

ACTIVIST ALERT

• **Church Women United** of Lane County will meet at 9 am Friday, Jan. 4, at Ebbert United Methodist Church, 532 C St. in Springfield, and again at 7 am Tuesday, Jan. 8, at Brails, 1689 Willamette St. in Eugene. See cwulanecounty.org

• The **State of the County Address** will be at 10 am Monday, Jan. 7, at Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave. in Eugene. Eugene's 2013 **State of the City Address** will be at 5:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 9, in the lobby of the Hult Center. Donations of canned food for FOOD for Lane County will be collected at the door.

• **Anti-drone activist Trudy Cooper** will be in Eugene to report on her recent trip to Pakistan, where a CODEPINK delegation witnessed the devastation caused by more than 300 U.S. drone strikes in the past four years, killing as many as 3,000 people in Waziristan. The event will be 7 pm Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 West 13th Ave. in Eugene. Cooper, from Portland, will show pictures and tell stories of students, teachers, children and women killed when drone-launched missiles destroyed their homes. Sponsored by Eugene CODEPINK, Community Alliance of Lane County, Women's Action for New Directions and Veterans for Peace. Contact CALC at 485-1755 or calcpeace@gmail.com

lighten up

BY RAFAEL ALDAVE

Gun control would be a lot less contentious if someone could show that guns contribute to traffic delays.

WAR DEAD

IN AFGHANISTAN

- 2,164 U.S. troops killed* (2,162)
- 18,167 U.S. troops wounded in action (18,154)
- 1,263 U.S. contractors killed (1,263)
- 12,793 civilians killed (12,793)
- \$597.8 billion cost of war (\$595.6 billion)
- \$176.5 million cost to Eugene taxpayers (\$175.9 million)

IN IRAQ

The war officially ended December 2011 with a total of 4,422 U.S. troops killed, 31,930 wounded in action and undisclosed hundreds of U.S. military suicides. But U.S. contractors have assumed a larger role, high levels of U.S. spending continue, and the body count from civil unrest grows.

- 1,587 U.S. contractors killed (1,587)
- 121,121 to 1.2 million civilians killed* (121,112)
- \$809.8 billion cost of war (\$809.6 billion)
- \$239.1 million cost to Eugene taxpayers (\$239.1 million)

Through Dec. 28, 2012; sources: icasualties.org; defense.gov, U.S. Dept. of Labor (contractor deaths updated occasionally)

* highest estimate; source: iraqbodycount.org; based on confirmed media reports; other groups calculate Iraqi civilian deaths as high as 655,000 (Lancet survey, 2006) to 1.2 million (Opinion Research Business survey, 2008). Afghan civilian deaths from guardian.co.uk tallied monthly.

