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## Wesson American Legion wins top awards



Special to Wesson News

Mary Murphy Brady (left) was elected state president for the auxiliary juniors. She is pictured with her grandmother, Kim Whittington (right).



Special to Wesson News

Cathy Stroud won State Unit Member of the Year and was also elected District 7 vice president.



Special to Wesson News

Post Commander Bobby Thornton (left) was presented with the Americanism Award, presented by Department Commander William (Bill) Whatley (right).

Special to Wesson News

Wesson’s American Legion Post, Drane-Prine #79, recently won multiple awards at the state convention in Natchez at the Natchez Grand Hotel.

Awards included second place in Legion Family Award, the most prestigious statewide award that represents the post camaraderie and collaboration within the group to achieve its goals. Drane Prine won first place last year.

Other honors included the Americanism Award, presented to Post Commander Bobby Thornton by Department Commander William (Bill) Whatley and first place in “Poppy” (presentations, poster contest, etc.)

Additionally, the post received a special award for membership for reaching over one

hundred percent of their goal in recruitment, resulting in over ten new members.

Cathy Stroud, a local Wesson resident who also heads Socks for Heroes, won State Unit Member of the Year. Stroud was also elected District 7 vice president.

Mary Murphy Brady, the granddaughter of Kim Whittington of Wesson, was elected state president for the auxiliary juniors, a group of dedicated young ladies who promote patriotism and helping veterans; and Dixie Thornton of Wesson was elected state historian.

Sara Lassiter of Ruth was elected 2nd vice president for state, and Janet Currie was elected District 7 president.

Post #79 will hold its next meeting for all members on August 20 at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided, and interested members are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held at 1014 Main Street in Wesson.

**American Legion Post Drane-Prine #79 has elected new officers for the 2024-25 year. View those on page 2.**

## Wesson flea market registration opens



Special to Wesson News

Wesson News

A time-honored tradition for over five decades has opened registration for its fall 2024 version. The Annual Wesson Flea Market, now in its fifty-third year, is set for Saturday, October 19.

Hosted by the Wesson Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD), the festive day typically boasts more than one hundred fifty vendors - individuals, church groups, clubs, civic organizations and businesses - who line the streets of downtown Wesson in their tents to offer arts and crafts items, fleas, clothing, food, snacks and refreshments, among other things, to thousands of browsers and shoppers.

The Flea Market will start at 8 a.m. on Highway 51, Factory, Spring and Beech Streets and run until 4 p.m.

Booth space is available to those who wish to participate in the sale as a vendor. Booths are 10’ by 10’, and return vendors may reserve their same booth as last year by returning their registration by September 1. All new vendors will be assigned after that date on a first-come, first-served basis. Only civic clubs and church groups in the Wesson Trade Area will be allowed to sell food.

To reserve a booth, locate the registration form on the “WessonFleaMarket” Facebook page. Booth cost is \$50 per booth, with an additional charge of \$10 if the booth requires electricity. Booths will not be held in

cont. on page 8



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## Wesson American Legion elects new officers

*Special to Wesson News*

Wesson's American Legion Post, Drane-Prine #79, recently elected new officers for the 2024-25 term. The post will hold its next meeting for all members on August 20 at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided, and interested members are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held at 1014 Main Street in Wesson.



*Special to Wesson News*

Newly-elected officers for American Legion Drane Prine Post #79 include (l to r) Mark Herrington, Southern Area Vice Commander and installing officer; Wayne Johnson, Sgt-at-Arms; James Harris, chaplain; Ron Bath, Post Service Officer; John Wesley, Post Finance Officer; Butch White, first vice commander; Alicia Coleman, post adjutant; and Bobby Thornton, Commander.



*Special to Wesson News*

Newly-elected officers for Sons of the American Legion (SAL) for Wesson's Squadron #79 include (l to r) Mark Herrington, Southern Area Vice Commander and installing officer; Joey Chassion, commander; Randy Davis, vice commander; Bobby Thornton, adjutant; and John Wesley, finance officer.



