

The Newport Daily News

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NEWPORT ♦ MIDDLETOWN ♦ PORTSMOUTH ♦ JAMESTOWN ♦ TIVERTON

Friday
January 22, 2010

ISLAND PEOPLE

Going with the flow

Crystal Spring Water executive is 80 and loves her job

By James J. Gillis
Daily News staff

BMIDDLETOWN
efore she got married and moved to Middletown in 1951, Jean Scott had never heard of bottled water.

Where she grew up in Nova Scotia, water came from taps, wells and reservoirs. "Did I think I'd spend the rest of my life working for a bottled water company?" Scott asked. "Never in a million years."

But every day she heads to the Crystal Spring Water Co., where she serves as treasurer, and puts in a good five or six hours. At 80, she could have retired years ago.

"I keep telling people that my retirement party will probably be the reception after my funeral," Scott said. "But I enjoy being here. It's busy, there are young people working. There's a lot of energy. Why wouldn't I want to work? Plus, they tell me I don't want to let go of the checkbook."

It's not as if there's a lot of travel between home and work. She lives in the house where she and her late hus-



Jacqueline Marque ♦ Daily News staff

At age 80, Jean Scott sees no reason to retire from her job as treasurer at Crystal Spring Water Co. in Middletown, where she has worked since 1951.

FLOW A8

PERSONAL FILE

Name: Jean Scott
Age: 80
Occupation: Treasurer, Crystal Spring Water Co.
Birthplace: Nova Scotia
Hometown: Middletown
Favorite book: Books about history.
Favorite TV show: 'I like the news and politics.'
Favorite movie: 'Anne of Green Gables.'

NEWPORT

Eastbourne developers, city settle zoning suit

By Sean Flynn
Daily News staff

About a week before the state Supreme Court was to hear arguments in the case, the city of Newport and the prospective developers of the Eastbourne Lodge property have settled a lawsuit concerning the nearly four-acre site bounded by Rhode Island Avenue, Kay Street, Champlin Street and Prairie Avenue.

Attorney Joseph J. Nicholson Jr., representing the city, and Attorney Jeffrey H. Gladstone, representing Rhode Island Core Investments LLC, were scheduled to appear before the Supreme Court on Jan. 27. But a court clerk said Wednesday that hearing in Providence will not take place because the attorneys have informed the court the case has been settled.

Neither attorney apparently is ready to share the details of that settlement with the public. Neither Nicholson nor Gladstone returned calls for comment on Wednesday or Thursday. When approached after a City Council meeting Wednesday night, Nicholson said he would not answer questions about the settlement.

Mayor Jeanne-Marie Napolitano said Nicholson is preparing a document for the City Council. None of the members has been informed of what was agreed to in the settlement, she said.

Superior Court Judge Edward C. Clifton ruled on July

30, 2008, that the council's rezoning of the neighborhood around Eastbourne Lodge in 2006 violated state law because it failed to conform to the city's comprehensive land-use plan. He ruled the ordinance "null and void."

The city appealed that decision to the state Supreme Court.

The legal dispute began in early 2006, when Core Investments proposed a subdivision that initially called for the construction of 12 duplexes on 12 new lots on the Eastbourne Lodge property. Currently there is one large building, a mansion converted into apartments, there. That building would remain on the 13th lot.

Neighbors passionately objected to the development plan and sought to protect the property's open space, trees and historic character. E. Sheldon Whitehouse and his wife, Mary M. Martin Whitehouse, grandparents of Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., owned the estate from 1933 until 1970.

The property was in an R-10 zone, requiring lots of at least 10,000 square feet. The zone allows duplexes, and Core Investments' subdivision and master plan, submitted to the city on Feb. 21, 2006, conformed to that zoning.

The City Council responded by passing an ordinance in April 2006 that put Eastbourne and five other properties in the area within a R-20 zone, requir-

EASTBOURNE A8

EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

Family struggles for survival in a land of the lost

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Ancelet Jean didn't have much before the earthquake: a concrete house in a slum with a carpentry shop out back.

Now he has almost nothing. He lives with his wife, six children—and thousands of other families—in the Haitian capital's central plaza, the Champs de Mars. They

INSIDE

◆ How to help. A8
◆ Haiti plans to relocate 400,000 homeless. A10

cook meals on the sidewalk and hang clothes to dry on the gates of the crumbled presidential palace. Their only shade comes from a green umbrella. "This is our home now," says his wife, Roselaine Dolce.

