

Subject:View from Ukraine

Date:2019-11-23 14:01

From:Fred Ptucha <fptucha@sonic.net>

To:Press Democrat <jim.sweeney@pressdemocrat.com>

Cc:Sonja Bedford <sonja707@sbcglobal.net>, Duane DeWitt <dewittveteran@yahoo.com>, Bob Flax <bflax@saybrook.edu>, bob Guglielmino <families@sbcglobal.net>, Joyce Hall <joycehall@sbcglobal.net>, Catherine Held <catherineheld@comcast.net>, Terry McNeill <tjmccneill@comcast.net>, Craig Meltzner <craig@craigmeltzner.com>, Carol Price <portbremerhaven@comcast.net>, Fred Ptucha <fptucha@sonic.net>, Alice Waco <awaco@sonic.net>

I was in Ukraine on behalf of the City of Santa Rosa to help our Sister City, Cherkasy celebrate it's 733rd Birthday when the Trump extortion scandal broke. The Ukrainians were shocked and angry by Trump's actions especially because they have been fighting a hot war against Russia for five years that has cost over 14,000 lives and displaced over two million people who fled the war zone.

My friend Serhiy, who is on Cherkasy's City Council, just sent me this message " I feel so sorry that Trump is bringing disbalance into a once very firm Western World which is a balm for Russia and enemies of the USA. I think that if Trump will be elected one more time, the Western World will be broken forever and Russia and China will celebrate the victory.

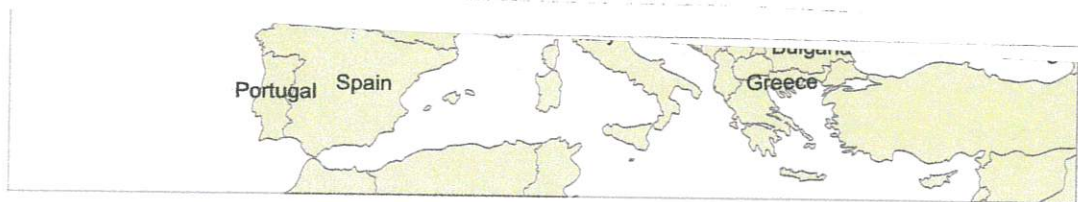
Fred Ptucha President

Sister Cities-Santa Rosa-Cherkasy

771 Hillmont Ct

Santa Rosa CA 95409

707 539 6849





Cherkasy – the centre of the glorious land with the bright historical past – is one of the most beautiful cities, located on the banks of the ancient river Dnipro.

Present-day Cherkasy is one of the powerful industrial centres of Ukraine, where machine-engineering, chemical, consumer goods, food production industries are developed.

Besides, Cherkasy has a real perspective of turning into a big logistics centre: the city is located in the centre of Ukraine, on the intersection of the main transportation ways of the state: water, motorways, railroads and air ways.

Kremenchuk Reservoir - the human-made Cherkasy sea – is a pearl of the central part of Ukraine. Its width near Cherkasy is over 11 kilometres.

Cherkasy pinewood, located to the north and to the west of the city that immediately borders on it, is the biggest solid pine wood of natural origin. The wood was created even before the Ice Age. The significance of the Cherkasy pinewood is in its recreational resources. It is the place for rest and recreation of Cherkasy inhabitants and tourists. For today there are several sanatorium-healthcare resorts and recreational centres in the wood. The most famous part of the Cherkasy pinewood is Sosnivka – the city district, located on the sand terrace of the Dnipro.

The city has wonderful natural conditions and resources for recreation of inhabitants and tourists and traditionally boasts its resort-recreational areas, numerous parks, squares, beaches, architectural monuments of the end of the XIX – beginning of the XX centuries.

The city territory is 7759 ha.

The population is 280,0 thousand people.

