



Pictured is Tracy Tarr of GZA Environmental, conducting a water sample test at Thatcher Brook in Biddeford recently.

SUBMITTED HPHOTO

Public can make a difference with Thatcher Brook water quality

By DINA MENDROS
Staff Writer

BIDDEFORD — Thatcher Brook is a tributary of the Saco River. It begins west of Andrews Road in Biddeford and flows south across and along Route 111 into the Town of Arundel and then back in Biddeford.

The brook is nearly 8 miles; its watershed covers more than 4,500 acres reaching from I-95 to the Biddeford Municipal Airport. Last year, the Biddeford engineering department began an effort to create a watershed-based management plan of Thatcher Brook.

This was a result of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection listing Thatcher Brook as impaired in 2009 since it didn't meet water quality standards on sampling stations within the brook, according to a statement from the city.

The creation of the management plan is being funded with a \$60,000 grant from the DEP, as well as an equal match from Biddeford including funds and in-kind services from city departments.

"There has been testing in Thatcher Brook for decades," Jennie Franceschi, an engineer with the city's planning department. But more recently she said they noticed a general decline in the bugs.

Those bugs are aquatic insects known as macroinvertebrates, said city engineer Tom Milligan. "They are used as indicators of stream health," he said. In addition, there was a

finding of "elevated bacteria counts in certain points," said Franceschi.

"There was a lot of testing in the brook over the past year," she said. Now the plan is focusing on taking a survey within the watershed of where the problems are.

In some areas problems are a result of natural influences, such as stagnant pools of water, said Franceschi.

In those cases, she said, there may be nothing that can be done. However, there are other areas of the watershed that are impaired because of the impact by people.

Techniques can be developed to mitigate those problems, said Milligan. For instance, said Franceschi, problems occur when vegetation along the stream is removed, when paved surfaces and pipes speed water into the stream and when pollution is carried in the run off to the stream.

Residents can play an important role in improving the health of the watershed, said Franceschi. The city already held a kick-off meeting with stream abutters on July 18 to educate people about the plan and how they can make a difference.

Some of the actions people can take, said Franceschi, include: keep piles of grass clippings off their lawns; don't use fertilizer or pesticides or other chemicals on their property or use non-harmful ingredients if using those products

as the runoff from lawns and driveways can run off into the watershed. Picking up after pets and not dumping trash are also important to the watershed's health.

In addition to trying educate the public about what they can do to help the watershed, Franceschi said, the planning board is being proactive with new developers and with those already in the city who want to make site plan changes.

"We don't want a direct conduit from pavement into the resource," she said. So the board is "requiring developers to put in things to create a disconnect" like filtration systems or vegetative buffers.

Right now Thatcher Brook is not listed as an impaired by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said Franceschi.

"But we were warned it probably will be if there's a rewrite," she said.

"We said let's get ahead of it," said Franceschi, "so we as a community can chart our own destiny."

"Instead of having a plan forced on us, we can develop our own plan and do it cost-effectively" at a pace the city can afford, said Milligan.

If problems can be address so the brook doesn't become fully impaired, "We're looking at it as a potential success story," he said.

— Staff Writer Dina Mendros can be contacted at 282-1535, ext. 324 or dmendros@journaltribune.com.

Saco man indicted on sexual assault charge

From Staff Reports

ALFRED — A Saco man already on the sex offender registry was indicted at York County Superior Court earlier this week on sexual assault charges.

An indictment is not a finding of a guilt, but a determination that enough evidence exists for prosecution.

Arthur Grant, 43, was arrested on April 29

and charged with two counts of gross sexual assault, sexual abuse of a minor and two counts of furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Authorities say the 43-year-old Grant allegedly raped a teenage girl, who was 14 or 15 at the time, in Hollis.

Grant's profile appears on the state sex offender registry for an unlawful sexual contact conviction on a person under 14 in 1999.

Northern Maine potato fields backdrop for feature film

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — The filmmakers who won critical acclaim for their documentary focusing on the troop greeters at Bangor International Airport are again using Maine as a backdrop.

The first feature film by Aron Gaudet and Gita Pullapilly is set among the blue potato farms in Van Buren in northern Maine. "Beneath the Harvest Sky" focuses on two best friends coming of age, the challenges of life in rural America and the illegal drug trade between Maine and Canada.

It debuts Sunday at the Toronto Film Festival.

"We're showing what life is like up there. There are amazing farmers who're doing great things. They're passionate about their communities. But there's a serious problem of prescription drug dealing," said Gaudet, who with Pullapilly relocated from New York City to Maine to research, write the screenplay and make the film.

The husband-and-wife team previously collaborated on "The Way We Get By," a documentary that followed the trials and tribulations of a devoted group, including Gaudet's elderly mother, that made it a mission to thank troops whose aircraft make refueling stops at all hours in Bangor while returning from war or heading overseas.

That documentary about how the determined senior citizens found meaning in the simple act of showing kindness to military personnel ended up being a story of aging in America.

Following the success of the documentary, which aired nationally on PBS, others encouraged the couple to build on their success with another one. Instead, they had something else in mind.

Aron Gaudet saw a Facebook page featuring potato fields on which blue potatoes were being

grown, and he was drawn to the mix of wilderness, rolling hills, small towns and farms in northern Maine. He and Pullapilly began working on a script inspired by town of Van Buren near the Canadian border.