The family sleeps side by side for protection from thieves, among tents mostly populated by their homeless neighbors from the neighborhood known as Marche Solomon, a few blocks west.

Their Thursday began with first light around 6 a.m. in a sprawling plaza dotted with statues of Haiti's revolutionary heroes, by far the widest and one of the only open spaces in

"Only God can give what happened a name. But sometimes we call it 'the big truck that went by. The big truck of death.'"

ANCELOT JEAN
earthquake survivor

the severely overpopulated capital.

Roselaine's son from a previous marriage, 22-year-old Michel Lafleur, popped up from his cardboard mat and crossed the street to buy a cup of coffee for 5 gourdes—about 13 cents. Jean would have liked a cup as well, but there wasn't money for two, so he just washed his face and said his morning prayers.

In fact, that morning cup of joe would be the last thing anyone consumed by afternoon.

Miraculously, all the children survived: Besides Michel, there were Roselaine's adopted daughter, 16-year-old Cresna, and Jean's children Jonathan,

FAMILY A8



Jacqueline Marque ♦ Daily News staff

Jackson Pierce, left, an eighth-grader at Thompson Middle School, holds an anti-idling sign Wednesday in front of the Newport school. He is joined by fellow pollution patrol members Jeremiah Strother, second from left, a sixth-grader, and Korena Johnson, right, a seventh-grader. Michael Coates of Clean Water Action of Providence is with the students.

They're fuming about diesel

By James J. Gillis
Daily News staff

NEWPORT — Newport County ranks in the worst 20 percent of all United States counties in health problems connected to diesel pollution, according to the National Clean Air Task Force.

And a half-dozen Thompson Middle School students are doing their part to ease the problem. The students stood outside the school Wednesday afternoon holding signs that

'We love this earth. We don't want anything bad to happen to it.'

KORENA JOHNSON
Thompson Middle School seventh-grader

featured messages like "We Don't Want to Die."

Korena Johnson, a seventh-grader, jotted down the number of diesel-powered vehicles—such as buses and construction equipment—that

drove up and down Broadway in half-an-hour. "We love this earth," she said. "We don't want anything bad to happen to it."

The pollution patrol was part of an after-school program run by Clean Water Action of Providence. Campaign organizer Michael Coates ran the demonstration. "We want the kids to have an idea of how much diesel potentially goes into the air right outside their own

DIESEL A8

Jobless rate in state up to 12.9%

PROVIDENCE (AP)—After two months of slight improvement, Rhode Island's unemployment rate ticked up again in December to 12.9 percent, keeping it among the worst in the nation, the state Department of Labor and Training said today.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point from 12.7 percent in November after more than 1,100 people were added to the jobless rolls, the department said. The national jobless rate held steady in December at 10 percent.

The largest job losses in December came in manufacturing and professional and business services, both of which lost 700 jobs. Professional and business services include jobs such as landscaping and janitorial companies. About 500 jobs were lost in the restaurant business, the department said.

Rhode Island's unemployment rate has been in double digits since January 2009. It had the second-worst unemployment rate in the nation in November after Michigan.

COMING
this weekend
Some things you won't want to miss

LOCAL

TIVERTON REPRESENTATIVE talks about his political future.

SPORTS

LOCAL ATHLETE'S LIFE changes after concussions.

USA WEEKEND
Feel Better Longer
LUSH SKINCARE

WEATHER

24 Tonight, partly cloudy. Low around 24.

34 Saturday, sunny. High near 34.

Details, A8

Advice	B5
Classifieds	B8
Comics	B6
Live Music	A5
Local & State	A3
Movies	B7
Obituaries	A4
Opinion	A9
Police & Fire	A4
Sports	B1



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Jacqueline Marque ♦ Daily News staff

Thompson Middle School fifth-grader Tyler Blake hands out fliers about diesel pollution Wednesday in front of the school on Broadway in Newport.

Diesel

Continued from A1

school," he said.

The ultimate goal, Coates said, is to require all vehicles to install devices that block pollution from emanating from them.

It's impossible for the students to be certain that all the passing vehicles they listed were diesel powered, he acknowledged. "But school buses, construction vehicles are always a good bet," he said. "We can't know for sure, unless we can open the hood and look inside."

Korena jotted down about 20 vehicles passing the middle school. During an earlier pollution patrol, the kids recorded 35.

They took their mission seriously, handing out brochures to anyone willing to receive one. A woman walking her dog urged the youngsters to "keep up the good work." A few pedestrians brushed by without looking at the kids.

