

Columbiana County's  
Largest Daily Newspaper

# MORNING JOURNAL

PAGE 1B

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

75 CENTS



Morning Journal/Patti Schaeffer

**Humtown Products will be setting up shop in this building in the industrial park in Leetonia.**

## Company's 3-D operations expanding into Leetonia

By **TOM GIAMBRONI**

Staff Writer

**EAST LIVERPOOL** — Humtown Products of Columbiana is expanding its 3-D mold manufacturing operations to the Columbiana County Port Authority's industrial park in Leetonia, which will also serve as a hands-on classroom for Youngstown State University engineering students.

The joint project was unveiled at Monday's port authority meeting, with the board agreeing to lease the vacant data center building at its industrial park to Humtown, which will house a used industrial production 3-D printer acquired by

YSU for the project using some of the money from a state grant the university was awarded earlier this year. New units go for \$1.4 million.

Humtown manufactures patterns and molds using both the traditional methods and modern 3-D industrial printers. President and CEO Mark Lamocha told the board five of his employees will be assigned to the Leetonia complex on a rotating basis to handle commercial mold jobs using the larger 3-D printer, but staffing could increase to 12-15 depending on how things go. Expressing interest as potential customers are companies such as Ford, GE, Cummins, Caterpillar, Honeywell and Parker-Hannifin.

Some of the data center is to be used as a class-

room and laboratory, where staff and YSU instructors will work together with engineering students, teaching them how to produce molds and patterns using the 3-D printer.

"We're excited for the teaching opportunities for the students," he said.

Humtown is already in a similar partnership with the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) to help students and staff there operate its 3-D printer. Humtown and UNI are both part of a consortium headed by the Youngstown Business Incubator, which received a grant in 2014 to research future uses of 3-D printing. As part of this effort,

See 3-D, Page 10A

## 3-D

**Continued from Page 1A**

Humtown and the other industrial partners are working with YSU's Center for Innovation in Additive (3-D) Manufacturing and AmericaMakes, a federally-funded public/private effort to promote research and development in 3-D manufacturing.

Lamoncha said they did not have the room to accommodate the printer, classrooms and offices at its main location just outside Columbiana on Columbiana-Waterford Road, which is why they chose the Leetonia location for the project. He considers it an ideal choice, given the facility was originally built to serve as a data center and has access to a fiber optic network acquired years ago by the port authority.

"It's more of a high-tech location ... I think it is (ideal) because everything we do here, and our Columbiana facility for that matter, is data driven," Lamoncha said.

Humtown is leasing 3,212 square feet of the 22,000-square-foot data center building, of which 388 square feet will be office space. The rent is \$24,090 annually, but the port authority is waiving it the first year in exchange for Humtown undertaking \$52,050 in electrical, plumbing and HVAC upgrades. Humtown will

pay the utilities and be responsible for maintenance.

The port authority built the data center about 10 years ago to serve B-Telecom, which was supposed to lease the facility as a data storage facility. B-Telecom never moved in and the building has remained mostly vacant since 2008, except for two years it was leased by Consol Energy.

Port authority officials were obviously pleased to find a tenant for the data center but were more excited about being part of this joint venture, which could put Leetonia on the leading edge of 3-D manufacturing research and development movement.

"We've never gotten involved in something like this. It's exciting," said board president Charlie Presley.

"This is great example of a public/private partnership," port CEO Penny Traina added.

Lamoncha said 3-D manufacturing has helped revive Humtown, which saw its workforce drop from 220 to 17 because of the Great Recession of the late 2000s. The company currently has 48 employees.

"If you don't move with the technology you'll be run over by it," he said. "We need to be 3-D thinkers today."