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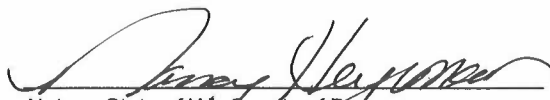
STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF BROWN

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared, said legal clerk, who on oath says that he is a legal clerk Manager of the St. Lucie News-Tribune, a daily newspaper published at Fort Pierce in St. Lucie County, Florida: that the attached copy of advertisement was published in the St. Lucie News-Tribune in the following issues below. Affiant further says that the said St Lucie News-Tribune is a newspaper published in Fort Pierce, in said St. Lucie County, Florida, and that said newspaper has heretofore been continuously published in said St. Lucie County, Florida, daily and distributed in St. Lucie County, Florida, for a period of one year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement ; and affiant further says that she has neither paid or promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in the said newspaper. The St. Lucie News-Tribune has been entered as Periodical Matter at the Post Offices in Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County, Florida and has been for a period of one year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement.

12/18/2022; 12/25/2022



Subscribed and sworn to before on the 25th of December 2022



Notary, State of WI, County of Brown
My commission expires: 5-15-23

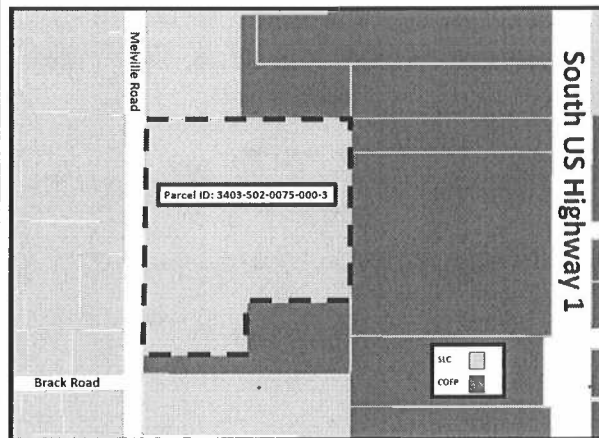
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Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

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ORDINANCE NO. 23-004 - AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, TO INCLUDE ONE (1) PARCEL GENERALLY LOCATED AT OR NEAR THE EAST SIDE OF MELVILLE ROAD AND APPROXIMATELY 1400 FEET SOUTH OF WEST MIDWAY ROAD IN FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA AND SHOWN ON EXHIBIT A; DIRECTING THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER TO ASSESS SAID PROPERTY AND PLACE IT ON THE CITY TAX ROLLS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2024; DIRECTING THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR TO COLLECT TAXES ON THE HEREIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY; ESTABLISHING THE ZONING DESIGNATION; ESTABLISHING THE LAND USE DESIGNATION; DIRECTING FILING OF THE ORDINANCE WITH THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY; DIRECTING REVISION OF THE CHARTER BOUNDARY ARTICLE TO BE FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



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In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (772) 467-3065 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

/s/ Linda W. Cox
City Clerk

Publish: 12/18/2022 and 12/25/2022

Tourists returning to Bethlehem

Business rebounds from COVID despite fighting

Sam Mcneil
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BETHLEHEM, West Bank — Business is bouncing back in Bethlehem after two years in the doldrums during the coronavirus pandemic, lifting spirits in the traditional birthplace of Jesus ahead of the Christmas holiday.

Streets are bustling with tour groups. Hotels are fully booked, and months of deadly Israeli-Palestinian fighting appears to be having little effect on the vital tourism industry.

Elias Arja, head of the Bethlehem hotel association, said that tourists are hungry to visit the Holy Land's religious sites after suffering through lockdowns and travel restrictions in recent years. He expects the rebound to continue into next year.

"We expect that 2023 will be booming and business will be excellent because the whole world, and Christian religious tourists especially, they all want to return to the Holy Land," said Arja, who owns the Bethlehem Hotel.

On a recent day, dozens of groups from virtually every continent posed for selfies in front of the Church of the Nativity, built on the grotto where Christians believe Jesus was born. A giant Christmas tree sparked in the adjacent Manger Square, and tourists packed into shops to buy olive wood crosses and other souvenirs.

Christmas is normally peak season for tourism in Bethlehem, located in the Israeli-occupied West Bank just a few miles southeast of Jerusalem. In pre-pandemic times, thousands of pilgrims and tourists from around the world came to celebrate.