Coates said diesel exhaust may cause asthma attacks, heart attacks and lung problems.

"There's a prediction that the world will end in 2012," said fifth-grader Tyler Blake. "We want it to last a lot longer than that."

After their demonstration, the students went inside the school to brainstorm an approach to further their message. Jackson Pierce, an eighth-

grader, liked the idea of an Internet chain mail, though Coates leaned toward a letter to the editor of the local newspaper.

"I usually find Internet chain mail kind of annoying," Coates said.

In any event, letter writing in some form is the next step. Jackson urged his friends to tone down the Armageddon aspects of any communication. "This is very serious," he said. "We don't want people to think we believe aliens are coming to earth to turn us all into mutants."

Send reporter James J. Gillis e-mail at Gillis@NewportRI.com.

Flow

Continued from A1

band, Harry "Bud" Scott, raised their son Ian and daughter Judy. It is located next to the water company on the old Gould Farm land, a spot once surrounded by neighboring farms but now dominated by commercial shopping strips.

"If I can handle my long commute, I suppose I'll keep working," she said with a laugh.

While bottled water was a fresh notion to Scott when she met her husband, competitors have flooded the country. Crystal Spring has been in the Scott family since 1927. The first testing for the water to go commercial took place in 1907, conducted by the aptly named William Swan. There was no Evian or Aquafina to worry about when Jean Scott joined the company more than a half century ago.

At the time, Crystal Spring sold large, glass containers of water to businesses in Middletown and Newport. When a water dealer in Portsmouth became sick and died, the Scotts took over his business, using their one truck. "Believe me, expanding into Portsmouth was a big deal," Scott said. "And then we went into Bristol. My goodness, when we drove over that

(Mount Hope) bridge, we thought we were the biggest thing going."

It might not be the biggest thing going, but Crystal Spring now has seven trucks making deliveries throughout Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. It draws its water from a spring behind the company's plant and bottles it inside.

Like most businesses, the 15-employee Crystal Spring has suffered in the recession. "We deliver to a lot of businesses, to offices," Ian Scott said. "When those businesses go under or cut back, it hurts us, of course. But what goes down has to come up at some point."

Jean Scott bristles at complaints from environmentalists, who charge that empty plastic water bottles — usually the 20-ounce kind sold in convenience stores — end up in landfills. "What is the difference between bottled water and Coke, other than different ingredients and flavoring?" she asked. "You don't hear them complaining about plastic bottles of Coke. By Coke, I mean soft drinks."

Her son said the company is big on recycling. The 5-gallon containers that go to office buildings are returned, sanitized, refilled and sent back out on the trucks. "Once they finally wear out, we bring them to a recycling plant," Ian Scott said.

Jean Scott said she works because she wants to. Her husband died in 1996, and she wishes he could see the modernized version of his family business.

The two met in Nova Scotia, but it's a story she says is too long for the telling. "We both had different versions of it, too," she said.

As a girl, Scott thought of becoming a dietitian when she grew up. But running a bottled water company has suited her just fine. And she's never been defined by her work. She is a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who fulfilled a goal last summer of taking part in a weeklong archaeological dig in Nova Scotia, where her daughter now lives.

"And I'm active in my church (First Presbyterian on Broadway in Newport)," she said. "I think I'm living a full life."

Ian Scott, 54, jokingly says that his mother keeps the younger employees in line. She keeps an eye on the books and likes the energy of daily business.

"I don't have any idea why I'd want to retire at this point," she said. "I'm having too much fun. Maybe I'm too busy to retire."

Send reporter James J. Gillis e-mail at Gillis@NewportRI.com.

Eastbourne

Continued from A1

ing lots of at least 20,000 square feet and prohibiting duplexes.

David Pogorelc, president of Core Investments, said at the time his firm would file a legal challenge. "It's a violation of our civil rights and property rights," he said of the council's action.

When the council and the city's Planning Board were considering the ordinance, a report from the Department of Planning, Zoning and Inspections staff said the rezoning was "inconsistent" with the city's comprehensive plan. The plan's zoning map shows the six properties as R-10. The existing land use map and the future land use map show no zoning change was intended for the properties. "Under well-settled Rhode Island law, comprehensive plans

are commitments in the legal sense and all zoning ordinances, including all amendments, must conform to the comprehensive plan," Gladstone wrote in a nine-page legal brief filed with the state Supreme Court.

The future land use map marks the Eastbourne Lodge property as intended for "institutional use."

"There's an institutional use that's allowed in certain zones, but there is no institutional zone," Gladstone wrote.

