

# tri-state



DAVE KETTERING • *Telegraph Herald*

The industrial park in Cuba City, Wis., is expected to have two new tenants by late June.

## Cuba City industrial park experiencing growth

2 companies announce plans to move in, and 2 others are considering the site.

BY BENNET GOLDSTEIN  
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CUBA CITY, Wis. — Two businesses have announced plans to open in Cuba City's Kaster-McClain Industrial Park and are expected to several jobs with them.

Ag-Tech, a retail agriculture business headquartered in Stockton, Ill., and Blackburn Racing Components, of Shullsburg, are remodeling buildings to house their facilities.

That two firms have closed deals within a month is "exceptional," said Bob Jones, Cuba City Economic Development Director.

"Typically in economic development, especially for a city of Cuba City's size, if you have one (new business) every two years, you're doing a pretty good job," he said. "If you do one in a year, you're doing a great job."

Ag-Tech will open its eighth location inside a 17,000-square-foot building at 1200 S. Main St.

Company owner Drew Spidahl expects to hire eight full-time employees and six seasonal employees, which include agronomists, support staff and operational personnel.

"We're looking for local individuals to join the team," he said.

Ag-Tech sells crop inputs to farmers, such as seed, chemicals, fertilizer and custom application. Spidahl said the facility will be completed and fully functional by the end of February.

Blackbourn Racing Components is relocating to a 41,000-square-foot building. The company specializes in manufacturing customized pulling-tractor engines and chassis.

The company will also operate engine-testing services using a dynamometer.

Co-owner Josh Blackbourn intends to hire up to 10 employees over several years, including machinists, a fabricator, a welder and a mechanical engineer. He expects the business will open by late June.

Two additional companies are considering constructing new facilities in the industrial park, Jones said. Decisions are expected within a month.

Jones said no buildings in the industrial park sit empty.

"It's a positive that they're filled and that we have active businesses that are growing and expanding," he said. "On the other hand, right now, anybody coming to Cuba City would have to build their own building. That is kind of a drawback because it eliminates some of the smaller start-up companies."

## Dubuque offer bud

Supervisors must send budget to the state by

BY ALICIA YAGER  
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Dubuque County supervisors meeting with county department heads to review the budget for the upcoming

Along with operating budget, department heads are requesting additional staffers and new equipment. Those requests have not yet been approved by supervisors.

The new fiscal year starts on July 1. The county budget is due to the state by

### ATTORNEY

The Dubuque County Attorney's Office budget lists total fiscal year 2011 at \$2.56 million, up from \$2.4 million in 2010.

An additional \$84,000 in state revenue is planned on planned raise in retirement pay. Revenue is \$315,000, up from \$300,000. That change is due to grants and child care coverage reimbursements. Dubuque County Attorney Ralph Potter told he is concerned



Ralph Potter

potential budgetary impacts of the state's new costs. That line item is budgeted at \$84,000.

He noted his office is handling high-profile cases, and the state could be liable for costs if a case is settled with the county could be liable for costs.

Potter said the state is obligated to pay only expert witness costs. He referenced a September 2010 \$22,000 in expert costs in a homicide case couldn't be paid because the case was settled before trial.

"I've talked to other counties and they've been burned on this," Potter said.

### ZONING

Expenses for the Dubuque