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International Falls, Minnesota

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Local man says ATV accidents ‘can happen to anyone’

Sheriff urges people to use caution when
spending time in the woods this fall

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

The days are getting shorter, leaves are slowly starting to change colors and daytime temperatures aren't quite reaching above the mid 70s. It can only mean one thing – autumn is right around the corner.

For many people in Borderland, the season prior to winter is a favorite one. Boats are put into storage and ATVs are brought out for fun at the shack. While time spent deep in the woods at the shack can be exciting, ATV users need to remember to use precautions when operating machinery. Accidents, experts say, can happen in a matter of seconds.

Joe Best knows this all too well. Sept. 18 will mark the one-year anniversary of an accident that almost took his life.

“I'm lucky to be here and be able to walk,” Best said as he settled down to share his story with The Journal Wednesday. “I found out the hard way that things can happen to anyone at any time.”

Best, an avid ATV user, said he is “extremely careful” when it comes to his 700 Arctic Cat. On the afternoon of the 18th, he got off work early and met up with Dale Erickson to scope out a place to goose hunt along the Bigfork River near the Lindford Road.

The spot Best had his eye on was along the river down an about 7-foot hill. Best said he knew the incline

More Information

For a list of state laws for ATV use, visit www.atvsafety.gov/state/minnesota.html.

was steep, but didn't have much of a difficult time reaching the river bank. On the way back up, however, the embankment ended up being too much for Best and his machine.

“I spun out about three different times on the way up,” he recalled, adding he was only going a few miles per hour. “All I remember is my front tires started coming off the ground.”

Erickson later told Best the 700-pound ATV flipped over, bounced off Best's chest, then landed only a few feet from the river on its tires.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joe Best, an avid ATV user, said an accident last year reminds him things can happen to anyone at any time.

ATV to A7 >



BLUE SKIES and GREEN PRODUCE

Rachel Zupke of
Zupke's Produce
assists Susan
Savard during
the Backus
Community
Market
Wednesday.

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Backus Community Market was in full swing Wednesday afternoon, as sunny skies and warm weather

brought out community members looking for fresh fruits, vegetables and more.

For the next three Wednesdays at the market, vendors Don and Wendy Graves will be offering Sampling and

Cooking demonstrations during market hours, 4-6:30 p.m. Wednesday will feature tomato/cucumber salad, with roasted garlic and tofu and dill sampling demonstrations at later dates.

This activity is sponsored by the Minnesota Farmers Market Association, and market vendors are donating excess vegetables to the Falls Hunger Coalition.



Elizabeth Pendergast helps a customer pick out the perfect homemade soap at the Backus Community Market Wednesday.



STAFF PHOTOS BY SPENSER BICKETT

Willie Frank and his son Jaydon, pick up some fresh bread from Elizabeth and Jolene Miller.

Ranier to review land use ordinance

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

An upcoming open forum in Ranier will allow citizens to have a say in updating the city's land use ordinances.

The meeting, set for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 11, at the Ranier Community Building, will allow citizens to weigh in and provide input on the proposed land use ordinance.



Ron
Wilcox

Ranier to A7 >

CITY COUNCIL

Council to add step to meeting procedure

On 3-2 vote, council
begins process to
amend ordinance

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

The International Falls City Council Tuesday began on a 3-2 vote the process to amend an ordinance that guides the procedures of regular council meetings.

The council



Gail
Rognerud

Council to A7 >

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