*Special to Wesson News*

Newly-elected officers for Auxiliary for Wesson's Unit #79 include (l to r) Cathy Stroud, sgt-at-arms; Sharon Alexander, auxiliary chaplain; Melnee Frazier, co-historian; Vivian Hoeflich, co-historian; Anita Schmidt, 2nd vice president; Janet Currie, 1st vice president; and Kim Whittington, president. They were installed by District 7 president Dixie Thornton, assisted by Auxiliary Dept Chaplain Sara Lassiter.



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## Alumni provide band campers with cool treats

The Co-Lin Band and Colette Alumni Chapter recently treated members of the Co-Lin Blue Wave Show Band to Italian ice after a hot day of band camp.



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin's 2024-25 Band and Colette staff include (l to r) Cody McElwain, color guard director and fine arts division chair and instructor; Jason Harrell, assistant director of bands and instructor; and Chad Austin, director of bands. Austin begins his seventh year at Co-Lin and his first year as the director of the Blue Wave Show Band. In addition to his duties as band director, he also teaches percussion, pilots the entertainment industry degree, assists with the Concert Band and Jazz Band, and directs the basketball pep band and "The Sojourners," Co-Lin's rock band.



Special to Wesson News

Pictured (l to r) are alumni board members Jeffrey Kellum ('98), chapter vice president Gerilyn Russell ('01), Nora Berch ('75), and chapter president Jessica Breazeale ('03). Breazeale was captain of the Colettes and Miss Co-Lin in 2002.



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## Free G.O.A.T. camp offered for kids, volunteers needed



Special to Wesson News



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Special to Wesson News

### Wesson News

Twice a year, Wesson locals Ricky and Jessica Breazeale host a free sports-themed kids' camp called G.O.A.T.

The Breazeales say that G.O.A.T, which stands for "God Over All Things," is designed to teach children that learning about God and serving Him is fun.

G.O.A.T. camps usually include close to one hundred campers. The next camp will be held October 1-3 from 5:30 until 7 p.m. at the smaller ballfield in Exchange Club Park in Brookhaven. The park is located at 250 Hartman Street.

G.O.A.T. Camp Ministries is currently seeking food donations and volunteers. Current camp needs include pizzas, chips, drinks, waters, cookies, volunteers, community groups to help and youth to serve as camp counselors.

In addition, area residents are encouraged to help by volunteering their time, bringing their children to the camp, sending their group to help, providing activities or being a guest speaker or teacher. Teens can serve as camp counselors to obtain volunteer credit hours. Other opportunities to help include delivering food, drinks and snacks; donating money for food; and sharing invitations to



For more information, to donate or to volunteer, message Ricky or Jessica Breazeale via Facebook messenger or email [Ricky@GraceFoamSolutions.com](mailto:Ricky@GraceFoamSolutions.com).

the camp.

Ole Brooke Soccer Club, 13U Combat travel baseball team, American Legion, VFW and Socks for Heroes have already signed up to help with the next camp, and Abbey Berch and Lexi Prestridge of Wesson have agreed to be guest speakers.

The camp is free and designed for ages five and up. Parents are encouraged to bring a chair and stay with younger children, and bleachers are also available. No advance registration is required.



# KING'S DAUGHTERS MEDICAL CENTER NEWS

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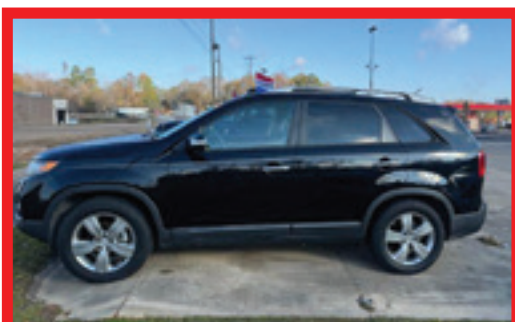


