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AT CHEVRON IN CJ

SATURDAY 9-1
AT GRANTS PASS
GROWERS' MARKET

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Weather Watch

Cave Junction

**Thursday, Aug 18**
Clear
High -- 98 Low -- 66

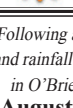
**Friday, Aug 19**
Clear
High -- 102 Low -- 65

**Saturday, Aug 20**
Clear
High -- 97 Low -- 61

**Sunday, Aug 21**
Clear
High -- 94 Low -- 60

**Monday, Aug 22**
Clear
High -- 91 Low -- 60

**Tuesday, Aug 23**
Clear
High -- 91 Low -- 60

**Wednesday, Aug 24**
Clear
High -- 89 Low -- 61

Following are the high & low temperatures, and rainfall recorded at The End of the Road in O'Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson:

August	High	Low
5	93.8	52.3
6	89.3	52.6
7	88.7	46.7
8	85.4	47.5
9	83.6	56.6
10	89.5	51.5
11	99.4	49.4

YTD Rain: 89.11"
Average Yearly Rain Total: 72.00"

Woods fulfills a need

Caroline Griffith
IVN Contributing Writer

Tucked in, back off the road at 535 E. River Street, is the Illinois Valley Family Coalition (IVFC), a community organization that helps those in need. Tucked into a tiny office inside of that building is a young woman whose duty, as she says, is just to help people.

Rashi Woods, the IVFC administrative assistant, has been on the job only seven months and she is determined to do everything in her power to help community members in need. In her capacity as administrative assistant, she helps people navigate the often-confusing web of public agencies that provide services.

The IVFC rents space to nonprofits and houses social services that provide family and mental health services; assistance for seniors, veterans and disabled people; career support; community classes and more. They also have a public computer lab, which can be used for workforce training and job searches. “We are a resource service,” said Woods. “If we don’t have it here, we will guide people to the right place to find help.”

“I am a very resourceful person,” she added. “If I don’t know something, I will obtain the knowledge to find out.”

Woods regularly refers clients to

the United Community Action Network (UCAN), the Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance, Healthy U and DHS Elder Services, as well as connecting people with emergency food services and free showers. The program that she spends the most time on, however, involves helping people to obtain birth certificates and IDs. In order to get a state issued ID, one must prove one’s identity and

“I have seen a lot of unfortunate things in my life,” she said, “and if I can help keep those things from happening to others, I am going to.”

Rashi Woods

legal residence in the United States. This generally means presenting a birth certificate. In order to get a copy of a birth certificate, one must have a state issued ID. This conundrum leaves people without proof of identity and, therefore, unable to participate in those parts of society that require a picture ID.

“A story I hear a lot,” said Woods, “is ‘I need my birth certificate because I’ve got a job, but I can’t cash my check because I don’t have an ID, and I don’t have an ID because I don’t have a birth certificate.’”

“This year we have had a lot of kids come in who are between the ages

of 16 and 18 who are homeless. They are determined to make their lives better.” Because of their circumstances, many of these children lack birth certificates and IDs, which are required in order to obtain other services to help get them on their feet. That is where Rashi Woods comes in. “They need this resource to get to the next step, and then the next step after that.”

Woods, who is married with four children, is an aspiring family psychologist and currently attends Rogue Community College. She says this is the perfect job for her because of her passion for helping families. In her spare time she is writing two books, one of which is a memoir and the other is a self-help book for people experiencing grief. “I have seen a lot of unfortunate things in my life,” she said, “and if I can help keep those things from happening to others, I am going to.”

Her favorite part of her job is that she gets to help people who are in need. “I can bless them with something that helps them get to the next step,” she said. “My favorite thing is that I am actually fulfilling a need for somebody.”

The Illinois Valley Family Coalition is located at 535 E. River Street and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Currently Woods only works part-time, but if you need her help, she will find a way to get it to you.



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Heart beat

A wild mustang stands over the mesa, looking towards the sunset. The golden eagle soars over the tall trees and glances around all it surveys. A drum sits in an old blanket passed down from Grandmother to grandson, and a heart beat of traditions is passed along.

Poets portion

Shawls and moccasins, the thunder of buffalo passing by.
Bells and ribbons, a call to the creator, as the heart beat of the drum is heard all around the world.

Processions with dance, willow branches cradled into a sweat lodge.
Salmon swimming down deep, up toward their native home, guided by a heart beat of traditions passed down among

so many who jumped the falls heading toward home.

Looking for the runners, watching the elders, just sitting and beading.
Waiting for a story, as the drum beat gets louder and that heart beat of traditions is passed along.

by Kelly Waldin



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