Cherkasy

Fred Ptucha's Stay in Cherkasy

September 12 -117, 2019

September 12	Arrival, free time	The Kravchuks 067 472 52 43
September 13	Trip to Kaniv	Serhiy Sayenko, Omelchuk 098 667 22 29
10.00 – 16.00		
17.00- 18.00	Meeting with Peace Corps volunteers	First City Gymnasia
September 14	Going to different locations	Oleksandr Musiienko 067 401 82 49
10.00 -15.00		
18.00 – 21.00	Mayor's Official Meeting	Art Museum
September 15	<i>9-13 ЧИЖИВУ??</i> Countryside, sauna, barbeque	Borozynets 067 470 38 39
16.00 – 19.00		
September 16	Museum of Rushnyk (Ukeraianian national towel)	University 067 972 31 37
14.00 – 15.00		
15.00 -17.00	Women's Centre	
17.00	Interact	
18.00	Rotary Club Cherkasy - Center	Taras Bulba Restaurant
September 17	Departure to Boryspil Airport	Omelchuk
8.00		

**Cherkasy City Day
Program**

Saturday, September 14-th

- 09:00 Breakfast at the hotel.
- 10:00 Morning coffee with a Mayor of Cherkasy (Hotel Apelsyn)
- 11:00 Meeting of the delegations on Soborna Square of the city.
Welcoming circle around the city (health race of the NGO "Family Run Club").
The international project "Information Town "USAID".
- 12:00 The solemn opening of the renovated exposition "Deer and Bisons" in Cherkasy City Zoo.
- 13:00 Lunch (Restaurant "Rushnychok")
- 15:00 Festive procession with the participation of the twin-cities delegations, the representatives of city national communities and the creative groups
- 16:00 Opening ceremony of the festival and gala concert of the participants of the First Children's Festival of twin-cities) (location - Valley of Roses)
- 18:00 Gala reception of the Mayor (exhibition hall of the Art Museum)
(a welcome speech from the representatives of the delegations is planned)
- 21:00 Gala Concert (Valley of Roses)

Sunday, September 15-th

- 09:00 Breakfast at the hotel
- 10:30 Departure from the hotel to Chyhyryn town
Visiting Chyhyryn National Historical and Cultural Reserve, the Residence of Bohdan Khmelnytskyi, Illinska Church
- 13:00 Lunch
Return to Cherkasy
Free program

↑
Nastasha
0679736118

The program can be adjusted

SISTER CITIES SANTA ROSA - CHERKASY



Dear Mayor Bondaranko and the Cherkasy City Council,

My name is Fred Feodorovitch Ptucha. I was a co-founder of Sister Cities Santa Rosa-Cherkasy with John Masura and I am the current President. All four of my grandparents came to America from Czarist Russia and Ukraine between 1912 and 1914. Vassily Podorozny was the grandparent I was closest to. He came from a small Ukrainian village, Gremyach, about 130 km northeast of Kiev. His brother's granddaughter Anastacia Kudriavtseva moved to Cherkasy with her husband Victor in 1987 so I actually had a cousin living in Cherkasy.

In 1989 I led the first citizens group of 23 people to Cherkasy where we stayed in the homes of ordinary citizens of your fine city. We were overwhelmed by the warm and gracious Ukrainian hospitality we received and decided we must work to become official "Sister Cities". There were several exchanges of students and other citizens between our cities and in 1991 we became formal Sister Cities. Recently we celebrated our 28th anniversary as Santa Rosa's oldest Sister City. During these years over 300 Ukrainians have visited Santa Rosa and over 400 Americans have visited Cherkasy.

Our cities received a large grant from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to share information and develop programs to reduce domestic violence. Cherkasy officials came to Santa Rosa and Santa Rosa officials went to Cherkasy over two years. There has been a significant reduction in domestic violence in both cities so the program has been very successful.

From 1994 to 1998 we helped host several hundred men and women from Cherkasy and other Ukrainian cities as part of USAID's Free Enterprise Intern Program (FEIP). This program showed businesspeople how to start new enterprises, raise capital, and operate more efficiently.

There have been several spinoff programs from Sister Cities that have made positive impacts.

