

Current Issue:



Elks honor young academics

J.J. SULLIVAN III, Staff Writer, Web Special, March 28

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The Middletown Elks No. 2179 honored some of the Bayshore's most distinguished high school scholars during the Annual Youth Activities Awards Breakfast on March 16.

Awards were presented during a ceremony held at the Elks Leonardo lodge. Recipients of the 2007-2008 awards for Student of the Year and Most Valuable Student were given an undisclosed scholarship, according to long-time Elk Robert Santoro.

The winners of previous athletic competitions, ages six to sixteen, were also recognized with trophies during the breakfast.

According to Santoro, the local club invites academic standouts each year as part of their attempt to encourage good habits among the teenaged community.

A single student was selected from each Bayshore high school after they were deemed deserving of special recognition.

Santoro said the lodge provided the Student of the Year candidates with a detailed form tasking them to draft an essay on a particular subject. "We read through the essays and hand-picked a winner from each high school," he said.

Individual students were selected from Mater Dei High School, Raritan High School, Marine Academy of Science and Technology, Middletown High School South, Middletown High School North and Keansburg High School.

Joining the families and friends were state Senator Joseph Kyrillos (R-Monmouth), Assemblyman Sam Thompson (R-Monmouth) and Middletown Mayor Gerard Scharfenberger, Santoro said.

Additionally, Santoro said guidance counselors from the respective high schools recommended a pupil worthy of being recognized as the school's Most Valuable



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Student.

"The awards are held each year in an attempt to foster certain principles and reward substantial individual achievement," Santoro said. "The Elks expect honorees to abide by the Youth Bill of Responsibilities, a list of encouraged behaviors drafted by the members. Winners are respectful of others, mindful of their intellectual and physical development and exhibit a reverence for the rules set by society."

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