The film, featuring Aiden Gillen from "Game of Thrones" and "The Wire," focuses on two teenage friends against the backdrop of the annual fall potato harvest. One of them is saving money to buy a car to leave to look for opportunity elsewhere. The other is drawn into the drug trade with his father and uncle.

The movie features familiar scenes in northern Maine, including border crossings, sprawling farms, and heavy machinery used to harvest potatoes.

During the harvest, teenagers spend long hours on dusty harvesting equipment watching potatoes moving by on conveyors and tossing out rocks that are inadvertently picked up. "Those rocks and potatoes were a good metaphor for the kids who were living there. Are you going to get separated out and shipped out, or not?" he said.

The film is fiction but is based on edgy reality about drugs.

"As filmmakers and story tellers, we're not working for the Maine Tourism Board. Our job is to tell real stories that address social issues and about amazing people, and hopefully brings up issues that can be talked about. What makes great stories are people who overcome obstacles," Pullapilly said.

The couple, who traveled Friday to Toronto, hopes industry insiders who view the film Sunday night will select it for national distribution. Already, they've lined up sponsorship from the owner of potato chip company Terra Blue, which buys part of its potatoes from the LaJoie family that offered inspiration to the filmmakers.

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1. Survey conducted via telephone to 376 respondents, March 4–14, 2010, by Infogroup/ORC of Princeton, NJ.

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Time: 5:30 pm
Location: SBSI Operations Center (In front of Hampton Inn) 50 Industrial Park Rd. Saco, Maine
Host: Matthew Cyr Sr. Financial Advisor/Program Mgr, S & B Financial Services
Guest Speakers: Trish Regan, Vice President Prudential Annuities Ryan McKee Senior Vice President, Fidelity Investments
RSVP: Nicole Trottier-Rogers S & B Financial Services (207) 602-7373 Nicole.Trottier@ceterais.com



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BIDDEFORD AREA FORECAST

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TODAY



Pleasant with clouds and sun

▲ 77°

TONIGHT



Mostly cloudy

▼ 57°

SUNDAY



Mainly cloudy with a shower or two

▲ 72° ▼ 43°

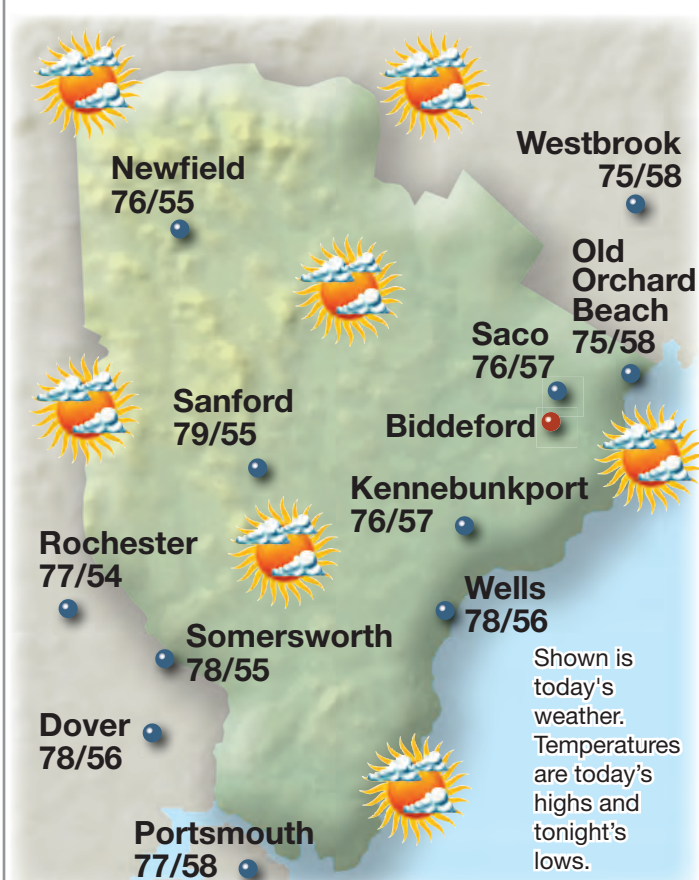
MONDAY



Mostly sunny

▲ 69° ▼ 47°

Today's Forecast



Tide Report

Kennebunkport:

Day	Time	High	Time	Low
Today	12:52 a.m.	9.3	6:59 a.m.	0.0
	1:11 p.m.	9.3	7:19 p.m.	-0.1
Sun.	1:31 a.m.	9.2	7:36 a.m.	0.0
	1:49 p.m.	9.5	8:01 p.m.	-0.2

Old Orchard Beach:

Day	Time	High	Time	Low
Today	12:36 a.m.	9.6	6:37 a.m.	0.0
	12:55 p.m.	9.6	6:57 p.m.	-0.1
Sun.	1:15 a.m.	9.5	7:14 a.m.	0.0
	1:33 p.m.	9.8	7:51 p.m.	-0.2

Marine Forecast

Eastport to Merrimac River
Wind southwest 10-20 knots today. Waves 2-4 feet. Visibility clear. Wind southwest 10-20 knots tonight. Waves 2-4 feet. Rather cloudy. Wind west 10-20 knots tomorrow. Waves 3-5 feet. Showers. Monday: Wind west 7-14 knots. Waves 1-3 feet. Visibility clear. Tuesday: Wind southwest 10-20 knots. Waves 3-5 feet. Visibility clear.

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