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Humboldt State in the dark

Outages serve as wake up call for emergency preparedness while students enjoyed time off from classes

by James Wilde

Humboldt State University students coped with the power outages that hit Humboldt just after midnight on Wednesday, Oct. 9.

Kinesiology freshman Malik Bobino spent his day off hiking. Despite the spontaneous time for an outdoor adventure, Bobino said the outage was stressful.

“It’s just dead,” Bobino said of campus. “It’s like Mad Max.”

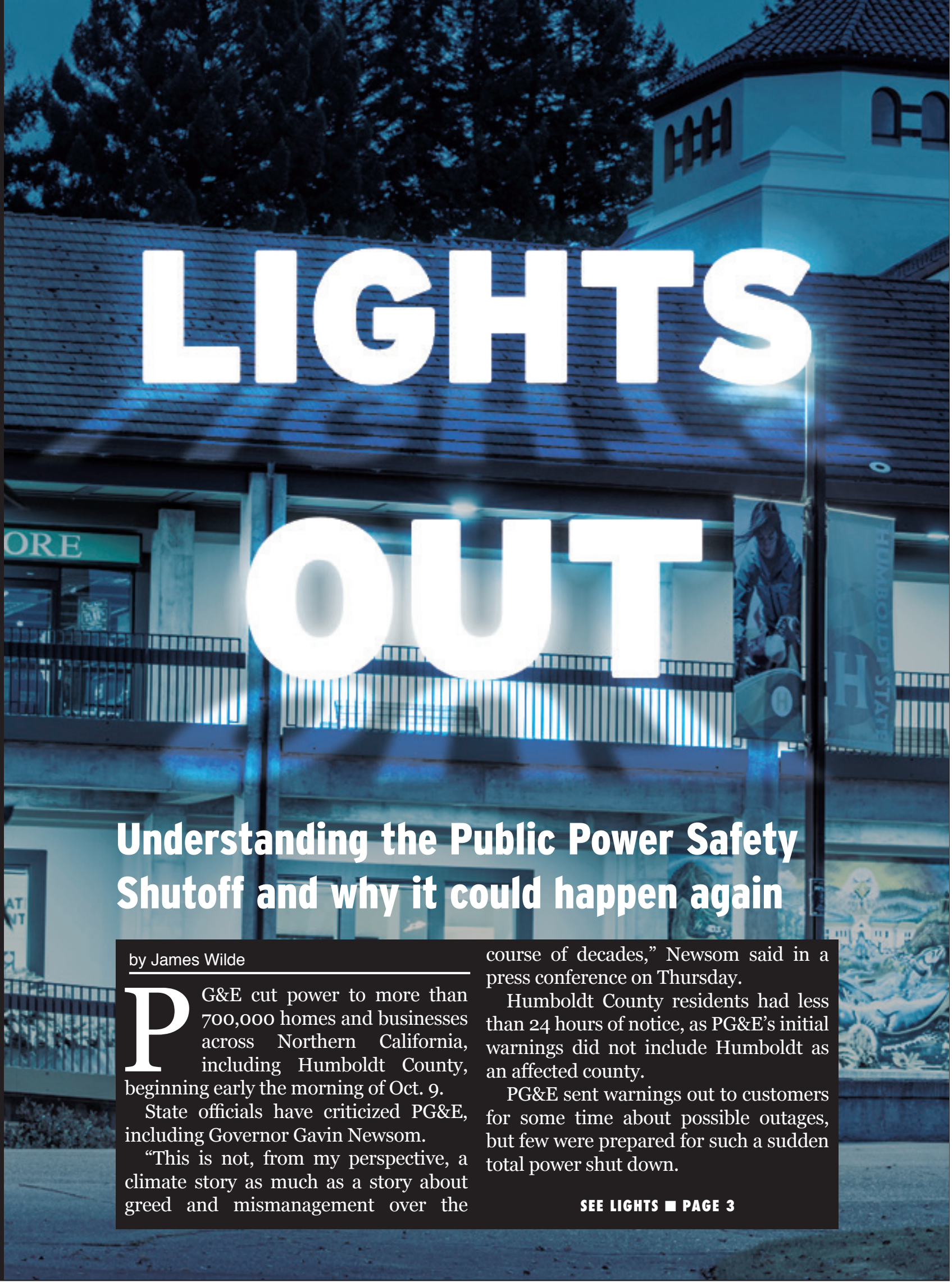
Campus Wi-Fi was largely off, but some students were able to catch signals in a few small areas.

Other students spent their time resting. Zoology freshman Jeanette Carini mostly lounged around in the dorms to kill time.

“I slept a lot because there wasn’t much to do,” Carini said.

While Carini spent her time catching up on lost sleep, Wildlife freshman Max Manson said the time off of

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LIGHTS OUT

Understanding the Public Power Safety Shutoff and why it could happen again

by James Wilde

PG&E cut power to more than 700,000 homes and businesses across Northern California, including Humboldt County, beginning early the morning of Oct. 9.

State officials have criticized PG&E, including Governor Gavin Newsom.

