

AdventHealth doctors urge COVID vaccines ahead of school

By KIM MOODY
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Parents and students are getting ready for Aug. 10, the first day of school in Highlands County. There are many preparations this time of year, such as buying school supplies and shopping for clothes.

In addition, there are school physicals and immunizations to obtain.

Schools in Highlands County have not mandated the COVID vaccines to enter into the 2021-2022 school year. Masks are optional as well for students and staff on campus or school buses. "We will continue to

work closely with the Florida Department of Health, Highlands County, to monitor any changes with regard to COVID-19 in our state and county," the school board's John Varady said.

Doctors from AdventHealth "strongly recommended" parents to consider COVID-19

for those 12 and older in a Thursday morning briefing.

"Vaccinations for faculty, staff and students is a personal choice and is not required by the district," Varady said. "If however, a student or staff member is identified



NAM Y. HUH/AP FILE PHOTO

In this June 11, 2021, file photo, healthcare workers administer a dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to students during a vaccination clinic hosted by Jewel Osco in Wheeling, Ill.

VACCINES | 4A



MARC VALERO/STAFF

The Sebring City Council will discuss the possible relocation of City Hall at its meeting today at 5:30 p.m.

Sebring City Council to discuss City Hall today

By MARC VALERO
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — The City Council will discuss today if it still has interest in relocating City Hall although no one has shown interest in purchasing the present facility.

The city has been considering a move to the former Wachovia Bank building on North Ridgewood Drive, which is owned by the Sebring Community Redevelopment Agency. The CRA purchased the building and the entire block in February 2019 for \$325,000.

In March, the City Council considered a proposal for the phase 1/design part of the renovation project at a cost of \$68,563, which would have provided a good estimate of the cost to renovate the building. But, council decided not to spend the money for design work before seeing if there was any interest from potential buyers to purchase the current City Hall property on South Commerce Avenue.

The city received no responses by the June 14 deadline, when it advertised for letters of interest from potential buyers.

The City Council was seeking to spend up to \$2 million for renovating the three-story former bank building.

City Council President Curt Ivy said Monday, "Perhaps we should investigate building a new City Hall on the existing property. Probably after these construction materials come back to more reasonable prices.

"That way we could design the building to our specific needs. Of course, everything depends on funding. I am sure the council and city administration will be working on a solution."

Mayor John Shoop believes relocating the City Hall to the former bank building on Ridgewood Drive would provide an economic boost to the community and fill up a big building.

A few of the council members think it is a good move, he said. "If we made the decision to do that and then put the building [current City Hall] up for sale, it may be a little backwards from what some of the council wants, but it is more of a formal way to do it."

It is a question of what comes first – sell the building and develop or develop and then sell the building, Shoop said.

"You have got to have confidence in what you are doing and I really think it would help that side of town and just get people downtown and have a lot of activity and it is right between our our fire station, water department and police station so everybody is kind of in one area then, which is kind of a neat thing."

COUNCIL | 4A

Cheerful helpers

AP students take their spirit of helping to West Virginia

By MARC VALERO
STAFF WRITER

AVON PARK — A group of students from Avon Park spent a week of giving – 900 miles away – as volunteers in the nationwide World Changers project that helps those in need, including senior citizens and the disabled.

The effort numbered 20 from the City of Charm, including middle school through college students, and chaperones from First Baptist Church of Avon Park.

They were part of more than 200 World Changer volunteers from across the U.S. who performed home repairs in Huntington, West Virginia.

One volunteer of the Avon Park crew was Amy Schlosser, who is now attending Montreat College in North Carolina. She is studying pre-med and is now applying to medical school.

Schlosser's crew put a new roof on a house, while the other crews had worked on different projects such as painting, putting up siding, building decks and wheelchair ramps and working with other churches in the area.

The weather was great with only one day of rain, which was Wednesday, but they were only scheduled for a half day of work on that day so they could explore the area, she said. "So we were pretty blessed," for only missing a half day due to the weather.

Schlosser said this was her eighth year on a World Changer mission, but she had never been to this location before.

The volunteers were housed at an old elementary school. The school district had built a new elementary school, so volunteers were in the old building, she said.

They were spreading the Gospel while meeting the physical needs, that is why they were there, Schlosser said.

Since 1990, World Changers has existed to provide meaningful mission experiences for student ministries throughout North America.

Formerly under LifeWay Christian Resources, World Changers is now an independently owned non-profit organization.

According to World Changers, a group of experienced coordinators could not bear to see such a powerful ministry ending. So, they worked together to secure the rights from LifeWay to continue the World Changers name and operation. Under a new group of leaders, World Changers will carry on with the same passion to create meaningful missions experiences in the lives of students.



COURTESY PHOTO

A group of volunteers from First Baptist Church of Avon Park put a new roof on a home in Huntington, West Virginia recently as part of the World Changers project.



COURTESY PHOTO

A group from First Baptist Church of Avon Park spent a week recently in Huntington, West Virginia as part of the World Changers project, which helps senior citizens and the disabled.



Classifieds.....B4-6 Obituaries.....A4
Comics.....B7-10 Sports.....B1
Lottery.....A2 TV Listings.....A9

Viewpoints.....A6
Weather.....A10

Good morning To
Fred Arbelo
Thanks for reading!

