



SUNNYSIDE SUN

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'Shop with a Cop' a success in Sunnyside

In partnership with Walmart, the Sunnyside Police Department hosted their third annual 'Shop with a Cop' last Saturday, Dec. 11, 8 a.m. at Walmart, 2675 E. Lincoln Ave., Sunnyside.

'Shop with a Cop' is a nationally recognized event helping police officers show they care in more ways than enforcement by

and teachers. Walmart sponsored the event by providing breakfast, volunteers, gift cards and employee sponsored gifts for each child.

Law enforcement officers and personnel represented throughout Yakima County donated their time to share breakfast with a nominated child and then escorted them around the store and

assisted them in selecting gifts for their family. Each gift selected by a child was gift wrapped by volunteers as the children enjoyed a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Walmart also surprised each child with a personally selected gift (sponsored by Sunnyside Walmart



Andrew Hamil/Sunnyside Sun

SHOPWITH A COP — Officer Erica Rollinger gives assistance to a child in choosing a gift during the 'Shop with a Cop' event at Sunnyside Walmart Saturday, Dec. 11.

participating and bringing positivity to a child's life.

The event served Sunnyside, Mabton, Grandview and Toppenish children ages seven through 18 who have experienced recent significant hardships, low-income, at-risk and/or are medically challenged.

In coordination with the Sunnyside School District and participating Yakima Valley law enforcement agencies, officers were provided nominations from school counselors

employees) at the end of their shopping trip.

Participating law enforcement agencies included Grandview Police Department; Mabton Police Department; Toppenish Police Department; Yakima Police Department; Selah Police Department; and the Yakima County Sheriff's Office. Several volunteers with Walmart, Yakima Valley royalty and community members also assisted with the event.

Free in-home, rapid COVID tests for Yakima County

Hope is to slow spread of disease

■ KEVIN ROUNCE
Reporter

Yakima County residents can get free, in-home rapid COVID-19 tests as part of a national initiative.

Say Yes! COVID Test is a cooperative effort from the National Institutes of Health, CDC, and others to encourage individuals to test for coronavirus and decrease the spread.

This option will be available through the end of December or until 1 million tests have been delivered

to participating counties in Washington.

Previously Benton and Franklin Counties were approved to get this free testing option.

As of now, some 15 counties in Washington, largely in Eastern Washington, are eligible for the free rapid testing.

To get a test delivered to your door, visit <https://sayyescovidhometest.org/>.

Tests can be taken by anyone two or older.

■ Kevin Rounce can be contacted at 509-837-4500 ext. 110 or at krounce@sunnysidesun.com



photos by Job Wise/Sunnyside Sun

SLAYING THE DRAGON — Sunnyside Firefighter Miguel Barrios and Fire Capt. David Riddle extinguish a vehicle fire Friday, Dec. 10.

Sunnysider suffers significant injuries in one-car accident

Possible that medical situation caused rollover

■ KEVIN ROUNCE
Reporter

A Sunnyside man had to be LifeFlighted to Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane Friday after he was injured when his car rolled into the canal off West Edison Avenue and caught fire.

Sunnyside Police Cmdr. Scott Bailey believes the accident was caused by a medical situation suffered by the driver.

The man suffered multiple serious injuries, but was rescued by fire, police and ambulance personnel along with a good Samaritan who was in the area.

A woman who identified

herself as the victim's sister says the man is Michael Kramer and has started a GoFundMe page to help with his medical expenses.

Sunnyside Fire believes the blaze started because of a fuel leak that got to the engine after the car rolled several times.

Multiple people, including the good Samaritan, will be honored for their work in rescuing the man.

The condition of the driver is unknown.

■ Kevin Rounce can be contacted at 509-837-4500 ext. 110 or at krounce@sunnysidesun.com

Vehicle fire sends plumes of smoke skyward from the canal along West Edison and Crescent Avenues Friday, Dec. 10 at approximately 8:40 a.m.



Broersma named temporary mayor

Permanent to be voted on Jan. 10

■ KEVIN ROUNCE
Reporter

The Sunnyside City Council has appointed Dean Broersma to serve as the temporary mayor from Jan. 1 through Jan. 10 when the council will appoint a permanent choice.

Without the appointment, the city would have not had a mayor for that window of time which was a matter of concern to some council members.

Julia Hart said that it was not the appropriate time to choose a new permanent mayor.

"I feel like it's a disservice to a newly elected council member to not be included in that vote."

That sentiment was echoed by other council members as well.

Vicki Fritts Ripley will join the city council in January to begin her term for Position 4.

Council member Craig Hicks was the first to propose Broersma for the temporary



Dean Broersma

member of the city council.

He joined the city's lead legislative body in March of 2013 and was elected mayor for 2020-21.

During the meeting Monday night, Guerrero was praised for his commitment to

position.

Current mayor Francisco Guerrero was overseeing his last

meeting as a

member of the city council.

He joined the city's lead legislative body in March of 2013 and was elected mayor for 2020-21.

the city. For his part, he said he was happy to be leaving on a high note.

"It's been a good nine years. When I joined the budget was in shambles, and while I'm disappointed it took this long to get it under control, I'm glad it is under control."

He also predicted great things for the council and the city while thanking them for all their work, even if they disagreed.

The city did pass their 2022 budget during their final meeting of the year.



— Penny Piggybank

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