

**HALL-OF-FAMERS:**Mercer County Hall of Fame
honors 11 new inductees | **B-1**

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This Ben Franklin is helping to be a founding father of businesses

By MICHAEL ROKNICK
Herald Business Editor

HERMITAGE - A modern Ben Franklin is helping to be a founding father of local busi-

nesses.

On Tuesday the state's Ben Franklin Technology Partners announced O&P Clinical, a Jackson Township prosthetics producer, got \$50,000 in fund-

ing with S/T Performance in New Wilmington, which seeks to produce limited edition sports cars, getting \$10,000.

Both are new businesses.

"Our North Star is job cre-

ation," Brian Slawin, Ben Franklin Technology's northwest regional director said after a brief check passing ceremony.

And that's what O&P intends

to do, Sara Peterson, the company's founder said.

"This investment allows O&P Clinical Innovations to grow right here in Mercer

See **BUSINESS**, page A-2

Council increases library funding

By HAILEY ROGENSKI
Herald Staff Writer

MERCER - Mercer Borough Council increased funding to the Mercer Area Library by \$500.

The library will now receive \$3,500 from the borough. Library Director Matthew Goldyn said they're putting the additional money into the library general budget.

"Mostly, I came here because we haven't had an increase in quite a long time, and I'm hoping to catch up with inflation for things like the electricity and insurances and things like that, that go up," he said. "The library does not charge for things, so we have to provide services but we can't increase our fees because we don't have any, so, inflation kind of cuts twice against the library. So, coming to the borough like this is just a way for us to increase the amount coming in so we can continue paying for those same services that now cost a little bit more."

He said the money will also benefit library programs.

"So, every dollar we get, in a way, contributes to the books we can buy, increases the number of kids programs we can have, story time and things like that, the ability to bring in outside help and outside presenters," Goldyn said.

Goldyn said the library offers programs such as weekly storytime for both infants and young children, an embroidery group, candy-making classes and computer classes.

He said it cost the library \$167,000 to be open and operate in 2025.

Goldyn said the library also gets money from the state as an accredited library, like other municipalities in Pennsylvania, and from donations from patrons.

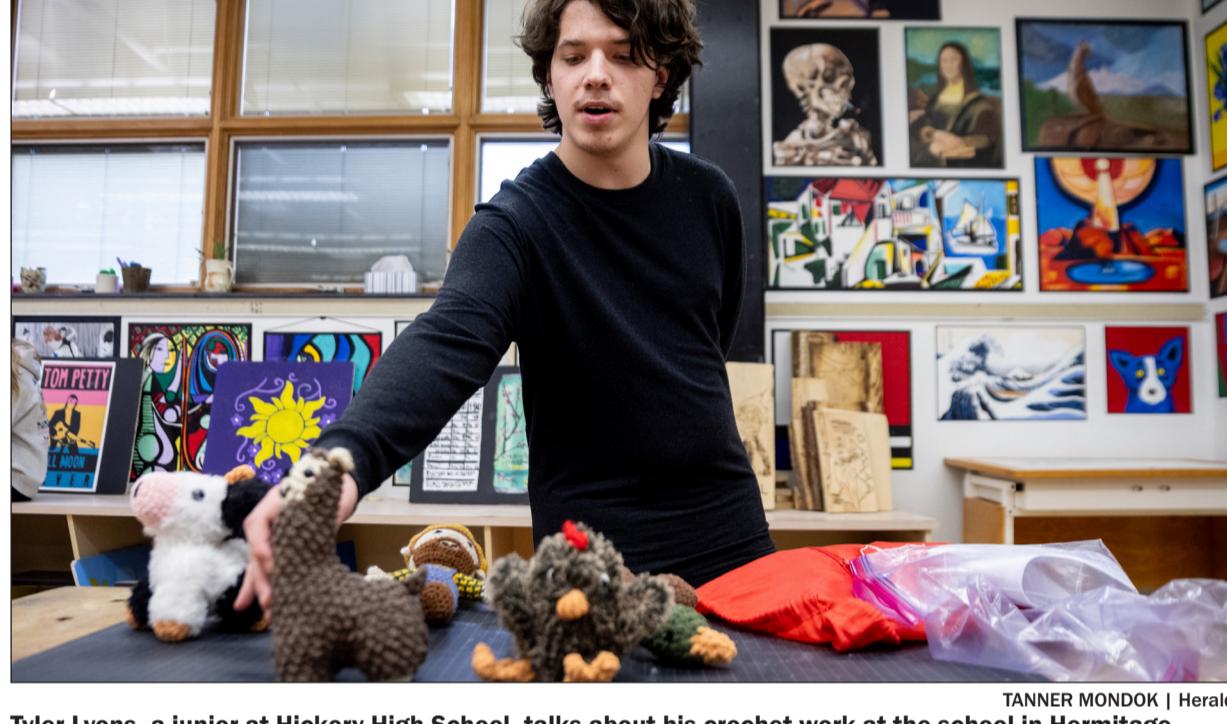
"We do a fundraising letter every year where I send out a letter to people in the community and ask for donations and things like that," he said. "We do a book drive in February - we have the titles of books that people in the community would like and they can purchase one and put their name in it."