Nicholson did not address the land use maps in the two-page brief he submitted to the Supreme Court. He did address the matter, though, in Superior Court, according to the transcript on file with the state's highest court.

"I'll concede the present land use map is inaccurate," Nicholson said. "I cannot concede that the future land use map is inaccurate."

He said an institutional use for the property could be something like St. Michael's School, which also is on Rhode Island Avenue, or a nonprofit organization. That would be an "optimum use" of the property, Nicholson told the court.

Since the 2006 re-zoning, Core Investments has won approval from city boards for a plan to build 12 single-family homes on 12 individual lots at the site. However, if the City Council's zoning amendment were to remain in force, the homes would be located on "non-conforming lots," since they would be on undersized lots. With the restoration of R-10 zoning by the courts, the homes would be located on lots that conform to the zoning.

Send reporter Sean Flynn e-mail at Flynn@NewportRI.com.

120 al-Qaida suspects arrested

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish police today rounded up 120 people suspected of links to the al-Qaida terror network in simultaneous pre-dawn raids in 16 provinces, the state-run Anatolia news agency reported.

It was not clear if today's detentions would amount to a major blow to homegrown Islamic militants allegedly affiliated with al-Qaida. Turkey has carried out similar raids against alleged al-Qaida suspects in the past year.

The arrests follows another raid on suspected militants in the cities Ankara and Adana last week in which police rounded up and inter-

rogated some 40 people and reportedly seized documents detailing al-Qaida activities. Twenty-five of them were charged with membership in a terrorist organization while the rest were released.

Those detained today include a faculty member of the Yuzuncu Yil University in the eastern city of Van, who is suspected of recruiting students at the campus and other people through the Internet and of sending them to Afghanistan for training. Anatolia reported, citing unnamed police officials. The suspect was identified by his initials M.E.Y. only.

CORRECTIONS

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Family

Continued from A1

14, and Clairemai, 11. The couple was also caring for 11-year-old Francia and 15-year-old Jenny, the orphaned children of Dolce's sister, who was killed with her husband when their house collapsed during a prayer meeting on the horrible afternoon of Jan. 12.

"Only God can give what happened a name. But sometimes we call it 'the big truck that went by,'" Jean says. "The big truck of death."

With no breakfast to be had, Dolce set about starting her wash for the day, in a plastic bucket filled with soap and water drawn from a fetid fountain nearby that was polluted with human waste. Most of the kids had only the clothes they were wearing when the earthquake struck.

For everyone else, there was not much to do but gossip and gawk. There was plenty to see. Some aftershocks hit, and bits of loose brick would fall off the smashed Haitian Army barracks, disused since exiled former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide disbanded the force in the 1990s.

"Jesus, Jesus," Dolce whispered each time the ground shook, closing her eyes and raising her palms.

To the left, U.S. soldiers from the 82nd Airborne were setting up a checkpoint to clear a route to the nearby General Hospital, and young men gathered by their armored Humvees in case the Americans decided to hand out something.

To the right, sleek gray U.S. Navy helicopters took off and landed on the lawn of the collapsed presidential palace as hundreds pressed against the green gates to look on.

Jean and Dolce would be happy to work, but they lost all their equipment and appliances in the quake.

She used to sell vegetable juice for \$1.25 a blender-full near the corner of Massillon Coicou and T. Brutus streets, not a great spot since the nearby medical school was the scene of constant rock and tear gas clashes between students and U.N. peacekeepers last year; but a decent business nonetheless. Her table and blender were destroyed when a wall fell on them during the quake.

As for Jean, he managed to salvage only a saw and sander from his workshop when the walls came down. That he made it out alive from the concrete warren where his broken five-room house sat is incredible enough, climbing out as buildings fell on friends around him.

He'd been putting the finishing touches on a cupboard he was going to sell for \$320 when the quake struck. He lost the \$143 in materials, plus the time he'd put in so far. For a family that is among the 50 percent of Haitians who get by on just \$1 a day, that meant financial ruin.

Ladies in a blue-tarp tent nearby were cooking beans and vegetables for about \$1.50, but that was far too much for the family budget. Jean waited instead for a carpenter friend to come by with a little cash, which he hoped would buy a can of rice, some salt fish, oil and a bouillon cube for Dolce to cook that evening.

As for the people in the nearby commercial district who were breaking into fallen stores to scrounge for food, Jean wants nothing to do with that.