“This is not, from my perspective, a climate story as much as a story about greed and mismanagement over the

course of decades,” Newsom said in a press conference on Thursday.

Humboldt County residents had less than 24 hours of notice, as PG&E’s initial warnings did not include Humboldt as an affected county.

PG&E sent warnings out to customers for some time about possible outages, but few were prepared for such a sudden total power shut down.

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Businesses take stock of losses from county-wide power outage

Public Safety Power Shutoff hits businesses hard

by James Wilde

Local businesses scrambled to recover from two days of frantic sales and attempts at saving perishable foods on Oct. 10.

North Coast Co-Op General Manager Melanie Bettenhausen said she had been up for most of the previous 36 hours.

When the Co-Op learned of

the outages, Bettenhausen said they had to choose between trying to store and preserve perishables, or trying to sell them off as quickly as possible.

They chose the latter and marked down all perishables at 50% off.

“And that resulted in madness in our stores,” Bettenhausen said.

Bettenhausen said more customers visited the Co-Op than on even their busiest days. Bettenhausen thanked the community for coming and helping salvage some of their losses. Nevertheless, their

losses were significant.

“My best guess is somewhere between \$25,000 and \$30,000, because we were able to mark down and sell some products,” Bettenhausen said.

On Oct. 10 the Co-Op was documenting tens of thousands of dollars of perishable items that had to be thrown away, as temperatures rose outside of legal limits.

Bettenhausen estimated a dozen shopping carts full of items were tossed just from the dairy section at their Eureka store.

Conrad Coelho, the store manager of Murphy’s Market in Westwood, shared similar experiences.

“It was very busy,” Coelho said. “The busiest we’ve ever been since we opened in 2010.”

Coelho said lines inside stores stretched down aisles on Wednesday as customers waited 30 to 40 minutes to check out. While Coelho couldn’t give a number on their sales, he predicted significant losses from the frozen section.

Wildberries Marketplace President and owner Phil Ricord said the store experienced

a rush of customers before the outage.

“Around 5 p.m. on Tuesday we got slammed big-time with customers buying canned foods and candles and stuff like that,” Ricord said.

Due to aging electrical infrastructure, Wildberries does not have a backup generator, and did not open on Wednesday. Instead, employees stored perishables in cold boxes, where they were able to maintain cold enough temperatures to save most of their foods.

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LIGHTS

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The shutoff came as a new last-resort tactic by PG&E called a “Public Safety Power Shutoff.”

The California Public Utilities Commission issued a resolution in May, supporting PSPS tactics to prevent wildfires like the Camp Fire, a wildfire that tore through Butte County, Calif. in November of last year. The Camp Fire burned over 153 thousand acres, destroyed over 18,000 homes and killed 85 people, making it the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history.

California state investigators determined poorly-maintained electrical lines as the cause of the fire. PG&E was thus made responsible for the fire, and faced potential liabilities of \$30 billion dollars. In January, PG&E filed for bankruptcy.

PG&E and U.S. District Judge William Alsup have since gone back and forth over the details of PG&E’s restructuring plans to repair the aging electrical lines. According to PG&E Spokesperson Megan McFarland, the utility has been working on a variety of operations.

“Our ongoing and expanded efforts include further enhancing vegetation management around power lines, conducting accelerated safety inspections of electric infrastructure in high fire-threat areas, and hardening our electric system,” McFarland said in an email.

According to a filing to U.S. District Judge William Alsup, PG&E only made it through about a third of the tree trimming work it had planned this year due to an employee shortage.

Humboldt State University Associate Professor of Fire Ecology and Fuels Management Jeffrey Kane said PG&E and the rest of the state are going to have to learn to manage vegetation to



Photo Courtesy of Humboldt State University
Students hang out in the Jolly Giant Commons during the power outage on Oct. 13. HSU had limited power to offer resources and activities to students during the shut off.

reduce the risk of wildfires.

“Clearly something needs to be done,” Kane said. “There are lines breaking and they’re causing fires.”

While Kane did not know the details of PG&E’s lines and practices, he said keeping vegetation away from transmission lines will require continual maintenance.

In the long-term, one model for PG&E’s future might come from San Diego Gas & Electric, as suggested by reporting in the Los Angeles Times. After a 2007 fire, SDG&E spent over \$1 billion burying and insulating lines. SDG&E also sectioned off areas into separate micro-grids, so that shut offs could be more targeted and less widespread.

However, both of those practices will take time and money. Until then, PG&E will implement outages like the one triggered last week by a National Weather Service Red Flag

Warning of high winds and low humidity.

The outage hit over 700,000 customers across California. In Humboldt, a late notice meant residents had only about 12 hours to prepare for what was predicted to be a three-to-five day outage.

While the outage only lasted about 24 hours in Humboldt, the outage caused widespread closures and the activation of the Humboldt County Emergency Operations Center.

Businesses around Humboldt reported tens of thousands of dollars in losses in sales and spoiled foods.

A news release from the Eureka Police Department noted a 26% increase in dispatches during the outage, but attributed the increase to nearly 40 false alarms. The five traffic collisions and three burglaries both fell within normal ranges, according to the release.

