



The MAGAZINE of MAINE

Down East

NOVEMBER 2017

Big Brother Big Sister
The Inside Scoop

**Exclusive New
Lincolntonville
Store Interview**

The Secret Fix to
Maine Power
Outages

DID SOMEONE SAY COMMUNITY?

Camden Farmers Market

SATURDAY

May 13 to October 28

9am to 12 noon

WEDNESDAY

June 21 to September 27

3:30 to 6pm

**116 Washington Street
(Rt. 105)**

Camden Farmers Market, Since 1974. We have just moved our location to the new park near megunticook river, at the site of the old tannery! We hope you will stop by for the great food, and exotic goods!



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In the Mud

Her childhood was full of fun and friendship in coastal Maine. It was also amidst a mystery.

By Eden Zizza

Every time I imagine that day, my head fills with the sounds of seagulls and the smell of salt in the air. The water in a green shade, definitely not crystal clear, but just as enjoyable.

The first step into the water was always the hardest for us. The cold made us feel numb and the mud made us cringe. We of course, got use to it. After a while we didn't even feel the pulsing sting on our legs and jumped right in.

The coast of Maine was the ideal place to play in my young years. One summer my third grade best friend and I took the surf boards and paddled around the cove at my home. We never admitted it, but we were always jealous of our older siblings being allowed to man the rowboat. Nevertheless we always had fun and sometimes boat rides to the seaweed lined shore. As we paddled in the shallow ocean water, i spotted something yellow. Yellow? The only object that wasn't brown, grey or orange in hundreds of feet. We both stood up, sinking into the ground a bit, with water up to our waste. As the mud cleared it revealed a yellow rim of something. Curious, we tried to dig it out. The tide got lower and the water was only ankle deep, but we kept pushing and pulling and digging in the mud. We soon found a rope attached to the top of the object. It was covered with barnacles and intertwined with seaweed. By the time we were almost out of energy it had become a four by two yellow rim. We called over our siblings and were determined. I grabbed one end, and my companion tried to push from the other, but there was no luck. This object was suctioned into the sand and our eight year old bodies were not strong enough to pull it out. We got the "Big" kids involved and there was still no use. Frustrated, we gave up.

Almost every summer after that, at low tide we would see the yellow rimmed object buried in the mud. It became sort of an inside joke between the

four of us. Every year not strong enough to pull it out. Some days, we never felt the need to try. A few moments we would swim or kayak over it then one of us would stop the other and bring up the memories and the questions. As I became older and my third grade friend became my seventh grade friend, and the object remained still. It had been a few summer forgetting all about the inquiry itself. Not soon after we found ourselves in the same place we were four years prior: Looking down through the shallow murky water at this "thing". The memories arose in our mind and we became as determined as ever to get this out of the water and see what it was. We pulled and pushed and dragged. We took the occasional fall backwards into the mud. But we always got up, and made sure the other one of us got just as dirty as we did.

Our hard work came to an end when we dragged the faded yellow sled onto the shore. We were not as happy with the discovery as we thought we would be. It felt relieving. But after having so many questions spinning in our heads, the discovery became underwhelming. Just an old tattered sled, made home by fish.

The two of us debated on what to do with the rundown sled. Bring it up to the house? Keep it on the beach? We didn't know. We did decide. We dragged the sled to the ocean and found the crevice, now full with water. It was almost like hiding a dead body. We were sad, and not sure if we should have done what we had done.

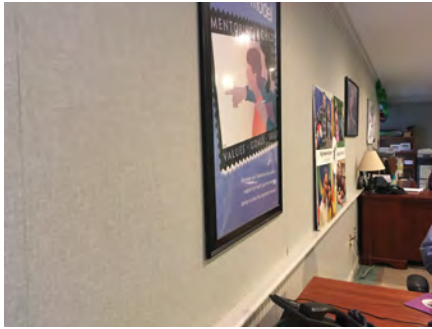
"We began to laugh."

On our knees in the mud, and our dimples in our cheeks. Shoveling muscles and seaweed onto the sled to make it look as it did before we had harmed it.

Our bodies tired, and our minds filled with closure. Our ears filled with the sounds of the soft tide, and the chatty seagulls. Mouths full of laughter and eyes blocked by our own wet and salty hair. The water was green, but enjoyable. And the mystery object sat in the mud, waiting.

