



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

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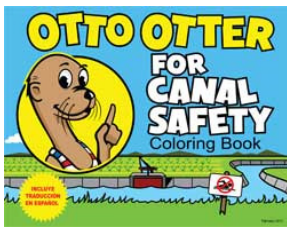
Otto Otter Appearance, Arrowrock Dam Historical Overview, Irrigation Siphon Setting At Nampa & Meridian Part of Meridian Public Works Week

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Otto Otter will make a special public appearance, the 100th anniversary of the construction of Arrowrock Dam will be featured and water managers will demonstrate how siphon pipe is used to move irrigation water from ditch to crop furrow as the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District takes part in the Meridian Public Works Week, the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District announced today.

The NMID portion of the event will be on Wednesday afternoon from 4-7 p.m. at Meridian City Hall.



The life-sized Otto Otter is the mascot of a water safety program originated by the Bureau of Reclamation. The safety program is aimed at children to try and reduce deaths and injuries involving water. The program is especially important in Idaho due to the enormous number of irrigation canals, drains and other water-related hazards.

“We really hope folks will bring their children to meet Otto Otter in person. Nampa Meridian uses the Otto Otter program to help educate young people in the area about the dangers of the miles of District canals and ditches that are in or pass through Meridian residential areas. Children seem to take to Otto Otter almost instantly and that makes it much easier to help teach them to stay away from canals. In some ways, Otto is more effective at carrying the water safety message than adults,” noted Daren Coon, NMID Secretary Treasurer.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the building of Arrowrock Dam, which was the tallest cement dam in the world at the time it was finished in 1915. Arrowrock was built to store irrigation water for the growing agricultural economy in the Treasure Valley. A comprehensive poster display coupled with explanations supplied by a local historian will be part of the NMID series of events.



Another highly interesting element will be demonstrations of how to set siphon tubes, an integral part of irrigated farming.

Siphon tubes are a common sight in farm fields in the area and are used to draw vital irrigation water from ditches at the edge of fields and deliver it to plants via row crop furrows in the soil.

“We are delighted to take part in the events going on during the Meridian Public Works Week. The district supplies water to thousands of acres of farmland in the Meridian area plus thousands of pressurized irrigation systems in Meridian residential subdivisions, Coon added.

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