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- 2013 Honda Accord Sport package, Rear spoiler, rear camera, rear seat.
- 2015 Land Rover LR4, One owner, Sunroof, Leather, Nice!
- 2014 Subaru outback limited, low mileage, leather, sunroof, AWD, great safety rating
- 2012 Dodge Ram SLT Crew Cab RWD, only 80k miles, like new
- 2015 GMC Sierra SLE **SOLD** 2wd, 5.3 v8, Pwr seat, Sprayed bed liner, super nice!
- 2001 GMC Yukon XL **SOLD** Sunroof, 3rd row seat, cold a/c - \$3000 cash
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- 2015 Honda Accord EXL w/NAV, 6 cyl, Sunroof, Leather, Sharp!
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## OBITUARY

**Charlie Frank Rice**  
June 22, 1943 - July 14, 2024

Charlie Frank Rice, born in Wesson, Mississippi, on June 22, 1943, passed away on Sunday, July 14, 2024, in Clinton, Mississippi. Charlie was a man who found joy in life's simple pleasures. His favorite hobbies included fishing and spending time with his grandchildren, who lovingly called him Papa. He had a special connection with nature, especially water, and found solace on a lake, fishing for bream and bass.

Growing up in Wesson, Charlie went to Wesson High School and played football. He graduated in 1962 and Co-Lin Jr. College in 1964. He then graduated from The University of Southern Mississippi in 1966.

Professionally, Charlie excelled in the insurance world, where he worked for State Farm as an adjuster for many years then rose to the position of Claims Superintendent, where he mentored many in his career until his retirement.

Charlie was married to Marcy Rice for thirty-four years, and together they shared a wonderful life together filled with love and companionship. He was also previously



married to Patricia Patterson Rice for twenty-four years. She preceded him in death.

Family was of utmost importance to Charlie. He leaves behind his children: Carla Rice Kelly, Frank Cabell (Lisa), Patsy Hyland (Tom), Steve Cabell, (Kelly), and DJ Cabell (KC). He was a proud grandfather to ten grandchildren who brought immense joy to his life. Grandchildren include: Isaac Kelly, Max Cabell, Macy Cabell, Ben Hyland, Scott Hyland, Lyla Hyland, Liam Cabell, Stella Cabell, Emily Cabell and Lucy Cabell.

Charlie is also survived by his brother, Jerry Rice, and sister-in-law, Pam. He was preceded in death by his parents, A.Q. and Hazel Rice, and other loved ones.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. His big heart, his sense of humor, his endless love of fishing and tinkering with his boat

and his strong faith in God, will be remembered and cherished forever.

His family will be spreading his ashes in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, a cherished fishing area of his, at a later time. Donations can be made in Charlie's memory to the MS Alzheimer's Association or the American Heart Association.

*cont. from front page*

## Wesson flea market registration opens

reservation after October 1 without payment, which can be made by check or money order.

Vendors are encouraged to set up the day before the event, and streets will be open for setup after 6 p.m. on Friday, October 18. Vendors should check in at the Information Booth under the "Wesson Fire Department" banner prior to setting up. Vendors must furnish their own tables, chairs and display needs.

Only vehicles with merchandise, tents, etc. will be allowed in the flea market area for setup.

All merchandise must fit within the 10' by 10' booth area, and no 12' by 12' tents will be allowed. Booths exceeding the 10' by 10' booth area will incur an extra fee and/or may be moved to another location. Sidewalks behind booths must be kept open.

Vendors must be set up and ready for customers by 8 a.m. on Saturday, October 19. Typically, vendors for the flea market come from throughout Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Texas and Tennessee. While parents shop, children can enjoy a special fun zone, and a food court area will be set up for all to enjoy.

Started by a local merchants' association, WVFD turned the event, better known today as the "Wesson Flea Market," into a major fundraiser held annually on the third Saturday in October. The volunteer fire fighters say the booth rentals from the event helps to generate approximately \$5,000 each year to purchase equipment for the fire department.

For more information, contact the fire department at 601-265-1694 or WessonFD@gmail.com.

