



CONQUERING QUISTORS! Olive Branch wins two at Hoopfest. P6

Staffing executive arrested for secret taping

BY BOB BAKKEN
STAFF WRITER



David Hunter Moore

A Hernando business executive is out on bond but is facing charges in connection with the discovery of a hidden camera in the women's restroom of his business.

Police Chief Scott Worsham said 23-year-old David Hunter Moore has been charged with photographing for a lewd purpose.

Moore is the president and CEO of the Moore Advanced, part of a national staffing firm based in Hernando at 2765 Highway 51 South.

Moore Advanced's clients, according to its website, include FedEx Supply Chain, Gildan, Hoover Vacuums, Milwaukee

SEE SECRET TAPING, P2

Run for it!



Courtesy photo

Runners head down the streets of Hernando during last October's Water Tower 10K race. This year's event will be the 10th annual run for Excel By 5 and the Dolly Parton Foundation's Imagination Library program in Hernando.

Hernando's Water Tower 10K backs young literacy program

BY BOB BAKKEN
STAFF WRITER

When runners take to the streets of Hernando each year for the Water Tower 10K, not only are they testing their speed and endurance, but they run to help Hernando children have a brighter future.

In October, the annual run raised a significant amount of money toward the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of books under the Excel By 5 umbrella, according to Hernando Community Development Director Gia Matheny.

"This year, we had over 380 participants in the run," Matheny said last week. "They represented more than seven states and over 40 cities as well as one additional country. It is a practice

'It is a workforce development program because without childhood development you don't have workforce development.'

Gia Matheny, Hernando Community Development Director

run for the St. Jude Marathon. We have seen our race grow each year and this past year, we raised about \$19,000."

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a book-gifting program from the foundation set up by the legendary country music star. It started in her own east Tennessee county inspired by Parton's father, who could not read or

write. Today, the Library offers children under five a book a month until their fifth birthday. Over the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia, more than 112 million books have been mailed.

But there's a cost involved in getting the books to those involved, Matheny said, and the Water Tower 10K helps cover the cost for youngsters inside the Hernando city limits.

"This year we have over 300 children that are currently enrolled," said Matheny. "Books cost about \$2.50 a child to deliver a book and mail a book to each child. This year, the books cost over \$14,000 to be able to provide those books to the children of Hernando. We

SEE RUN FOR IT, P2



Bob Bakken|DTT

Dr. Arie Szatkowski, of the Stern Cardiovascular Center in Southaven, advises patients who take Valsartan high blood pressure medication should look to see if their drugs were part of the recent recall that affected lots of the drug that contained a trace amount of an ingredient that may cause cancer.

Blood pressure pill recall causes concerns

BY BOB BAKKEN
STAFF WRITER

Many Americans, and likely several Mid-South residents who take the blood pressure medication Valsartan, likely became concerned when news came out recently that a number of lots of the drug had been recalled due to an impurity found in lot samples.

A major pharmaceutical company,

Aurobindo Pharma USA, voluntarily recalled about 80 lots of the medication when trace amounts of an ingredient that may cause cancer were found. There was another similar recall in July and there have similar notices from other companies during the past year.

Affected by the most recent recall were lots of Amlodipine Valsartan

SEE DRUG RECALL, P2



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Margaret Rose Best, 77

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OPINION	4	SPORTS	6
PUZZLES/OBITUARIES	5	CLASSIFIEDS	9



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RUN FOR IT

just don't have the funding to provide those books to children outside the city limits of Hernando."

Matheny explained the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, as part of the city's Excel By 5 program, is another way Hernando children are getting prepared to start kindergarten.

"Since Excel By 5 really started taking off, we continued with our health focus for the run, but we also made this a fundraiser for our Dolly Parton Imagination Library program for Excel By 5," said Matheny. "Our program is set up as a nonprofit through the Community Foundation (of Northwest Mississippi) and all the proceeds that we make through the race go directly to that account. It goes directly to the books and the mailings for all the children that are in the program. The proceeds from the race go only to the book program."

Hernando has been a certified Excel By 5 community since 2014. The Mississippi effort has worked to get youngsters a step ahead in getting prepared for kindergarten, and from there ahead through their school years into the workforce.

"It is a workforce development program because without childhood development you don't have workforce development," Matheny explained. "We have a health fair every year that is for children up to age 19. We offer free developmental screenings. We are really trying to work to increase those screenings for older children this coming year."

With this year's Water Tower 10K coming at a significant time for the event, Matheny looks forward to an even larger turnout to help fund more books, with 400 runners being an attainable goal.

