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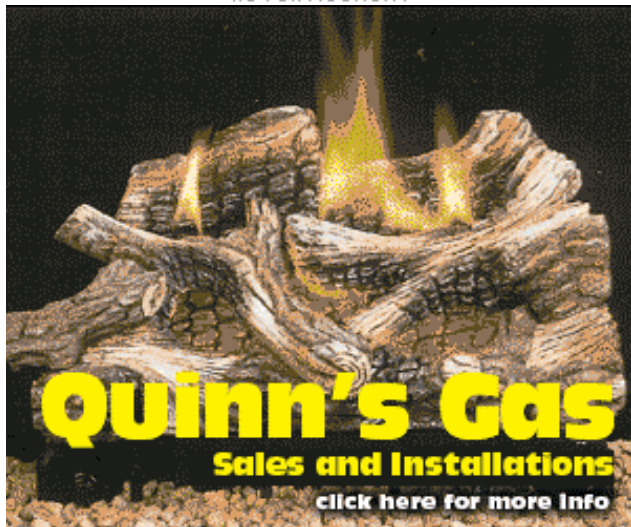
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Middletown Elks honor MAST senior

By **Terry Gauthier Muessig** Staff Writer June 12, 2008

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SANDY HOOK — When Elizabeth Fuebacher was notified she was selected to be the Student of the Year by the Middletown Elks, she was more focused on the honor and not the amenities that came along with the title.

Fuebacher, 17, of Monmouth Beach, a 12th-grade student at the Marine Academy of Science and Technology at Fort Hancock at Sandy Hook,

was given the honor by the Elks. Fuebacher

received a placard and a \$250 scholarship.

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The Elks give about \$5,000 to \$6,000 away in scholarships a year, Rick Niekrash of the Middletown Elks, said. The scholarships are given to local students at various schools in the area, he said.

"I did not know about the scholarship program," Fuerbacher said.

According to Niekrash, the Elks receives nominations for the student awards from the school's guidance department.

When giving the award, the Elks take into consideration a student's academic achievements, leadership skills and participation in community service activities.

When asked, Fuerbacher said she has maintained a 4.0 grade point average in high school.

She recently participated in the state-level Technology Student Association competition, capturing first place in the state, which will allow her to compete at the national level in Orlando, Fla., in June and competed in the New Jersey Academy of Science Symposium at Kean University in Union, where she also took first place in Oral Presentation in Marine Science.

And, she is a 2007 National first-place title holder in Tech Research and Report Writing.

At the academy, she is the chapter president of the National Honor Society and chapter president of the Student Teaching Assistant at Monmouth University in West Long Branch.

She also has eight credits at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. She took a summer course at the university in international law and in the fall took an extension class for the principles of finance.

Her community service participation includes volunteering and conducting fundraisers for various nonprofit

organizations in the area, including the Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch, the American Diabetes Association and the St. Jude's Research Foundations. She also conducted a one-day lemonade sale for Alex's Lemonade Stand, a nonprofit organization raising money for childhood cancer research.

Fuerbacher conducted the lemonade sale at Monmouth Park Racetrack in Oceanport. She raised \$7,000 in one day, she said.

"It was more about the spirit of the donation and not the glass of lemonade," she said.

Fuerbacher said that when she graduates high school she will pursue a career in physics or mathematics.

"I enjoy learning," she said. "Education is priceless."

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