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## Locals attend MS School of Banking



*Special to Wesson News*

Bayleigh Courtney, Lacey Henderson and Kendra Hust of Copiah Bank recently completed their first year of the University of Mississippi's Mississippi School of Banking. The Mississippi School of Banking is a two-year course that provides the practicing banker an integrated and complete set of usable courses covering all aspects of banking, as well as bank management.



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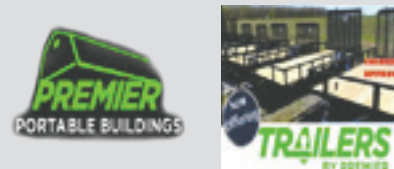
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## Community health workers are the unsung heroes of Mississippi's public health

By Guest Columnist Stephanie Duguid

As part of the Mississippi Health Ambassadors Initiative, Kizmet Cleveland, MA, CHW of the Mississippi Community Health Workers Association, shared information about community health workers, their historical perspective, benefits, and impacts, as well as ways to advance the role.



Community health workers (CHWs) play a pivotal role in Mississippi's healthcare landscape. As frontline public health workers, CHWs are trusted members of their communities, leveraging close relationships to bridge gaps between health services and the populations they serve. Their efforts enhance access to care, improve service delivery quality and foster cultural competence.

The concept of CHWs is not new; their roots can be traced back to various community health initiatives aimed at improving public health outcomes. Traditionally, they have been known by different titles, such as com-

munity health advisors, patient navigators, or outreach specialists, reflecting their diverse roles and the communities they serve.

CHWs engage in a wide range of activities, including outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy. These activities are designed to build individual and community capacity, increase health knowledge and promote self-sufficiency.

The impact of CHWs in Mississippi is profound. Studies have shown that CHWs contribute to reduced emergency department visits, fewer hospital readmissions and decreased nursing home placements. They serve as a crucial link between healthcare providers and community members, ensuring that individuals receive timely and appropriate care.

Without CHWs, community members might miss regular appointments, face unmanaged chronic conditions or lack access to necessary support services like food assistance and transportation. Conversely, with the support of CHWs, individuals are more likely to adhere to treatment

plans, attend regular check-ups and receive comprehensive support for mental health and substance use issues. This holistic approach leads to better health outcomes and improved quality of life.



On June 30, 2021, twelve CHWs and allies established the Mississippi Community Health Workers Association (MSCHWA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. MSCHWA aims to create networks at local, regional, and statewide levels, providing a platform for CHWs to share resources, meet colleagues, and promote professional development.



To further advance the role of CHWs in Mississippi, the organization identified that there is a need to advocate for policies that support and expand the role of CHWs within the healthcare

system. Additionally, a scope of practice for CHWs is needed to establish clear boundaries between the roles of CHWs and other healthcare professionals, and standards for preventive care need to be developed to ensure that all health plans include preventive care benefits provided by CHWs. Finally, a state certification program for CHWs needs to be developed to standardize training and practice.

The Mississippi State Department of Health's Office of Community Health Workers has already made significant strides by aligning its education curriculum with the CHW Core Consensus Project's recommended training activities, focusing on core competencies and roles.

The role of CHWs is crucial in building healthier communities across Mississippi. For more information or to join the community health worker registry, visit [CHCAMS.org](http://CHCAMS.org).

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Stephanie Duguid is the owner of Do Good ProHealth (CPR classes) and Do Good Leadership (motivational speaking, and leadership and success coaching).*

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## Carver crowned Miss Teen USA



*Special to Wesson News*

Miss Mississippi Teen USA Addie Carver, who rode in the Wesson Founder's Day Parade in May, was recently crowned 2024 Miss Teen USA. The pageant, which was located in Los Angeles, included fifty-one girls. Carver is the daughter of Kristi Carney, who serves in marketing and community outreach at Copiah County Medical Center and also as a Wesson Chamber Board member.

