

# The Coffeeville Courier

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## Storm Cleanup Cost Projected At \$7 Million

By David Howell, Editor, North MS Herald

COFFEEVILLE — Yalobusha County's ice storm cleanup is on pace to become one of the most expensive recovery efforts in county history, with total costs projected seven million dollars. While federal and state agencies are expected to reimburse 87.5 percent of eligible expenses, supervisors took steps Monday to prepare for a reimbursement timeline that could stretch eight to 12 months — or longer — including exploring options to borrow millions of dollars to carry the upfront cost.

Under FEMA guidelines, the county is responsible for 12.5 percent of eligible expenses. However, officials noted that portion will not necessarily have to be paid entirely in cash. Volunteer labor, donated meals, county equipment use and employee time can be counted as in-kind contributions to offset much of that local share. If total costs reach seven million dollars, the county's 12.5 percent share would total approximately \$875,000, though officials believe

aggressive documentation of in-kind work could substantially reduce the amount of local cash required.

As of Monday's meeting, approximately \$2.137 million in tree cutting and debris hauling work had been completed, just 20 days into what was originally projected as a 45-day recovery effort. The total includes \$1,733,000 for cutting and \$403,973 for hauling debris from roadsides. It does not include nearly another \$500,000 billed by Debris Tech, the monitoring firm required to document the work for FEMA reimbursement. The scale of the cost reflects the widespread nature of the damage, with bucket trucks, cutting crews and haul trucks deployed countywide, along with FEMA-required monitoring at debris sites to ensure reimbursement compliance.

Supervisors have authorized TFR, the primary debris contractor, to spend up to \$6 million and Debris Tech up to \$1 million.

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**Williams Sisters Earn Big Honors:** Charlee, junior at Grenada High School, scored Platinum on the ACT Workkeys Test. Jessie, 8th grader at Grenada Middle School, is a member of the Pure Imagination .5 Robotics Team there. The team competed in the First Lego League in the Global STEM Program and won the State Competition. They will compete in the World's Competition in Houston, Texas. They are the daughters of Wendy and Howie Williams.



## COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



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