The Pipeline

Volume 42~ Number 10/11 – October/November 2021

Where does tap water come from? Just ask kids from GV Charter School

Sixth-grade students from the Grass Valley Charter School recently toured the Elizabeth George Treatment Plant to learn about where their water comes from and ways they can conserve water in their homes.

Leading the tour were Shad Chittock, Water Treatment Supervisor; Kaycee Strong, Water Efficiency Technician; Danny Granholm, Chief Water Treatment Operator; and Jim Belleque, Electrical Systems Technician II.

Kaycee said the students were very engaged, and enjoyed walking around the plant to see the process of how NID takes raw water and turns it into potable water they can drink.

One thing that amazed the students was how rainfall had decreased the demand for water by nearly 1 million gallons in 24 hours. The treatment plant has a capacity of 18 million gallons per day (MGD).

Shad Chittock (above) and Kaycee Strong (right) lead the sixth graders on the tour .

Retirees: Pipeline to be offered only by email

Unfortunately, this is the last time the *Pipeline* newsletter will be offered as a printed version. We will continue to publish the newsletter, but it will only be as a PDF file available via email.

Please contact Communications Specialist Susan Lauer to sign up so you don't miss an edition. Contact her at lauers@nidwater.com or call at (530) 273-6735.
Thank you for your continued connection to NID. We value your years of service and continued interest in your former employer. Best regards.

HR Corner

October Anniversaries

Andrew Adams, Utility Worker II, 5 years, 10/31
Kriss Butcher, IT Analyst, 8 years, 10/7
Carl Cookson, Senior Utility Worker, 9 years, 10/22
Jeffrey Farmer, Hydro Electric Machinist I, 7 years, 10/14
Mark Gravatt, Equipment Operator, 9 years, 10/29
Matthew Halvorson, Assistant Water Superintendent, 17 yrs., 10/25
Joshua Hynie, Water Treatment Operator II, 7 years, 10/6
Tina Konkle, Hydro Compliance Analyst, 11 yrs., 10/25
Susan Lauer, Communications Specialist II, 4 yrs., 10/2
Robert Newkirk, Utility Worker I, 3 years, 10/15
Dale Rich-Swann, Utility Worker II, 5 years, 10/3
David Taylor, Water Distribution Operator I, 3 yrs., 10/15
Todd Wiederhold, Sr. Hydro Electrical Machinist, 14 yrs., 10/9

November Anniversaries

Joshua Chambers, Hydroelectric Communication Technician II - 4 yrs. 11/17
Chad Garvey, Senior Utility Worker - 13 yrs. 11/3
Gus Gramm, Hydroelectric Plant Operator II 13 yrs. 11/3
Shea Hart, Utility Worker I – 2 yrs. 11/18
Hunter Hedman, Utility Worker I – 2 yrs. 11/18
Dean Hunt, GIS Technician II - 16 yrs. 11/7
Thomas Kluge, Senior Hydroelectric Systems Technician - 6 yrs. 11/23
Gregory McKay, Right of Way Agent I – 2 yrs. 11/12
Phil Nedved, Hydroelectric Maintenance Superintendent 23 yrs. 11/25
Andrew Newburn, Utility Worker I – 2 yrs. 11/4
Robert Page, Sr. Water Distribution Operator 13 yrs. 11/3
Tricia Panock, Sr. Customer Service Representative - 7 yrs. 11/10
Melissa Pelton, Cashier - 3 yrs., 11/19
Steven Petersen, Utility Worker I – 2 yrs. 11/4
Gene Presley, Senior Water Distribution Operator - 12 yrs. 11/17
Douglas Roderick, Interim Engineering Manager 17 yrs. 11/22

New Hires

Kaylie Hague, Hydroelectric Compliance Technician I—hire date 10/12

HR Reminders, Deadlines, Future meetings, etc.