## Bozeman joins Board for MBA

Carl S. Bozeman, Jr. ("Steve") of Copiah Bank has been elected to a three-year term on the Mississippi Bankers Association (MBA) Board of Directors. Bozeman will represent his region of the state on the Board, which governs the 135-year-old association. MBA's membership includes commercial banks and savings institutions operating in Mississippi, and the association's members hold over ninety-five percent of bank deposits in the state. Bozeman serves Copiah Bank as President and CEO. He has been with the bank since 2015. Prior to joining the bank, he was self-employed. Bozeman earned his bachelor of science degree from Mississippi State University. Bozeman has been involved with the MBA for several years, and, in addition to his new role on the Board of Directors, he is also actively



*Special to Wesson News*

involved in his community. He has served as president of the Copiah Endowment Foundation and as vice president for the Copiah Water Association. Bozeman and his wife Becky have three children and five grandchildren.

## WAC volleyball wins season openers



*Special to Wesson News*

The Wesson Attendance Center's (WAC) volleyball teams began their season in early August and got their 2024-25 volleyball season off to a great start by winning both games. Pictured (center) is WAC varsity player Caylie Britt. To view the teams' schedule, visit [WAC.Copiah.MS/athletics/volleyball](http://WAC.Copiah.MS/athletics/volleyball).

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# Co-Lin 2024 football season tickets now on sale

Special to Wesson News

Wolves fans can now purchase 2024 Copiah-Lincoln Community College football season tickets and experience all four home games at Stone Stadium this season.

General admission season tickets are priced at \$38 for all four home games, while reserved chairback seat season tickets are available for \$95.

Tickets are also on sale for individual games, with general admission priced at \$12, children's tickets for \$6 and reserved chairback seating for \$25.

The Wolves start their season on the road with two away games before their home opener. Co-Lin's first home game is slated for Thursday, September 12, against Hinds at Stone Stadium. The Wolves will then play one game on the road before returning home on Thursday, September 26, for a homecoming matchup against rival Southwest.

The Wolves return to Stone Stadium in October with a matchup against Gulf Coast on Thursday, October 17. Following another game on the road, the season will conclude on Thursday, October 31, with a sophomore night finale against Northeast Mississippi at Stone Stadium.

All home games kick off at 6:30 p.m. at Stone Stadium.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://colin.TicketLeap.com>

**CO-LIN FOOTBALL**  
**2024 SEASON SCHEDULE**

 AUGUST 29 @ COAHOMA	 SEPTEMBER 26 VS SOUTHWEST
 SEPTEMBER 5 @ HOLMES	 OCTOBER 10 @ PEARL RIVER
 SEPTEMBER 12 VS HINDS	 OCTOBER 17 VS GULF COAST
 SEPTEMBER 19 @ JONES	 OCTOBER 24 @ EAST CENTRAL
 HOME	 AWAY
	 OCTOBER 31 VS NORTHEAST



## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Wesson Friends of the Library gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and businesses for helping to support the 2024 Children's Summer Reading Program at the Wesson Public Library:

- Cracker Barrel
- Susan Alsbury Hennington
- Home Depot
- Mary Ann Jasper
- The Old Koke Plant of Brookhaven
- Salon 51 (Vera Boyles)
- Servpro of Brookhaven, McComb, & Columbia
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# SUMMER READING PROGRAM ENJOYED BY MANY



Special to Wesson News

The Wesson Friends of the Library sponsored the July Summer Reading program, which was enjoyed by many area children and included presentations from Wesson first responders, treats, and stories read by Friends of the Library member Linda Mehri. The program also went on the road for a visit to Precious Moments Learning Center. Wesson Attendance Center Beta Club volunteers assisted with the program.



Special to Wesson News

Friends of the Library member Linda Mehri read a book about dinosaurs to children at Precious Moments Learning Center.



Special to Wesson News

Wesson Attendance Center Beta Club volunteers helped with the 2024 reading program.



Special to Wesson News

Lt. Tim Stevens of the Wesson Police Department shared public safety information.



Special to Wesson News

Fire Chief Ken Carraway of the Wesson Fire Department provided the reading program participants with some water fun.



