

## County students inducted to PTK at Hinds CC

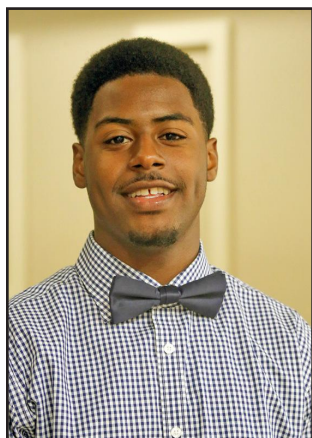
The Gamma Lambda Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Hinds Community College held a ceremony March 30 on the Raymond Campus to induct members for the Spring 2018 semester.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for community and junior college students. Membership in Phi Theta Kappa is extended to students who have a 3.5 cumulative grade point average or above on 12 or more transferable credit hours. There are more than 1,285 Phi Theta Kappa chapters throughout the United States and abroad.

New members included Allijahjuan Wade, of Lexington, and Cassie Hardacre, of Goodman.



CASSIE HARDACRE



ALLIJAHJUAN WADE

## Chamber of Commerce Humanitarian Award



The Holmes County Chamber of Commerce awarded its Humanitarian Award for 2017-2018 to the Jennifer Sterling Brown Animal Rescue of Holmes County (JSBARHC). The local non-profit was named for its efforts to alleviate the county of stray animals, providing services to reduce the population, providing caring homes and doing so in a compassionate manner, all during the chamber's 29th Annual Membership and Awards Banquet that was held on Thursday, April 5 at Holmes Community College. Pictured above (from left) Holmes County Chamber of Commerce Banquet Committee Chairperson, immediate past Chamber president and Mayor of Lexington Robin McCrory, JSBARHC President Sheila Hammett, JSBARHC board member Sterling Starns, Chamber President Charlie Joiner, JSBARHC advocate Bob Brown and Lexington Veterinarian Dr. Walter Roberts. (Photo by Matthew Breazeale)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



The last year has brought attention to gender and sexual violence across the nation. With the dawn of the #MeToo movement, we saw abuse of power against girls and women of all ages come to light.

In the Mississippi Delta, women, girls, men and boys are forging their own path in the national conversation sparked by the #MeToo movement. Although most victims of sexual violence are female, anyone of any gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, social status or age can experience sexual violence. It is estimated that 67.5% of instances of rape go unreported for whatever reason.

As an advocate for victims of sexual assault, I often hear comments like: "It's going to be hard getting college students to talk openly about sexual assault," and "I want to share my personal experience but don't know where to start." "I'm from the old school and was told what goes on in this house stays in this house." "I know someone who is a victim." "We need this message in more schools."

Our House, Inc., located in Greenville understands deciding to report rape is a personal decision. Especially in communities as vulnerable as ours, women and girls can be concerned about what other people think and about confidentiality due to the small community connection. However, we cannot afford

to let fear stifle the conversation. How we talk about sexual assault matters. This is not an attack on men. This is about empowering women and girls. This is about setting an atmosphere where victims feel believed and supported.

The month of April is National Sexual Awareness Month. Last month, leaders from sexual assault programs across the state convened at Our House, Inc. to discuss the State of Mississippi's need for more advocates and volunteers to help with servicing victims and to establish a collaborative preventive plan.

One of the major discussions at this meeting was to heighten confidentiality and to encourage more victims to get the medical attention they need. In the Mississippi Delta, there are Sexual Assault Response Teams (SART) in Leflore and Holmes County specifically being trained on responding to a victim of sexual assault. The SART consists of Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE), local law enforcement, faith-based leaders, community leaders, mental health professionals, survivors, volunteers and advocates. In partnership with the Delta Assault Response Team (DART) under the leadership of Delta Health Alliance, there will be additional SARTs started in Washington, Bolivar and Sunflower Counties by year end. Our House, Inc., in partner-

ship and/or collaboration with Delta Health Alliance, Mississippi Valley State University, Delta State University, North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, Community Students Learning Center, Mississippi Coalition for Sexual Assault (MSCASA), and area schools, is implementing the #MeToo conversation into its training and sexual assault awareness month activities. Topics include: Leadership in the Workplace; The Code of Silence: Sexual Awareness in the Black Community; Let's Talk About "It"; A Conversation on Consent; Neurobiology of Trauma; MeToo Women EmpowHERment Rally; Women of Color #MeToo and You Conference.

