

# Even in a crisis

Moses Lake Senior Center volunteers keep feeding most vulnerable



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Monday, April 13, 2020

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*Will seniors graduate with waivers? Will there be a ceremony?*



Photo illustration by Herald staff

# Uncertainty

Moses Lake School District asks for state waiver

By CHARLES H. FEATHERSTONE  
Staff Writer

MOSES LAKE — The Moses Lake School District is seeking the ability to waive graduation for individual students “on a case-by-case basis.”

Speaking during a meeting of the Moses Lake School Board conducted via remote conferencing on Thursday, Superintendent Josh Meek said

the district has submitted a formal request to be allowed to waive state graduation requirements to the State Board of Education, which had just approved the rules governing waivers.

Meek said he expects the state education board to review and possibly approve the waiver application on Tuesday, April 21, two days before the Moses Lake School Board’s next meeting on Thursday, April 23.

“That has to happen first,” Meek said, before the district’s board can approve waivers.

If approved by both boards, the process will allow seniors who are “on track to graduate with the Class of 2020” to waive state graduation requirements that they cannot fulfill because of the closures ordered by Gov. Jay Inslee, prompted

See MLSD, A2

## State to lose billions in revenue from COVID-19 closures

By CHARLES H. FEATHERSTONE  
Staff Writer

MOSE LAKE — A presentation last week by the Republican leaders in the state legislature forecast a \$3 billion to \$6 billion fall in tax revenue because of business closures related to COVID-19, according to Sen. Judy Warnick, R-Moses Lake.

Warnick said the forecast “is a moving target” that will not only include lost sales tax revenue from business closures but also business and operations (B&O) taxes lost as

companies go out of business or simply cannot pay.

“It might take two to three years to recover and get everybody back working,” Warnick said.

According to the presentation given last week to GOP legislators, 230,000 businesses in Washington are currently classified as “non-essential” under Gov. Jay Inslee’s order that closed non-essential businesses and schools, and limited the size of public gatherings.

Most small businesses

See REVENUE, A3

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— Columbia Basin Herald

## Judge rules Hansen need not pay some MLIRD taxes

By CHARLES H. FEATHERSTONE  
Staff Writer

EPHRATA — A Grant County Superior Court has ruled that Mick Hansen, who has waged a six-year legal fight against the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District, or MLIRD, does not have to pay a portion of the taxes the MLIRD has assessed on his property.

In an 18-page ruling issued on March 26, Judge David Estudillo wrote that the MLIRD “may not collect rates or tolls and charges” from

Hansen’s lakefront property because the MLIRD’s irrigation taxes “are not reasonable under the circumstances presented.”

For 2020, the MLIRD has assessed 80 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value on each of the district’s roughly 11,000 parcels to support the district’s operations, which largely involve maintaining the quality of the water in Moses Lake. Of that 80 cents, 20 cents is assessed under the portion of Washington state law that covers “irrigation

See MLIRD, A3

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