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LETTERS

"Happening People" feature written by Paul Neevel. Vikki Perpinan has lived a life where she has given back to her community, and now it's time for us to give back to her. Her son Matt Perpinan passed away Feb. 21 in Springfield. He was one of the lights of her life, as she has always been a very supportive mother.

Along with Jaime, her husband, she weathered the trials of raising a disabled child, who turned out to be a pretty amazing person. He loved video games, especially Mario Kart. He was a wonderful person and he will be missed. A fund has been set up to pay for the costs of his passing. Please help if you can. See wkly.ws/1pa.

Crystal Richter
Eugene

MINOR GENIUSES ARE KEY

Malcolm Gladwell begins his book *What the Dog Saw* by stating, "You don't start at the top if you want to find the story. You start in the middle, because it's the people in the middle who do the actual work in the world." Bob Warren [Viewpoint, 2/27], are you listening?

It is a myth that our local economies can't survive without large corporate companies. It is the "minor geniuses" Gladwell was speaking of that create the small businesses and employ the largest number of employees that generates the largest income for this country. It is easy to toss around large numbers of what large companies do in size of employees and money, yet they absolutely do not equal what the minor geniuses of the world create.

But, in usual fashion, companies like Hynix and Sony are hailed by people like Warren as having been "the largest property taxpayer in Lane County." False! The people of Lane County are the largest taxpayers. But are huge tax exemptions and subsidies offered to the people who make this country run, the people? No, yet it is the "middle" who finance the large investments of infrastructure for the corporate leeches through subsidies, tax exemptions and taxes, being told that if we don't, they will either not come or will leave if not given further holier-than-thou status.

And companies that put our towns, cities and environments at risk have made sure that laws are written to not hold them accountable for the clean-up costs and potential messes left behind.

This past year, 1,700 of the world's billionaires saw their wealth skyrocket an extra trillion dollars! Could it be off the backs of the world's populace, not from product, but from corporate welfare?

Sean S. Doyle
Corvallis

OUR STUNNING HYPOCRISY

President George H. W. Bush assured Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev that after the Warsaw Pact was dismantled, the West would not bring members into NATO. President Bill Clinton promptly broke that promise.

The U.S. reaction to Soviet missiles in Cuba almost brought us to nuclear war. Yet the U.S. seeks to place missiles in Poland, clearly enhancing its ability to launch a nuclear first strike on Russia, and now

wants to control Ukraine.

Neo-con Victoria Nuland, senior adviser to Vice President Dick Cheney and now with the State Department, plotted to overthrow Ukraine's corrupt, but elected, government. The Neo-Nazi Svoboda Party and Right Factor militias seized weapons from armories, fired on police and protesters and took power by force. See wkly.ws/1pe.

President Obama accuses Russia of "aggression" for sending troops to Crimea to prevent a similar coup, which would further threaten both Russian security and the predominantly Russian-speaking population, and protests the supposed violation of international law.

This stunning hypocrisy — given the U.S. destruction of Iraq — risks World War III for the sake of U.S. hegemony.

Putin's March 4 press conference, transcribed at wkly.ws/1pd, and Noam Chomsky's *Hegemony or Survival* are two among many useful sources of further information.

Robert Roth
Eugene

IMMINENT COLLAPSE

The use of toxic, potent industrial pesticides in the past year has not only set bee die-offs at record levels, but has also begun to have an impact on the foundation of this country's agriculture industry, threatening the entire U.S. with the loss of its ability to successfully grow its own food. This ecosystem decline, economic decline and potential human suffering as a result should be very concerning to you.

According to the USDA, we do not have enough live bees left to pollinate one-third of the crops we grow in this country. Those crops include more than 95 varieties of fruits and vegetable across all 50 states. We have lost the ability to grow the food we need by natural methods and as we continue to allow the use of heavy commercial pesticides, such as systemic neonicotinoid insecticides, to kill more bees, we are only hurrying the imminent collapse of this country's \$125-billion-a-year pollination services.

One way to get rid of these pesticides is to support a new federal bill, the Saving America's Pollinators Act (HR 2692), which would suspend the use of systemic neonicotinoid insecticides and would direct the EPA to perform more thorough investigations and studies into these pesticides and their uses. I wholeheartedly support this bill and have already contacted my district representative to urge him to do the same.

I urge you to call your representative and ask that they protect bees from harm, and ultimately protect our agricultural way of life from harm. The Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) is very much involved with propelling this bill into legislative fruition, and you can visit their website (pesticide.com) to learn more.

Adam DiPaola
UO student

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