

An independent newspaper

Oregon Daily Emerald



Joey does it all

Joey Harrington led the Ducks in every way imaginable during their Holiday Bowl win. **PAGE 7**

"Win-win" situation

Alumni made a more than \$2 million donation to the Lundquist School of Business. **PAGE 6**

WEATHER
TODAY



high 51, low 42

SINCE 1900 UNIVERSITY OF OREGON EUGENE, OREGON

West Eugene Parkway stopped for now

The City Council voted against a wetlands amendment that would have allowed the four-lane expressway project to move ahead

By Rebecca Newell
Oregon Daily Emerald

The planned construction of a four-lane expressway through West Eugene to ease congestion in the area hit a red light during winter break.

The Eugene City Council voted Dec. 13 against a wetlands amendment, an element necessary for the continuance of the West Eugene Parkway project.

The council didn't actually vote against the parkway, but against an amendment that would have allowed the expressway to pass through a wetlands area between West 11th Avenue and the Southern Pacific railroad tracks. That vote essentially halted the parkway's progress, Mayor Jim Torrey said.

Councilors who opposed the wetlands amendment said the wetlands should be protected, and some councilors suggested the city focus on promoting alternative transportation rather than building more roads.

"More concrete is not the solution to traffic congestion," said Betty Taylor,

who voted with three other councilors against the amendment.

The proposed parkway would have linked Highway 99 with Highway 126. The road was designed to alleviate congestion on West 11th, provide a faster route for people traveling from Eugene to the coast and improve access to West Eugene from downtown.

Councilor Bonny Bettman, who voted against the wetlands amendment, said the parkway would have been an ineffective use of tax dollars.

"Moving forward with this project would have used all available state funding for the next 20 years, except for the I-5 interchange project," Bettman wrote in an e-mail to the Emerald.

The plan originated in the 1960s, when a highway study recognized the need for a limited-access road that would serve West Eugene and link Interstate 5 with Highway 126. In 1986,

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Laura Smit Emerald

The construction of a four-lane expressway through West Eugene would ease traffic congestion in the area.



Laura Smit Emerald

During winter break, a fire devastated the second-story rooms of this six-bedroom house rented by University students.

Don't get burned by fire damage

Four students lost \$25,000 in property in a December house fire — but renter's insurance offers protection

By Beata Mostafavi
Oregon Daily Emerald

No one was home during winter break when fire gutted a house in South Eugene rented by University students, but the blaze caused almost \$225,000 in damages.

For the past week, cars have driven more slowly past 3302 Donald St. Remnants of police tape, a collapsed roof, black

walls and the smell of burnt wood is all that remains of the six-bedroom house.

Fire dispatch received the alarm Dec. 29 at 3:42 a.m., and the fire's cause is undetermined, according to the Eugene Fire Department. Deputy Fire Marshal Mark Thompson said the department originally suspected that combustibles next to an electric wall heater

caused the fire, but that possibility has been eliminated.

Four University students and two others were renting the house. They have since found new living arrangements.

Chris Smith, a Eugene resident who lived in the house for three weeks, said he and one of his roommates were the only

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EWEB expecting to increase rates

■ A shortage of electricity and rising demands for power are forcing the EWEB Board of Directors to find a way to cover costs

By Lindsay Buchele
Oregon Daily Emerald

The energy crisis that has swept the West Coast has hit Eugene.

As a result, energy prices are expected to increase 15 percent during the next year for Eugene residents.

The Eugene Water & Electric Board, which is the primary provider of electricity to the city of Eugene, decided last week to consider a price increase to cover the rising demand for electricity.

EWEB Vice President Peter Bartel said an increase beginning in March is unavoidable, but the size of the increase is yet to be determined.

"The employees approached the board and told us a price increase had to happen in order to cover costs, but they were unsure as to how to handle that increase," Bartel said. "We basically told them to take some time to consider what could be done and then come back to us."

The EWEB Board of Directors is scheduled to decide Feb. 6 how to handle the increase.

Part of the decision includes how much of an increase is needed and how that amount could be spread over the year in order not to overwhelm customers. EWEB will also consider tacking surcharges onto

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“Typically, there is a flow of power between Oregon and California. Now both states are in demand and can't provide for each other.”

Peter Bartel
vice president,
EWEB

