Indoor mask rule ending

Mandate for businesses and schools lifts March 21

By SC NEWS STAFF

As of March 21, Washington state government will no longer require masks in schools and most indoor spaces, the governor announced Thursday. Meanwhile, the state’s indoor mask mandate ends Friday, Feb. 18. And the state will stop requiring proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test for entry to large events as of March 1.

COVID-19 hospitalizations and cases are dropping, and the state thinks the science shows it should be in a place where it can safely start stepping back from mandates, Gov. Jay Inslee said at a press conference Feb. 17.

The goal is to get hospitalizations down to 5 per 100,000 people because hospitals can then operate normally, he said. After extensive research and projections based on current data, Inslee said he believes the state will meet that goal on March 21.

“We need to keep the mask mandate in place for the next weeks until we get down to that level,” he said.

That does not mean masks won’t be required anywhere. Masks are still required in healthcare settings and on public transportation, as required by the federal government.

SEE MASK, A3

Exploring History

All roads led to Warm Beach

The grand scheme behind the failed city of Birmingham

By C. D. Hillman

1910, an unconcealed real estate baron proclaimed that “the markets of the Puget Sound, the Pacific Coast and the entire world” would be “at the door” of his new city of Birmingham — an audacious fraud be- hind one man’s wild attempt to build the city of Birmingham, now known as Warm Beach. Would most likely be forgotten if not for the tenacity of a re- tired Stanwood school teacher. Penny Buse, 73, grew up in Kirkland but spent her child- hood weekends, summers and pretty much every vacation at her grandparents’ home in Warm Beach.

SEE WARM BEACH, A9

To some, Glass Quest is more than a simple treasure hunt

By EZZIE LUND

Handmade glass balls aren’t the only treasures people find during Glass Quest. For some, the annual event has grown into an opportunity to create new traditions, connect with family and honor loved ones.

Brittany Luther, a mother of three from Kirkland but spent her childhood weekends, summers and pretty much every vacation at her grandparents’ home in Warm Beach. During these visits, Buse got to know many of the old-timers who sparked her imagination with their stories of the fantastical city of Birmingham.

SEE GLASS QUEST, A10

SEE MASK, A3

SC NEWS STAFF

Girls basketball earns state berth

SPORTS B1

4 wrestlers place at state

SPORTS B1

POLICE .....................A2

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