Special to Wesson News



Special to Wesson News

Precious Moments Learning Center owner Debbie Britt Brown and office manager Ann Ryan allowed the Wesson Public Library to present an educational program to their children as part of the Friends of the Library's July Summer Reading Program.



# Library donates books to Boswell Regional Center



Special to Wesson News

The Wesson Public Library recently provided books for the Boswell Regional Center, one of five regional facilities in the state established to treat those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Pictured are Wesson Public Library Assistant Librarian Anita Schmidt, and Boswell representatives, including Recreation Therapist Theja Chism Supervisor Mickey Cook. Library books were read to fifteen of the residents by their recreation therapist.

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# Britt named 2024 Moody Institute Fellow

*Special to Wesson News*

Eddie Britt of Wesson, a mathematics instructor at Copiah-Lincoln Community College (Co-Lin), has been selected as a 2024 Moody Institute Fellow. As part of the selection, Britt will receive an award check for \$875 to attend the 50th Annual Conference for the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges, set to be held in Atlanta this November.

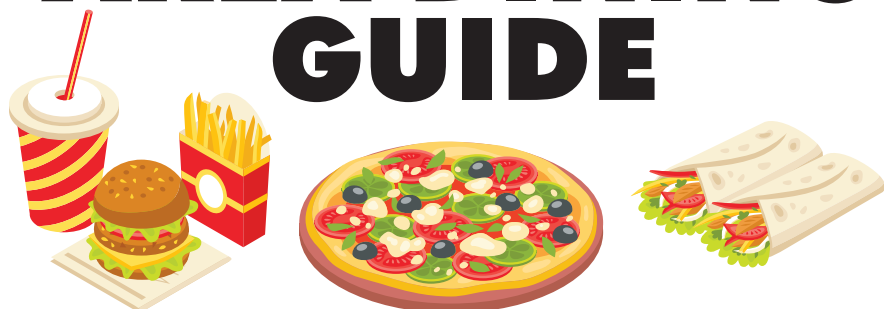
Britt has been employed as a mathematics instructor at the college since 2004. He also serves as division chair for the Mathematics and Computer Science Division. In addition, Britt is the Mu Al-



pha Theta (mathematics honor society) sponsor and advisor. During his time at Co-Lin, he has been honored as the Phi Theta Kappa Faculty Scholar and Outstanding Instructor of the Year (2016).

The Moody Institute Trust Fund was established in 1990 in honor of Dr. George V. Moody, the first executive director of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges. The purpose of the Moody Institute is to provide funds for enrichment experiences for faculty members employed in Mississippi's public community and junior colleges. The Moody Fund and program is administered by the Mississippi Community College Foundation.

## WESSON AREA DINING GUIDE



## Restaurante Guatemalteca

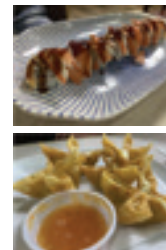
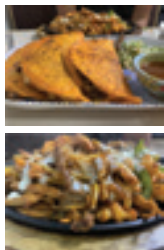
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## WESSON ATTENDANCE CENTER COBRAS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE 2024



**AUG. 30 BOGUE CHITTO BOBCATS AWAY 7 P.M.**



**SEPT. 6 LOYD STAR HORNETS HOME 7 P.M.**



**SEPT. 13 PERRY CENTRAL BULLDOGS AWAY 7 P.M.**



**SEPT. 20 LUMBERTON PANTHERS AWAY 7 P.M.**



**SEPT. 27 MIZE BULLDOGS (HOMECOMING) HOME 7 P.M.**



**OCT. 11 PORT GIBSON BLUE WAVES AWAY 7 P.M.**




**OCT. 18 FRANKLIN COUNTY BULLDOGS HOME 7 P.M.**



**OCT. 25 SOUTH PIKE EAGLES AWAY 7 P.M.**



**NOV. 1 JEFFERSON COUNTY TIGERS HOME 7 P.M.**



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