

BRIEFS

Candidate forums are on the way

MANKATO — A series of primary candidate forums for local elections are being organized by Greater Mankato Growth over the next two weeks.

The first is 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday at the Greater Mankato Business Development Center (formerly Technology Plus) at 1961 Premier Drive with the four candidates for Blue Earth County's 2nd District. The candidates are Reggie Edwards, Robert Finley, Steve Meyer and Vance Stuehrenberg.

The second forum, which will bring together the candidates seeking Nicollet County's 1st District seat, runs from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Nicollet County Historical Society Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. It is co-hosted by the St. Peter Area Chamber of Commerce. The candidates are Tom Conlon, Marie Dranttel and Terry Genelin.

Forums for the Mankato mayor and Ward 1 contests are upcoming but have yet to be finalized.

The primary is Aug. 10. Unlike in partisan races, voters can vote for all of the municipal and county races for which they are eligible.

Shoplifter chased, caught, busted

MANKATO — An alleged shoplifting scheme that netted less than \$10 worth of merchandise got a 42-year-old Mankato man chased by police and jailed for felony drug possession.

Wal-Mart store security started following Ricky Lee Sullivan because he took an X-Acto knife out of its package, then used it to cut a stereo wiring harness out of its package before leaving the store, Mankato police said. Security officers didn't want to approach Sullivan because he had the knife, so they called police.

Sullivan, who has had run-ins with police in the past, was recognized by the officer who responded. Sullivan ran but was quickly caught, the report said. When he was searched, a small amount of what police suspect was methamphetamine was found in his pocket.

More briefs, Page B2

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