But those numbers plummeted during the pandemic. Although tourism hasn't fully recovered, the hordes of visitors are a welcome improvement and encouraging sign.

"The city became a city of ghosts," said Saliba Nissan, standing next to a manger scene about 4 feet wide inside the Bethlehem New Store, the olive wood factory he co-owns with his



An Ethiopian woman and her child visit the Church of the Nativity on Dec. 3 in the West Bank town of Bethlehem. Business in Bethlehem is looking up this Christmas as the traditional birthplace of Jesus recovers from the pandemic downturn. PHOTOS BY MAHMOUD ILLIAN/AP

brother. The shop was filled with Americans on a bus tour.

Since the Palestinians don't have their own airport, most international visitors come via Israel. The Israeli Tourism Ministry is expecting some 120,000 Christian tourists during the week of Christmas.

That compares to its all-time high of about 150,000 visitors in 2019, but is far better than last year, when the country's skies were closed to most international visitors. As it has done in the past, the ministry plans to offer special shuttle buses between Jerusalem and Bethlehem on Christmas Eve to help visitors go back and forth.

"God willing, we will go back this year to where things were before the coronavirus, and be even better," said Bethlehem's mayor, Hanna Hanania. He said about 15,000 people attended

the recent lighting of Bethlehem's Christmas tree, and that international delegations, artists and singers are all expected to participate in celebrations.

"Recovery has begun significantly," he said, though he said the recent violence, and Israel's ongoing occupation of the West Bank, always have some influence on tourism.

Israel captured the West Bank in 1967. The internationally recognized Palestinian Authority has limited autonomy in parts of the territory, including Bethlehem.

The Christmas season comes at the end of a bloody year in the Holy Land. Some 150 Palestinians and 31 Israelis have been killed in Israeli-Palestinian fighting in the West Bank and east Jerusalem this year, according to official figures, making 2022 the deadliest year since 2006. Israel says most of the Pal-

estinians killed were militants, but stone-throwing youths and some people not involved in the violence have also been killed.

Bassem Giacaman, the third-generation owner of the Blessing Gift Shop, founded in 1925 by his grandfather, said the pandemic was far more devastating to his business than violence and political tensions.

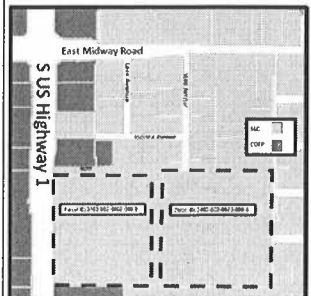
Covered in sawdust from carving olive-wood figurines, jewelry and religious symbols, he said it will take him years to recover. He once had 10 people working for him. Today, he employs half that number, sometimes less, depending on demand.

"The political (situation) does affect, but nothing major," Giacaman said. "We've had it for 60-70 years, and it goes on for a month, then it stops, and tourists come back again."

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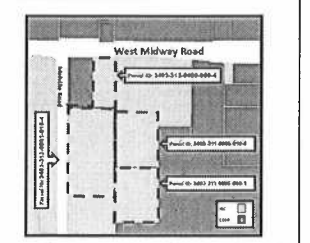
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By: Linda W. Cox
City Clerk
Publish: 12/18/2022 and 12/25/2022

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ORDINANCE NO. 23-003 - AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, TO INCLUDE FOUR (4) PARCELS GENERALLY LOCATED AT OR NEAR THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF MELVILLE ROAD AND WEST MIDWAY ROAD IN FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA AND SHOWN ON EXHIBIT A; DIRECTING THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER TO ASSESS SAID PROPERTY AND PLACE IT ON THE CITY TAX ROLLS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2024; DIRECTING THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR TO COLLECT TAXES ON THE HEREIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY; ESTABLISHING THE ZONING DESIGNATION; ESTABLISHING THE LAND USE DESIGNATION; DIRECTING FILING OF THE ORDINANCE WITH THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY; DIRECTING REVISION OF THE CHARTER BOUNDARY ARTICLE TO BE FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND SUBMITTED TO THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HERewith; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



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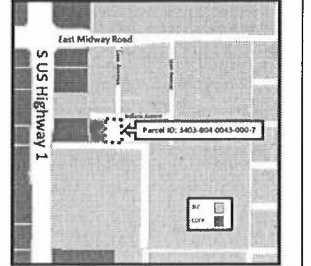
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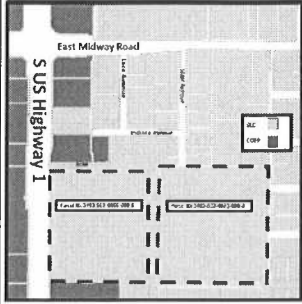
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Fontenay

Continued from Page 1A

Corwin even played himself on an episode of CSI: Miami, which is as good of an indicator of a person's fame as any in modern society.