Office of Emergency Services Administrative Officer Sean Quincey said he was proud of the way the county responded and supported one another through the outage, which he said is essential in any emergency in Humboldt.

“Humboldt County is isolated,” Quincey said over the phone. “It’ll take time to get resources up here. Until then we need to support each other, and I was happy to see that happened.”

Arcata City Manager Karen Diemer shared a similar outlook over the phone.

“I saw a lot of residents helping other residents and making sure that their neighbors were safe,” Diemer said. “So the resiliency of our community is strong.”

Unlike Humboldt, Quincey said some communities farther south received 48 hours notice—which, ideally, Humboldt

will have in the future. McFarland echoed that statement.

“Our goal, dependent on weather, is to send customer alerts at 48 hours, 24 hours and just prior to shutting off power,” McFarland said.

Just before the outage, there were efforts at the Humboldt Bay Generating Plant to provide electricity for at least part of Humboldt County. But McFarland said HBGS doesn’t have the capabilities to operate when disconnected from the grid.

However, McFarland suggested that HBGS may be able to provide energy to Humboldt in future emergencies.

“PG&E does have an engineering study underway to evaluate what plant modifications would be required to add that capability,” McFarland said. “Including changes that may be required to the existing air permit to allow HBGS to operate over the range necessary when disconnected from the grid.”

The outage ultimately served as a wake-up call for the county.

“We’ve learned that this is something that we need to be more prepared for,” Quincey said.

In a press conference held at the PG&E headquarters in San Francisco on Oct. 10, PG&E CEO Bill Johnson apologized for the outage and for failures in their website, maps and call centers.

“To put it simply, we were not adequately prepared to support the operational event,” Johnson said.

As for the future of PSPS events, Johnson said PG&E is working to prevent outages from becoming the new normal. However, Johnson made the statement with a caveat.

“Given the risk to public safety, there’s a desire to have zero spark during conditions like the ones we had over the last several days,” Johnson said. “We will very likely have to make this kind of decision again in the future.”

STOCK

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Ricord said some produce was lost, and the sales lost from the Oct. 9 closure would be significant.

“We probably lost about \$40,000 in sales,” Ricord said.

Gas stations also saw rushes the night of Oct. 8, with several gas stations running out of gas by the next day.

Any stores with ice quickly sold out as residents tried to keep their perishables cool. When local radio station KHUM broadcast that Murphy’s Markets in Westwood and Sunny Brae had received shipments of ice, customers rushed the stores, creating lines outside at the ice

“I think we had a real economic loss in our restaurant and retail establishments throughout the city. But at this point it’s too early to really have any totals or numbers.”

**-Karen Diemer
Arcata City Manager**

chests.

Arcata City Manager Karen Diemer echoed the statements by local businesses. Diemer praised “heroic efforts” by community members to purchase and salvage perishable foods, but did

acknowledge the overall loss.

“I think we had a real economic loss in our restaurant and retail establishments throughout the city,” Diemer said over the phone. “But at this point it’s too early to really have any totals or numbers.”



Photo by James Wilde
North Coast General Manager Melanie Bettenhausen estimated losses between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

DARK

FROM PAGE 1

However, Manson also confirmed that, aside from the door keycard locks, all power to the dorms it shut off. Hot water is not available in the dorms, as electric water heaters are off as well.

Manson and Carini both noted that food has been hard to come by, as the lines to the J stretch out the doors and down the stairs. HSU student Max Blaettler said they slept in until 3 p.m. and went to the J at 4 p.m., where they enjoyed a free barbecue dinner.

“It was alright,” Blaettler said. “And it was free.”

As the PG&E outage affecting over 800,000 California customers enters its first official night, no definite date is set for the return of electricity.

However, reporting by Lost Coast Outpost has suggested that power could return as early as tomorrow, if high winds die down and PG&E finds no damage to transmission lines.

At HSU, students said they have already learned prepare better for next time.

“Next time we’ll stock up,” Manson said.

“Definitely have supplies,” Bobino said. “Like back-up chargers.”



Photo by James Wilde
The line to get free food on Oct. 9 outside the J during the California power outages. Food is scarce and students without vehicles rely on campus to meet their needs.

Working to correct history

Potluck kicks off Indigenous Peoples Week

by Alberto Muro

Arcata is home to the Wiyot Tribe and Humboldt State University sits on Wiyot land. The Home Away From Home Potluck is one example of the community’s attempt to welcome all members to interact and is a fun, inclusive way to start Indigenous Peoples’ Week.

The second Monday of October has become an opportunity to counter-protest Columbus Day. Along with a celebration of Native Americans, their history on this land and their culture, Indigenous Peoples’ Week highlights the customs of indigenous peoples and acknowledges the years suffering.

Arcata Mayor Brett Watson spoke on some of the actions the city has taken in order to support local Native Americans. Watson spoke of a proclamation from 2016 where Arcata officially recognized Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

“Just on October 2, we did a resolution affirming our support for a United Nations resolution,” Watson said. “Acknowledging the rights of Indigenous people around the world.”

The inclusion and acceptance of Native Americans’ history is one way that the community is attempting to reach out to students of all ethnicities. Wesley Chesbro, local volunteer and HSU alumnus, believes the potluck is inviting and feels like home for students.