Eden Zizza is 14 years old and lives in Rockport, Maine.

Part of the building



The logo for Big Brothers Big Sisters



Big Brothers Big Sisters

Kids always need someone to believe in them. Big Brothers Big Sisters has a goal of providing that for kids.

By: Bella Gallace

Big Brothers Big Sisters has been trying to match elementary school kids with caring high school students for over 100 years. They are trying to create a positive change in the community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has offices that are located in Androscoggin, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Penobscot, Somerset and Waldo counties. Camden is just one of the many offices Big Brothers Big Sisters has. They match elementary school children with high school students. The Bigs and the Littles meet once a week. Their effect on the children is unimaginable. They can learn life and social skills that stay with them for the rest of their lives.

High school students in Camden often walk the short distance from the high school to the elementary school. So they can see their little brother or sister eagerly waiting for them to arrive. Both with a smile on their face greet each other.

Big Brothers Big Sisters helps the children (Little's) by having a role model or

mentor. It can help give them the self confidence and social skills that they need.

says executive director Gwendolyn Hudson.

Big Brothers Big Sisters also teaches the Bigs leadership skills and it gives them a chance to make a difference in a child's life. "The Bigs learn mentoring skills, Leadership skills, and compassion" says Gwendolyn

**"We Hold Our Selves
Responsible for the Littles
achieving higher aspirations,
greater confidence and better
relationships."**

Hudson. The program can make a difference to in both the Big and the Littles lives.

Big Brothers Big Sisters also prevents children from entering the juvenile justice program and creates a positive financial impact. It costs \$80,000 to put a child in the juvenile justice program while Big Brothers Big Sisters has a cost of only \$1,000 to create

a match and costs nothing to participate. Big Brothers Big Sisters also has a positive impact on the kids and community.

In the school based program the matches meet once a week for an hour just to hang out or do activities they both enjoy. They can do crafts, art, play sports or board games, and many other things. Overall it is a bonding experience that will form lifelong friends. This program makes for better employees, healthier families, and stronger communities.

Big Brothers Big Sisters also matches adults with another child in their community. In the community based program the Bigs and Little's meet for a couple hours a week, whenever it works for them. Their activities are not scheduled so what they do is completely up to them. It does not have to be anything expensive at all, just something they do together and have fun.

Gwendolyn Hudson, who has been working at Big Brothers Big Sisters for over five years, arrives to her office in Camden every morning ready to continue making a difference in the community. Hudson has been working at big brothers big sisters for over five years. She just recently acquired the role of executive director and before she worked as the Human Resources director. Gwendolyn Hudson and her staff work together as a team to accomplish their goals of helping as many children as they possibly can.

Lisa Wilson, the school based coordinator, also comes into her office every morning eager to change the lives of many children. Lisa also works with new bigs or Littles to create new matches for schools in mid Maine.

The programs are focused on helping children who need it and providing them with guidance . They want to



Staff at Big Brothers Big Sisters

“encourage children to set higher goals (<http://www.bbbsmidmaine.org/program-impact/>)”. The one year commitment is very important for having a long term relationship with long term impacts. Big Brothers Big Sisters has on children like creating life changing experiences or memories. Both the child and the mentor can improve their responsibility and relationship skills. There are many long-term impacts of the program including providing them with self confidence and just having someone who believes in you and supports you as a priority. Having a Big can also inspire the Littles to have higher life goals and to dream higher.

Contact Information: (207) 236-2227

The Past and Present of the Lincolnville Center General Store

All Lincolnville residents are waiting for this historical building to open on October 27th.

By: Alley Johnson

The town of Lincolnville's small.

atmosphere causes both a cozy and also frustrating feel. The one gas station (Drake Corner Store) offers food, and on the opposite side of town there is the Beach Store that can be very undependable because of the limited hours. The town population reaches a measly 2500 and the tiny K-8 school teaches less students than an average middle school.

So, the town was over the moon when they heard that this tiny speck of a town's general store is getting re-opened by Briar and Jon Fishman. "It's just something I've always wanted to do," Fishman said. The Fishmans moved back and forth from Maine to Vermont until they eventually settled down in Lincolnville. They faced troubles opening the store because of remediation of the soil, getting clean water, and structural integrity (making sure the building didn't fall down).

