

BRIDGES: Long days

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Educators and local engineers judged the students' bridges.

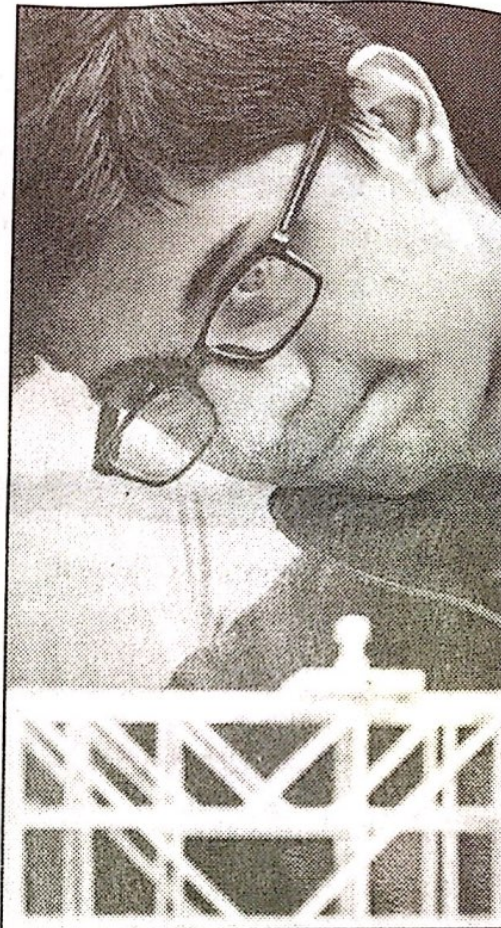
Scranton High School senior Ritun Patel, 16, came in second place. He worked on his bridge for four or five days and tested it out before entering it into the competition this weekend.

Ritun — who plans to go into mechanical engineering after high school — used lessons from his physics and technology class to create the bridge.

Emily was one of three students from her engineering class selected to compete. Along with Ritun, it was her first time at the competition, and she was happy about her bridge's performance.

Lackawanna County students took the top three spots in the competition. Nick Melten from North Pocono was first, Ritun second and John Chesson from Valley View High School third.

The winners of the Excellence in Architecture awards were Alyvia Janes from West Scranton High School, Nabin Rai from Scranton High School and Hunter Kraklio from the Wilkes-Barre



BUTCH COMEGYS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ritun Patel, 16, a senior at Scranton High School, checks his wooden bridge during the 30th Annual Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Bridge Building Competition on Saturday at the Marketplace at Steamtown in Scranton.

Career Technology Center.

For details about the competition, visit www.neparb-dgblg.com.

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John Chesson, 18, a senior at Valley View High School, takes a final close look at his wooden bridge during the 30th annual Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Bridge Building Competition held Saturday at the Marketplace at Steamtown in downtown Scranton. He finished third in the event.

A SPAN OF 30 YEARS

Bridge-building competition attracts students from throughout the region.

BY KATHLEEN BOLUS
STAFF WRITER

SCRANTON — Emily Ruse was nervous as she poured small pebbles into a bucket attached to a lever that slowly applied more pressure to her creation — a basswood bridge.

The top 3

1. Nick Mellen, North Pocono High School
2. Ritun Patel, Scranton High School
3. John Chesson, Valley View High School

The North Pocono High School junior spent her Saturday among peers competing in the Northeast Pennsylvania Regional Bridge Building Competition at the Marketplace at Steamtown.

The competition, now in its 30th year, drew students from as far away as Schuylkill County. On stage in the marketplace's central court, they tested their small, simplified versions of real-life bridges, in front of a crowd of parents, students, professional engineers and past winners.

The goal is for the bridges to be strong enough to support more than their own weight. The bridges' beams are held together by wood glue in place of concrete or nuts and bolts.



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Emily Ruse, 16, a junior at North Pocono High School, surveys her broken wooden bridge during Saturday's competition.

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