“What we hope happens is students will sit down with community members and develop relationships,” Chesbro said. “The university is our lifeblood and we see the diversity of the student body as a positive. We welcome students of all backgrounds.”

The Home Away from Home potluck is more than it’s food, it’s about a sense of welcome. The goal, according to Equitable Arcata’s Communications Chair Cati Gallardo, is racial equity.

“The Home Away From Home potluck started as a way to let students know they’re loved by the community,” Gallardo said. “We love our students and some of the feedback we received stated how we need to make a change in Arcata. Folks were feeling it wasn’t a racially equitable community and we wanted to change that.”

Skits from based off the 1490s were performed by a Native American comedy group. The potluck consists of community members coming together to donate food and local businesses offer gifts for raffle prizes as well as warm winter clothing donated by locals for students who may need them.

Check out our Calendar on Page 8 for more information on IPW events

Savage comedy with a side of hops

Savage Henry Comedy Fest fills Blondies with laughter

by Alberto Muro

Savage Henry’s 8th Annual Comedy Festival attracted 130+ comics from all over the nation to Humboldt County.

Cher-ae Heights, Eureka and Arcata organize venues for the comedy festival and Savage Henry provides the necessities to get the laughter going and the entertainment rolling.

This year, one of Arcata’s venues included Blondie’s Food and Drink where a dozen comedians took to the stage to test their material, hopeful of making the audience laugh.

Peter Nellis, a resident comedian at Savage Henry, hosted for the evening and he was by no means a stranger to the comedic atmosphere.

First up was Sydney Hupp from Chico, California. Hupp was ecstatic to kick off the Friday show as echoes of laughter followed her relatable humor. Hupp’s material centered around the perks of living in a small town and tips on not succumbing to unhealthy vices.

After 10 minutes, Hupp thanked the audience and exited the stage, triggering another applause. The next comic to the stage was Tiffany Greyson, a comedian from Portland. Greyson joked about her past relationship dilemmas and distaste towards her son’s girlfriend.

Challenge arose when not all scheduled comedians showed up to perform. This, however, did not prevent comedians from finishing their sets. Instead, it was an opportunity for comedians to welcome new faces into



On Friday, Oct. 11, Chicago comic James Couture pops open a bottle of champagne for his set at Blondies in Arcata. Couture was invited to perform for the Savage Henry Comedy Festival.

Blondie’s by including them into their material.

Comedian Michael Cella endured slight heckling from audience members and patrons, with one audience member distracting Cella as he carried beers to his friends. However, Cella was quick to respond and adapt, joking of making sure to sit down and enjoy the beers. Another audience member asked Cella a question, believing the event to be an open panel, but Cella politely answered the question and reminded them to not interrupt.

If the audience was testing Cella’s endurance, Cella was victorious and met with applause when he finished his set. After, Nellis took the stage again to give a big thanks to those in attendance

and encourage others to attend the other comedy shows happening through the weekend.

The official Savage Henry venue in Eureka kept its doors open throughout the festive weekend and hosted an additional social gathering for comedy after dark.

Bakersfield comedian Andrew Boydston told stories about his life and a set about substitute teaching quickly changed to sports and more specifically, Boydston’s distaste for the New England Patriots.

“Tom Brady is not the devil,” Boydston said. “Bill Belichick is.”

Boydston elaborated on his fantasy league and how Belichick impacted it. Boydston’s entertaining

stories garnered positive audience reactions, with people laughing and nodding in agreement.

“Bill Belichick said ‘screw you’ to the fans by making these trades and then he demolishes our fantasy football teams,” Boydston said. “I hate him.”

With multiple shows happening around Humboldt County, Nellis and fellow Savage Henry members worked to make sure people enjoyed their time and most importantly, laughed.

“It’s been busy since it started,” Nellis said. “Moving from different locations and setting up, but everyone is enjoying themselves and that’s all that matters.”

7 ways to get warm with no electricity

Alternative heat sources to think about as temperature drops and winds pick up

by Chelsea Wood

Humboldt County residents put their survival skills to the test as Pacific Gas & Electric, California’s primary utility, shut down power across Northern California last week. The outage served as a wake-up call for those ill-prepared for disasters and emergency situations.

Heat is an essential element of our daily lives, something to prioritize. With the approaching winter season it’s important to know alternative options to keep warm. Below are seven ways you can warm up without electricity:

- 1. Hand warmers**

Iron hand warmers are a perfect source of heat for smaller body parts. Hand warmers are great for heating up numb fingers or toes, but even more useful for pets. Small packs of warmth are a good heat source for small critters and reptiles that normally need electric heating mats.
- 2. Alternative heaters**

Heaters are a modern day convenience but are limited due to using electricity. A more affordable, makeshift space heater can be made with a few cheap items that you probably have laying around your home. This heater requires tea light candles, two



On an unexpected day off HSU students stayed warm on Samoa Beach with a small bonfire.

