

SLANT

• Florence residents are steaming over the back-door method used by tribal leaders to acquire land just east of town for "cultural and historical purposes" (and specifically ruling out gambling), when the site was apparently planned all along for a casino. Residents are also fretting about the possible impacts of a casino on their community – the increase in gambling addiction, divorce, bankruptcy, suicide, child abuse, crime, traffic, and the loss of tax revenues that other Oregon communities with casinos have experienced to a greater or lesser degree. The town has been losing major legal battles and now Gov. Kulongoski has decided to not appeal a federal court ruling that favors the casino. No one knows for sure how Florence will change with a big

casino on its outskirts, but hats off to the dedicated residents who are continuing the fight on multiple fronts. What's next? A local initiative is in the works that would deny city services (sewer, water, public safety) to any casino development in the area, and a Florence contingency is planning a lobbying trip to Washington, D.C.

• The good news from Bob Noble's report to the City Club July 11 was that the numbers from this region could support direct flights from Eugene to both Salt Lake and San Jose. Folks are trying to put that together, according to Noble, who is manager of the Eugene airport. Bad news is that we lost 30 percent of our air business after 9/11 and traffic is still down 20 percent. More bad news – our security costs have gone from about \$100,000 a year to \$1 million since 9/11.

• Why is Enron still getting tax breaks from the state Legislature? Enron paid only the minimum income tax of \$10 last year. But Rep. Mark Haas tells us that what many people don't know is that Enron received a tax break of \$1.1 million last year because of the Pollution Control Tax Credit. Pollution control sounds good on the surface, but Enron, like other big polluters, got its tax break for simply complying with environmental regulations. Now Enron has applied for \$18 million in similar tax credits next year for work associated with the decommissioning of the Trojan nuclear plant. These obsolete rules were due to be phased out, but some conservatives in the House just this past week pushed through (without debate) a measure (HB2652) that would relax environmental standards and extend this expensive tax break to 2014. Meanwhile,

the Legislature is at an impasse on funding education and basic social services. One logical way to help craft a budget that meets basic needs is to eliminate loopholes and tax breaks that unfairly favor big business and industry.

• So CIA chief George Tenet is "accepting" blame for false claims in Bush's speech justifying a pre-emptive attack on Iraq. It doesn't take much cynicism to imagine the bickering and scheming going on in the West Wing in an attempt at damage control: "Denial didn't work, so let's try finger-pointing and sacrificial lambs, and if that doesn't work, let's create a distraction..." Democrats need to get off their butts and pounce on this monumental WMD deception with all the fervor and outrage Republicans spewed over Clinton's petty open zipper policy.

Monroe Mayor Floyd Billings and the rest of the council are currently uncertain of how to deal with two identical bids. They are expecting to get legal advice, as well as examine any geologic consequences in the event of logging, and call another council meeting to decide the ownership of Kyle Spring as soon as possible. — *Celene Carillo*



WOMYN FOREST DEFENDERS OCCUPY STRAW DEVIL SALE

Oregon eco-feminists this week announced the beginning of an "all-womyn's action, occupation and tree-sit in defense of public land sold off to private industry."

The tree-sit at the Willamette Forest timber sale has two purposes, according to a message from the Eco-Feminist Front. "In addition to defending the last 2 percent of native old-growth forest that still stands in Oregon, the womyn's action is dedicated to building a community that is intolerant of all forms of oppression. We work to build a space of mutual learning and growth — a space where we can conquer not only the demons of capitalism, patriarchy and indifference that surround us but also the demons of oppression, self-loathing and fear that reside within us."

For more information on the action, call 684-8977, e-mail forestdefenders@tao.ca or visit www.forestdefenders.org or www.cascadiasummer.org

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Last week's movie review "Dig These Films" listed The Archaeology Channel's website incorrectly. The correct address for schedule and information is www.archaeologychannel.org

Summer Sale

Save 20 to 50% on a wide selection of living room, dining room, bedroom, and office furniture.



Sofa in various fabrics, 83" x 36" x 35" h. was \$899 **Sale \$699**
Complementing chair was \$599 **Sale \$479**



Computer station in teak, cherry, or maple.
Desk, 48" x 26" x 29" h.
Hutch, 48" x 12" x 29" h.
Combination was \$398 **Sale \$320 rta**



All steel barstool, champagne and onyx finish with upholstered seat cushion. Barstool, 30" or Counter stool, 26" was \$329 **Sale \$169 rta**



TV unit, teak, 36" x 20" x 17" h. was 349 **Sale \$269 rta**

Sale begins Friday, July 18th.
"rta" items sold ready to assemble.

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