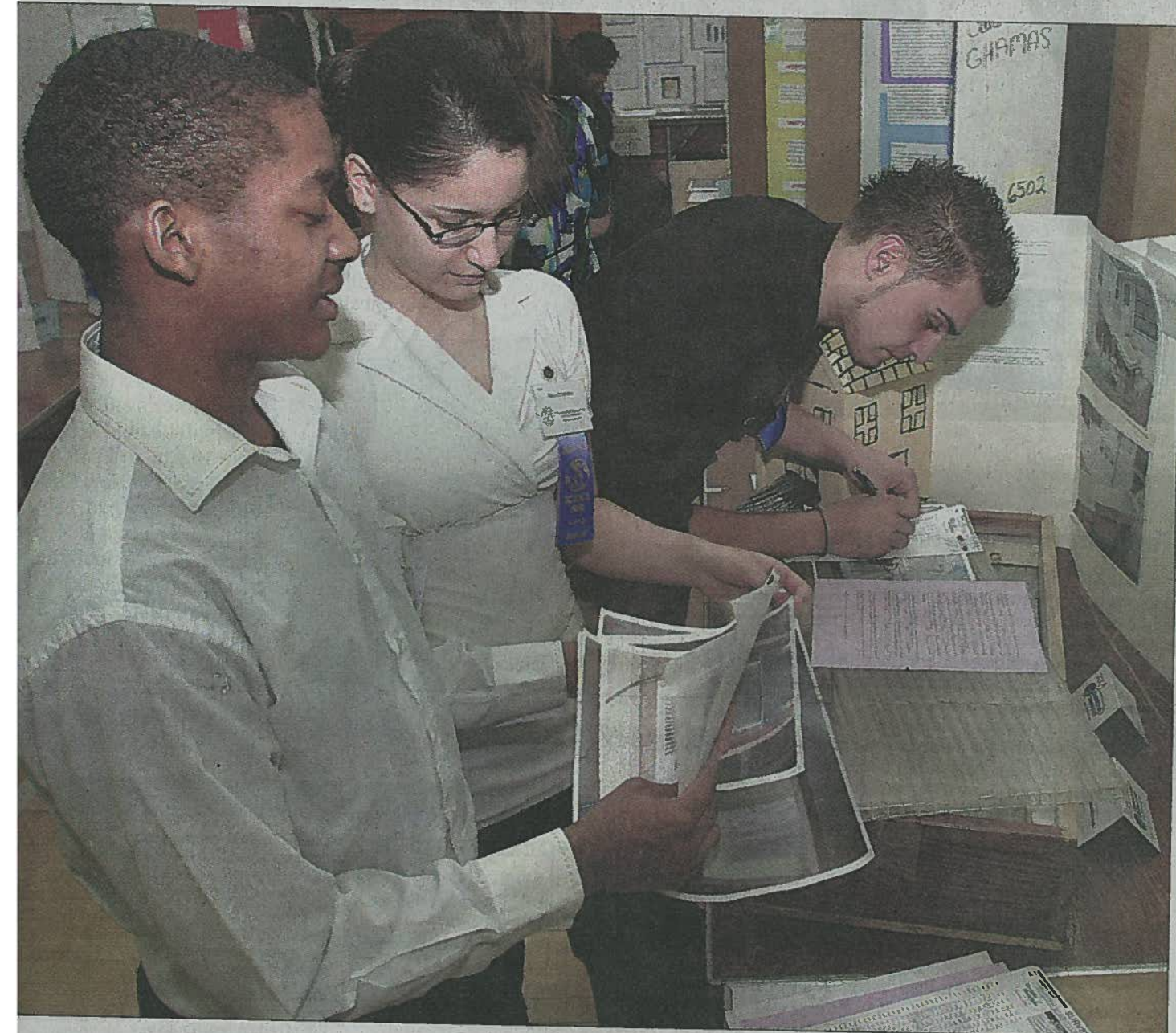


STATE'S SHINING SCIENCE STARS



DARLENE DOUTY REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

From left, Quinton Pittman, Ilka J. Collado and Johnnie Pereira, students at Wilby High School in Waterbury, look at their project on seasonal passive solar heating during the Connecticut State Science fair Thursday. Their project earned second in physical science.