- 3. Fires**

If you have a fireplace or an outdoor fire pit, use it! Making fires during power outages can be entertaining and helpful. Fire is mesmerizing, but dangerous so always be sure chimneys are clean and chutes are functioning before

- 4. Hot water**

If you’re unable to create fire but have a functioning gas stove, make heat with water. Boil water for a cup of tea or a can of food. Warming yourself up from the inside-out helps ease any muscle tension and stress. Boiling water to fill hot water pouches is another easy way to heat the body.

- 5. Exercise**

Getting your heart rate going works up a sweat and warms the body. A quick sprint or jumping jacks in place flexes the muscles and circulates blood, keeping you warm.
- 6. Bundle up**

Layering clothing or wrapping yourself in a blanket is the easiest way to warm up. Most of your body heat comes from your head, so adding a beanie or a scarf helps installation. Lastly, thick socks helps keep feet from freezing.

Blackout breakdown

High winds and low humidty cause for PSPS

by Collin Slavey

Dry vegetation and high winds were a major factor in PG&E shutoff

The morning of Oct. 8, Humboldt County residents were notified that Pacific Gas & Electric may shut off power county-wide. HSU students and faculty began rapidly preparing for the possible outages, but some wondered what forced the utility giant to turn off the power.

Leading up to the blackout, rumors spread as people speculated why PG&E decided shutting off power was the best option, and others wondered how long the outage could last. It seemed there was a lack of communication, as only some local professionals seemed to know the details.

On the night of Oct. 9, HSU Facilities and Management employee Brian Wheeler was responsible for filling up HSU’s generator. The diesel generator was the only thing standing between powerless students and the cold, dark night.

Wheeler said he had heard about an algorithm PG&E made to inform them when to shut off the power. This was confirmed by Megan McFarland, a spokesperson for the company. McFarland said no single factor drives a Public Safety Power Shutoff since each situation is unique.

PG&E carefully reviews many criteria when determining if power should be turned off for safety. These factors generally include, but are not limited to:

A Red Flag Warning declared

by the National Weather Service. Low humidity levels, generally 20% and below.

Forecasted sustained winds above 25 mph and wind gusts in excess of approximately 45 mph, depending on location and site-specific conditions such as temperature, terrain and local climate.

Condition of dry fuel on the ground and live vegetation (moisture content).

On-the-ground, real-time observations from PG&E’s Wildfire Safety Operations Center and observations from PG&E field crews.

To get a better grasp on the situation and its factors, The Lumberjack contacted the Woodley Island National Oceanic and Aeronautic Administration. Meteorologist Jeff Tonkin understood the specifics and why PG&E could be forced to make such a decision, but believed that Humboldt County wasn’t initially a part of the plan for a reason.

“PG&E shuts down based on wind speed if it is projected to cause a disruption or a failure,” Tonkin said. “Locally in Eureka, the power wasn’t shut down because of local high winds. We’re just collateral damage.”

Tonkin said NOAA had meetings with PG&E meteorologists in the past, but PG&E doesn’t consult NOAA for weather information. While getting in contact with one of PG&E’s scientists would likely be key to understanding why the power was shutoff officially, Deanna Contreras, another PG&E spokesperson, answered



Graphic by Deija Zavala

the call instead.

Contreras said, for this particular shutoff, the weather patterns were somewhat unique and widespread. Many forecasters compared the conditions to the devastating conditions from October 2017.

In response to the rapidly changing environmental conditions in our state, beginning with this year’s wildfire season, PG&E expanded its Public Safety Power Shutoff program to include all electric lines that pass through high fire-threat areas – both distribution and transmission.

Cotreras said there weren’t any PG&E meteorologists available but had plenty of

details about PG&E’s weather system.

“Beyond PSPS information, weather geeks will find a lot to love about the new weather page,” Contreras said. “With PG&E’s weather map at your fingertips you’ll be able to check humidity, precipitation, temperatures, wind speeds and wind gusts across 70,000 square miles of Northern and Central California.”

Contreras said the page offers a seven-day regional forecast. PG&E’s Wildfire Safety Operations Center team monitors all these conditions and evaluates whether to proactively turn off electric power lines, in the interest of public safety, if

extreme fire danger conditions are forecasted.

McFarland said a lot of PG&E employees live and work in regions that are affected by the shutoff and that she understands how frustrating it is to have the power turned off. She said the decision was not made lightly.

“We want customers to know that although you may not live or work in a high fire-threat area,” McFarland said, “Your power may be shut off if the line serving your community relies upon a line that runs through an area experiencing extreme fire danger conditions.”

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Frustration and woes continue for women's volleyball

Jacks lose sixth straight game after difficult match against San Francisco State University

by Thomas Lal

The Jacks lost their sixth consecutive game Saturday night in a match against San Francisco State. With the 1-3 loss, Humboldt State moves to 1-6 in conference play which leaves them second to last in the CCAA standings as they approach the halfway point of conference competition.

Summer Hansen led the team with 12 kills for the night while Lenox Loving found herself in the double digits again with 10. Odelia Ryan pulled out 30 digs during the match, followed by Loving who had 22.

Humboldt State put themselves behind early on in the first set, giving up six straight points to the visitors allowing the score to stretch out to 12-7.

