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(From left) Annette Rasch, Capt. Tom Zulliger (holding the river-rescued dog, 'River Booty'), Capt. Ken Gavlik and Firefighter Pearlene Gavlik. (Photo by Acting Illinois Valley Fire Chief Jeff Gavlik)

Stranded dog saved from raging river

They are calling him "River Booty," a river-runner's term for something good found in the water.

He's certainly one lucky pooch.

The half-grown husky/German Shepherd mix dog was spotted late Monday afternoon, Feb. 16, stranded on a rapidly disappearing gravel bar in the rising Illinois River near "Forks" State Park.

Annette Rasch, an Illinois Valley dog trainer, was hiking with her own dogs when she spotted the pup around 4 p.m.

"I had to run back to my van, drive into town to find a phone and call the Illinois Valley firefighting folks," Rasch said.

Acting Chief Jeff Gavlik and O'Brien Lt. Tom Zulliger responded to evaluate the situation. Forty-five minutes after the first sighting, the water

had covered more than two-thirds of the gravel bar. Some 150 feet of swift water roiled between the would-be rescuers and the pup, so they decided to mobilize the I.V. Swift Water Rescue Team.

With darkness falling, team members Gavlik, Zulliger, Selma Lt. Jim Gurley, Firefighters Carrie Sherman, Wayland Sherman, and Selma Capt. Ken Gavlik sprang into action. Also responding to assist were Firefighters De Spellman, Many Smiles, and Pearline Gavlik, plus Jody Mechling of You Dirty Dog, a pet grooming business.

Zulliger was launched into the river in an inflatable kayak, and using the current to his advantage, quickly navigated to the gravel bar, where the pup was howling piteously.

The pup was spooked, but enticed by a little raw

hamburger provided by Rasch, Zulliger coaxed the critter into the kayak.

The rest of the team fanned out into the water's edge, preparing to help recover the kayak before it

I.V. Fire District Swift Water Rescue Team hones skills with risky retrieval.

was swept downstream.

The pup cooperated nicely, and held still as Zulliger propelled the craft straight to the shore.

Rasch was impressed with the rescue team's calm and confident effectiveness.

"I'm still stunned that they actually went out onto the river at all, as I'd never seen it so high and fast," she said.

"It's heartening to know that we have friends

and neighbors possessing this kind of skill and personal character -- ready and willing to take calculated risks to bail even a scared puppy out of a life-threatening situation. They're my heroes."

Rasch is now seeking a home for "River Booty." Whoever adopts him will receive a free canine obedience class from Rasch, as well a free initial grooming from Mechling. Rasch's telephone number is 592-4334.

Checked on Tuesday morning, Feb. 17, it was noted that the gravel bar no longer is visible, as the river has washed it away because of the intense rainfall the valley has received in the past several days.

(Editor's Note: 'Illinois Valley News' gratefully acknowledges Annette Rasch for providing the material for this story).

I.V. Citizens Patrol views eye on high for security

A group of Downtown Cave Junction business owners plan to increase the number of persons serving as members of I.V. Citizens Patrol (IVCP), and are examining an electronic eye on high to increase nighttime security.

Patrol members met Thursday night, Feb. 12 in the Junction Inn. Among discussion items was a camera with 360-degree viewing capability. Sonitrol of Southern Oregon has proposed a system to IVCP, which is checking leasing and purchase variables. IVCP plans to approach the CJ City Council with a proposal.

The camera would be centrally located and mounted atop a downtown building. In addition, the possibility of adding such equipment on side streets was broached.

Views from the system could be monitored from a regular TV set, either in businesses or homes, with

up to 10 sites possible. The camera, "incorporating the latest technology," can take 12 photos per second. Sonitrol would maintain storage of images.

Those attending the meeting Thursday agreed that merchants need to make a statement to van-

dals, burglars and the like that their behavior will not be tolerated. "We need to get as many eyes and ears out there and let those people know that they're not welcome in our town," said one person.

IVCP works to serve as eyes and ears for Jose-

phine County Sheriff's Office, reporting incidents as observed. Members make no contact with persons involved in crimes.

Information about IVCP, including involvement as patrollers, is available by phoning (541) 592-2802 or 592-5255.