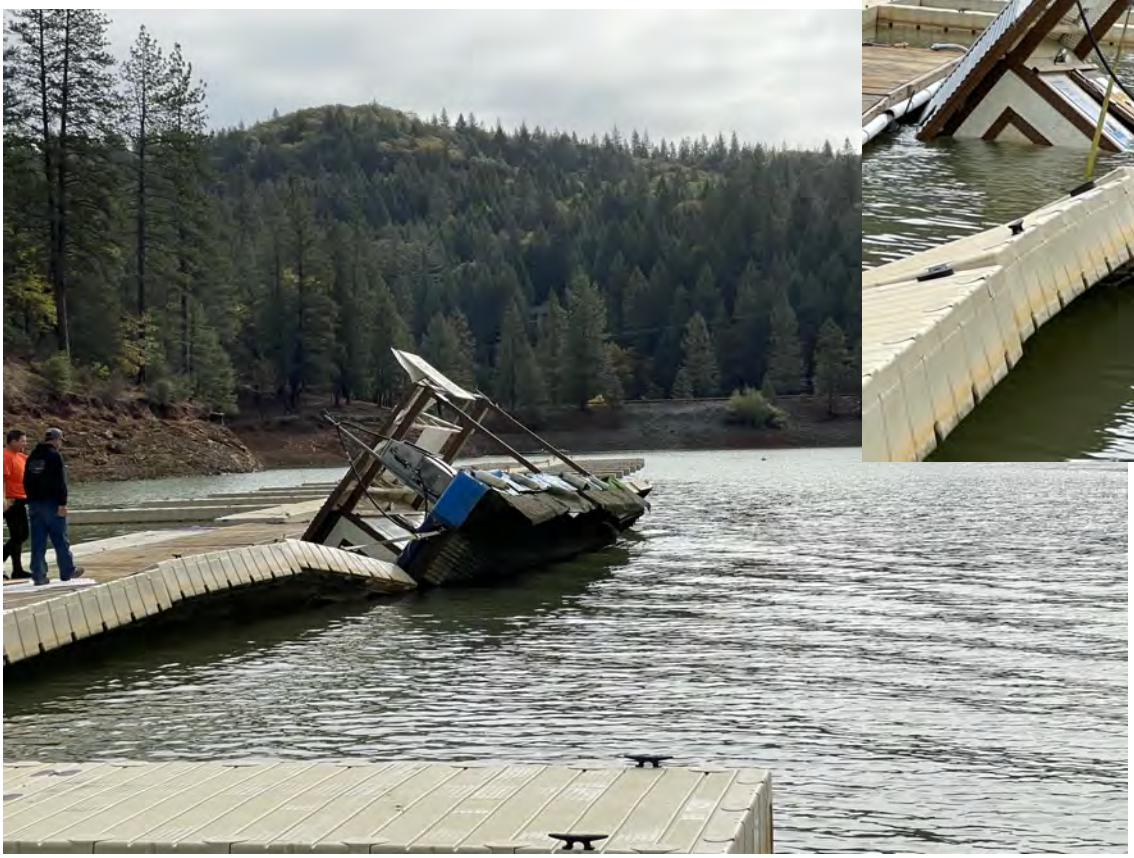
Mutual of Omaha Open Enrollment

Employees are now eligible to enroll in and/or change voluntary life and short-term disability coverage for 2022. Please call or visit Human Resources for more information. Open enrollment changes must be submitted to HR no later than Friday, December 17, 2021.

Address Change?

Please notify Human Resources of any address changes that happened in 2021. It is important that we know where to send year-end W2 forms.

Fast action at Rollins saves a dock



During last month's record-breaking storm and unexpected rise in water level, a dock at Rollins required some fast attention to avert real problems.

The bomb cyclone dumped nearly a foot of rain, but Rollins had levels rise even more when unreported water was released into the reservoir. At the height of the storm, Rollins' water level rose by 13 feet.

When the water level rose more than anticipated, one anchored dock containing a fuel pump station took the brunt of the fluctuation. One side of the dock floated higher while the anchored side submerged. Fortunately, the station was empty and there was no environmental impact.

A crew from Recreation, Hydro and Safety departments worked with a diver to assess the best possible way to recover the dock. Our team safely moved it to the boating ramp to upright the dock using a cable and winches.

Mystery hero is identified: Thanks Ken Copher

A letter to the editor recently appeared in The Union newspaper thanking an unidentified NID employee for his assistance. That man is Ken Copher!

Here's the letter: "About a month ago I was driving our pickup on the freeway just outside Nevada City. At 5 p.m. in the middle of a curve, it suddenly lost power and died. Because of the heroic NID employee who jumped out of his car to direct traffic, the kind and attentive police officer who pushed me to the side of the road, the skillful tow truck driver who delivered me to the mechanic, and our lovely next-door neighbors who took me home, I felt uplifted and in very good hands.

Unfortunately the man who directed traffic disappeared before I had a chance to thank him. I hope he sees this letter and knows how grateful I was for his help!" Judy Patton

