

# SUNNYSIDESUN

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 • 2 Sections, 12 Pages • www.sunnysidesun.com • Vol. 120, No. 10 • \$1.00

## Dottie leaves instructive pawprint behind

Sunnyside's fire house dog remembered

■ PATRICK SHELBY  
Managing Editor

Dottie was a three month old Dalmatian when Sunnyside Fire Department Captain Tony Castillo brought her home and when she learned how to stop, drop and roll about a week later; the public service and faithful bond created between them would inspire upwards of 25,000 second grade students to learn about fire safety.

Once Dottie acquired the initial education outreach skill, Capt. Castillo, who used to work with Ms. Mary at the Sunnyside United Methodist Church Preschool, would accompany him into the classroom and instantly capture their attention. He recognized her influential interaction abilities and natural instincts to deliver home the fire safety message, which one day might save a life.  
"I would bring Dottie in and

she would just infatuate the children. And if I had lost any of them with my droning on about fire safety and statistics, she would recapture their attention. I said to them, that she's just a puppy and if she can learn how to stop, drop and roll, you definitely can learn how to do this. And after she would demonstrate it, I'd have the children do it. And that's where she started," Capt.

see **DOTTIE**, page A3



Sunnyside Fire Department personnel carryout Dottie's memorial service at the fire house on Wednesday, March 3. Firefighter and paramedic Kellison Dabbling officiated the heartfelt tribute.

Patrick Shelby/Sunnyside Sun

## Reid Weaver breaks SHS 5K race record with 15:55 run

■ PATRICK SHELBY  
Managing Editor

Reid Weaver woke up on Wednesday morning, the day of Sunnyside's regular



Patrick Shelby/Sunnyside Sun

"I feel like my training has prepared me and I ran the best race I could run," senior Reid Weaver stated after he crossed the finish line with a first-place finish.

season home opener against West Valley with a severe case of pre-race nerves, which he believed may have emerged from

not running competitively in about a year and one half.

The senior conveyed he was able to let go of those unsettled anxieties by focusing his thoughts on the extended preseason training regimen he had put himself through. A state of calmness embodied his confident demeanor, which allowed him to embrace the long-awaited day he was now prepared to confront at full speed.

Once the red flag waived, signaling the start of the boys' cross country race, Weaver broke free from

see **WEAVER**, page A2

## United Methodist preschool gets thumbs up to start

■ PATRICK SHELBY  
Managing Editor

Sunnyside United Methodist Preschool students have begun learning that it's okay to be a member of a distant learning family within the Fellowship Hall.

"Personal space is really important. You can still like each other, but we have to take care of us and that's what God wants us to do," preschool teacher Ms. Mary Schlenker explained Friday,

March 5.

Children are being taught that God wants them to be healthy so they can help spread his word, and they can't do that if they're not following the school's healthy guidelines, she said.

According to Schlenker, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Yakima Health District has been very helpful about helping

see **PRESCHOOL**, page A2

## SPRING CLEANING



Patrick Shelby/Sunnyside Sun

Airfield Estates Winery performs vineyard sweeping in between rows to improve water drainage and upcoming spring pruning operations. Leaves are removed from the ground, which also helps in preventing fungi to grow and makes weed control easier.

## Municipal Court's Vanessa Engquist honored for innovation

■ JULIA HART

With the Law and Justice payment drive-up window already in place, Sunnyside Municipal Court Administrator Vanessa Engquist saw the opportunity to design a similar drive-up situation to serve the city court.

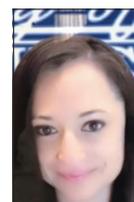
"We used everyday devices to conduct court so defendants could have tier cases heard," Engquist explained

"And it worked."  
For her innovative and creativity, the Washington

State Board for Judicial Administration presented Engquist with the Innovating Justice Award, an honor she was nominated for by City Municipal Court Judge Steven Michels.

In her efforts to keep the city court operating, and assessable during the pandemic, Engquist adapted the existing outside drive-up payment counter at the Law and Justice Center to conduct court hearings and proceedings in a safe way.

"She purchased equipment, installed outside canopies for court users waiting outside



Vanessa Engquist

at social distance, arranged for Zoom proceedings with attorneys and provided training on

the new system and processes. "All of this was the brainchild of the creative and dedicated Sunnyside Municipal Court Administrator Vanessa Engquist" Judge Michels said in his nomination of Engquist.

As a result, Michels wrote,

her efforts enabled the court "to conduct all court hearings, including arraignments, bail hearings, Stimulated Order of Continuance Compliance hearings, to accept guilty pleas and hear probation petitions and almost any other type of hearing with the exception of trials despite the challenging conditions created by the pandemic.