He said he's very grateful for the increased funding.

"It's very nice that they see the importance of the library in their own and are willing to support that with money," Goldyn said. "I'm sure they have lots of good causes that need it and I'm appreciative that they decided to give us an increase."

Goldyn said the library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

"Thank you to the Mercer community for always being supportive," he said. "We really appreciate it. We've been here for 100 and some years, we're hopefully going to be here for 100 and some more."

TANNER MONDOCK | Herald
Tyler Lyons, a junior at Hickory High School, talks about his crochet work at the school in Hermitage.

Tyler Lyon's Yarn Farm

Hickory student's wooly menagerie to be displayed

By DAVID L. DYE
Herald Staff Writer

HERMITAGE - Since he learned how to crochet as a child from his grandmother, Hickory High School junior Tyler Lyons has been using yarn to create pieces of art "for as long as I can remember."

Frequently crocheting small animals, Lyons and his work will be the main subject of the upcoming "Yarn Farm" 3D textile art display.

The display will be featured from

See **YARN**, page A-2TANNER MONDOCK | Herald
A farmer crocheted by Hickory High School junior Tyler Lyons.

Sharon's Main Street Manager has close ties with community

By MELISSA KALARIC
Herald Staff Writer

SHARON - The Sharon Community Development Corp.'s new Main Street Manager has strong ties to the community.

Evan Gruver lives in Greenville with his wife and two boys. He graduated from Greenville High School. He was involved in the Sharon area for five years working at Penn State Shenango in Admissions.

He is excited to be back working in Sharon.

"It's continuing to piggyback off the good work that has already been happening and developing the space into a place that people want to move into as we continue to see growth in the county,"

Gruver said. "That foundation for families to continue feeling comfortable living, working, playing and dining here, so I think the tone has already been set now. It's just a matter of putting boots on the ground and digging in and really working hard."

Gruver's primary focus will be on the State Street businesses that are part of the downtown.

He spent the day Thursday walking around downtown with the snow coming down and talking with the business owners.

"My goal is to listen more than it is to say anything," Gruver said. "We have a community of individuals who have decided that they want to

See **MANAGER**, page A-2MELISSA KALARIC | Herald
Evan Gruver, Sharon Community Development Corp.'s new Main Street manager, began his work last week.**INDEX**Classified..... B-6
Life A-7
Obituaries A-5
Opinion A-4
Sports B-1**DEATHS**Georgia M. (Povlick) ADAMS, 83, Gig Harbor, Wash.
Mary Patricia "Patty" BELL, 80, West Middlesex.
Arden E. "Sonny" GILSON, 80, Shoreline,Wash., formerly of Sharon.
Earl J. KING, 98, of Millbrook, Jackson Center.
Mary Ann LARK, 84, Hermitage.
George O. McMILLAN Jr., 73, Mercer.Marilyn MORRIS, 78, Sharon.
Susan D. "Sue" PETERS, 92, formerly of Hermitage, Transfer and Upper Saint Clair, Pa.
Patrick J. TAYLOR, 53, Pulaski Township.
Edward VOLANSKY, 92, Sharpsville.**TRAIL BOSS**
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