Despite all those challenges, the Center Store's thrilling grand opening is on October 27th. Anyone who drove by in their car every day and got a glance of the construction will now see a finished store. "Getting ready to open, that's the most fun," Fishman said. The store will offer prepared foods for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, different types of groceries, pizza, beer, wine, and a limited space to gather. It will also offer pizza delivery after the store has been open for a bit.

The interview with Briar Fishman began on the top floor of the building. In the background the noise of many saws, nail guns, and hammers filled by air by workers trying hard to get the store open on time. It was easy to tell that Fishman was hard at work. A person came in at one point during the interview to talk to her about the opening, and then a teenage girl who came in



to get a job application form. Fishman took all this on with an energetic and positive attitude.

Bringing together the local community seems like a big part of the the store. Fishman says they use as many local and organic ingredients as they can, though not entirely for everything. All of the businesses they used were local too. Cold Mountain Builders, Midcoast Plumbing, Windsor Chairs, Headstrom Electric, Kelly Painting, Caprara, 1790 Lighting, and many local antique stores were places that they used. When asked what was one of the most fun things about opening, Fishman said, "Seeing how excited the community is."

The building, located in Lincolnville Center, has spent generations as a store. It closed down around 2006 because it required a significant amount of repairs that would make it able to be open year round. It lacked heating and insulation, plus electrical and water upgrades. But now, it's turning into a multi-functioning building with the first floor as the store, the basement as kitchen space, dishwashing, and storage, and the third floor as a private apartment and office space.

Lincolnville historian Diane O'Brien said that the store was originally owned by Nathan D. Ross and opened in the late 19th century. Sometime in the late 1920s or 1930s it was owned by a man named Scott Knight. Scott lived with his wife Eleanora in an apartment in the back of the store. They carried dozens and dozens of things. "During the Depression (1929-1940s) Scott Knight carried many people, meaning he let them charge their purchases until they were able to pay. People always remembered that kindness," said O'Brien. The store was then bought by Jessie and

Bill Warrington around 1980. Their daughter, Mary Lynch, took it over later and ran it until about 2006 when she closed it.

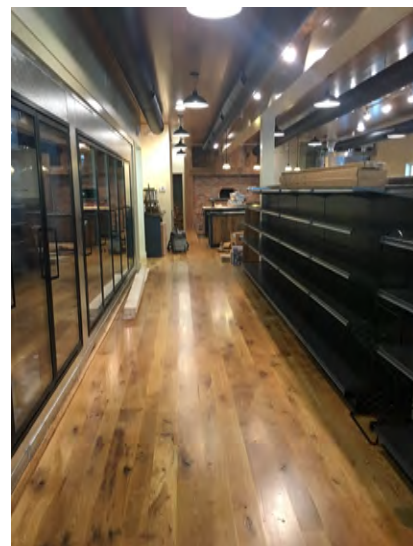
“Knowing [the Fishman’s] I know it’s gonna be a well done job,” says Parker Johnson. Johnson has been a Lincolnville resident for 34 years, and remembers the old Center Store. He grew up in Connecticut and moved here in his twenties. We sat across from each other in his kitchen. He, like Briar, does a lot of hard work. He is a construction worker and in his spare time is putting an addition on his house. “It was a real old time Maine kind of store,” Johnson says, thinking of what it used to be like. There used to be gas pumps outside of the store, and there aren’t anymore. They sold pizza, sandwiches, and shoppers could rent movies there. “I remember the nice young lady Marry who worked there. She had a big shaggy dog,” Johnson says. “It had a screen door that when you opened it up made a creaking noise, and you came in and let it go and it slammed shut.”

Just like Fishman, Johnson remembers the store was run-down looking. The steps lacked paint, and the inside wore lots of worn out wood. “I can picture it in my mind,” says Johnson. It’s been over ten years since the old store closed down. Long ago the Lincolnville Center Store was one of the many stores in Lincolnville, this includes the Bald Rock Market, Ray’s Market, and a market on Route 52.