"In short, Vanessa's efforts allowed us to process about 150 cases a week," he noted. The court is held Tuesdays and Thursdays.

see **ENGQUIST**, page A3

*Integrity,  
Compassion,  
Value*

*"The best of all  
three is the Smith  
Family Guarantee"*

SUNNYSIDE & GRANDVIEW'S MOST AFFORDABLE SERVICE PACKAGES



Greg Smith



Carolyn Smith



Carolyn Alanis



Captain Smith

**SMITH**  
FUNERAL HOMES  
AND CREMATORY

Since 1951  
528 S. 8th St. • Sunnyside • 509-837-4962  
512 E. 4th St. • Grandview • 509-882-3386  
www.funeralhomesmith.com

Professional, Compassionate, Affordable Service Since 1951



New e-Edition! [www.sunnysidesun.com/eedition](http://www.sunnysidesun.com/eedition)

# DOTTIE

continued from page A1

Castillo emotionally recalled.

Being a fire prevention canine officer was Dottie's fire house calling and the eager to entertain, four-legged frontline partner reveled in the purposeful mission - educating young school children and protecting them with a reinforced sense of spirited interaction was her lifelong role for more than a decade.

"She really kept me interested and motivated to do fire safety," Castillo acknowledged. "When I would get her little fire coat and she knew we were going to work, Dottie would get super excited and always did a good job for the kids."

When Dottie was not working with her partner in the classroom, she was being well taken care of by her human caregiver and mother, Carolyn Alaniz, who was there when Dottie picked Castillo to be his steadfast companion.

She wore the bright red body harness with a Sunnyside Fire Department badge over her heart while on duty, along with the personalized and protective fire jacket close at hand. Dottie was born with a fire house legacy and highly trained to be able to engage with people of all ages throughout the course of her dedicated community appointment.

Her name came from the large white saddle which lacked an identifying signature black spot and was at first considered too plain during their one-time puppy assessment, according to Castillo.

She was returned to where her sleeping brothers were and while he enquired about any future litters with the professional breeder, the puppy found her way back into Castillo's lap. After petting her for a while, she fell asleep. He continued to gently rub her back and the nondescript marking, which was initially important to him, simply faded away.

He brought her home and the name, 'Dottie' stuck to her



Patrick Shelby/Sunnyside Sun

Top, Dottie's paw print on the fire safety program makes for a long lasting impression on upwards of more than 25,000 second grade students during her 10 ½ year career as a Sunnyside Fire Department member.

Right, Dottie was born with a fire house legacy and she was always ready to serve with an eager willingness to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

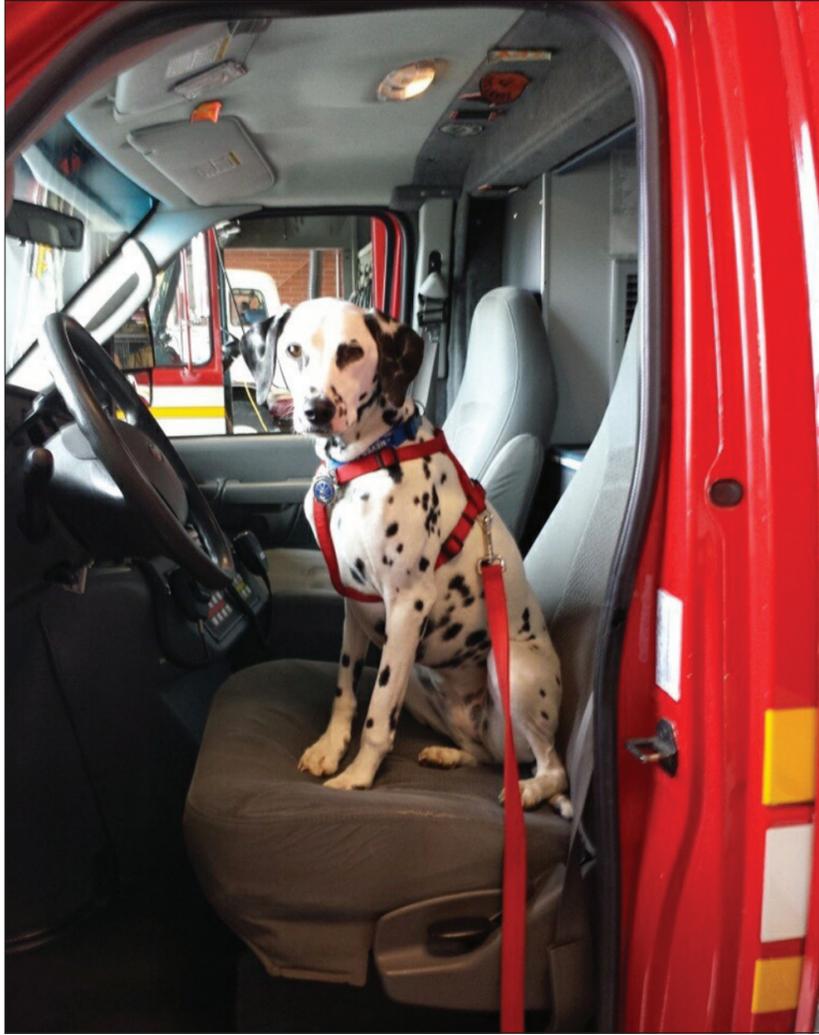
like the meaningful role she would have over the next 10 1/2 years. "The dot that she didn't have on her back. It just seemed to be the perfect name for her," Castillo reminisced.

