Green thumbs

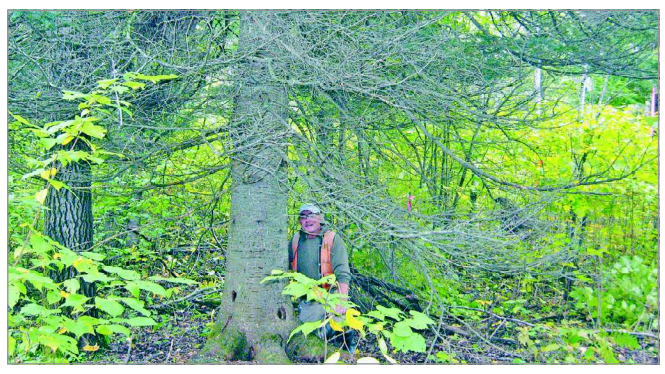
Indus students work on gardens

A9

Giant ruler needed

Foresters find state record fir

B9



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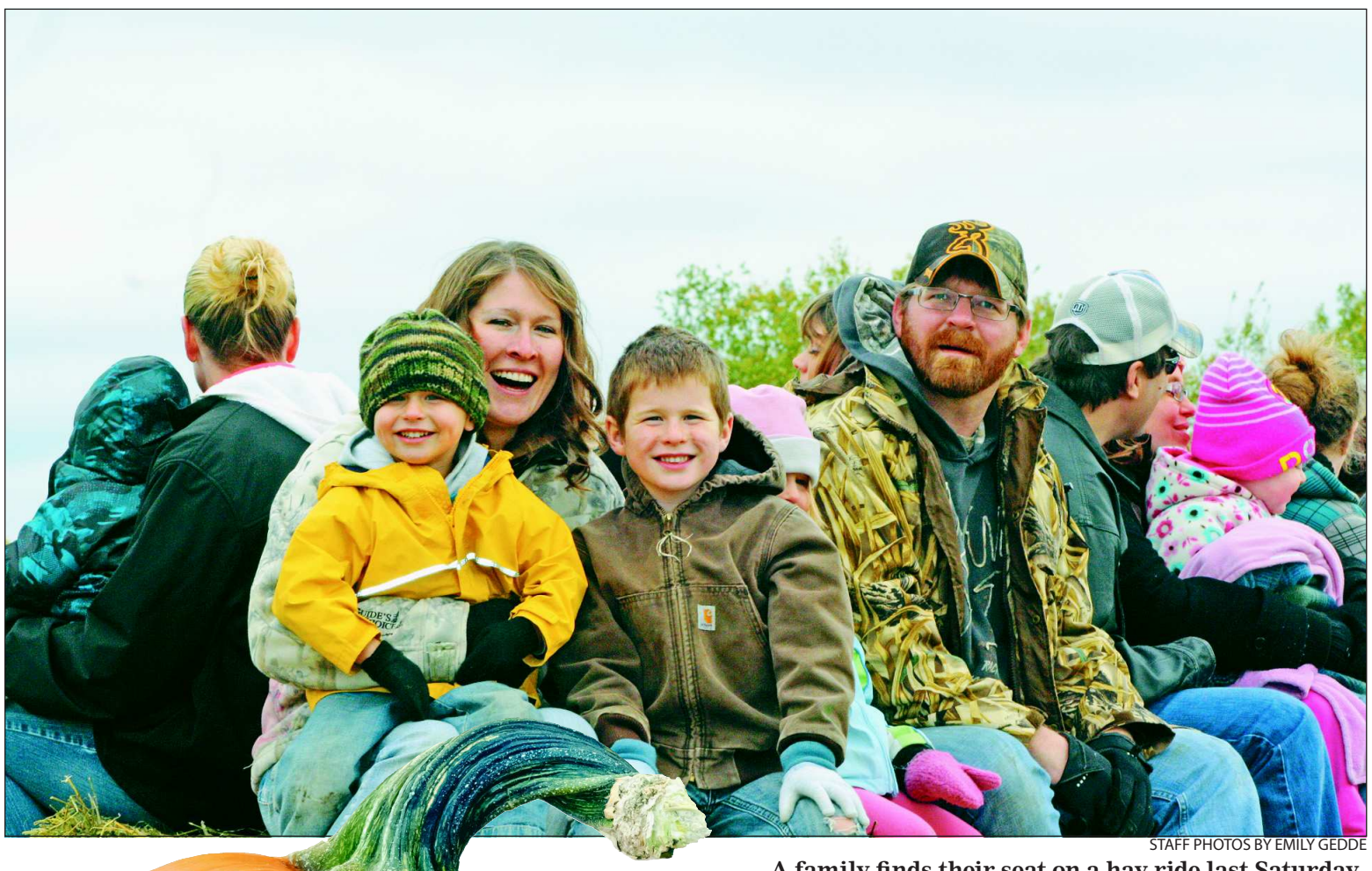
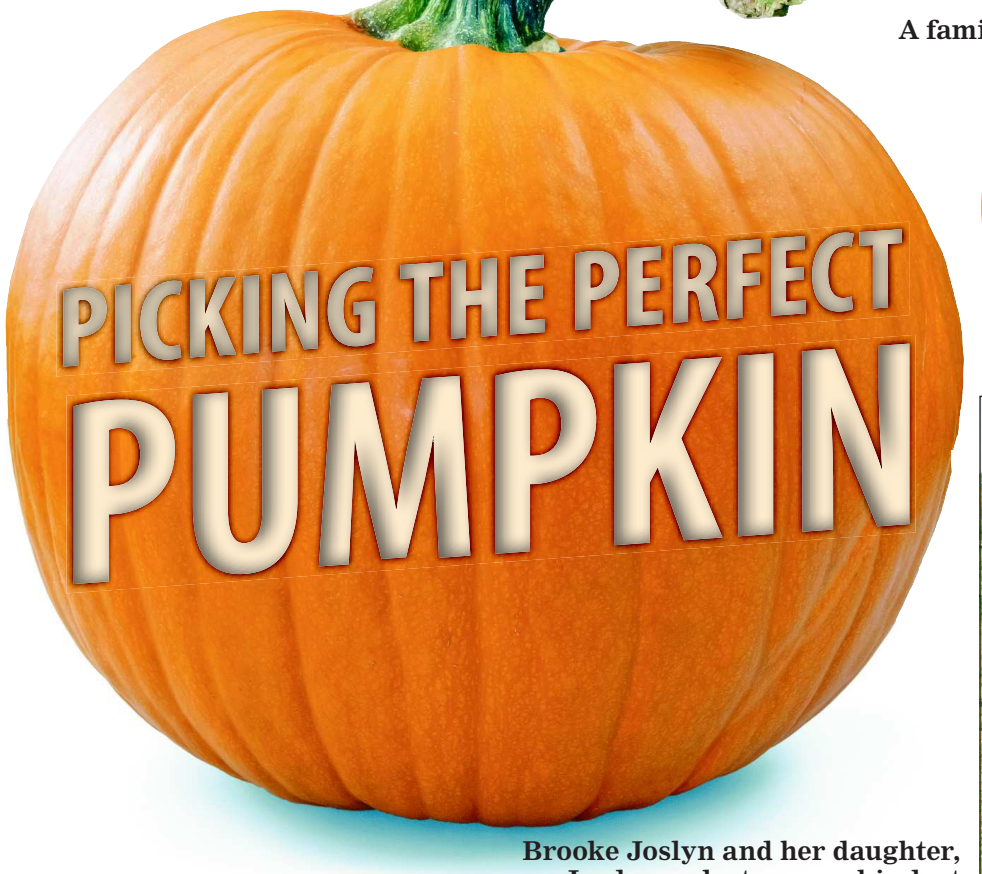


STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE

A family finds their seat on a hay ride last Saturday.



