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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019

## PG&E power outages potentially impacted 800,000 across state

By DAVIS HARPER  
DAVIS@CALAVERASENTERPRISE.COM

With the exception of the community of Valley Springs, Calaveras County residents may have had their power shut off around midnight Oct. 9, amid heightened wildfire conditions, local officials have confirmed.

“(Wednesday night) we anticipate going to bed with power and waking up without,” John Osbourn, Office of Emergency Services director, told the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

The county is one of 34 northern, central and coastal counties with electric services being cut, according to a Pacific Gas & Electric Co. press release. Nearly 800,000 customers across the state could be affected.

That’s due to potential wildfire risks associated with strong winds and extremely low humidity levels, as listed in the current Red Flag Warning for much of Northern California.

The weather event was expected to last from 5 a.m. Wednesday through 5 p.m. Thursday, but it could take up to five days for PG&E workers to re-energize circuits and fully restore power to county residents, Osbourn said.

“Given the prolonged period during which the wind event will unfold, and the large number of power line miles that will need to be inspected before restoration, customers are being asked to prepare for an extended outage,” the PG&E press release reads.

“PG&E will work with state and local agencies to provide updated restoration timelines following the conclusion of the severe weather event.”

To support customers in the affected areas, PG&E will open

a community resource center at Meadowmont Shopping Center at 2182 Highway 4, Arnold, beginning on Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 8 a.m. The center will remain open during daylight hours only. Restrooms, bottled water, electronic-device charging and air-conditioned seating for up to 100 will be available at the facility, according to the press release.

“It’s going to be a flash from the past for a while,” Osbourn said.

In public comments, Kathi Toepel, director of senior services at the Mother Lode Office of Catholic Charities, called out for help with keeping 3,500 meals frozen for 75 clients of Meals on Wheels, a frozen meal program provided by Common Ground Senior Services.

“I need some help,” she said. “We’re kind of in a bind.”

see **Outage**, A7

## Traditional celebrations

### Calaveras High School tackles team spirit in homecoming festivities



Enterprise photos by Kathleen Bisbikis (above top left) and Dakota Morlan (bottom left)

Calaveras High School students pound their way through a victorious homecoming on Oct. 4, defeating the Summerville Bears 42-0 at Frank Meyer Field in San Andreas. The school’s well-worn drum was kept alive during the 24 hours of the main event, with Calaveras High School Marching Band members beating a repeated rhythm through the night and into the Oct. 4 ceremonies. Students parade down Highway 49 and participate in the Uptown Rally on Main Street, San Andreas. As Calaveras dominates on the field, seniors Luke Zeugin and Gabriella Malamed are crowned 2019 Homecoming King and Queen.

## Attendees pour into Murphys for annual Grape Stomp, Gold Rush Faire

By NOAH BERNER  
NOAH@CALAVERASENTERPRISE.COM

Grape juice splattered and the crowd cheered at the 26th annual Calaveras Grape Stomp and Gold Rush Street Faire in Murphys on Saturday, Oct. 5.

The Grape Stomp is put on by the Calaveras Winegrape Alliance every year in order to celebrate the grape harvest and raise funds for scholarships and community organizations.

The concurrent street fair on Main Street is organized by the Feeney Park Foundation in order to raise funds for the park.

Visitors filed into Murphys Community Park from all directions beginning at 9 a.m. on Oct. 5. Numerous sponsors set up booths on the grass, and wine, beer and food were served.

Some viewed auction prizes displayed on tables, while others purchased T-shirts and auction tickets.

Ten half-barrels were placed on a long stage next to the gazebo. Rows of white fold-up chairs filled with attendees as the beginning of the competition neared.

Announcer Doug Brown held a microphone up to competitors as they introduced themselves. They came from across the state, and most

dressed in costume and had colorful team names like “Wino Women,” “Rosé All Day” and “Pour Choices.”

On a signal from Brown, stompers leapt into their barrels, vigorously squashing dark-purple grapes with bare feet. Swabbers knelt down in front of them, adjusting the grapes and ensuring that juice continued to flow into clear plastic buckets. The crowd cheered and shouted encouragement.

After three minutes, the heat ended and the juice-filled buckets were collected by members of the Bret Harte High School football team to be measured. The players emptied the barrels and filled them with a fresh supply of grapes for the next round, while their coaches supervised.

Stacy Pardini, of Livermore, sat with her friend Julie Murillo, of Copperopolis, in the front row. It was the first time the two friends had been to the event.

“We almost joined right before,” Pardini said.

“Until we saw how messy they get,” Murillo added. “Maybe next year; we can prepare ourselves.”

The “Chico Crushers” won the first round of the competition. Team member Don Navarro,

see **Stomp**, A7



Teams dressed in costumes and colorful garb compete at the 26th annual Grape Stomp and Gold Rush Street Faire in Murphys on Oct. 5.

Enterprise photo by Noah Berner

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