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Ukrainian crisis hits home for two NDA exchange students



Vlada Vladyslava, left, and Milana Volkova joined dozens at an anti-war protest Sunday, Feb. 27, outside the Resch Expo Center in Ashwaubenon. Josh Staloch Photo

BY NICK BUMGARDNER CORRESPONDENT

GREEN BAY - In the early hours of the morning on Feb. 24, as dawn broke

in Eastern Europe, Russian tanks rolled across the frozen plains of Ukraine.

As Ukrainians awoke to a cacophony of gunshots, explosions and air raid

sirens - two Notre Dame Academy (NDA) students - Vlada Klymenko, of Ukraine and Milana Volkova, of Russia - watched helplessly from thousands

of miles away as war erupted in their homelands.

Klymenko, a Ukrainian with family in Kyiv, said

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Salma Mohamed, a senior at Southwest High School, said she loves everything about being a Trojan and has made many friends as a student there. Submitted Photo

Southwest student finds her 'voice' by overcoming obstacles

BY JOSH STALOCH STAFF WRITER

GREEN BAY - Southwest High School senior Salma Mohamed was born without the ability to hear.

Looking at her, however, no one would ever know the unimaginable obstacles Mohamed had to overcome to get where

she's at now.

Those who know her said she has one of those smiles that can light up a room.

Just months away from graduating high school, Mohamed will soon embark on her life as an adult in America.

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Helping to mentor the next generation of journalists

Press Times/City Pages launch internship program with UWGB

BY PRESS TIMES STAFF

GREEN BAY - It's an exciting time for the Press Times, Green Bay City Pages and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (UWGB).

The hyperlocal publications have partnered with the university to provide hands-on experience through an internship program.

So far, the papers have welcomed five interns

in varying parts of their studies to get firsthand experience with writing, meeting coverage, interviewing, proofing, sports coverage and the overall newspaper production.

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Tara Yang, owner of Main Oriental Market, speaks after being announced as the 2022 Young Professional of the Year. Josh Staloch Photo

Yang named Young Professional of the Year

BY JOSH STALOCH STAFF WRITER

GREEN BAY - In recognition of her numerous contributions to the community - both professional and personal - Tara Yang, owner of Main Oriental Market in downtown Green Bay, was named Young Professional of the Year at an awards event held Feb. 24 at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center.

Each year, Current Young Professionals Network, a program of the Greater Green Bay Chamber, recognizes the accomplishments of talented young professionals (ages 21-40) making an impact within the community.

Yang said her parents, Bruce and Kao Shoua Yang, instilled in her early the philosophy that the more

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Green Bay election controversy heats up

BY HEATHER GRAVES EDITOR

GREEN BAY - The controversy surrounding Green Bay's running of elections boiled over at the Tuesday, March 1, City Council meeting.

The Council Chambers were packed, and comments often got heated as the item up for discussion once again was the city's handling of elections - with the focus on the most recent Feb. 15 primary.

A series of proposals put forward by District 8 Alderperson Chris Wery,

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UKRAINE
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she has now lived through war twice, first with Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and subsequent civil war in the east, and now with their invasion in 2022.

"I don't remember how I felt (in 2014), because I was little, but I have a really clear memory about being at school and hearing all the explosions," she said. "This time feels much scarier, when I'm so far away from my family, and I don't know what is really happening."

Klymenko said her family is still in Ukraine.

"They are safe for now," she said. "At night on Feb. 26, they heard shooting, but they were in a safe place. There was information that they won't have internet or data to get in contact with anyone, but this hasn't happened. They usually try to text as much as possible, because they know that I'm nervous."

Volkova also shared concern with the situation.

"I, as a Russian, understand the situation and the reasons why our president has started the war," she said. "It's a long history, and the roots have been growing from the Soviet Union's collapse. All I can say is that Russian people don't want war with Ukraine, don't want the Donbas, and don't want Crimea. We just want justice and peace inside our own country, but I don't know who in the whole world would even listen to us at this point now."

Volkova said watching the news of what's happening is saddening.

"It is heartbreaking to see that something like this is possible (nowadays)," she said. "I wish people lived in peace, and no one knew about war," she continued.

As exchange students at NDA, Volkova and Klymenko have become friends.

The pair spent much of Sunday, Feb. 27, partici-



Dozens gathered outside the Resch Expo on Armed Forces Drive in Ashwaubenon Sunday, Feb. 27, for a peaceful rally to show support for the people of Ukraine. **Josh Staloch Photos**



Yulia Barstow, left, came to this country from Ukraine 22 years ago. Her mother, Lyudmyla Aharkova, came nearly 10 years later.

pating in an anti-war rally outside the Resch Expo in Green Bay, characterizing Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion as a result of "politics."

"It's not about people between both countries," Klymenko said, "but more

about politicians that can't agree and decide how to live in peace. So many people from Russia are against Putin, and they try to help Ukraine as much as they can."

As the war rages on, their future in the U.S., and

in their respective home countries, is in limbo.

Both hope to reconnect with their families soon, but are prepared to hold out here if nothing changes.

"I still have three months in America, and hope that in this period of time it will get

better, and I can (go) home," Klymenko said. "If not, I am sure I can stay with my host family as long as I need to. I haven't talked about (going) back with my parents yet, but they are glad that I'm here and I'm safe. They would come here if the borders weren't closed."

Volkova said she doesn't know how the war and all the sanctions against Russia will affect her future here at NDA.

"I don't know how my life will turn... If I will be back home and see my parents, but I really hope that I will be able to continue education in NDA and be back next year," she said.

Anti-war rally

Dozens more joined Volkova and Klymenko at the peaceful rally Sunday afternoon in a show of solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

Among them was Yulia Barstow, who came to this country from Ukraine 22 years ago.

Both of her children were born here, and 13 years ago, her mother, Lyudmyla Aharkova, came to live in Green Bay, close to her daughter and grandchildren.

"I still have family and friends in the Ukraine," Barstow said. "They are in very hot zones. They are being bombed even as we speak. So, if you're wondering how you can help, there are different ways. If you pray, pray for Ukraine. If you can donate money, please do so. Educate. Tell the world what's going on. It's a big deal. It doesn't affect only Ukraine. Educate others."

Ukrainian help drive

In response to the humanitarian need generated by the war in Ukraine, the students of NDA have help organize a Ukrainian Helped Drive March 7-25

Supplies needed include:

- Long underwear and underwear
- Baby Essentials including baby food, diapers, wipes
- Medical supplies
- Gloves, bandages, first aid kits, garbage bags
- Warm Clothes
- New or used clothing
- Hygiene items
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, antibacterial wipes, sanitizers
- Dry/non-perishable foods
- Dry foods for children's orphanage in Donetsk
- Granola bars, cereal, etc.
- Sleeping bags and mats
- Blankets and pillows
- Women's products
- New or used coats, hats, gloves, mittens, socks, raincoats

Monetary donations are also being accepted.

All donated items will be trucked by a Ukrainian-American volunteer from Green Bay to Chicago. From Chicago, Meest (Ukrainian Postal Service) will fly to Poland, truck it into Lviv, Ukraine, and personally distribute it.

Press Times Staff Writer Josh Staloch contributed to this story.

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