

## CRIME WATCH

### Theft

Tuesday, Jan. 2 — 8:02 a.m.

A DPS officer reported a University parking sign stolen.

Thursday, Jan. 4 — 4:16 p.m.

A University student reported his

bicycle stolen from a bike rack near Deady Hall.

Friday, Jan. 5 — 1:55 p.m.

A University student reported his bicycle stolen from the Hamilton Complex.

Saturday, Jan. 6 — 1:44 p.m.

A University student reported his bicycle stolen from Huestis Hall.

### Vandalism

Wednesday, Jan. 3 — 8:49 a.m.

An Agate Hall Foundation staff member reported that someone had broken into the Foundation vehicle in the Agate Hall parking lot.

Wednesday, Jan. 3 — 9:24 a.m.

A car in the Alder Street parking lot was reported vandalized.

### Other

Thursday, Jan. 4 — 3:41 p.m.

Three skateboarders were reported stunting at the Knight Law School.

## EWEB

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bills, EWEB spokesman Marty Douglass said.

Because of the crisis, EWEB will need to acquire anywhere from \$15 million to \$60 million in additional funds, said Dick Varner, EWEB's rates and financial planning manager.

The reason for the price hike and the regional energy crisis is a complex one, Douglass said.

The main source of electricity for the city is hydroelectricity, though EWEB also buys electricity generated in California and from the energy market.

The biggest crisis contributor is the unusually dry Northwest winter. This has caused a shortage of rain and snow, leaving the Columbia River at its lowest level in Oregon's history and reducing electricity production at Northwest hydroelectric dams.

Because of fish and wildlife preservation efforts, dam operators can't lower reservoir levels below a certain point to compensate for

dry weather.

A second crisis contributor is California's loss of regulated energy. The majority of California's utilities have sold generation capabilities to private companies, therefore creating a huge shortage throughout the state.

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

A third crisis contributor is the lack of energy conservation, both on the part of companies and customers.

"We have benignly gone along as individuals and businesses with the thinking that we don't need to conserve any of our energy," Bartel said.

Bartel said EWEB has done more conservation than many utilities, such as the company serving Tacoma, Wash., where rates are expected to increase as much as 80 percent. But EWEB's efforts haven't been enough to eliminate the problem, and the general public has still been using energy at normal rates.

### Energy conservation tips:

Turn off lights when leaving a room.

Turn off computers when not in use.

Lower the thermostat while sleeping or when leaving the house.

Turn off air conditioners when leaving the house.

Avoid heating rooms that aren't in use. Shut the doors in these rooms and close off windows.

Source: EWEB

"We want to come out with a public information program that will help people begin to conserve energy and possibly lower their own rates," Bartel said.

The increase will most likely span the next two years, Varner said. EWEB will be looking at possibilities for next year's increases depending on how well this year's plan works.

"However good a job we do reducing consumption will affect the rates," Varner said.

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