

# CUBA CITY BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT – TRI-COUNTY PRESS

November/December Issue

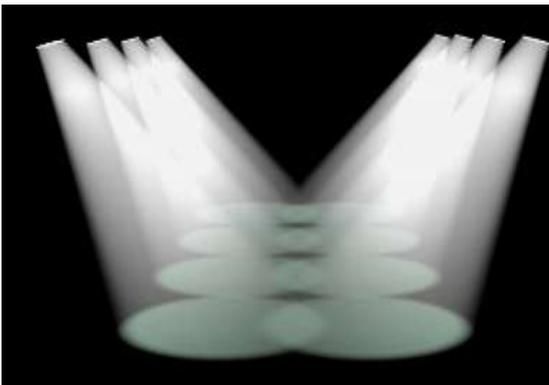
## CITY OF CUBA CITY BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM

The City of Cuba City features local businesses in a bi-monthly Business Spotlight on the City website.

The aim of this program is to showcase local businesses and foster pride in Cuba City's thriving business community and strong local economy.

Featured businesses must be located in the City of Cuba City, provide direct services or sales to the general public and have a positive impact on the community.

Businesses interested in being featured may contact the Economic Development Director at (608) 744-2152. No guarantee can be made that a business will be featured on the Cuba City Business Spotlight.



## About the Tri-County Press

With roots running deep in Cuba City, the Tri-County Press celebrated its 121st birthday in September. The publication's history includes the merging of five independent newspapers then four different owners, all of which has led to the continued coverage of news and events from the Benton, Cuba City, Dickeyville, Hazel Green and Kieler communities.

The Tri-County Press dates back to Sept. 21, 1894, when Tom Snyder of Dubuque first published the Cuba City News. In 1901, William H. Goldthorpe entered into a partnership with Snyder and later bought out Snyder. Goldthorpe also purchased the Cuba City Herald that year, creating the Cuba City News-Herald. The publication's name changed again in 1920 after Goldthorpe purchased the Hazel Green Tribune and Hazel Green Reporter; the new name was a mouthful: Cuba City News-Herald and Hazel Green Tribune-Reporter. In 1959, Goldthorpe purchased the Benton Advocate and combined all five papers under the Tri-County Press name.

Goldthorpe was more than just a newspaper publisher; he was a state representative, Cuba City postmaster, musical instructor and bandleader. He is also credited with giving Cuba City its name, according to an article published in the Tri-County Press in June 1992. He had 10 children, all of whom worked at the newspaper at some point.

William H. Goldthorpe died in 1964 and in 1965 Rex Goldthorpe, one of William H. Goldthorpe's children, purchased the publication from William H. Goldthorpe's estate. Rex Goldthorpe had three sons who also worked at the newspaper.

In 1966, the first offset edition of the Tri-County Press was printed at Grant Publishing in Lancaster.

In June 1992, Steve Prestegard and William S. Hale purchased the Tri-County Press from Rex Goldthorpe, who retired. Less than two years later, in January 1994, William S. Hale bought

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out co-publisher Steve Prestegard, who was leaving the paper for another opportunity. At that time, William S. Hale named Craig Kowalski, a great-grandson of William H. Goldthorpe, as editor of the paper.

Then, on Oct. 1, 2002, the Tri-County Press was sold as part of a larger deal. Morris Newspaper Corporation of Savannah, Ga., purchased seven newspapers and shoppers from William S. Hale, including the Grant County Herald Independent in Lancaster, Fennimore Times in Fennimore, Tri-County Press in Cuba City, Boscobel Dial in Boscobel, Crawford County Independent in Gays Mills, The Reminder shopper and The Round-Up shopper. John Ingebritsen was named publisher overseeing all of the publications.

Morris Newspaper Corporation was founded in 1970 by Charles H. Morris in Savannah. At the time of the Southwest Wisconsin purchases, Morris Newspaper Corporation held over 90 publications in 10 states and the Caribbean. The company has since purchased the Richland Observer in Richland Center, Muscoda Progressive in Muscoda, Platteville Journal in Platteville, Republican Journal in Darlington and Hillsboro Sentry-Enterprise in Hillsboro to bring the Wisconsin publications total to 12.

The publications are all printed at the Lancaster office, 208 W. Cherry St., Lancaster.

In 2012, the news website swnews4u.com went online to provide online updates from the 10 news publications and two shoppers.

There have been many staff transitions over the years. The current Tri-County Press staff includes: Brian Muldoon, advertising director since June 1999; Tammy Stratton, office manager and editorial assistant since January 2006; Kellie Houtakker, human resources assistant since May 2007; and Dena Harris, editor since October 2012.

The Tri-County Press publishes weekly on every Thursday throughout the year. Copies of the paper can be purchased for \$1.25 each or an annual subscription for \$36 in Wisconsin, \$43 in Iowa and Illinois and \$51 elsewhere. In 1966, the year after Rex Goldthorpe purchased the paper from his father, single copies of the paper were 10 cents each and an annual subscription was \$4 in the tri-state area or \$5 beyond Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois.