

Career opportunities come knocking at DISHS

Project Launch, Guidance Department host career fair

DEER ISLE—Project Launch introduced dozens of middle- and high-school students to potential careers at a job fair featuring local presenters in the Deer Isle-Stonington High School gym on September 23. The careers ranged from acting to yoga, health care to the Haystack Fab Lab.

Pat Shepard talked to kids about a career in marine biology. As the collaborative research specialist for the Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, he brought along gear like headsets and a life raft—some of the tools of the marine biologist's trade.

Cheryl Wixson, owner of Rabbit Hill Farm, talked to kids about marketing food products and working in the culinary field. Brian Duke described how his commercial driver's license got him into plumbing and propane delivery at Elmer B. Eaton & Son.

Linda Nelson had some advice useful for many Mainers: How to wear many hats. Nelson works for Stonington as economic development director, for herself as a journalist and for nonprofits as a consultant.

Project Launch and the DISHS Guidance Department sponsored the career fair. They plan to hold another one in May, according to Kim Hutchinson,



Project Launch's executive director. The spring fair will also offer seasonal job opportunities for students, including college students home for the summer.

Other presenters included: James Rutter at the Haystack Fab Lab; Chris Joyce, electrician; Thomas McGuire,

marine electrician for McGuire's Mobile Marine Electric; Liz Leuthner, yoga instructor and small business entrepreneur, Deer Isle Yoga; Farrell Rupert and Brock Eaton, arborists; Morgan Eaton, real estate, The Island Agency; Cassandra Shepard, daycare, Snappers; René Colson Hudson and Jen Spofford, Healthy Island Project; Jenn Adams, acting, Opera House Arts; Julia Trundy, overview of medical professions; Walker Thomas, National Guard; Tim Cormier, warden, Marine Patrol; Leslie Landrigan,

PHOTOS BY LESLIE LANDRIGAN
Clockwise from above left: Marine Patrol Officer Tim Cormier chats with Ashton Larrabee about a career working on the water. Walker Thomas, in the background, talks to kids interested in a National Guard career; Broc Eaton demonstrates why an arborist career isn't for people afraid of heights; Chris Joyce brought along some electrical parts to help explain some of the techniques electricians use; Brian Duke tries to interest students in a career that's much needed on the island—plumbing.

reporter, Penobscot Bay Press.

Project Launch

Project Launch for a decade has helped DISHS students and their families make a successful transition from high school to postsecondary education. According to Hutchinson, well over half of Project Launch's students come from first-generation college-bound families. The program has had measurable success keeping students in college and graduating.

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MILITIAS: The militia movement in the US consists mainly of white men in their late 20s and early 30s who have an inaccurate nostalgic reverence for what they imagine as an ideal earlier America. This vision of an earlier America only marginally includes Black people, immigrants (especially Latinos or those of color) or Native Americans. Militia members generally do not believe that non-whites are biologically inferior, but they do believe that they are culturally inferior.

Militias run the gamut from "grown-up Boy Scouts" to advocates of white supremacy and angry men plotting violence against government officials, from a Constitutionalist wing to a millenarian wing. The Constitutionlists advocate an interpretation of the Constitution emphasizing personal responsibility and opposing any government restrictions, for example in regard to COVID or firearms. The millenarians nurture conspiracy theories and fantasize about violent action and retribution. Sociologists see the millenarians gaining influence. Some militia groups of the millenarian wing stormed the US Capitol on 1/6/21.

Militias recruit heavily from military veterans whom they see as aligned with their way of thinking, besides being trained to use weapons.

We must be aware of militias and their potential for harm. The greatest danger of terrorism today in the US may be domestic terrorism. (SOURCE: *Scientific American*, "Inside America's Militias," Jan. 2022) —ISLAND PEACE & JUSTICE

Join our vigil every Monday at 4PM across from DISHS.
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