"This coming year will be our 10th anniversary," she said. "This year's race will be on Oct. 12, the second Saturday in October, again at 8 a.m."

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The first baby of the 2019 New Year at Methodist Olive Branch Hospital was little Adelyn Carol Pasco, born at 4:12 p.m. on Jan. 1 to Summer Malone and Brandon Pasco of Byhalia. Adelyn Carol, 21 inches long and seven pounds, 15 ounces, received a wagonful of gifts from the hospital for being the first baby of the new year at their facility.

Courtesy photo

SECRET TAPING

Tools and Walmart. The company offers staffing, lumping and value-added services to corporations across the nation, its website reads.

It has locations across the country, primarily based in the South and Southeast, Northeast, Midwest, California and Arizona.

An employee reported to police the discovery of a device in the women's restroom that resembled a phone charger and with a blue light blinking. She believed it to be a camera and went to police.

A warrant was issued and, according to Worsham, investigators found that camera and other recording devices at the business.

"We recovered two additional recording devices that were not in use at the time but they were used for the same purpose," Worsham said.

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Overhead line work to close roads

BY BOB BAKKEN
STAFF WRITER

Drivers in one part of DeSoto County will have to rework their travel plans to get around some electric line work this week.

Northcentral Electric Power Association is working with law enforcement and the Mississippi Department of Transportation to take care of some overhead electric line maintenance.

Because of the work, Northcentral Monday announced the need for some lane closures along Highway 178 between Center Hill Road and Red Banks Road from Tuesday through Friday of this week.

The work will start this (Tuesday) morning at 8 a.m. and continue through Friday afternoon, Jan. 11.

Westbound lanes of the Highway 178 will be closed intermittently during that time to handle the maintenance work.

On Wednesday, Jan. 9, the westbound lanes of Highway 178 will be closed completely during the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. There will be crews signaling traffic through using the eastbound lanes, but delays due to backed up traffic may result.

During this week, Northcentral urges commuters to use I-22/Highway 78 as an alternate route.

DRUG RECALL: Check your meds

Tablets USP, Valsartan HCTZ Tablets USP and Valsartan Tablets USP.

The ingredient that was found is commonly known as NDEA, a naturally occurring substance and a possible human carcinogen, according to a recall notice posted by the Food and Drug Administration.

A DeSoto County cardiovascular specialist advises patients who use the medication to check whether their particular lot is part of the recall.

Dr. Arie Szatkowski of the Stern Cardiovascular Center added that those who find their medication was part of the recall should continue taking it, but begin a search with their physician for an alternative.

"Stopping their medication can lead to an acute emergency, which is much more dangerous

than the impurity in the drug," Dr. Szatkowski said. "All of the pharmacies are aware of what batches they have and they've already made replacements or are in the process of making replacements. But, nobody should stop it right away."

Patients who take the drug should call their pharmacy to check on whether they have the tainted batch. Usually the pharmacy will make a switch for them or patients should call their doctor who can prescribe an alternative.

Szatkowski said Valsartan is part of a very common form of medicine used to treat high blood pressure, heart failure and to reduce the risk of death after a heart attack.

"These are common hypertension drugs," Dr.

Szatkowski said. "These are also common heart failure drugs. There are about 20 million Losartan prescriptions every year. There are about 16 million Valsartan prescriptions and 2.5 million Irbesartan, so it's one of the more common blood pressure medications."

Szatkowski added much of the drug came from manufacturers outside the United States.

"I think about 40 percent of our drugs are produced in China and in India," said Dr. Szatkowski. "Those are the companies located in those countries that have produced these drugs with the trace impurity. Many of the manufacturers in the United States have not created tainted batches."

At the same time, Dr. Szatkowski said the inci-

dence of getting cancer from taking the medication is low, especially since the impurity is a trace amount and nothing more significant.

"For instance, let's say 8,000 people were taking Valsartan's highest dose every single day for four years," he said. "Only one out of those 8,000 people would be at risk for cancer. So, there shouldn't be any panic. The risk is extremely small and it has not been even clear that this has caused anything."

Aurobindo Pharma USA also reported it had not discovered any adverse reactions to the drug as of the end of 2018.

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Bob Bakken|DTT

Monday morning's sunrise silhouetted the homes in a Southaven subdivision. A gradual cool down from predicted 60-degree-plus weather Tuesday to highs in the low-to-mid 40s was forecast in DeSoto County that was expected to also bring rain chances on Friday and Saturday.

