

# Luminaries

June 26, 2023

Martin Co., St. Lucie Co., Indian River Co.

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## ST. LUCIE COUNTY

# St. Lucie students chart course to learning about local maritime industry

Michele March

Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation

FORT PIERCE – In February, the Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation, in collaboration with St. Lucie public schools, the City of Fort Pierce, maritime and marine industry representatives and the Fort Pierce Yacht Club, hosted and sponsored Chart Your Course, a maritime and marine industry career expo for 100 students from grades eight through 11.

The event took on Feb. 23 place at the Fort Pierce Yacht Club, Fort Pierce River Walk Center and the demonstrations were held in the adjoining open space between the two venues.

City of Fort Pierce Mayor Linda Hudson and City Manager, Nick Mimms, along with FPYC Commodore Forest Blanton, welcomed students as they arrived at both venues, the Fort Pierce Yacht Club and the River Walk Center. Facility/Program Specialist at City of Fort Pierce Michelle Kubichek and Strategic Planning Specialist at City of Fort Pierce Joyce Kobbe provided a gracious welcome at the Riverwalk Center.

Chart Your Course is a collaborative effort of many individuals who generously shared their knowledge and skills in specific fields, exhibited enthusiasm and a positive attitude toward this event. Diane Korbey, past chairperson of the Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation, provided the vision for and overall management of the event.

"We are all excited and eager to be part of this undertaking and see the Fort Pierce Yacht Club and its Foundation as part of the solution of furthering the future of the marine and maritime industry on the Treasure Coast," said Korbey.

All the students received a booklet created for this event called Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes as a resource for them to continue their exploration of the industry and what it takes for them to be a part of it.

"We hope the students had lots of op-



St. Lucie public school students learn about careers in the surveying industry with industry representatives from SurvTech Solutions. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY FORT PIERCE YACHT CLUB FOUNDATION/MICHELE MARCH

St. Lucie public school students practice casting hookless fishing poles with instruction by Captain Bo Samuels from Pullin Drag Charters.

portunities to learn about potential careers in the maritime industry, marine industry, and environmental science related fields," said Robynn Holland, chairman of the Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation. "Our intent was to introduce students to various career opportunities in these fields and further to motivate them to select relevant curriculums over the next one to four years, which will build the skills necessary to be the next industry participants."

Students from Centennial High, Central High, Forest Grove Middle, and McCarty Middle Schools were intro-

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St. Lucie public school students with a representative from the Treasure Coast Youth Sailing Foundation, Inc. were hands-on with rigging the sailboat. PROVIDED BY FORT PIERCE YACHT CLUB FOUNDATION/MICHELE MARCH

## Maritime

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duced to twenty-five plus professionals who discussed their careers in the trades and sciences. The students enjoyed viewing a tugboat and a sailboat, casting fishing lines, tying knots on dock cleats, watching a water surveillance drone fly overhead, and viewing many other demonstrations including those of coastal restoration and aquaculture.

Moderated by Ed Killer, columnist for TCPalm and the St. Lucie News Tribune, a panel of industry professionals

discussed a typical day in their industry, how they got their jobs including skills and qualifications necessary for an entry level job, best part of the job, information about competition in the field and answered questions posed by the students.

The panel consisted of Jim Dragseth from Shearwater Marine Florida; Chris Caldwell from Capt. Chris Yacht Services; Richard Ross, President, Longshoreman Union; Petty Officer Snyder from the United States Coast Guard; and Richard King from UESI, Underwater Engineering Services, Inc.

To learn more about the Fort Pierce Yacht Club Foundation, visit [www.fort-pierceyachtclub.com](http://www.fort-pierceyachtclub.com).

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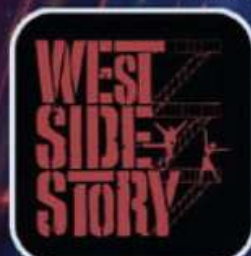
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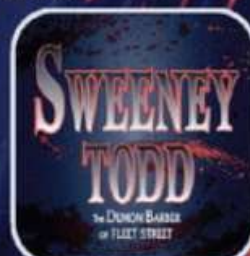
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