

## New businesses popping up in Kato

**MANKATO** — The slow economy continues to shutter the doors of some area businesses, but the spring has brought a flurry of new businesses and expansions as well.

The former Honda dealership on north Riverfront Drive is again home to a new vehicles shop.

Kia of Mankato plans to open for business Monday.

The dealership is part of Evergreen LLC, a Duluth-based company that operates several dealerships including Ford and Kia dealerships in Duluth, as well as dealerships in Superior, Two Harbors and St. Cloud.

Honda last year moved to the Madison Avenue hilltop in the former Heintz Toyota location after Heintz built a new store.

Another building getting a reuse is the former Starbucks at University Square near the MSU campus, which is now a Verizon retail store.

The former Barnes & Noble strip mall near River Hills Mall will soon see the Tokyo Sushi & Hibachi opening its doors. Workers are nearing completion of work for the restaurant in a spot next to Liv Aveda.

A Pita Pit restaurant is opening soon downtown.

Snell Motors this week opened a Hertz car rental business.

And a barber shop is going in next to Buster's on Madison Avenue.

—*Tim Krohn*