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Charles H. Featherstone/Columbia Basin Herald

"It's really just great to

see a chance for people

to get their lives back to

where they'd like to be."

- Gov. Jay Inslee

Gov. Jay Inslee (left) talks with Taylor Burton (center), the housing and grants coordinator for the city of Moses Lake, and Moses Lake Mayor David Curnel, during Inslee's visit to the Moses Lake Sleep Center on Thursday.

'It's inspiring'

Inslee praises Moses Lake's innovative approach to dealing with shelterlessness

MOSES LAKE — Moses Lake has some things to teach the state about how to address shelterlessness, according to Gov. Jay Inslee.

'We know we have a homeless crisis in the state of Washington, and one of the reasons I came to Moses Lake is to make sure people understand it's not just Seattle," Inslee said during a short press conference at the Moses Lake Sleep Center on Thursday

Inslee was in Moses Lake from around 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday to meet with local leaders and tour the sleep center — the collection of 35 tiny buildings at the southeast corner of East Broadway Avenue and state Route 17 that give area shelterless a safe and private place to spend the night.

The governor's small motorcade was driven into the sleep center through a main gate past a handful of protestors without meeting or talking to them.

See INSLEE, Page A3

By CHARLES H. **FÉATHERSTONE** Staff Writer



Charles H. Featherstone/Columbia Basin Herald

Gov. Jay Inslee walks among the cabins of the Moses Lake Sleep Center during his tour on Thursday.

Quincy Better Block event set for today, Saturday

By CHERYL SCHWEIZER Staff Writer

QUINCY — A one-block length of a downtown Quincy street will close to traffic Friday night and Saturday morning to make way for dining and music on Friday and

the Quincy Farmers Market on Saturday.

Quincy Chamber of Commerce Director Cari Mathews said chamber and city officials hope to make it a regular event downtown.

The Quincy Better Block event runs from 6 to 9 p.m.

Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

The Better Block will be on B Street Southwest, in the block between Central Avenue South and First Avenue Southeast. Operators at the Microsoft Quincy MWH Data Center provided

money to hire the Dallas, Texas-based Better Block Foundation to put on the first event.

"A place where the community can come and enjoy the space," Mathews said.

See QUINCY, Page A2

Trust and mandate concerns drive school board races

By CHARLES H. FEATHERSTONE Staff Writer

MOSES LAKE — Concerns over the teaching of race, gender and sex in public schools, as well as a lack of trust in the Moses Lake School District fostered by a perceived lack of communication are the things motivating most of this year's candidates running for seats on the Moses Lake School Board.

Two seats are up for contention in the Aug. 3 primary, and again in November's general election. Vying for Director District 2 are incumbent board member (and current board president) Vickey Melcher, who was first elected in 2017, and challengers Paul Hill and Noah Zemke.

Facing off for the Director District 4 seat being vacated by Elliott Goodrich, who was first elected in 2017 and then later announced he would not seek re-election, are Moses Lake Police Chief Kevin Fuhr, Rachel Roylance Gallacci, business owner and former Moses Lake City Council Member James Liebrecht, and Matt

The two with the most votes

See BOARD, Page A3

MLSD voters to cast ballots on local levy

By CHARLES H. FEATHERSTONE Staff Writer

MOSES LAKE — Voters in the Moses Lake School District will get a chance on Aug. 3 to vote to continue the local levy to help fund district programs over the next three

Ballots were mailed Thursday to 31,031 voters in Grant County, according to a press release from the county's Elections Department.

The renewal levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 in assessed value remains unchanged from the current district levy and is set to begin in 2022 and last through the end of 2024. It is anticipated the levy will raise \$7.1 million in 2022.

See LEVY, Page A2

>> STATE

Red Apple Fire Home searched as possible origin. A2 >> NATION

Newspaper shooting Killer found criminally respondsible. A3

>> OUTDOORS

Record breaker

A Spokane man catches a huge tiger trout. A5

Basin Briefs.. A2 Classifieds ... C6

Crossword...C2 Horoscope...C2

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