Throughout the remainder of the set, the Jacks never managed to string together consecutive points. San Francisco took the opening set with a score of 25-13 as Humboldt did not respond fast enough to their defense.

Not much changed for the Jacks as they started slow in the second set and conceded the first four points. Humboldt found their offensive groove result in an impressive eight-point run and the Jacks took the second set 25-21.

Humboldt changed things up and came out swinging hard at the start of the third set. The Jacks were able to hold their lead for much of the set. It wasn't long before the



Photo by Thomas Lal
Outside hitter Malia Coyle hits the ball over the net toward San Francisco State during their October 12 match on Dig Pink night at Lumberjack Arena.

Gators tied it up at 20-20. What followed was a blistering back and forth that saw the score at 24-23 in favor of the visitors with 25 points needed to take the set. In a moment that stunned the Humboldt State athletes and fans alike, outside hitter Lexi Riggs hit the ball over the net and was initially awarded a kill before the referee reversed the decision, calling the ball

out of bounds and allowing San Francisco to take 2-1 lead over a now frustrated Jacks team. The fourth and final set of the night saw an agitated Humboldt team consistently outplayed as the Gators capitalized on the home squad's frustration to a much higher degree. In a quick series of plays, San Francisco built themselves an 11 point

buffer that almost entirely neutralized any momentum that Humboldt may have established in the previous set. The Jacks only managed a few scoring runs, and the Gators finished off the set 25-14 and took their first win on the road for the season. After the game, Head Coach Kelly Wood was frustrated with her team's performance, indicating that there wasn't

enough grit in their play during the match. "Overall, our team does not have enough of a competitive spirit," Wood said. "We don't play with toughness. We're too nice out there on the court. Great group of girls, but we get out there, and we are just allowing teams to manhandle us basically, and I'm very frustrated right now with our performance."



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Club baseball drops ball

HSU Lumberjacks lose two games against Humboldt Eagles

by Alberto Muro

Humboldt Eagles shut down Humboldt State Lumberjacks in a double header on Oct. 13. The Eagles won with scores of 2-1 in the first game and 2-3 in the second.

During the first pitch of the game, Ryin Alexander opened the 1st inning with a double and found himself reaching 2nd base. Other batters approached the plate and managed to send teammates around all bases, but the Eagles managed to secure three outs against the Jacks. However, Alexander ran for home plate putting the Jacks on the scoreboard.

At the bottom of the 1st, Jack's pitcher Chris Friedley stepped up to the mound, and despite walking a player and giving up a base hit, he kept his composure and pulled three outs from the Eagles. The Jacks were able to keep a 1-0 lead over the Eagles during a heated exchange of base hits and outs.

Stolen bases were a frequent occurrence between the Jacks and Eagles. Despite their efforts to get players around the diamond, the pitching stalemate remained in effect. The exchange of outs was broken around the bottom of the 6th inning.

Eagles put a run on the scoreboard tying the game with the Jacks. Both teams now had a common goal for the next inning, scoring first. At the top of the 7th, a base hit by outfielder Lorenzo Hernandez gave the Jacks an upper hand but were routed by outs. It was then the bottom of the 7th and the Eagles were up to bat, but



Photo by Skye Kimya
Hitter Nick Mavrolas strikes out during the Jacks' second game of the day against the Humboldt Eagles, at the Arcata Ballpark on Oct. 13.

they faced similar challenges with one base hit and two outs. Up to bat was catcher Parker Johnson and under dire circumstances closed the inning with a walk-off which gave the Eagles a 2-1 win over the Jacks. With game 2 underway, the Jack's and Eagles faced off in one more showdown. Martin Gordillo and Alejandro Caravalho helped the Jacks find an early lead on the scoreboard with an RBI. The Jacks had a 2-0 lead heading into the 4th inning, but tides turned when it was time for the Eagles to bat. With

two players on base, the Eagles left fielder Miles Standysh hit a solid ball and secured a tie game. Another battle for a tie-breaker ensued but the Jack's dropped their second game against the Eagles with a final score of 2-3. HSU club baseball doesn't start until Spring 2020. Even though the season is months away, this is an opportunity for players to figure out effective playmaking and overcome obstacles that the team could potentially face in the upcoming season.

EDITORIAL

Marijuana legalization racial issue

Many states have voted on the legalization of marijuana, a schedule one drug, and 11 states have legalized recreational cannabis. Weed is now a large source of legal income in the U.S.

Forbes shows that the top three states where recreational marijuana is legal profited over \$4 billion in 2018 on cannabis sales. But according to a 2010 study by the American Civil Liberties Union, states waste over \$3 billion a year in weed-related arrests.

We believe states waste more time and taxpayer money by not legalizing and decriminalizing weed. Law enforcement often enforce weed laws unequally, with more arrests in underprivileged neighborhoods, which are often filled with people of color. According to the ACLU, black people are four times as likely than white people to be arrested for marijuana possession despite similar usage rates.

We are fed up with blatant inequality and discrimination.

