

Thursday, Aug 30

Sunny

High --78 Low -- 55

Friday, Aug 31

Partly Cloudy

High -- 80 Low -- 53

Saturday, Sept 1

Sunny

High -- 82 Low -- 54

Sunday, Sept 2

Sunny

High -- 81 Low -- 54

Monday, Sept 3

Sunny

High -- 80 Low -- 54

Tuesday, Sept 4

Sunny

High -- 81 Low -- 55

Wednesday, Sept 5

Sunny

High -- 80 Low -- 54

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

August	High	Low
17	92.8	49.2
18	95.5	49.0
19	92.5	48.6
20	95.5	48.3
21	87.3	51.7
22	91.5	53.6
23	86.7	50.6

August Rain: 0.00"
YTD Rain: 58.76"

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Crawlies with Cri: by Christy Solo

This week’s crawly is the “bee-autiful” urbane digger bee (*Anthophora urbana*). Urbane is defined as “notably polite or polished in manner,” according to Merriam Webster online dictionary. This fellow is all that and more with his beautiful blue eyes and crisp, white face markings.

The urbane digger is one of 68 species of digger bees in the United States. As their name implies, they dig nests in the ground. Digger bees are solitary bees, meaning they don’t live in hives. Unlike many types of solitary bees, several females will dig their nests close together. Because each female digs one nest per egg all by herself, the nests aren’t very deep or complex; just a fairly shallow hole in sandy, well-drained soil. Once an individual nest is

the proper size, the female will line it with a waxy secretion for waterproofing. Next, she’ll lay a single egg in the nest; pack in pollen provisions for the young bee to eat when it hatches the following spring or summer and seal over the top with the same wax. Then she repeats this process for several more eggs.

Meanwhile, the males, like the pictured one, look for ladies and drink nectar. They have an easier life, but they have to sleep out in the elements on leaves or blades of grass while the females sleep more snugly and better protected in their under-construction nests.

Both males and females are excellent pollinators, helping your garden and area wildflowers grow. Digger bees are very chill bees; even though



Urbane digger bee (*Anthophora urbana*)

they nest in the ground, they don’t sting in defense of those nests. They only sting if handled and the males, like all male bees and wasps, don’t sting at all.

Urbane diggers can be found in most western states, but rarely are. We’re lucky that they are most often found in California and here in Southern Oregon. You can find them out and about

while doing outdoor activities or even in your yard if you have dry, sandy soil with a southern exposure. They also prefer to build their nests in a fairly open area so no roots will grow into their nests as the eggs overwinter. They will visit many types of flowers, but have a special affinity for lupine and morning glory. At just under one-half inch urbane

diggers are smaller than honey bees and are pale tan in color. They have very distinctive light fuzzy stripes on their dark abdomens. Of course, if you’re looking closely (and you will be now) those blue eyes are quite the distinctive feature.

Diggers will be around until early September, so keep an eye out for these pretty, bitty pollinators.

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