Becky Johnson, Parker Johnson’s wife, also remembers the old store. “I moved to Lincolnville in 199,” that was 23 years ago. The interview took place in the same kitchen while Johnson was making dinner. She chopped up cabbage and lettuce as a slaw for fish tacos. “They had an old front porch that if I remember correctly was a little saggy. The whole thing seemed slightly dirty,” Johnson said with a laugh. “It was all a little grungy,” Johnson grew up in Rockport and attended the Camden Hills Regional High School. After school, she and her friends would go to the store. She would also go when she moved to Lincolnville. “It went through stages of having really good food. They were trying different things. I remember once they had all sorts of prepared salads,” Johnson said. When asked what she hoped to get out of the store, Johnson responded, “One thing I think is really cool about the new store is that the owners are working hard to make sure that everybody is involved in how the store will fit the community. They want to make sure the Center Store is not



Brick pizza oven located in the back and parts of the store still in construction



One of the aisles before being stocked



Parts of the store before being stocked

just a grocery store but a place for people to come and hang out, and have a cup of coffee. Maybe hear what's going on in town, meet friends, I think it will be really great for the kids at the Lincolnville school," the school is about a ten to fifteen minute walk down the road from the store. Students can go down there after school and get a snack, and possibly do homework.

People who live in Lincolnville Center are very excited for the store to open. Andrea Palise has lived in Lincolnville Center for seven years. She was never around to witness the old store and it is easy to tell that she is excited for it to open. "I can't wait to have options for good, local veggies yummy homemade foods," said Andrea. "I can't wait to just ride our bikes down or walk, if we don't get killed by speeders, to just get a little snack or whatnot." It is clear how contagious the excitement is between community members.

The building is on its way to becoming a great store. So far there are two window seats, lights hanging from every aisle, shelves, racks for refrigerated food, a brick pizza oven, a table with bar stools, many cubbies for selling goods, and of course the big sign on the front that has the name of the store. It looks sleek, exciting, and cozy.

It sounds like most of the Lincolnville community will be attending the Lincolnville Center General Store's grande opening on October 27th. With all the hard work that has been put into it, that is no surprise. Watching the store develop has made everyone quite eager. "I think it is going to be the hub of our little community with a family vibe for all of us to talk and gather," Andrea says.



A window seat located at the front of the store



Front of the store

Alley Johnson is 14 years old and lives in Lincolnville, Maine.

The Power is Shot

Explaining the Mystery of unexplained power outages. An who deals with them. The difficult industry, in which solutions are not easy, or viable.

By Cameron Hedstrom



View from Rockport, Maine.



Another view from Rockport, Maine.



A tree down on a line in Lincolnville, Maine.



p deep into America's northeast coast; in the deep dark winter months of the small state of Maine you may not know about who experiences the brunt of the blow, who holds back the Canadian ice caps, and Atlantic nor'easters that ravage through us with few dampened spirits, but hits you with grace, and you see emergency. Although, Coastal Maine, receives blessings in the form of the ocean heating the air like a giant protective wall of heat, but that blessing, is also a curse, and the wet air takes its place as its own kind of disaster. First, starting with the weak trees that love the moist air. Continually the frozen brisk air, through salty winds, tears apart our electrical grid. But the ocean isn't the only cause of this, and, the freezing winter air, and, brisk powerful winds make most saine Mainers shiver in anticipation of the frigid climate. Every year, to no exception the winter comes, dries up business, and creates problems for homeowners. Everyone has experienced this before. Maybe you're watching Tv, happily, and then bam, the lights flicker. You nod it off thinking it was a just a faulty bulb. Twenty minutes later the lights flicker again, and you half heartedly assure yourself that it's fine. Than Boom! Tv off. Lights off. In a split second of negligence you run to your wall and flick the lights back on, but then it dawns on you, It's gone, It's dark, and you have nothing. You fumble your way to the bathroom to find a couple of old candles, and a lantern with ever depleting battery. You station the candles in places of importance, and keep the yellowing lantern on you. You need assistance to regain the things you hold dear in life. Things! You flip through the guide to find yourself on hold with flustered

man from CMP, currently getting similar call from across the st. Everyone has had a similar story to this, and felt the fear that every Mainer has dealt with. You may not know what's happening on the other side of that call, and have a mission to find out. Who is the Flustered CMP worker contacting? Who else around you is experiencing this?

Spontaneous aid at that time is few, and far between. It takes selflessness to take your desperate call in the first place. Know it's down to prophenials of the trade to come and help you. CMP Can't handle a whole street on its own. They call local companies, and the biggest one is Hedstrom Electric. They begrudgingly form a team of cold prepared electricians, and role up with their bucket truck, fleet of vans and gloomy faces. They assure you it will be fixed by next morning. That's the story you know. I am going behind the scenes, into the rabbit hole, and I'm going to bring some information out the the pit of discovery.