A Women's Center was founded in Cherkasy and supported by the Ukrainian-American Women's Action Project (UAWAP). Hundreds of women have had their lives enriched by the Center. Unfortunately the Center has closed.

The Ukrainian Diabetes Project (UDP) was founded by Andrea Carroll with the help of her interpreter Vladimir Skrypka. They are now married. Thousands of Ukrainian children are living normal, healthy and productive lives because of the compassion, professional skill and dedication of Andrea Skrypka.

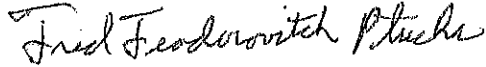
Climbers for Peace (CFP) began as a joint venture between Sister-Cities and Veterans for Peace in 1997. CFP has had eleven expeditions to climb iconic mountains around the world including Elbrus in Russia, Olympus in Greece, Hoverla in Ukraine, Shasta and Denali in US, and Damavand in Iran. These expeditions have provided inspiration for peace-loving people everywhere.

There have been twenty-five marriages between Americans and Ukrainians or almost one a year since Sister Cities began. This gives tangible reality to the phrase "Make love, not war".

The commitment, compassion and hard work by hundreds of volunteers in both of our cities has been a shining example of citizen diplomacy at its best.

We look forward to many more years of exchanges and successful projects between our two cities. By building warm, friendly and enduring relations between the citizens of our two fine cities we are fulfilling the motto of Sister Cities International – "Peace Through People."

Sincerely,



Fred Feodorovitch Ptucha, President
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US political feuds sowing confusion in Kiev

BY ANTON TROIANOVSKI
AND JOSH DAWSEY
WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW — As President Donald Trump and his inner circle appear increasingly focused on Ukraine as a potential

tripwire for Joe Biden and other Democrats, officials about to take power in Kiev are pushing their own message: Leave us out of it.

Supporters of Ukrainian President-elect Volodymyr Zelensky, who is expected to take office in the coming weeks, said in interviews Saturday that they feared they were being pulled into a domestic political conflict in the United States, potentially at Ukraine's expense.

Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani said Friday he was canceling a trip to Ukraine during which he was planning to push for investigations that include Biden's son, Hunter, and his time on the board of a Ukraine gas company.

Giuliani said he was calling off the trip because there were "enemies" of Trump on the team of Zelensky, a comedian with no previous political experience who toppled President Petro Poroshenko in a runoff election last month.

Zelensky — who played Ukraine's president on a popular TV show — has pledged to fight corruption and push to end the war against Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. But maintaining a close relationship with Washington is critical.

Many Ukrainian officials see U.S. support as a key deterrent preventing Russian President Vladimir Putin from encroaching further on their territory.

Western diplomats in Kiev have voiced concerns that Zelensky, given his lack of political experience, could be outmatched in negotiations with Putin.

Serhiy Leshchenko, a Ukrainian member of parliament and a prominent Zelensky backer, said Ukraine was being drawn into a "dangerous game."

A person close to Zelensky who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter said the president-elect's team viewed Trump's interest in the investigations as a domestic U.S. matter and would not to let it distract from his agenda.

"This is definitely not one war," the person close to Zelensky said. "We have to stay away from this as much as possible."

The person said Zelensky would rule out using political pressure to lean on Ukrainian law enforcement to achieve any White House aims.

One investigation that has attracted Trump and Giuliani's interest involves a Ukrainian gas company on whose board Hunter Biden served while his father was vice president, Trump said Friday that it would be "appropriate" for him to talk to Attorney General William Barr about opening an investigation over the matter into Joe Biden, the current Democratic front-runner.

"Certainly it's a very big issue and we'll see what happens," Trump told POLITICO.

