

# SHELTON-MASON COUNTY Journal

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## COVID-19 upends county



On Tuesday morning, customers clear the shelves of toilet paper and paper towels at the Shelton Fred Meyer. *Journal photo by Gordon Weeks*

### *First case of coronavirus confirmed in Mason County*

By Michael Heinbach  
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The bombshell news Mason County officials prepared for and residents feared would arise for weeks landed on the community just after 5 p.m. Tuesday when Mason County Health Officer Dr. Daniel Stein issued a news release announcing that one of several Mason County residents screened for COVID-19 had tested positive.

**Stein** As of the *Shelton-Mason County Journal's*



see **CONFIRMED**, page A-20

### *COVID-19 prompts changes at Mason General*

By Gordon Weeks  
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Mason General Hospital in Shelton adjusted to the spread of coronavirus by changing its visitor hours and policies, setting up a COVID-19 Respiratory Illness Triage line, screening visitors for signs of illness and restricting movements within the hospital.

As of today, the hospital is not performing elective surgeries, Dr. Dean Gushee, the hospital's chief medical officer, said in an interview with the *Shelton-Mason County Journal*.

"These people are all healthy, and we're trying to keep healthy people out of the

see **HOSPITAL**, page A-18

### *Businesses feel the pain of coronavirus shutdowns*

By Adam Rudnick  
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A day after Gov. Jay Inslee announced an emergency proclamation to close all restaurants, bars and entertainment and recreation facilities, local businesses scrambled to adjust in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many Mason County businesses made big changes earlier this week.

Some restaurants switched to take-home or delivery-only, or closed, while bars shut down operations entirely. Other businesses asked employees to work from home, or announced temporary or permanent layoffs.

Insee's proclamation went into effect at midnight Monday, and will be in place until

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