**Man gets stay in prostitution sting**

Fined $1,585; gets 90 days in jail

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NEW ULM — A 26-year-old Garretson, S.D., man received a stay of imposition as part of a felony prostitution conviction in Brown County District Court Wednesday.

Matthew J. Brands was sentenced to 90 days in the Brown County Jail, to be served in three separate segments. He can do jail time in Minnehaha County, S.D. beginning March 1 2017, 2018, and 2019. The final two segments may be deferred by the Court. Successful probation completion will result in a misdemeanor conviction.

He was fined $1,585 and placed on five years supervised probation. Conditions include completing a chemical use assessment, follow all recommendations, obtain a psychosexual assessment for sex offender-specific treatment, have no access or viewing of pornography, no contact with persons under age 18, not use or possess firearms, ammunition or explosives, according to court documents.

Brands was among eight people — five men and three women — arrested in August for various crimes in the sex sting. Area law enforcement agencies used a New Ulm apartment to conduct the sting.

An advertisement was placed on Craig’s List Casual Encounters that read that a n 18-year-old female who was “into older guys” was looking for fun, according to court documents.

There was an overwhelming response to the advertisement, more than 100 calls received. Some of the callers said they wouldn’t come to New Ulm because they knew stings happen here, according to law enforcement.

Brands told an investigator he drove 145 miles from S.D. to New Ulm to have sex for $150 when he arrived at the apartment earlier agreed upon and was arrested without incident. Law enforcement removed $160 from his front pocket.