

\$11 million 4-story residential building eyed for former hotel property

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — A construction company proposes building a four-floor mixed use residential building on the Nan-Ces-O-Wee Hotel property, with an estimated construction cost of \$9 million and

total development to be \$11 million.

The Sebring CRA, which owns the property at 139 N. Ridgewood Drive, issued a request for proposal (RFP) for the development of the old hotel property last month.

The CRA received two proposals for

the construction of multi-family housing on the parcel. The selection committee for this development opportunity met on March 25 and is recommending the proposal received from Construction Revolution for the board's approval at its meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday.

In its letter of interest, Construction Revolution Inc., of Sebring, states, "We are making Sebring/Highlands County our business home and for my family & many of our employees our actual homes. Our vision for this site is for it to become the

HOTEL | 4A



The Sebring CRA Board will consider Construction Revolution's proposal for the former Nan-Ces-O-Wee Hotel site. The company proposes the construction of a four-floor mixed-use residential building.

State's new cases of COVID still high at 7,121

By **KIM MOODY**
STAFF WRITER

Highlands County got another mixed bag as far as COVID numbers go on Friday when the Florida Department of Health released the daily coronavirus report. After coming off a good day on Thursday, where all the numbers were decreasing, the county saw an increase in new cases and more deaths but an increase in the positivity rate.

There was an increase of 30 new cases of infection. Friday's cumulative total was 7,848 cases of COVID. Residents make up 7,790 of those cases, while 88 non-residents make up the rest.

Two more deaths were reported overnight to bring the total deaths to 330 that have been attributed to COVID.

Testing went up considerably with 471 processed and 442 negative results. The positivity rate was 6.16%, which is the best it has been since March 26.

Hospitalizations has risen to a cumulative total of 627, or 8% of all cases. The Agency for Health Care Administration reported 24 people were being treated for COVID on Friday afternoon. Statewide, there were 3,008 being treated primarily for COVID in the same timeframe.

Long-term facilities have seen 690 cases of the virus. The county has had 86 deaths from residents or staff from long-term care facilities.

The daily median age was 48 with an overall median age of 52 years old.

The Highlands County Board of County Commission is providing Moderna vaccines to those 18 years and older in the former JC Penney store at Lakeshore Mall on Wednesdays through Saturdays. The HCBoCC schedule is as follows:

Appointments only for first and second dose from 8-11 a.m.

Walk-ins for first dose from 1-4 p.m. subject to daily availability

Walk-ins for second dose from 1-3 p.m. subject to daily availability

For first doses, use the entrance closest to Planet Fitness. For second doses, use the entrance closest to the former Kmart store.

Eligible individuals may register for an appointment by calling toll-free at 866-200-3858 or by visiting myvaccine.fl.gov.

Those who received their first inoculations from the federally supported (FEMA) point of distribution at the Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center can get their second shot 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 12-13.

Florida added 7,121 new cases of coronavirus, which is a bit better than Thursday. The cumulative cases of infection of Friday was 2,111,807. The cases can be divided by 2,072,053 residents and 39,754 non-residents who have contracted the virus.

With 62 new deaths reported overnight, the death toll has reached 34,626 people whose deaths are due to COVID.

There were 107,653 tests processed across the state with 100,642 negative results. The positivity rate for Friday was 6.51%.

Florida saw an increase of 302 cases of the U.K. variant (B.1.1.7), raising the state to 3,494 cases out of the 19,554 seen in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Michigan has seen 2,262

CASES | 4A



KIM MOODY/STAFF

Family members were in attendance as Mostyn Mullins was given the Congressional MVP Award for the month. They are: front left, niece and nephew Brilyn and Prestyn Mullins. In the back from the left are mother-in-law Barbara Cooper, wife Tammy Mullins, mother Donna Mullins, Sgt. Mostyn Mullins and Congressman Greg Steube.

Mullins receives Congressional MVP Award

By **KIM MOODY**
STAFF WRITER

LAKE PLACID — Once again proving that all superheroes don't wear capes, Lake Placid Police Department's Sgt. Mostyn Mullins was recognized for his efforts in the community, both on and off the clock. Congressman Greg Steube presented Mullins with April's Congressional MVP Award for Florida's 17th District on Thursday afternoon at the Lake Placid Government Center.

Among friends, family and co-workers, Mayor John Holbrook introduced Steube. Steube gave Mullins a folded United States flag that was flown over the Capitol building as well as a certificate from the Congressman's office. A plaque will be given to Mullins but was not ready before the ceremony took place.

Tammy Mullins, Mostyn's wife of over 30 years, nominated him for all of the selfless acts he does for those in the community as a police officer but also as someone who is willing to help anyone out without any expectation of recognition. In fact, she said he is very humble and never does anything to be in the spotlight.

Steube said that within the nine counties he represents, there are a lot of people who are nominated for the monthly award. To be picked from all the other candidates is, indeed, a great honor. He said the community was safer because of Sgt. Mullins.

"Sgt. Mullins' influence can be felt throughout our community and the area in the lives of our children. For years, he has ensured that child safety is a top priority for Highlands



KIM MOODY/STAFF

Mayor John Holbrook, on left, seemed proud to be a part of the ceremony naming Sgt. Mostyn Mullins as April's Congressional MVP for District 17 on Thursday. Others pictured are, from left: Sgt. Mostyn Mullins, Congressman Greg Steube and LPPD Chief James Fansler.

County," Steube said in the ceremony.

Besides being a sergeant and code enforcement officer for LPPD, Mullins is the only Certified Child Safety Instructor in Highlands County. Mullins attended 120 hours worth of classes on his free time to become certified. He is an organizer for the Bike Rodeos where he is a Certified Bicycle Helmet Fitter. He has given away some 750 bike helmets, but who's counting? Mullins has given away dozens of bicycles to local children and youth. Steube told Mullins that he wanted to know what a Bike Rodeo was.

Mullins' concern for children's safety can also be seen as a Child Passenger Safety Instructor. Over the past six years, Mullins has given away 820 car seats to families in need. He instructs parents and caregivers at hospitals on the proper use of car seats when newborns are discharged.

In his efforts to promote community safety, he is a member of the Child Abduction Response Team and a voting member on the Children's Services Council of Highlands County.

He also talks to children in schools and churches about bullying. Beyond keeping children safe, Mullins is a woman's self defense instructor.

"Sergeant Mullins has dedicated his career to keeping our community safe through the Lake Placid Police Department and has gone the extra mile to ensure that children in our community are protected through his work as a Child Safety Instructor," Steube said. "From instructing local caregivers on how to transport children safely in vehicles to teaching kids how to ride a bike, our community is blessed to have such an outstanding individual, and I am honored to

AWARD | 4A

SUV overturns in morning crash

Collision sends driver, passenger to hospital

By **PHIL ATTINGER**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Friday saw yet another violent crash on U.S. 27 in a week of violent crashes.

Both the driver and passenger from a small blue SUV survived getting overturned, but were transported to a local hospital

for treatment. Their car and a small white delivery car collided at the intersection in front of Alan Jay Ford in Sebring.

The incident happened at 9:15 a.m. Sebring and Highlands County firefighters had to extricate the driver and passenger, who

CRASH | 4A



KEN ANDERSON/STAFF

Sebring police gather information off a small overturned SUV Friday morning on U.S. 27 outside the entrance of Alan Jay Ford. Two patients were extricated from the SUV and sent to local hospitals. The driver of the smaller car refused transport.



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Good morning To
Raymond Chadwick
Thanks for reading!