So it was quite a coup when the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Conservation Initiative convinced Corwin to serve as keynote speaker at one of the group's events Dec. 7 at the Hobo Sound Golf Club.

The initiative's goal is to conserve, protect, and restore water resources in the Loxahatchee and St. Lucie rivers and the natural systems in Martin County, with a primary focus in the Atlantic Ridge ecosystem. Toward that end, people involved in the initiative have been working to acquire enough land to create a natural corridor between Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park and Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

The Dec. 7 event included the premiere of a new video narrated by Corwin that outlines some of the challenges Martin County is facing with regard to overdevelopment in previously untouched wilderness areas.

"You see, people from around the world come to experience the wild splendor of Martin County," Corwin says in the video, as frolicking dolphins, otters, and other wildlife scull onscreen. "Unfortunately, though, at this very moment, we face a new challenge threatening the survival of Martin County's natural heritage. A wave of new commercial and residential development threatens the last remaining intact wild habitat in this region.

"But the great news is that it is not too late, but only if we all work together. We are likely the last generation to determine if wild Florida survives for future generations."

In the video, which clocks in at just under three minutes, Corwin calls for the creation of a new community plan to allow "wild Florida and good business to prosper." He suggests striking a balance between the natural world and the human-built one is "just plain Florida commonsense" and a "win-win for nature and the business community."

Sure, many others have tried to spread that same message. But maybe having someone of Corwin's stature involved will make a difference.

Ecologist Greg Braun, a member of the initiative's steering committee, is hoping it will.

"Jeff's presentation at the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters was inspirational," Braun wrote in an email. "Sometimes, it seems that it takes great excursions to far-off places to experience the wonders of nature. But Jeff reinforced that we've got magnificent wildlife here in our own area, and that it is up to all of us to protect what is precious."

It's notable one of the other speakers at the Dec. 7 event was state Rep. John Snyder, R-Stuart. While I was rough on Snyder in the last column I wrote about him, criticizing the uncomfortably cozy relationship between his legislative work and his private business interests, it will take the involvement of people like him,



Jeff Corwin (right), pictured with representatives of the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Conservation Initiative. CONTRIBUTED BY LOXA-LUCIE HEADWATERS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

as well as other local, state and federal elected officials, to make meaningful changes in the way Florida's remaining wilderness areas are protected.

The initiative — a partnership between The Conservation Fund, Treasured Lands Foundation, and The Guardians of Martin County — plans to distribute the video through social media and other channels.

But it's likely not the last time we'll hear Corwin talking about the importance of protecting Florida's natural resources. He said he's been traveling the state "Johnny Applesceding" in his words — to lay the groundwork for a new show Hearst Media Production Group plans to debut on a "major network."

The program's objective, Corwin said, will be to allow people around the country "to experience the wild wonders only Florida has to offer."

Corwin said he's spent "hundreds, if not thousands" of hours filming at different locations throughout Florida. He said raising awareness is key to protecting the state's natural treasures.

"Florida, in many ways, is the poster child for the challenges we face in the 21st century," he said. "For as much (wildlife) is protected, we are losing exponentially. As development goes up, habitat goes down exponentially. We've got to find that balance."

Although he currently lives in Massachusetts, he's planning to relocate to Florida. Already, he said he's been spending quite a bit of his time in Hobo Sound.

Should it matter when high-profile figures like Corwin decide to champion worthy causes, like saving the proverbial golden goose that draws people to Florida in the first place? In a perfect world, maybe not. In the real world, absolutely.

We live in a celebrity-driven culture where model Ashley Graham's swimsuit photos or ESPN football analyst Robert Griffin III's use of a derogatory term can crowd out far more important stories in a news cycle.

If Corwin wants to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with those in the trenches of Florida's environmental battles, then more power to him. After getting tossed around by an elephant, taking on the state's powerful development interests seems like a logical next step.

This column reflects the opinion of Blake Fontenay. Contact him via email at blake.fontenay@tcpalm.com or at 772-232-5424.

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