

Truck company adds jobs, plans expansion



Mickey Truck Bodies plans to break ground on a new manufacturing center in the next 12 months on the former site of Pearson Furniture. Mickey Truck Bodies bought the site last year and is now using it to store chassis and finished products ready for delivery. When complete, the new facility will triple production capacity of the company's van and vending body business. LAURA GREENE | HPE

BY PAT KIMBROUGH ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

HIGH POINT — One of High Point's largest manufacturing employers plans to expand.

Mickey Truck Bodies expects to break ground within the next 12 months on a new, state-of-the-art manufacturing center that will triple production capacity of its existing van and vending body business to about 10,000 units per year.

The company manufactures truck bodies and trailers for the soft drink, beer, automotive battery, bottled water and emergency services markets.

Over the past six months, the company has added 50 employees, bringing its total workforce to 400 employees, according to spokesman Tim Davis.

The majority of Mickey Truck Bodies employees work in North Carolina. The company also owns and operates four regional reconditioning and service centers.

It was the 25th largest employer in High Point, according to the most recent listing from the city. It's poised to move up on the list, given its recent and future growth.

Last year, the company bought the former Pearson furniture plant, which closed in 2014. The buildings on the 13-acre site at 1420 Progress Ave. — which is about two blocks away from Mickey Truck Bodies' Trinity Avenue headquarters in south High Point — have been demolished.

The company is using the acreage to store new chassis and finished products that are ready for delivery, Davis said.

"We are making excellent progress on the design of the new facility that will be housed on the former Pearson property," he said. "In addition to our initial purchase last year, we are currently under contract on a parcel that actually connects the existing Mickey property with the newly acquired Pearson property."

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