Cool temperatures and a brisk wind chill didn't keep families from venturing into the pumpkin patch at Aitchison's farm last week to select a pumpkin to take home. The Aitchison family provided hay rides, hot apple cider and of course, pumpkins to several area children and their families in a day that has come to be an annual event.

Brooke Joslyn and her daughter, Jaedyn, select a pumpkin last week at Aitchison's farm.

KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD

County board discusses bypass road plans

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

Wade Pavleck

Kevin Adee

The Koochiching County Board Tuesday reviewed a request from the city of Ranier to add a bypass road between state Highway 11 and County Road 20.

The board decided to work with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to get more information on the topic, and to see if a road in the proposed location would be feasible. The proposed location is roughly a half-mile west of the current bypass road, County Road 131.

County Engineer Joe Sutherland said there are multiple challenges with where the proposed bypass road would be, most notably the proximity to the overpass which carries Highway 11 over the railroad which runs into Ranier.

"As traffic is going east, let's just say, and going over the bridge, you're quickly coming on this new road connection location here," Sutherland said.

Sutherland said area officials have talked with MnDOT about adding a bypass road in the past, and have looked into the need of adding a left-turn lane or a left-turn bypass lane to Highway 11, which might mean widening the highway. In order to figure out if a turn lane is necessary, MnDOT would determine how much traffic the new road would have, he said.

MnDOT has indicated it plans to reconstruct the overpass bridge in 2018, Sutherland said, and the proposed bridge is going to be wider and longer. The state might have to reconstruct the road then, he said, which would make the proximity to the proposed bypass road an issue.

"If they can find a way to increase the length and width of that bridge without raising the grade, then it's sort of a moot point," Sutherland said. "But they haven't got that part of the bridge plan done yet."

Board to A7 ➤

Is seeing really believing?

Copper bullet demo intended to give hands-on experience

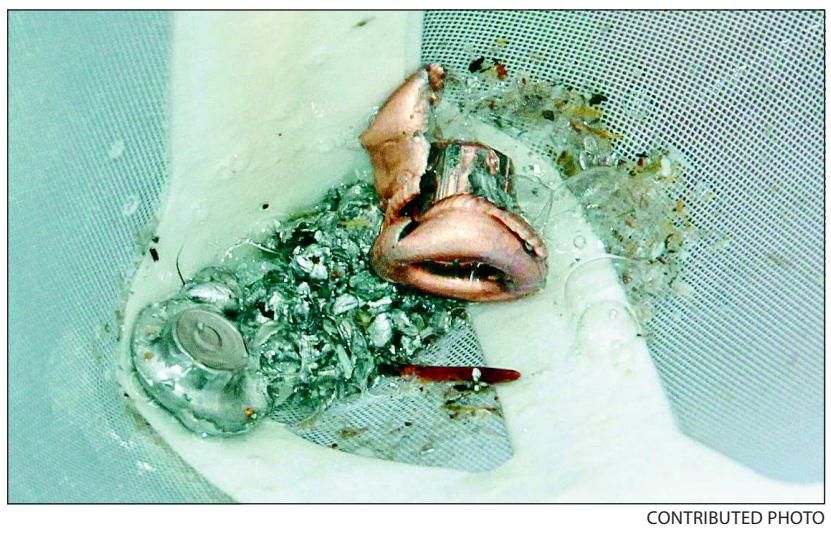
BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

Copper bullet demonstrations have been opening the eyes of hunters across the state, according to an organizer.

To allow area hunters to see first-hand how copper bullets compare to lead bullets, a free demonstration is planned 2-5 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Littlefork Gun Club by the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Steve Windels, president of the chapter said. The Littlefork Gun Club is located three miles south of Littlefork off County Road 77.

Similar events were offered in August and September in Aitkin and Clear Lake, where he said many hunters were convinced to use non-lead ammunition for hunting.

Bullet to A7 ➤



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Much of the lead in this copper-jacketed bullet shattered into small fragments.

INSIDE OBITUARIES/A6 OPINION/A8 EDUCATION/A9 SPORTS/B1 CLASSIFIEDS/B3 COMICS/B6

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