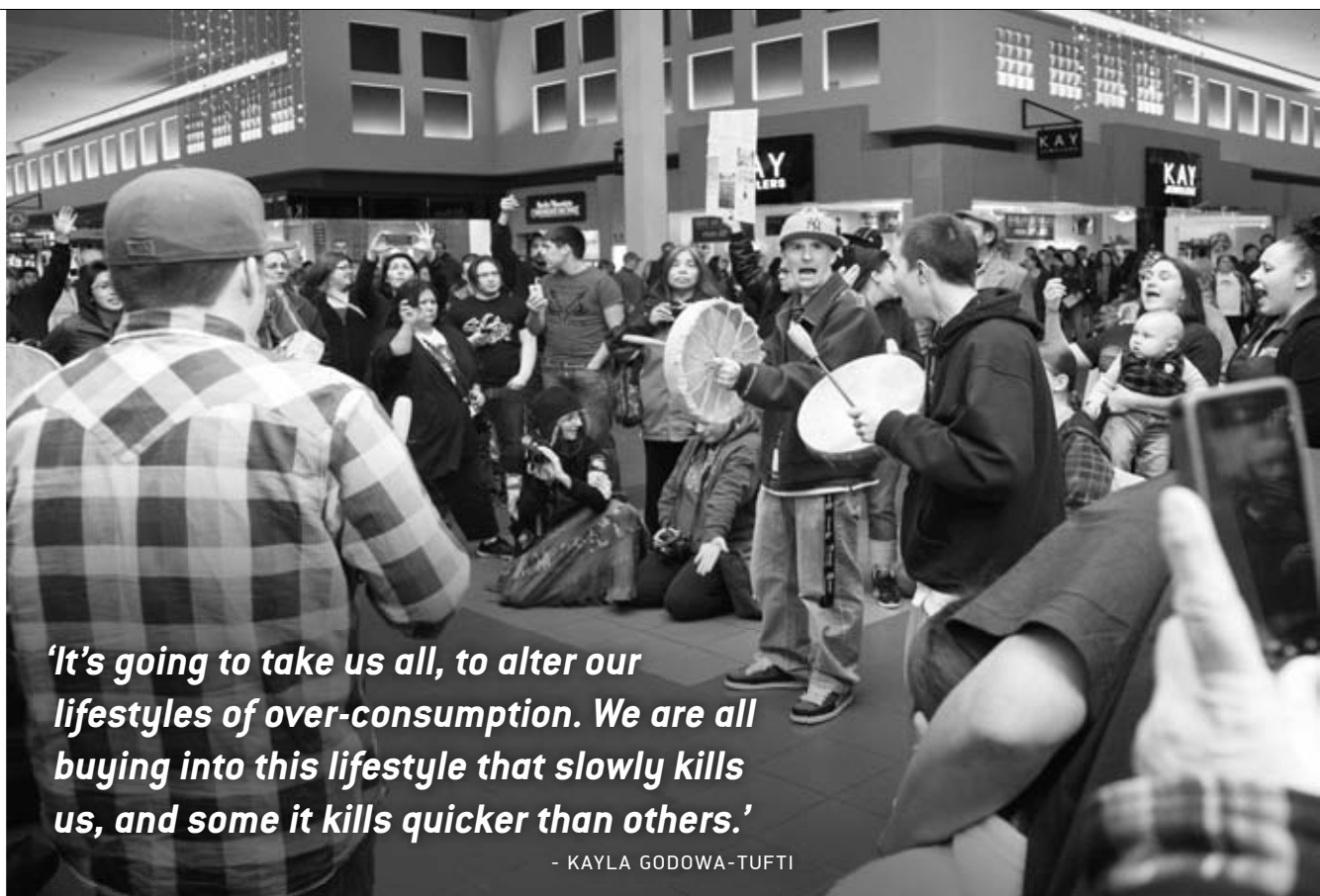


PHOTO BY ROB AND TRACY SYDOR DIGITALLATTE.COM

'It's going to take us all, to alter our lifestyles of over-consumption. We are all buying into this lifestyle that slowly kills us, and some it kills quicker than others.'

- KAYLA GODOWA-TUFTI

NATIVE AMERICAN IDLE NO MORE

Idle No More is a campaign for indigenous rights, sovereignty and environmental justice that began in Canada in part as a response to Canada's omnibus bill C-45 that is seen as taking away treaty rights. Though neglected in mainstream U.S. media coverage, the campaign has generated rallies and flashmobs across Canada, the U.S. and Europe. Flashmobs were held in Portland's Pioneer Square Mall on Dec. 23 and Eugene's Valley River Center Mall on Dec. 29.

In Canada, Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence began a hunger strike on Dec. 11, drinking only fish broth and medicinal tea. She has announced she will not eat until there is a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and a representative of the queen of England to address Canada's broken relationship with indigenous peoples and treaty rights.

The bill passed the Canadian Senate on Dec. 14, but the Idle No More movement is more than just that legislation, according to the INM website. The Idle No More manifesto says, in part:

"The state of Canada has become one of the wealthiest countries in the world by using the land and resources. Canadian mining, logging, oil and fishing companies are the most powerful in the world due to land and resources. Some of the poorest First Nations communities (such as Attawapiskat) have mines or other developments on their land but do not get a share of the profit. The taking of resources has left many lands and waters

poisoned — the animals and plants are dying in many areas in Canada. We cannot live without the land and water. We have laws older than this colonial government about how to live with the land."

Among the environmental concerns brought up by the new legislation are the tar sands, fossil fuel pipelines and other mining. According to Kayla Godowa-Tufti, Warm Springs, who attended the Portland flashmob:

"We are now witnessing the results of all these smaller resistances, like Jackie Thomas Chief of Saik'uz First Nations who stood against the Enbridge Pipeline. All those smaller actions have now come into one movement. The Idle No More Movement. It is good and inspiring to see our people hold solidarity rallies."

More than 100 people, Native American and non-native, from small children to the elderly, participated in or supported the round dance at Valley River.

Godowa-Tufti says, "If we really want to end this suffering and oppression, and truly stand in solidarity with our First Nations brothers and sisters, we must end our dependence on tar sands oil, but it's going to take more than just a round dance and prayers. It's going to take us all, to alter our lifestyles of over-consumption. We are all buying into this lifestyle that slowly kills us, and some it kills quicker than others."

For more on Idle No More, see a Viewpoint by Godowa-Tufti on page 4. — *Camilla Mortensen*

POLLUTION UPDATE

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recently sent **Shell Oil Products Company** a warning letter for failing to have the wastewater system at its **Halsey** facility, near I-5 and Highway 228, supervised by a certified operator. DEQ considers this a **serious violation of the Clean Water Act**. The Clean Water Act permit for this facility expired on June 30, 2011.

DEQ has issued a draft permit for **Weyerhaeuser's Truck Road Landfill**, located in Springfield southeast of **Mt. Vernon Road and Bob Straub Parkway**. This 20-acre landfill received industrial solid waste (e.g., log pond dredgings, pulp waste, lime grits, boiler fly ash and general wood waste) generated by the wood products industry during its operation, and was closed in 1982. Nearby groundwater is affected by leachate from the landfill, though the

nearest downgradient groundwater user is approximately 2,400 feet from the landfill boundary. Public comments are being accepted until 5 pm on Jan. 14.

DEQ has issued a draft permit covering **163 City of Eugene dry wells**, which are "stormwater management facilities that collect stormwater runoff from adjacent areas and direct it into the ground." DEQ received the city's permit application in July of 2002 (over 10 years ago). The draft permit has a duration of 10 years and, among other things, requires the city to prepare a stormwater monitoring plan; a system-wide assessment of dry wells; a dry well management plan; and an annual dry well report. Public comments are being accepted until 5 pm on Jan. 15.

Visit goo.gl/LN8Tm for more information on commenting. — *Doug Quirke/Oregon Clean Water Action Project*