Porter Empty Return presents ‘Eco-Echo’ scholarships

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO

Joining the various River Region organizations this year in recognizing Class of 2020 graduates, Doug Adamson of the Porter Empty Return Center in North Tonawanda recently announced the awarding of $50 Eco-Echo Scholarships to Lewiston-Porter High School seniors Andrew Hanna (left) and Eric Wiealand 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 do the best job on behalf of the environment,” he said. “This year we reached out to the high school guidance departments and asked them to find us three candidates that exquisitely ‘essential workers.’

We were not disappointed.”

He went on to label the three selected as true “standouts.” Hanna and Wiealand 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 Lambardo called Winslow “an amazing young lady. She works hard at school and always has an 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 Wiealand 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. Wiealand, the son of Wendy Shaw and YVFC past chief Eric Wiealand, 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 Macartan.