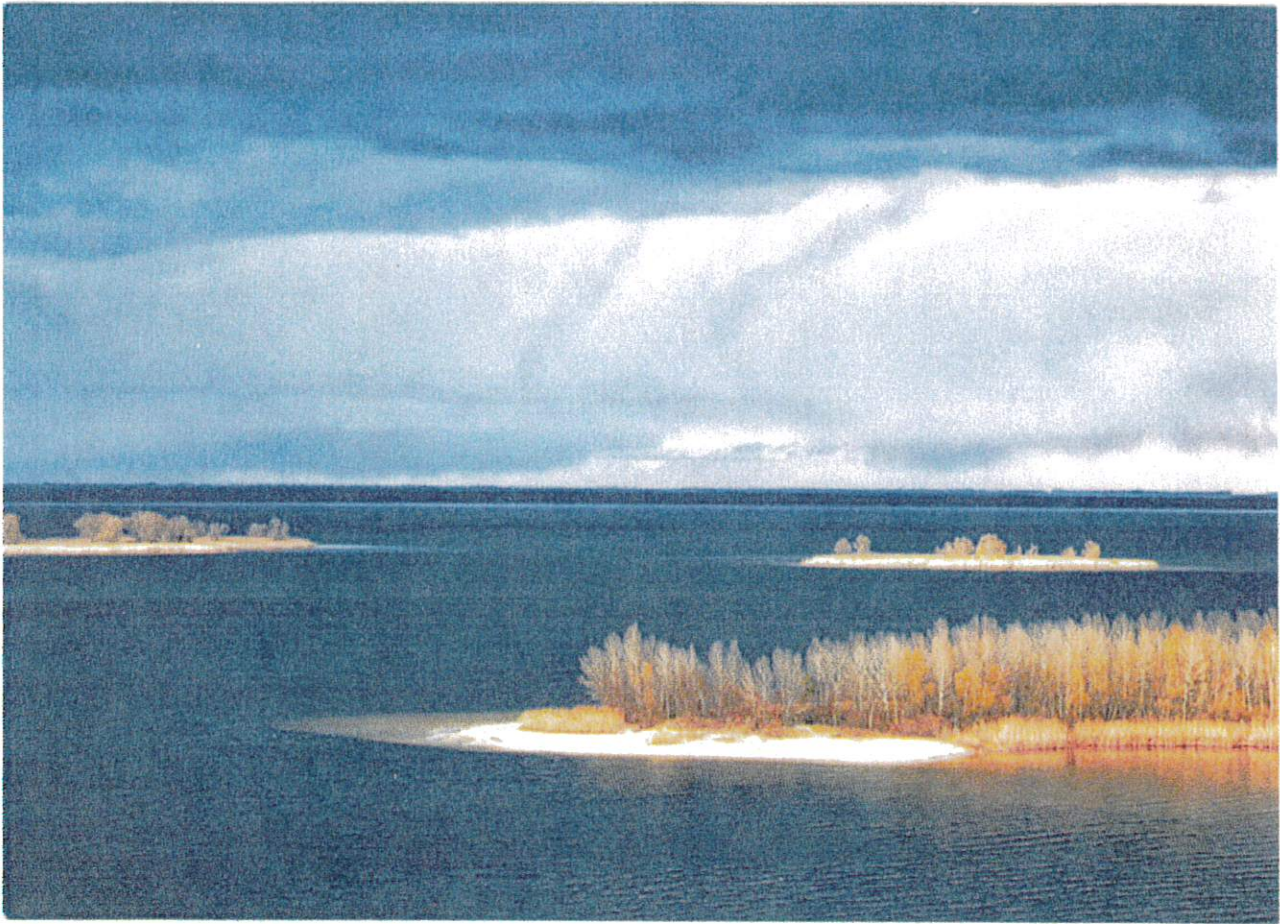
There is no evidence that Biden's conduct as vice president was improper while his son served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

Giuliani also has pushed for Ukrainian officials to investigate, improve allegations that the Democratic National Committee worked with the Ukrainian government in 2016 to dig up incriminating information about Paul Manafort, Trump's former campaign chairman. The DNC has denied those allegations.

Zelensky has referred to Prosecutor General Yuri Lutsenko — who spoke to The Hill newspaper, this year about alleged wrongdoing by the Bidens — as a member of the "old team" whom he plans to replace.

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