Thomas Hedstrom: Local Electrician
Walking into the surprisingly big, brown, metal plated building, looking like a combination of a house, and a warehouse, with three massive garage doors, was an experience. The observing of the big green hedges like small castle walls, with little to no opacity through the greened mess. The big grey door swung with heft, but relative ease. Almost tripping, but pounding my foot down, catching my fall, to find a solid cement floor beneath me. The left side of the room contains a fitness center, holding all kinds of weights and equipment, but specifically on the bench press bar, looking past the mess of arm weights, weight vests, dumbbells, push up tools, boxing gloves, weighted gloves, and wrist weights. Clearly, a laborers level of personal fitness. Who is this guy? I look to my right to see a door lifted half a foot above

my current level. I slide open the big heavy white door. It has one of those brushes on the bottom that dragged on the cement floor, creating a loud noise, notifying him of my presence.

He Stood up and greeted me. His handshake was firm, and strong. He was around average height, but obviously very strong. He had short black hair, and few wrinkles. Although clearly older, he appeared youthful. He looked at me with vibrant blue eyes, that seemed worn and weakened. But the furrow in his brow showed his further persistence. I started, “so I’m here to talk about power outages in the winter, and what goes on behind the scenes. I was hoping to ask you some questions.” All I received was a simple nod. When asked about what goes on behind the scenes, And whether or not is it hard to get people to work in the cold, who does he collaborate with, and how?

He responded,

“The electric utility companies have working agreements. After big storms and power outages, they share equipment and line crews. We’ve worked with crews from NH restoring power in Camden.”

This shows the national need for these problems. The fact that we have had to call on New Hampshire for aid is very interesting. Apparently Maines system for power outages, and storm apprehension is collaborative with others.

“And our local utility has sent crews to New York, the other New England states, and even as far as Florida after storms, to help them restore power.”

In another way I can tell that, because of all the collaboration, and working together, Maine becomes a center pin for East Coast storms, and power outages. Places like New York, and Florida rely on the capability of

Maine’s preparedness, with government systems, and small to big private companies.

He specified what agreements the electric company’s, and utility’s have together.

“As far as I know, the utilities bill each other for the labor and equipment”

Based on the east coast collaboration leads me to believe entire US runs on a collaborative storm solution system, just in New England's particular situation, most big storms are based on cold weather.

When the subject of difficulty to get workers to get out there and work in the cold,

“Although it’s dangerous to work in extreme conditions, I haven’t heard any electricians or linemen complain. It seems like after a storm, there’s more of a sense of community to work together to get everything back to normal.”

This shows the work and persistence to be valuable. You should now see the vigorous experience that goes on behind your simple call. It’s a very community uniting situation.

People who live in wilderness houses in Maine have problems with shady power companies. Kathy Connors, a yearound camp owner, for 30 years says “Yes, the power company came and cut down many trees that they thought might fall on the power lines. Yes, the power company came and cut down many trees that they thought might fall on the power lines. I was also notified from an anomous source that they sold the lumber.” This is shady because the power companys did not look into this, and are out for their own gain. Clearly their is an inside story behind power companys taking advantage of people who live in the wilderness.

She also questiolned their logic of even taking down the trees in the first place

“The irony is that on sunny summer Sunday, a perfectly healthy tree fell on nearby wires, and we lost power. By cutting so many trees around this good tree, weakened the roots and caused it to fall. The trees were never cut like that in all the years I have lived there.” This is shady business, and should not be tolerated. The inside story behind this goes deep, and

this witness has proven the power company's viable for a real investigation, possibly from a law firm. Not a student.

“I think there’s something in human nature where we like to help each other out, and linemen and electricians know what they’re good at and how to help.”



All outlets don't work after a storm that shuts down power.

