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Who will DeSoto County put on the bench?



Photo Courtesy: Josiah D. Coleman

Josiah D. Coleman

After practicing law for 12 years, Justice Josiah D. Coleman became the youngest person elected to the Mississippi Supreme Court in 2012. However, his connection to the Supreme Court and state judiciary runs deeper than his time on the bench.

Justice Coleman is the second member of his family to serve on the Mississippi Supreme Court. His grandfather, J.P. Coleman, briefly

See Coleman on page 20

Inside a race that doesn't allow candidates to discuss party or policy: the Mississippi Supreme Court

By Will Stribling
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One of the choices DeSoto County voters will face on Nov. 3 is for District 3 of the state Supreme Court. Mississippi is one of 14 states that hold nonpartisan judicial elections, which come with a number of unique restrictions for candidates, ranging from lower donation caps to being unable to publicly align with a political party or give any indication on how they would rule on an issue. These rules can make it difficult for voters to differentiate between candidates without pouring over their previous rulings. The DeSoto Times-Tribune sat down with Josiah Coleman and Percy Lynchard to talk about their campaigns and extensive legal backgrounds.



Photo Courtesy: Percy Lynchard

Percy L. Lynchard

The legal career of Percy L. Lynchard began with an appointment as a municipal judge for the City of Hernando. Evaluating trial evidence and issuing rulings offered a thrill that he never expected.

"It was just a whole lot of fun, particularly, for a young attorney who never dreamed that he would ever be in the judicial system," Lynchard said.

See Lynchard on page 20

Drive-thru job fair comes to DeSoto County

The Governor's Job Fair is still on this year, and safety precautions mean you could find a job from your car

By Will Stribling
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Because of the coronavirus pandemic, many activities and events that involve mass gatherings have had to stop altogether or accommodate social distancing. Some have adapted by moving behind the wheel, such as political rallies, movie screenings and even job interviews.

The Governor's Job Fair Network (GJFN) is trying this model with its first drive-thru job fair at The Landers Center in Southaven next week.

Drive-thru job interviews have been adopted by employers across the country this year. Manufacturing giant Siemens held multiple hiring events in this format at their Southaven facility over the past month. GJFN's Mid-South Job Fair is one of the first in the state to involve more than one employer, with 20 participating. Others are already on a waitlist for any potential follow-up event.

The GJFN organizes more than 30 large hiring events across the state annually. These typically involve 50 or more employers interacting with candidates under one roof. The team behind the fairs has spent the past two months figuring out how to transform what's been a walk-thru for years into a drive-thru.

"It was a challenge to plan something this big while following state and CDC health guidelines, but I think it's one we've met," said Adam Todd, director of the Governor's Job Fair Network.

Employers will be split between two parking lots at The Landers Center, with a third area sectioned off for in-depth interviews. Volunteers will help connect workers with the companies they're interested in and other tasks like directing traffic as well.

See Job fair on page 20

Nearly 200,000 meals offered to online learners

By Daniel Payne
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Through the end of this semester, DeSoto County Schools is planning to distribute nearly 200,000 meals to students learning from home — whether by choice or by quarantine.

DeSoto County Schools (DCS) announced on Tuesday that it would make meals available to virtual learners, students quarantined because of COVID-19 and children under 18 not enrolled in DeSoto County Schools on Saturdays through the end of the semester.

There are around 13,000 students enrolled in virtual learning through the county school district, and hundreds of students have been quarantined

See Meals on page 19

BEHIND THE FRONT LINES

In the lab, there's always something new

By Erin Killion
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Krislyn Hirsch has been here since the beginning. After deciding in college to change her original plan of medical school, she knew she still wanted to work in health care but wasn't sure how.

"I had seen a sign about the laboratory, and I had had a lot of the classes for it and started going in that direction," Hirsch said.

Krislyn is a lab technician and lab supervisor. Along with other lab technicians, she is responsible for testing all specimens that come through the hospital — ranging from blood tests and swabs to amniotic fluid and surgical specimens.

Even though she works with doctors and patients throughout the hospital, patients often never see or meet her. The critical, life-saving



Daniel Payne | DTT

Krislyn became a lab technician in 2001 and has never seen the same day twice, she said. It's one of the many reasons she enjoys working in the lab of the hospital.

work she does often goes unseen.

"We're kind of a hidden department," she said. "We're not one of the front line people."

As a generalist lab technician, Krislyn keeps up-to-date with each department within the lab, including microbiology, hematology and chemistry. She works as a utility member of the lab team, seeing a variety of work each day.

Krislyn said that while she learned the ins and outs of her job by reading textbooks, the most important part of her education has been experience.

"A lot of it is hands-on, so just having a good education and good rotations," she said.

At Methodist Hospital Olive Branch, Krislyn serves as the lab supervisor, where she oversees the daily lab operations and helps iron out any issues that arise. From the

See In the lab on page 2

