

The Coffeeville Courier

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Heros From Up North



Heros From Up North: Mark and Brandon traveled 970 miles in this bucket truck to assist with the clean up in Yalobusha County following Fern which left devastation all across the county. They work for Arbor Pros, LLC out of Curwensville, PA, leaving their families behind to assist with the clean up. It was a pleasure working with these guys for a couple of days, their skill is amazing and fun to watch. DebrisTech has many workers in our county right

now and are looking for more as the clean up is expected to take several months. They are only cleaning right of ways and not private property but if you will move what is on your property to the side of the road it will be picked up. DebrisTech is handling the monitoring part of the project.

As the project moves forward be mindful of the large equipment that is being used to haul away debris as the cutters get their job done.

From My Porch to Yours

Integrity in the Spin

By AmyEl-Rai Brown

Some days begin so ordinary you never imagine how quickly they can turn. I had spent the morning in Brookhaven visiting my brother, and I was headed home to Coffeeville — just me, the road, and the quiet hum of my thoughts. I was chugging along through Canton when, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a car drifting into my lane. Not slowly. Not cautiously. Suddenly. Completely.

There was no time to think.

No time to pray a long prayer.

Just fear — sharp, cold, and immediate.

My body went rigid as I hit the brake, and the world exploded into motion. My car spun once, twice, three times — maybe more. In one of those spins, I saw the other car coming toward me again, and my heart sank. Lord, please let them be alive. I watched it get pushed into the median, and the weight of that moment pressed on me harder than the impact itself.

But then — in the middle of the chaos — something holy broke through.

A voice.

Soft. Calm. Steady.

“Take your foot off the brake and turn into the spin.”

I knew that voice.

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” — John 10:27

I did exactly what He said. And just like that, the car straightened out. Not neatly in one lane, but forward. Alive. Guided.

When I finally stopped

on the left side of the road, my body was shaking so violently I could barely move. I opened my door, wanting to check on the other driver, but my legs wouldn't hold me. And then — before I could even gather myself — he was already there.

A young man stood at my door, eyes full of genuine concern.

His name was **Jeremiah Durr**.

In a moment when fear could have made him run, when panic could have made him think only of himself, he chose something different. He chose integrity. He checked on me first. He agreed immediately when I said we needed to call 911. He stayed by my side, steady and calm, even though he was the one facing consequences.

As we waited for the police, we talked — the kind of raw, honest conversation that happens when two people have just survived something together. I learned he was going through a hard time, and this wreck was the last thing he needed. But even then, he wasn't focused on himself. He was worried about me.

And then came the moment that broke me.

I watched the officers arrest him.

I asked if there was anything I could do. There wasn't. I stood there and wept — not because of the wreck, but because I had just witnessed something rare in this world: **true, textbook integrity**.

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Ethel Lee Steen Horton



Ethel Lee Steen was born March 13, 1947, in Big Creek, Mississippi, to the late Cleve, Sr., and Ruby Isabel Steen, the fifth of

twelve children. She lived her "Dash" to the fullest. She was called home by her heavenly Father on February 17, 2026.

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Chick With A Chainsaw: She Goes Where The Storm Calls

COFFEEVILLE — When the call came, Lori Gorospe didn't stop to look up Coffeeville, Mississippi on a map.

She packed her chainsaws, hooked up her tiny camper and headed across the country.

“I go where people call me to go to help,” she explains.

Gorospe, who lives in Colorado, has spent weeks clearing storm damage in Yalobusha County, working property by property, limb by limb.

A former military service member, she has been responding to disasters since 2014. What began with chainsaw teams and wild-

land fire training gradually became something more — a calling that now takes her wherever communities need help as her non-profit ministry was birthed: Chick With A Chainsaw. “I've always felt led to serve,” Gorospe explained.

When she arrived at the Multi—Purpose Building in Coffeeville, which served as ground zero during the storm recovery, she started the way many disaster volunteers do — with whoever showed up each morning willing to work.

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