DARLENE DOUTY REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN
Matthew Petroff, a Taft School student from Cheshire, talks with science fair judges Ruth Mensing and another person Thursday about his project called 'Development and Autonomous Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.'

FAIR: Warm homes, safe

Continued from Page One

High School in Waterbury landed a second-place finish in physical science with their plan to heat a room using alternative energy. Sophomores Ilka J. Collado, Quinton Pittman and Johnnie Pereira developed a heating system that uses solar panels connected to the outside of a window.

The students placed a fan near the window inside the home and let it blow air onto a solar panel that sits on a piece of sheet metal attached to a pine box hanging from the window. On a sunny day, the air is

heated by the sun and re-circulated into the house through a vent, which the students built into the floor.

The students said they wanted to build a seasonal solar panel that could be produced and installed cheaply and taken down during the summer without much hassle.

"It would not replace a heating system, but would provide extra interior heat during the day, especially on sunny days," said Pereira, adding that the project could help people save on home heating expenses.

Matthew A. Petroff of Cheshire wants to save people

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AREA SCIENCE FAIR AWARD-WINNERS

Connecticut Science Fair finalists from Northwestern Connecticut and their awards include:

» **Michael A. Basmajian** of Torrington, an eighth-grader at Talcott Mountain Academy in Avon, for "Quiet!... The Green Way." Third place, physical science eighth grade individual, Dominion's Millstone Power Station Physical Science Awards. Middle school finalist, eesmarks/CT Energy Efficiency Fund Sustainable Resources and Practices Awards.

» **Ilka J. Collado, Quinton Pittman and Johnnie Pereira** of Waterbury, sophomores at Wilby High School, for "Seasonal Passive Solar Heating." Second place, physical science senior high team, Dominion.

» **Bryan Davis** of Southington, an eighth-grader at Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School, for "The Right Angle." Middle school finalist, eesmarks/CT Energy.

» **Alexandra S. Fielding** of Southbury, a seventh-grader at Talcott Mountain Academy in Avon, for "The Black-Hearted Monster Called Thrush." Third place, life sciences seventh

grade, Pfizer Life Sciences Awards.

» **John Knepple** of Oxford, a sophomore at Oxford High School, for "Environmental Remediation of Fuel in Little River." Finalist, physical science senior high, Dominion. Senior finalist, Audubon Connecticut & Arch Chemicals Environmental Awards. High school finalist, The United Illuminating Co. Future Sustainability Awards.

» **Matthew A. Petroff** of Cheshire, a sophomore at The Taft School in Watertown, for "Development and Construction of an Autonomous Unmanned Aerial Vehicle." Student Recognition Award for four years in the state science fair. Senior high finalist, Computer Science Awards. Finalist, physical science middle school, Goodrich Awards for Excellence in Engineering.

» **Dipanjana Saha** of New Milford, a junior at New Milford High School, for "The Effect of Electromagnetic Radiation on Human Cells." Finalist, life science senior high, Pfizer.

» **David Samuelman** of Oxford, High School Microbiologist, Engineer Finalist, high, Do Barnes / Technol

» **Dank** junior at "Reduct Fluid Mc Cell Due physical Dominio CT Clear Alternati Awards.

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Students compete in science fair this week

BY PAUL SINGLEY
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Sixteen-year-old John Knepple had a hunch that the Little River in his hometown of Oxford may be contaminated by gasoline.

The Oxford High School student noticed a former gas station and fuel pumps along the waterway, which runs parallel to Route 67, and thought those were reason enough to be con-

cerned for the environment.

As part of a science experiment, Knepple tested the water for gasoline, using technology similar to what is used by the state Department of Environmental Protection, and discovered fairly high amounts of fuel in the water.

The experiment landed Knepple a finalist's spot in physical science at the Connecticut Science Fair, which is being held at the Quinnipiac University gymnasium in Ham-

den this week. Middle- and high-school students from Oxford, Southbury, Cheshire, Waterbury, Torrington, New Milford, Southington and Bethany were among 150 finalists from nearly 500 who participated this week.

More than 15,000 projects created for school science fairs statewide competed for slots in the state fair.

Three students from Wilby

See FAIR, Page 5A

ON THE WEB

Visit www.rep-am.com to see a video of local school scientists talking about their projects at the Connecticut Science Fair in Hamden.

SIDE

For a list of award-winners in Greater Waterbury and Northwest Connecticut, turn to Page 5A.