In July 2016, a Minnesota police officer shot and killed black 32-year-old Philando Castile in his vehicle. The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension investigated the case, and was told by the officer that he “feared for his life” due to the smell of marijuana and Castile’s lack of concern for the child in the vehicle. This ended



Photo Illustration by Deija Zavala

We believe states waste more time and taxpayer money by not legalizing and decriminalizing weed.

in the officer’s acquittal.

While most states don’t keep data for marijuana possession by Latinx individuals, New York City’s data shows that the Latinx community has the same rate of use as black and white individuals, but recent data shows that marijuana possession is the fourth most common cause of deportation.

It’s obvious that many of those affected by these ludicrous laws are from black and brown communities. And it may be relevant to note that there is political gain to keep it this way, as many people who have been arrested for marijuana can no longer vote.

This war on drugs, specifically the war on marijuana, is a war on communities of color. Children are left without parents and people are locked up for years on minor counts. And yet, even when white people commit similar crimes the punishments are all too different.

Opioid addiction is at an all time highs in the states. It has largely affected white communities, but the amount of arrests is no where near that of other cultural communities when marijuana is involved.

If treatment and repercussions are unequal, we need to understand that the system is flawed. When one group is given more freedom to make mistakes than another, it seems that there is a hidden agenda at work to keep white communities more prosperous.

Drug laws are just one ex-

OUTDOOR COLUMN

#EXPLORE HUMBOLDT: ARCATA MARSH

by Jett Williams

Welcome back to the #ExploreHumboldt column, yoursourceforaccessiblenatural areas to visit in your spare time. This week, we’ll look at a unique, double-duty location that serves as a wastewater treatment facility and a beautiful habitat for countless bird species: the Arcata Marsh!

This 307-acre sanctuary is located in southern Arcata, and can be accessed from South G and I streets. This places the marsh within a 15-minute walk or a five-minute bike ride from campus.

Any trip to the Marsh should start at the Interpretive Center. There, you’ll find installations detailing the many exotic bird species that stop at the marsh on their migratory journeys up and down the coast. So far, over 300 unique bird species have been spotted in the marsh this year. Some of these are extremely rare, or are typically found on the East Coast.

From the Interpretive Center, multiple trails spiderweb out to every corner of the park. In total, there are about 5.4 miles of mostly gravel trail, with some paved sections. Strategically-placed maps ensure that you won’t get lost and provide interesting information on the park’s science and history.

But, as with any natural area, the best way to get a lay of



Photo by Jett Williams

The view looking over some of the ponds that act as a natural treatment plant. In addition to being a nearby natural spot to get out for some nature time, the Marsh is the second to last step before water is treated with chlorine and pushed back into the Humboldt Bay.

the land is to get lost. Around every corner is another table or bench overlooking a scenic view, or an enclosed shelter for birdwatchers to observe the local wildlife.

If you want a recommended route to get started, begin at the Interpretive Center and head north along the west side of Butcher Slough Log Pond. Turn left and follow the trail as it winds around Brackish Pond.

This time of year, Brackish Pond is covered in a layer of green algae that gives it a surreal look and is a hotspot for birds. Stop at the bird viewing station on the northwest corner before heading south past Gearheart Marsh, and looping back to the Interpretive Center.

In addition to being a nearby natural spot to get out to for some nature time, the Arcata Marsh serves as a wastewater treatment plant. Algae and bacteria help to purify the water as it moves through the different ponds of the marsh.

Eventually, the water is sterilized with chlorine and flows back into the Humboldt Bay. This system allows Arcata to manage its wastewater production while providing a refuge for local wildlife and a local park for residents to enjoy.

If you’d like to check out the Arcata Marsh with the help of experienced and knowledgeable guides, there are several guided

marsh walks available. Friends of the Arcata Marsh meets every Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at the Interpretive Center for a guided marsh walk.

For those looking to learn more about the many bird species that call the marsh a temporary home, the Redwood Region Audubon Society meets for guided birding walks every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. This walk meets at the I street parking lot.

The Arcata Marsh is an amazing free resource for students in need of a quiet oceanside spot to explore and relax in. Get it while you can, and don’t forget to #ExploreHumboldt!

ASK EVERGREEN

STUCK IN THE MIDDLE

Dear Evergreen,

Should I just sleep with the two guys coming after me even though they have girlfriends because no other men like me?

Dear Stuck in the Middle,

You sure got yourself caught in crossroads with this one, but don’t fret. The best thing to do is cut off connections with both men, and here’s why:

You shouldn’t facilitate the poor decisions of two men in any manner. Even if you don’t want a relationship from these men you should consider how their attitudes and treatments towards their partners can be perpetuated onto you. Think about each of their partners and how your choice in this situation will affect them.

You shouldn’t be the person to come between someone else’s relationship. Don’t assume their burdens by entangling yourself in their drama.

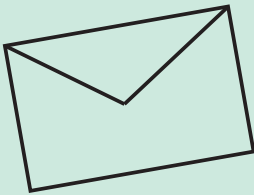
It’s clear that both of these men are dealing with personal issues within their respective relationships and are acting out using someone else. People who are unhappy in their own relationships, but do little to change their circumstances, aren’t the type of people you want to spend your time with.