Tip-top tap water at LOP

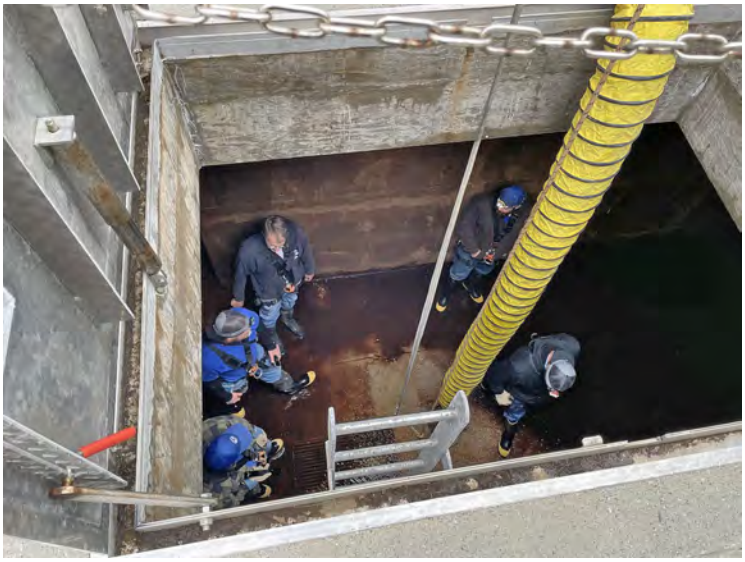
To ensure the clear well of the Lake of the Pines Water Treatment Plant was in tip-top shape, a team of five was lowered into an underground vault one at a time using a tied-off harness. Once underground, they could conduct the inspection.

The clear well is used in the final step of drinking water purification, following the filtration and disinfection stages. Filtered water is held in this storage basin to allow disinfectant to inactivate any remaining pathogens.

The operators in attendance were: Shad Chittock, Treated Water Supervisor; Danny Granholm, Chief Water Treatment Operator; Coby McCoy, Chief Water Plant Operator; Steve Beebe, Water Treatment Operator III; Wayne Giles, Water Treatment Operator III; and Josh Hynie, Water Treatment Operator II.

The Safety Team was also on hand to make sure no one got hurt: Don Bird, Safety Analyst; and Cindy Ware, Safety Technician II

The Lake of the Pines Water Treatment Plant has a treatment capacity of 5 million gallons of water per day.



Cindy Ware goes over the safety checklist before the confined space entry.

A Huge Thanks from a Customer

NID recently received a huge thanks from a customer that included several Starbucks gift cards. Who were the lucky ones? Twenty-five employees were chosen through a random drawing of names: Here are the winners:

Matthew Baker
Caden Caldwell
Dar Chen
Davin Chittock
Greg Cornejo

Jason Devlin
Richard Dills
Chris Dunn
Gerry Gnech
Troy Gomes
Danny Granholm
Kaylie Hague

Bobby Laird
Wyatt Landrum
Patrick O'Connor
Michael Page
Robert Paige
Joanne Phillips
Gene Presley

Dean Rutter
Charlie Schlitzer
Chris Thompson
Lawrence Webdell
Todd Williams
Shannon Wood

The cards will be given to each area's respective MA for distribution.

GM Jennifer Hanson says, "Thank you for all your hard work. A well-deserved kudos for staff!"

New Golf Champs Crowned – Congratulations to Caden Caldwell

Senior Park Ranger Caden Caldwell and partner Nate Drainville are 2021 champions of NID's annual golf tournament.

A humble Caden noted the team won with by two strokes thanks to "Nate's phenomenal power off the tee and my brilliant and artistic ability with the iron game."

Of note, he did have a clutch two-hopper chip in for birdie on the 9th.

The annual tournament was held on October 9 at the Alta Sierra Country Club.

Caden Caldwell (left) and Nate Drainville

Closest to the Pin Contest:
#3 Chris Friedman, 14'6"
#7 David Barley 11'
#12 David Barley 5',5"
#15 Andrew Chidley 12', 9"
Long drive #14: Nate Drainville

- 1st Place Winners: Senior Park Ranger Caden Caldwell and partner Nate Drainville (score 69)
- 2nd Place Winners: Hydro Maintenance Superintendent Phil Nedved and partner Dave Barley (score 71)
- 3rd Place Winners: Senior Utility Worker Andrew Chidley and Senior Utility Worker Gabriel Sharp (score 72)

Well-earned Achievements

Andy Browning, Cross Connection Control Tech II: Andy passed his recertification for his Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester. A retest is required every three years to remain current. The testing is two part, an oral and hands on.

Dan Gobert, Water Treatment Operator: Dan passed his Water Treatment Grade 2 license test.

Andy Browning

Dan Gobert

Join in the NID holiday spirit! RSVP today!

The NID Employee Social Club invites you to

The 2021 Annual Christmas Party!!!

Saturday December 11th, at the Goldminers Inn ❄ 121 Bank Street, Grass Valley

Cocktails - 6:00 pm ❄ Dinner - 6:45 pm

Dancing Following Dinner and Raffle ❄ Music by Jamal!

Free for Social Club Members and one Guest

Non-members: $50 per person or $90 per couple

- Please RSVP by November 29th
- Sign-up Sheets will be posted with your Management Assistant along with our fabulous menu!
- Any Questions please contact Miranda Guidera x1219, Kate Gunther x1212, Kathryn Schwartz x1340, or Kristie Martin x1285
- Raffle Tickets: $2.00 Each