Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Thursday, June 21
Sunny
High -- 85 Low -- 56

Friday, June 22
MostlySunny
High -- 86 Low --55

Saturday, June 23
Partly Cloudy
High -- 85 Low -- 56

Sunday, June 24
Sunny
High -- 93 Low -- 57

Monday, Jun 25
Mostly Sunny
High -- 82 Low -- 51

Tuesday, Jun 26
Mostly Sunny
High -- 79 Low -- 50

Wednesday, Jun 27
Mostly Sunny
High -- 80 Low -- 50

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

Jun	High	Low	Rain
8	75.3	44.4	0.31
9	55.4	44.0	0.14
10	65.6	38.9	
11	76.3	49.4	
12	89.5	44.2	
13	79.5	47.7	
14	77.2	53.4	

June Rain: 0.46" YTD Rain: 58.76"

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Crawlies with Cri: by Cri Solo

Before you meet this week's crawly, I have a quick announcement: If you find a crawly you want identified, please email a photo to the newspaper and I'll get back to you with an answer.

This week's crawly lives up to its name - meet the vivid dancer damselfly *(Argia vivida)*. Damselflies are the smaller relatives of dragonflies. Together they make up the order *Odonata*. Often, they can be found in the same places and those places are near water.

Like many of the amazing critters you can find in the riparian zone, damselflies begin their life under water. The aquatic damselfly young are called "Naiads," which perfectly fits these ethereal damsels. In Greek mythology, Naiads are female spirits, presiding over fountains, wells, springs, streams, brooks and other bodies of fresh water.

Don't let the fancy names fool you, though. Damsels are anything but in distress. In both naiad and adult form, these fairy-like flyers are very efficient hunters. The naiads get mosquito larvae in the water and the adults get mosquitoes on the wing. They also dine on small moths, mayflies and aphids among other insects. If you're lucky enough to have these in your garden you are getting the dual benefit of their jewel-like prettiness and their exterminator skills.

There are about 135 species of damselflies in the U.S., many of them in shades of blue, but the vivid dancer still manages to stand out in a few ways. Most noticeably is that amazing blue/indigo/violet color. Most blue damselflies are just that - blue. Vivids earned their name with those multiple hues.

With most types of damselflies, the males get those super bright "Look at me!" colors and females are clay-colored or sometimes pale green. Some female vivid dancers, however, have broken the color code. They come in two forms: a gynomorphic (female-like) pale form and an andromorphic (male-like) form, just as vivid as the males.

Another vivid dancer fun fact: Males help females while they lay their eggs. While most female damsels do this alone, male vivids grab the female by the mesostigmal plate (the big plate on their back with the fancy racing stripes) and carry her to a stream. The males keep holding on to the female while she lays her eggs. This helps the females stay anchored in the swift moving water vivids prefer to live near.

If you'd like to see a vivid dancer up close and personal, you're in luck because they have one of the longest flight times of any damselfly. They can be seen from now through at least the middle of October. They can be found at spring-fed streams, usually in arid or semi-arid areas. Luckily, Oregon is full of spring-fed streams.

(Photo by Christy Solo, *Illinois Valley News*

Vivid dancer damselfly *(Argia vivida)*

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