The best thing to do is to remove yourself from these situations through the decisions you make. With the position you’re in, you could even contact the partners of these men to let them know what’s been happening. Sometimes involving yourself further can make things worse, so carry on with caution.

It may seem tantalizing having two different men as potential lovers, but neither are viable options for you to pursue. While you may think they are the only men interested in you, it’s highly unlikely that is the case. The characters of these two are definitely too shady for any connection to be worth it.

Don’t allow their behavior to influence you and any desires you may think they fulfill. Be the bigger person and end things before it’s too late to take back a possible bad choice.

Good luck!
Sincerely,
Evergreen



Send questions to:
contactthejack@gmail.com



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed. 10/16

Oh SNAP Farm Stand

Time: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Where: Outside Recreation and Wellness Building
Description: FREE fresh produce with student I.D., Bring your own bag

Process and Pattern Art Exhibit

Time: Noon - 5 p.m.
Where: Behavioral & Social Sciences 104
Description: Lyn Risling, Alme Allen, & Jessica Slayton display murals and traditional/cultural benches

Indigenous People’s Week Film

Time: 4 - 6 p.m.
Where: Native American Forum - BSS 162
Description: Professor Rain Archambeau-Marshall hosts a viewing of “Dodging Bullets” and discussion

Thurs. 10/17

Idigenous Peoples Week EcoSeries

Time: 5 - 6 p.m.
Where: Native American Forum - BSS 162
Description: Guest speakers HSU alum Keith Parker, Yurok fish biologist, presents a lecture

Indigenous Peoples Week Panel

Time: 6 - 8 p.m.
Where: Native American Forum - BSS 162
Description:

Jake Shimabukuro

Time: 7 p.m.
Where: Arkley Center for the Performing Arts
Description: Hawaii native, Shimabukuro, is a world recognized top ukulele musician and will perform at HSU. **Tickets: \$49**

Fri. 10/18

Jonny Taylor

Time: 9 - 11 p.m.
Where: Savage Henry Comedy Club
Description: “Master of misdirection,” Jonny Taylor, performs his material. **Tickets: \$10 & 18+ show**

Forestry, Energy and the Environment Workshop

Time: 1 - 4 p.m.
Where: Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center
Description: This workshop will focus on the use of biomass for electricity generation in RCEA’s energy mix.

Upcycle Halloween

Time: 6 - 9 p.m.
Where: Arts & Drafts, 422 1st St., Eureka
Description: Join the Northcoast Environmental Center and Arts & Drafts for an upcycling workshop collaboration

Sat. 10/19

Indigenous Peoples Week Artist

Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Where: Off-campus: Humboldt Area Foundation
Description: Afternoon with Pomo artist Meyo Murrufu, basket doodles workshop and closing reception

Scholarship Benefit Concert

Time: 8 - 10 p.m.
Where: Music B 132 - Fulkerson Recital Hall
Description: Admission fees will boost scholarship funds for undergraduate music students; **\$5 for students/children, \$25 for general admission**

Girl Scout Halloween Carnival Extravaganza

Time: 1 - 4 p.m.
Where: Humboldt Hill Grange
Description: Eureka Girl Scouts throw an afternoon of Halloween fun with trunk-or-treat and carnival games

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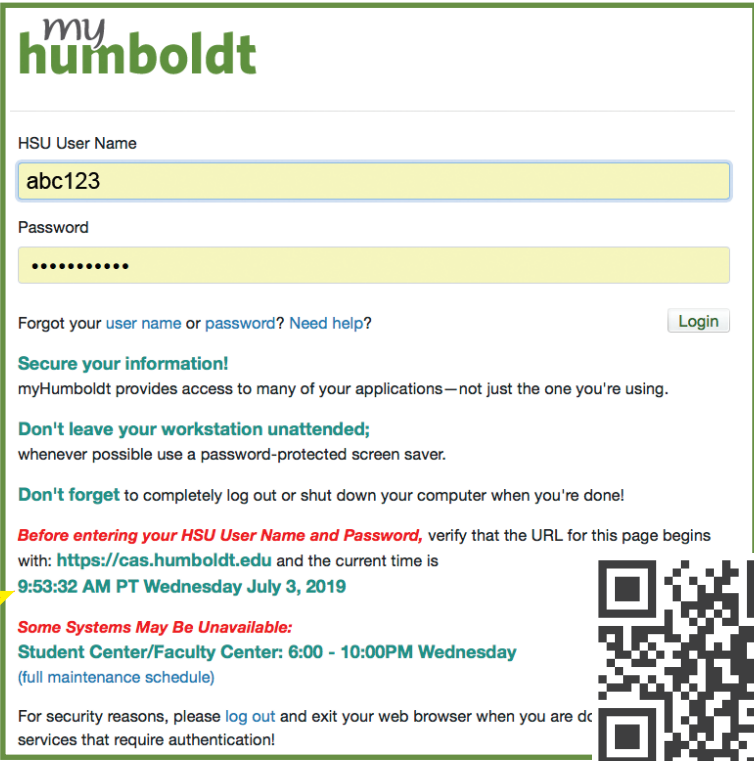
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