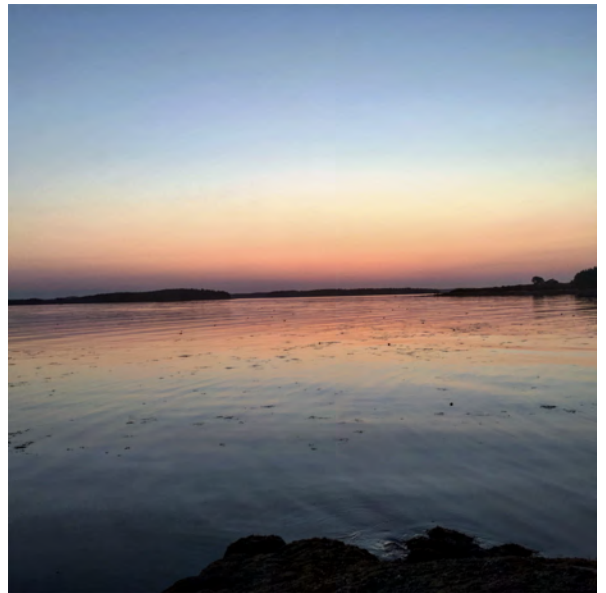
Cameron Hedstrom is 14 years old and lives in Camden, Maine.

Spectacular Scenic Sunsets

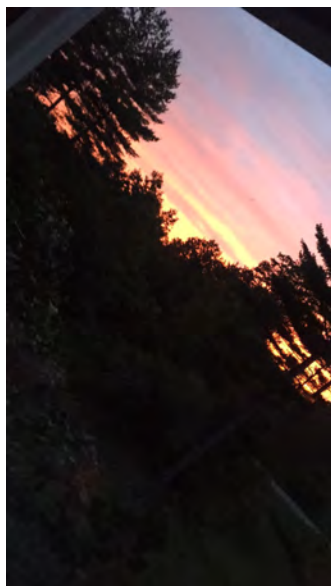
All the magnificent colors that light up the sky is one of the many things that makes Maine special. The explosions of orange, yellow, pink, blue, and many other colors are truly incredible. They encourage people to go outside and really appreciate what is around us. Whether it is seen from atop a mountain, a boat, a campsite, or in your own backyard, sunsets can be magical. It doesn't matter if was after a rain storm, or from a picture perfect day. These pictures are taken from Cushing to Islesboro, and most likely everyone will appreciate their beauty. Hopefully everyone can experience a few great sunsets in their lifetime, and maybe even snap a picture.



The bright colors illuminate Penobscot Bay from the top of Mount Battie in Camden Maine.
Taken by Cameron Hedstrom



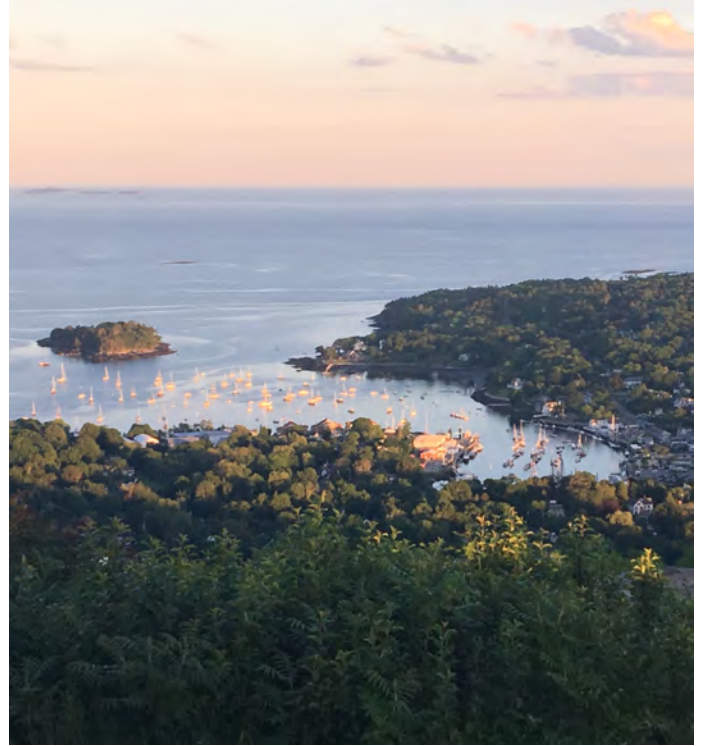
The beautiful colors reflect into the water on the coast of Friendship Maine.
Taken by Eden Zizza



The smooth strokes of pink, yellow, and blue explode in the sky in Rockport, Maine.
Taken by Bella Gallace



The sun sets after a recent rain storm in Islesboro, Maine.
Taken by Alley Johnson



The sun says its final goodbye after setting over Curtis Island and Penobscot bay.
Taken by Cameron Hedstrom

