

Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

March 25, 2022 FREE 20 Pages Vol. 31 / No. 14 • Vol. 35 / No. 5



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Casseri addresses Lew-Port Middle School incident

Calls matter 'very sensitive issue' for district



All members of the Lewiston-Porter community, at every age and class level, are invited to participate in an upcoming town hall meeting in the high school auditorium. (File photo)

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

The Lewiston Police Department announced Tuesday a second juvenile was charged in connection to threats made March 14 toward the Lewiston-Porter Middle School. The unnamed 13-year-old juvenile was charged with making a terroristic threat (a Class D felony), menacing in the third degree, aggravated harassment in the second degree, and conspiracy in the fifth degree.

"This matter will be turned over to Family Court due to the age of the defendants, and no further information will be released," the LPD said.

This marks the second such arrest of a Lew-Port Middle School student in past weeks over a bullying incident involving racial overtones. It also follows a March 18 announcement by the Lewiston-Porter School District of a town hall meeting to be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 7, in the Lewiston-Porter High School auditorium. That session is open to the public. Parents of Lewiston-Porter students at all grade levels are encouraged attend. (See a Page 4 letter to the community by Superintendent

of Schools Paul Casseri).

In anticipation of this, the Tribune/Sentinel had a sit down meeting with Casseri to discuss his and the district's reactions to the incident, and what steps are being taken to address the matter. He opened by calling it "a very sensitive issue" and stressed that, since news of the incident surfaced, the district administration has become intensely focused in its response and how matters should be handled.

As to the district's response, Casseri said, "We're meeting tomorrow, my administrative team, at the secondary level, high school, middle school. Just to make sure we get on the same page in terms of a disciplinary approach. We have always reacted to these issues when they've come to us. Whether they're issues of bullying or racial slurs, or harassment of any kind. Those things are not just put aside. When they are brought to the attention of the building administration, I can 100% assure you that they're addressed."

"But there's no really set guidelines on how we address it. Really depends on the nature of

SEE CASSERI, continued on Page 8

Vietnam Veterans Chapter 268 donates \$20,000 to new NCCC Veterans Memorial Park



Members of the Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter 268 attended the Niagara County Community College's board of trustees meeting on Tuesday. The chapter, founded in 1985, has donated more than \$180,000 to the Niagara County community – including scholarships to high school graduates to attend college. NCCC said, "It supports the community while leaving a legacy for their family members and the younger generation of veterans. Their legacy continues as they presented a \$20,000 donation to NCCC President William Murabito and NCCC Veterans Services Coordinator Joseph Potalivo. This will assist bringing the new NCCC Veterans Memorial Park to life."

The college's Veterans Memorial Park was established in 1976 by Vietnam veterans who attended NCCC. The area features a plaque of Niagara County veterans who died in the war.

NCCC will be relocating and expanding the existing park to further honor the Niagara County veteran community. This park will represent those who served in the armed forces and celebrate a proud heritage of military service. Veterans will be honored annually during NCCC's Veteran's Day ceremonies.

Area veterans, their families, and NCCC alumni/employees are invited to memorialize their service and those of their loved ones (alive or deceased) on the park's new monument. Veteran names and military branch of service will be engraved on the memorial wall and benches for a donation of \$150 or more. For more information, to purchase an engraving, or to donate, visit www.niagaracc.suny.edu/veterans/memorialpark/.

Pictured, from left: Niagara County Community College Board of Trustees Vice Chair Gina A. Virtuoso; NCCC Veterans Services Coordinator Joseph Potalivo; representatives from the Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter 268, including Harry Houghtling, Walter Moxham, Robert Hull, Gordie Bellingier, Kathryn Kindle and Robert "Radar" Parker; NCCC President William J. Murabito; and NCCC Trustee Jerald I. Wolfgang.

North Tonawanda

Tylec swears in new police chief

Mayor Austin Tylec said he was "honored" to issue the oath of office to newly appointed Chief of Police Keith T. Glass on Friday morning.

"I want to thank Chief Tom Krantz for his many years of dedicated service to our community, and welcome Keith Glass as our 14th chief of police in NT history," Tylec said.

Glass is a 16-year veteran of the North Tonawanda Police Department. He served as a patrol officer for 12 years before being promoted to lieutenant. He has also served on the SWAT team, honor guard, and as a firearms instructor. In addition, he was named the Officer of the Year in 2017 and has received three-unit citation awards.

"I am confident that Chief Glass will be decisive, fair and ambitious leading our police department and ensuring the safety of our community," Tylec said.

In attendance at the ceremony was Glass' wife, Lisa; and his daughter, Emily. Hi son, Taylor, was absent.

From left: Glass, Tylec and Krantz



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