Always ready to serve and guided by an eager willingness to make a positive difference in the lives of others; Dottie unexpectedly was called to journey home and serve with a heavenly bark of distinction as fire house personnel gathered to express their genuine gratitude for her loyal duty and said goodbye to one of their own on Wednesday, March 3.

"She was truly a remarkable dog," Castillo conveyed, while he showed Dottie's countless photo albums from his phone. "Even kids that were scared of dogs, wouldn't be afraid of her for whatever reason. They would call her 'the fire dog,' it was pretty neat."

There was a fire house service commemorating Dottie's exemplary duty as an exceptional member of the department. Bigger than life imagery of the station's most recognized representative adorned the front end of the T-1 ladder truck parked outside, along with the ceremonial American flag rippling in the lower valley breeze.

Irish bagpipe music played and resonated with admiration for their fallen hero. Firefighter and paramedic Kellison Dabbling officiated the heartfelt



memorial. "It was powerful for us because I think everyone there were all dog owners and we're all firefighters; it was kind of like, 'it takes a village to raise a child,' and it also takes an entire community to save someone's life. It's an incredibly huge group effort and I don't think you can overstate the value that Dottie added to the community," Dabbling distraught with sadness expressed.

He tearfully added, "she was amazing!"

There are two documented letters written to Sunnyside and Grandview Fire Departments praising Dottie's fire safety teaching talents for saving the lives of family members. Across Yakima County, there are many more stories about the impact she made in the lives of young and impressionable children.

"Tony and Dottie really got down to the kids' level and I

think it brought calmness and more understanding of what it is to take care of yourself and your family and what you should do in case of a fire. Because I would ask them, what would Dottie do," Mary Schlenker recounted. "The kids would say, to stop, drop and roll, and don't hide inside, go outside! And they remembered Dottie barking. When he used Dottie as a teaching tool, it brought connection for all of them."

Dottie Sue Castillo, August 8, 2010 - March 3, 2021.

# ENGQUIST

continued from page A1

Invited to speak during the BJA award presentation virtually held Feb. 19, Engquist stated, "I am humbled and grateful for this recognition. This was very much a team effort among all of the partners in our local law and justice community."

City Manager Martin Casey observed, "Vanessa showed great adaptability to preserve access to justice, and she leveraged federal COVID-19 relief funds effectively to cover the costs for these changes."

The Innovating Justice Awards were established in late 2020 by the BJA to recognize leadership during the COVID crisis that promotes judicial branch innovation as well as responsiveness to racial equity and access to justice

Friday, Feb. 26, Engquist was putting her time into the reconfiguration of the court chambers for its reopening Tuesday, March 2.

"We're all very excited about that but again, there is a lot of details to handle," she noted.

**Rest, Relax and Sleep! Stop in today!**

One of the Largest Selections of CBD Products in the Valley!

**Vibrant Health Foods**

Partnering to give you BETTER HEALTH!  
1104 Yakima Valley Hwy | Sunnyside | 509-837-2722  
MILL CREEK NATURAL FOODS  
4315 Main Street | Union Gap | 509-452-5386

MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM • SATURDAYS 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



Patrick Shelby/Sunnyside Sun

Sunnyside Fire Department Captain Tony Castillo said Dottie's name came from the large white saddle which lacked an identifying signature black spot. However, she made a long lasting impact upon all she met.

Dr. Sam Strebel with patient Patti Channel

**JOINT REPLACEMENT** with Mako™

Prosser Memorial Health is the only hospital in Central Washington offering joint replacement with Mako, the world leader in robotic-arm assisted surgery. The smart robot technology aids our surgeons in developing a personalized surgical plan for each patient using a 3D model created from a CT scan of your joint.

Dr. Strebel completed his Adult Reconstruction Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University. He speaks Spanish and is now accepting new patients.

"Dr. Strebel was phenomenal. Great doctor and great staff. And ... I didn't have to leave town."

- Patti Channel



This is how we care.

**Silvia's Professional Tax Services**

**TAXES DUE** APRIL 15

RELAX, WE'VE GOT THIS!

We can prepare your taxes. We will deduct our service fees from your refund. You did not receive any of your previous stimulus money? We can help you with that too!

Our bilingual staff is ready to help!

1015 E Lincoln Ave | Sunnyside  
Call us at 509-790-0065 & like us on Facebook!  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Silvia Ramos

**Prosser Orthopedic Center**  
Prosser Memorial Health

820 Memorial St., Suite 3 | 509.786.5599 | ProsserHealth.org