

In command

Kasey Kahne is off to a great start with Richard Petty Motorsports. **Page 8**



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Oil City students win top awards at science fair

Four Oil City High School students competed at the Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair over the weekend and brought home top awards.

The four are Jennifer Butchart, Rachele Siegel, Mallory McKissick and Stephanie Schneider.

Butchart is one of only three students from the nearly 300 who competed in the senior division to earn a spot at the International Science & Engineering Fair in Reno, Nev. Her project was on "Identifying T-Tauri Stars Using Small-Scale Optical Telescopes", and her advisor was Oil City earth/space science teacher Tim Spuck.

Butchart was also awarded first place in the fair's earth/space/environment senior division, a Best of Show award from the U.S. Army, and a sponsor award from the Migliuolo family.

See **SCIENCE**, Page 5

Science

Continued from Page 1

Butchart's interest in astronomy started years ago.

"I remember as a little girl going out to the Oil Region Astronomical Observatory at the county park and looking at Mars through the telescope," Butchart said. "Ever since then, astronomy is something I've been interested in. Then when I got to the high school and started working with Mr. Spuck and other students in the Spitzer space telescope research program I discovered my passion."

Siegel presented her research titled "Investigating Star Formation in LDN 981." She was awarded a Science Achievement Scholarship totaling \$8,000 from Waynes-

burg University.

Siegel also received the Mu Alpha Theta award from the National Mathematics Honor Society for the most challenging, original, thorough and creative investigation. She was also advised by Spuck.

McKissick conducted chemistry research on solubility in household chemicals. Her work earned her a \$50 ADM International—Golden Triangle Chapter sponsors award.

She was advised by Oil City chemistry teacher Jen McGarvie.

Schneider presented her research on "Utilizing Dynamic Gene." Dynamic Gene is a new online science research tool that students and scientists can use to investigate the genetic structure of plants and animals.



Jennifer Butchart

The developers hope the tool will lead to the creation of hardier crops yielding greater food production.

Schneider was invited to



Rachele Siegel

the TeraGrid Conference, a science gathering in Arlington, Va. She was advised by Oil City biology teacher Ritt Smith.

"This has been another



Mallory McKissick

great year for Oil City at the regional science fair," Spuck said.

Matt Walentosky was one of three students who went to the International Science Fair



Stephanie Schneider

in Atlanta last year, where he took a second place in his division.

"I think this speaks volumes about our school and our students," Spuck said.