MISHAP NEAR O'BRIEN - Roseburg resident Faith Robin Nugent, 53, suffered minor injuries when the car she was driving went out of control on Hwy. 199 south of Arrowhead Drive on Saturday morning, Feb. 14, said Josephine County Sheriff's Office. She was cited for driving too fast for prevailing conditions.

CJ couple injured in Valentine crash

A Valentine's Day car crash during a rainstorm injured three -- including a Cave Junction couple -- and resulted in the death of a Grants Pass man, closing the lanes for southbound traffic of Redwood Hwy. for 2 1/2 hours near Rogue Community College.

On Feb. 14, at approximately 8:36 p.m., a Datsun driven by Anthony Wayne Bowyer, 33, pulled out of a driveway onto Hwy. 199 and into the path of a Honda, driven by Sara Ann Jones, 65, of CJ, said Oregon State Police. Bowyer's passenger was Rhonda Goodwin, 24, and both are from Grants Pass.

Jones' vehicle struck the driver's side door of Bowyer's car, fatally injuring Bowyer, who was pronounced dead at the scene in the 3900 block of Redwood Hwy., said OSP. Goodwin was listed in fair condition at Three Rivers Community Hospital (TRCH) in Grants Pass.

Sara's husband, Raymond "Rocky" Jones, 72, was riding in the passenger seat of the Honda. Sara Jones, who operates Valley Bookkeeping, was listed in serious condition and "Rocky" in critical condition. Both were transported to TRCH, and he subsequently was transferred to Rogue Valley Medical Center in Medford.

His wife was to be transferred to a Portland hospital for treatment of a crushed right foot. Among "Rocky's" injuries are a broken sternum, and

cracked ribs and vertebrae.

As of Tuesday morning, Feb. 17 he still was listed in critical condition and under intensive care.

OSP, assisted by Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO), Oregon Dept. of Transportation, Rural/Metro Fire Dept., and American Medical Response responded to the scene.

The accident occurred near the location of another fatal crash approximately two weeks ago, when a young girl pulled in front of an oncoming vehicle.

Two other crashes occurred on Redwood Hwy. during the Valentine weekend.

Also Saturday, at around 9 a.m., Faith Robin Nugent, 53, of Roseburg, was heading south on Hwy. 199 when she lost control of her vehicle south of Arrowhead Drive in O'Brien, said JCSO.

The vehicle then crashed into a tree before coming to rest on its wheels, with damage to the driver side. Nugent suffered minor injuries and was cited for driving too fast for road conditions, JCSO said.

On Sunday Feb. 15, around 12:30 p.m., Denise Cunningham of Cave Junction, rolled her sport utility vehicle in the 10900 block of Redwood Hwy.

Cunningham was transported to TRCH; treated and released, said JCSO. Her passenger refused medical care.

Tree-planting program continues good growth

Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (IVSWCD) is continuing its "win-win" tree planting program.

On Saturday, Feb. 28, the IBIG Forestry Action Committee will host its 12th annual Volunteer Tree Planting Day for area youth group volunteers.

IVSWCD donates 25 cents per tree planted to participating youth groups.

Last year, 4,135 trees were planted by youths from the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Community Christian Academy, I.V. Boys & Girls Club, Dome School, Cub Scouts, Evergreen Elementary, Lorna Byrne Middle School, Illinois River Riders, and IVHS Senior Grad Party. A total of \$1,033.50 was earned to fund activities that youths would not otherwise be able to enjoy.

In the past, the tree-planting project was supported by funds received from a parcel of IVSWCD property that was logged more than 25 years ago.

Since the funds have

been exhausted, IVSWCD is inviting area businesses and the public to become involved in its second annual Tree Planting Sponsorship Program. There are five levels of sponsorship:

*Seedling \$5 - plants 20 trees.

*Sapling \$10 - plants 40 trees.

*Tall Pine \$25 - plants 100 trees.

*Mighty Oak \$50 - plants 200 trees.

*Giant Redwood \$100 - plants 400 trees.

Last year, 29 businesses and individuals contributed \$1,017.95 to the program.

Tree Planting Sponsors receive a "Certificate of Sponsorship" for their participation. People can also sponsor the program by donating spare change at collection cans located at Shop Smart and I.V. Building Supply in CJ.

To receive a sponsorship package, or for questions, contact IVSWCD office between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays at 592-3731.

Mark Twain on the Bible: 'It's not the parts that are hard to understand that worry me, but those parts that are impossible to misunderstand that bother me.'