



Catching chilly air

Shelton resident Edna Wells, 6, get airborne on her sled Saturday on a snowy slope behind Calvary Fellowship of Shelton off Shelton Springs Road. See more snow photos on pages A-18, A-19 and A-20. Journal photo by Gordon Weeks

Shelton YMCA opens March 1

By Gordon Weeks
gordon@masoncounty.com

The \$16-million Shelton YMCA opens its doors March 1.

At almost 23,000 square feet, the steel, wood and glass structure at 3101 North Shelton Springs Road features an outdoor recreational pool, an indoor gymnasium, an indoor cycling studio and nature trails. It also offers state-of-the-art cardio and resistance equipment, functional training and free weights, family-friendly locker rooms, a full basketball court, volleyball and pickleball courts and a yoga and Pilates studio. Wi-Fi is available for free.

Mason General Hospital and the PAC Mountain Workforce Development Council both have spaces at the facility. Youths and adults can find employment and volunteer opportunities.

Kyle Cronk, the president and CEO of South Sound YMCA, called the facility “flat-out gorgeous” in an email to the *Shelton-Mason County Journal*.

“The building is both aesthetically and functionally pleasing,” he wrote. “The volunteer and paid design/build teams should be extremely proud of this community asset.”

The facility opens with about 250 charter members, said Jake

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Kyle Cronk, president and CEO of South Sound YMCA

Grater, the executive director of branches.

Construction “has gone relatively smoothly,” he said. “The biggest challenge is COVID.”

Due to the pandemic, no large gatherings have been planned for the grand opening. Charter members can make reservations for a tour between Feb. 22 and 26, and capital donors can tour from 4 to 7 p.m. Feb. 26.

The Shelton-Mason County

Chamber of Commerce will present a small ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. March 1 that will broadcast online. The doors open to members at noon.

In March 2017, the South Sound YMCA Board of Trustees voted to team with the Shelton nonprofit group Shelton Health and Recreation Center (SHARC) to build a YMCA facility in Shelton. SHARC officials talked about their desire to find a location near schools, and the facility is not only next door to Oakland Bay Junior High, but a short hike from Shelton High School, Mountain View Elementary and Olympic Middle School.

“Right away, I was impressed with the volunteer engagement and grassroots effort,” Cronk wrote. “The dream of a community hub was long established by the time I was on the scene. Volunteers are the soul of any YMCA so it was refreshing to connect with a group that had completed their due diligence and was ready to learn more about capital campaign phases.”

In July 2017, the Shelton City Council approved leasing a plot of city land to the YMCA. The YMCA will pay \$1 per year to lease 10.5 acres for 100 years.

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Region moves to Phase 2

By Katie Hayes
katie@masoncounty.com

Mason County moved to Phase 2 on Sunday as hospital admissions and COVID-19 case rates decreased across the state.

“We’re making progress,” Mason County Commissioner Kevin Shuttly said. “We’re going to continue to make progress and, hopefully sooner rather than later, we are able to put the nightmare of COVID behind us.”

As the Northwest Region moves to Phase 2 of Gov. Jay Inslee’s Healthy Washington — Roadmap to Recovery plan, Mason, Kitsap, Jefferson and Clallam counties are now permitted to ease some gathering restrictions. Phase 2 allows small indoor social gatherings, and up to 25% capacity for indoor dining, gyms and indoor entertainment establishments.

“This is the next step in that forward momentum and we want to keep that going,” said Karin Leaf, business outreach manager for the Economic Development Council of Mason County. “... Right now, we need to show that we can operate safely in Phase 2.”

According to the Healthy Washington plan, regions must meet certain metrics that provide an overview of the region’s COVID-19 trends and its health care capacity for addressing cases. The metrics address trends in case rate, trends in hospital admission rate, percent of ICU occupancy and percent of positive COVID-19 tests in each

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Shelton High School setter Kylie Walker sets the ball during a volleyball match Tuesday at the Mini-Dome in Shelton. Under Phase 2 guidelines, high school athletics are now allowed. Journal photo by Justin Johnson

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