie, IL	Concert, Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, <a href="http://www.ticketmast.com">www.ticketmast.com</a> or <a href="http://www.bandura.org">www.bandura.org</a>	October 11-13 Kulpsville, PA	Congress of Ukrainians in America, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Holiday Inn Lansdale-Hatfield, <a href="http://www.ucca.org">www.ucca.org</a> or <a href="mailto:registration@ucca.org">registration@ucca.org</a>
October 5 Warrington, PA	Craft and Flea Market, St. Anne Ukrainian Catholic Church, 215-962-8103 or <a href="mailto:tscarpato81@yahoo.com">tscarpato81@yahoo.com</a>	<p><i>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 <a href="mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com">mdubas@ukrweekly.com</a>.</i></p>	
October 5 Glen Spey, NY	Uketober Fest, St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Catholic Church, 845-858-4910 or <a href="mailto:StVolodymyrGS@yahoo.com">StVolodymyrGS@yahoo.com</a>		



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\* Rates as of 9/20/24. Subject to change without notice. Rates for 1 to 4 family owner occupied/condominiums/co-ops. Rate, points and APR may be adjusted based on several factors including, but not limited to, state of property location, loan amount, documentation type, loan type, occupancy type, property type, loan to value and your credit score. Your final rate and points may be higher or lower than those quoted based on information relating to these factors, which may be determined after you apply. The annual percentage rate (APR) is the cost of credit over the term of the loan expressed as an annual rate. The APR shown here is based on the interest rates and points only and does not take into account other loan specific finance charges you may be required to pay.

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## Reporting and Benefit Events 2024



UKRAINIAN  
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of PHILADELPHIA

### Engaging Our Core

Saturday, October 5 | 5:30PM

Cathedral Hall

830 N Franklin St

Philadelphia, PA 19123

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### New Jersey in Focus

Sunday, October 20 | 2:00PM

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\*APR as of 8/6/2024 listed above. APR based upon a \$350,000 mortgage amount with no application fee and no points. 20% down-payment required; must be 1-4 family owner occupied; no prepayment penalties. Rates may change at any time without prior notice. APR – Annual Percentage Rate is the cost of credit over the term of the loan expressed as an annual rate. The APR shown here is based on the interest rates and certain closing costs and does not take into account other loan specific finance charges you may be required to pay.

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