

Porter Empty Return presents 'Eco-Echo' scholarships

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

Joining the various River Region organizations this year in recognizing Class of 2020 graduates, Doug Adamson of the Porter Empty Return Center in Ransomville recently announced the awarding of



\$500 Eco-Echo Scholarships to Lewiston-Porter High School seniors Andrew Hanna (left) and Eric Wieland and to Wilson High School senior Kylie Winslow.

All three were recognized for their exemplary services to the River Region community as it weathered the pandemic over past months.

"Eco-Echo" is now in its fourth year of recognizing area high school seniors. Adamson said each year invokes a theme of "giving back."

"Eco-Echo is ecology and what you do to help the environment comes back to you; that's why we

call it the Eco-Echo Award. We change it every year," he said.

With the nation and world beset with the continued ravages of the coronavirus pandemic, Adamson said that, for 2020, high attention was paid to the importance of "essential workers" - their role and value to the community.

"We know what it's like to be essential and what kind of person it takes to go work each day under stressful conditions," he said. "This year we reached out to the high school guidance departments and asked them to find us three candidates that exemplify 'essential workers.'

We were not disappointed."

He went on to label the three selected as true "stand-outs."

Hanna and Wieland are both members of Youngstown Volunteer Fire Co., serving as volunteer firefighters as well as EMTs, while Winslow has been a dedicated employee of the Youngstown Rite Aid store.

"Everyone seems to love this girl," Adamson said of Winslow. "She has worked through the pandemic; she has really been a trooper."

Wilson Central Schools guidance counselor Sarah Lombardo called Winslow "an amazing young lady. She works hard at school and always has a positive attitude and a smile on her face. Always willing to help!"

Winslow will attend Niagara

County Community College this fall.

Adamson described both Hanna and Wieland as "pretty amazing kids" for their services to the River Region as YVFC firefighters and EMTs.

"The Hanna boy at the firehall - people are really impressed. He completed his EMT training and it was a great deal."

The son of Timothy and Elizabeth Hanna, Andrew was a member of the Lewiston-Porter High School football Lancers and plans

to pursue a career in nursing.

Wieland, the son of Wendy Shaw and YVFC past chief Eric Wieland, attended Niagara Orleans BOCES where he completed training for a career in heavy equipment/diesel mechanics.

Eric will be awarded several scholarships this year along with the President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence, according to Lewiston-Porter guidance counselor Lara Macfarlane.

NT Police Chief Zgolak retires; Krantz to take over

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO
Interim Tribune Editor

Roger R. Zgolak is set to retire as North Tonawanda Police Chief effective Friday. His written notice, dated June 2, was announced at the North Tonawanda Common Council meeting on June 16. His successor, Capt. Thomas E. Krantz, was named by Mayor Arthur G. Pappas' and approved by the Common Council at a special session on Tuesday.

Zgolak was appointed as police chief in 2017 and has served the department since August of 1985. In his notice addressed to the Common Council and Pappas, he wrote:

"I would like to thank you all for your support during my time as Chief of Police. I will make myself available to assist and facilitate the transition of my responsibilities to my successor."

Members of the Common Council each took a moment at the June 16 meeting to offer kind words of support for the departing chief. President Eric M. Zadzilka said, "I had the opportunity to work with (Zgolak) on several things and I have to congratulate him on a lot of his initiatives with the SRO, his cooperation, his feedback and his leadership with his officers. We will miss him, as everyone has said here tonight. I definitely felt he was... very hands-on, seeing the big pic-

ture when it comes to the safety of our residents, especially when it comes to COVID and some of the protests, I wanted to give him credit for the great job he's done, especially under these circumstances. He will be sorely missed."

Krantz, a 29-year veteran of the NTPD, has been the chief of detectives since 2013.

Pappas said of Krantz, "I feel confident he is well qualified to do the best job on behalf of the residents of the City of North Tonawanda."

According to the agenda, Krantz' starting pay will be \$125,116 per year.

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