Associated Press

Roselaine Dolce, left, is living with her family — and thousands of other homeless Haitians — in a makeshift camp at the Champs de Mars central plaza in Port-au-Prince, across from the National Palace.

"I don't take part in those things. It's only God who can judge what they are doing, but I would not go down that road," he says.

His stepson Michel used to jog on the Champs de Mars, but now it's too crowded with tents to exercise. His school, where he was studying computers, was destroyed and he doesn't think he speaks enough English to join the sudden rush for jobs with the soldiers and even more omnipresent foreign news crews. So he wanders around and gets a shoeshine.

Sixteen-year-old Cresna goes to her cousins' tent a short walk away to get the news on what's happened during and since the earthquake. She also likes reciting psalms. The others mill about, taking advantage of the hot, slow tranquility of day before the darkness and suspicion of the night.

Nobody likes living here. It's hot and it smells bad, the ground is hard and the helicopters are loud. But nobody seems to even be thinking about heading back to their houses, if they even still exist, and Jean doesn't want to go back to the street where they spent that first sleepless night either. Too cramped for eight.

"I think there could be another catastrophe. A lot of buildings are tilted and could fall any time," says Jean-Brice Astrel, a radio journalist whose station, 91.3 Tropic FM, was wiped out along with its administrative director in the quake. He sent his kids to the countryside and sleeps on a sheet in the plaza as well, collecting tidbits for stories he can't broadcast.

The U.S. and French governments plan to bring in food, latrines and tents for 600 families by next week, but with thousands of displaced families living here, those will only go so far. The Haitian government plans to relocate 400,000 now living in city camps to temporary housing on the outskirts of the capital, Fritz Longchamp, chief of staff to President Rene Preval, said Thursday.

"The Champ de Mars is no place for 1,000 or 10,000 people," Longchamp said. "They are going to be going to places where they will have at least some adequate facilities."

On Thursday, a local water truck pulled up and everyone ran to catch the plastic packets of water being chucked out for free. A U.S. soldier across the street put a big gun atop his Humvee and strapped on his helmet, eyeing the gathering crowd, but nothing happened and he sat back down.

The sun peaked high in the sky and the ground rumbled a bit.

"Jesus, Jesus," Dolce says. Her children surround her, and

TO HELP

The following organizations are providing assistance to those in need in earthquake-ravaged Haiti:

♦ The Newport Rotary Club is raising money to send seven shelter boxes, each of which will supply an extended family of up to 10 people with a tent and lifesaving equipment to use while they are displaced and homeless. Checks can be sent to the Newport Rotary Charitable Foundation, P.O. Box 164, Newport, RI 02840 with a notation in the lower left-hand corner saying 'Shelter Box.'

♦ The Newport Police Department is collecting items including toiletries, medical supplies, new undergarments, diapers, protein bars and Beanie Babies. Donations may be dropped into a box in the lobby of the police station at 120 Broadway. For more information, call Gwen, Katie or Liz at 847-1306.

♦ The Haitian Project Inc., an organization supported by St. Joseph's Church in Newport, accepts donations at P.O. Box 6891, Providence, RI 02940 or www.haitianproject.org/donate.

♦ The Haitian Health Foundation, an organization with ties to Aquidneck Island, accepts donations at www.haitianhealthfoundation.org.

♦ United Way accepts donations through liveunitedri.org; click on the link for the 'United Way Worldwide Disaster Fund.' Donations also can be mailed to United Way Worldwide, P.O. Box 630568, Baltimore, MD 21263-0568.

♦ The American Red Cross accepts donations at www.redcross.org.

the family rests together on a low wall.

"I want everyone to be courageous. This is something we have never gone through before, but we'd better get used to it," she says as another helicopter shakes the trees. "We are going to be here for a while."

WEATHER

COASTAL RHODE ISLAND

Tonight, partly cloudy. Low around 24.

Saturday, sunny. High near 34. Saturday night, increasing clouds. Low around 23.

MARINE

Tonight, north wind 10-15 knots with gusts to 25 knots. Waves around 2 feet.

Saturday, north wind 10-15 knots with gusts to 20 knots. Waves 1 foot or less. Saturday night, north wind around 5 knots. Waves 1 foot or less.

EXTENDED

Sunday, cloudy, afternoon rain possible. High near 43.

TIDES

Saturday's sunrise 7:05 a.m., sunset 4:51 p.m. High tides: 12:33 a.m., 1:03 p.m. Low tides: 6:21 a.m., 6:26 p.m.

Thursday's temperatures: high 43, low 27.

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