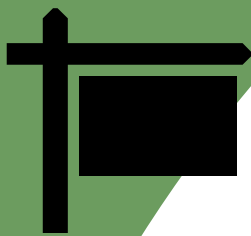


# BUSINESS

MONEY • WORK • KNOW-HOW

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Embarking on the path to buying recreational property? Learn what to ask before getting too far down the road.

## A GUIDE TO GET AWAY

By NICOLE NORFLEET • nicole.norfleet@startribune.com

If you are like me, you probably really needed to get away these past two years. White beaches and exotic cities are paradise for some. But my family and I enjoy the simple pleasures of serene lakes, rustling prairie grass and peaceful woods. In May, my partner and I decided to take the plunge and acquire a small piece of recreational land in Pine County where our family could camp, hunt and just relax. Our dream was a common one. This year's sales of recreational land in Minnesota and a handful of other states will match or exceed last year's near-record level, estimates PotlatchDeltic, a timber company that stays on top of the market. Brett Anderson, an adviser at Brainerd real estate firm Close-Converse and LandRadar.com, said demand for recreational land picked up, including with first-time buyers from the Twin Cities, as people sought an escape from lockdown conditions. See **LAND** on D4 ▶

## Who should pay for costs incurred from working at home?

By DEE DePASS  
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A California software engineer recently sued Amazon for refusing to pay his heat and internet bills while he worked remotely from home during the pandemic.

A judge dismissed the lawsuit last month, but the filing left employers asking just who is responsible for paying the extra costs that workers pay while splitting their work time between home and office. After all, nearly 70% of U.S. office workers now embrace

a hybrid work schedule or work completely from home, according to the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). For clarity, we asked several employment experts for their take on the question, "Who should pay for home office

equipment?" Some 62% of 316,000 human resource managers surveyed last month by SHRM reported their companies paid for work-related equipment used in workers' homes, shelling out \$891 on average. Employers usually paid for

employees' laptops, monitors, chairs and keyboards for home offices. But questions remain over bills for such items as cell-phones, home heating and cooling, internet use and printers — items that may straddle work and personal life. What is

reimbursable and what is not often depend on the employee's job and where they live. "It's a bit of a slippery slope because each state is different," said Jim Link, SHRM chief human resources officer. In Minnesota, two laws See **HYBRID** on D4 ▶