Our House, Inc.'s mission is to lead, empower and inspire change by eliminating domestic violence and sexual violence through intervention, prevention, prosecution, victim protection and sustainable restoration in rural communities; and, to enhance the lives of survivors of interpersonal violence by providing services that meet the psychological, spiritual and cultural needs of those we serve.

For more information about our services, call 662-334-6873. If you are a victim, call our 24-Hour Hotline, 662-332- LOVE (5683). Our House Inc. will work with victims whether they choose to press charges against the perpetrator or not.

Our House, Inc. is a proud member of United Way (Bolivar, Washington and Sunflower Counties).

Dilworth Ricks,  
Sexual Assault Advocate  
Our House, Inc.

## Durant native named inductee for Holmes Community College Hall of Fame

The 2018 HCC Sports Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 26 at 6 p.m. in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus.

Ashley Howard of Durant is set to be inducted.

Howard played for the Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs under Coach Chanda Rigby from 2004-2005. She was named to the All-State and All-Region teams and was named Co-MVP of the All-Star Game

in 2005. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from University of Memphis in 2007 followed by a Master of Science in Bioinformatics from Mississippi Valley State University in 2009. Howard resides in her hometown of Durant with her four children.

## Champ is spelled J-A-C-E

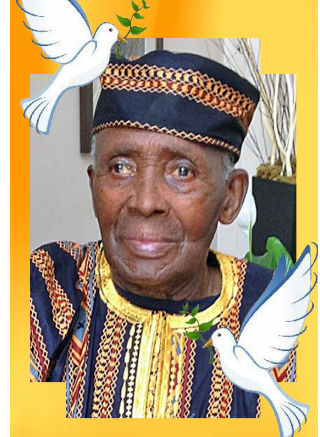


Jace Huntley placed first in the Pre-K/Kindergarten category at Williams-Sullivan Elementary school-wide spelling bee on Thursday, April 12. Jace learned to spell the Kindergarten Dolch Sight Words. He was awarded a framed certificate and scooter. Jace is the son of Jeremy & Monica Huntley.

(Photo submitted)

**Jordan's Place**  
1 Mile South of Lexington, MS  
11575 Ebenezer Rd., 39095  
**662-834-2955**  
[www.Jordanms.com](http://www.Jordanms.com)

In Loving Memory....  
**Isiah (Jack) Clark**  
April 15, 1920 -  
February 12, 2016



We still thank God for the love and lessons you shared with each of us, as we celebrate your 98th Birthday. Your smile and energetic spirit continues to lighten our dark days and warm our hearts.

Forever loving and remembering you,

Your devoted children, grandchildren and family.

## NOTICE

Mississippi River Gas Company operates a distribution system in Holmes County, MS.

If you should smell gas, or see damaged metering equipment, please call our 24 hour emergency phone number 662-235-0988.

Every year people are injured or killed by accidentally striking a pipeline while using excavation equipment. In many cases, these tragedies could have been prevented by making a simple telephone call to the state One-Call Center – 811, which is free of charge.

By law, anyone who plans to begin any excavation, trenching, boring or other ground disturbing project is required to contact the One-Call Center no less than 48 hours before digging whether or not the caller believes the area is free of pipelines or other underground utilities. The One-Call Center will notify all utilities in the area and will dispatch people to the proposed excavation site to locate and mark pipelines and other underground services.

**Mississippi One-Call Center can be reached at 1-800-227-6477.**

**This message is from:  
Mississippi River Gas, LLC  
P.O. Box 579  
Tchula, MS 39169**

**To report an emergency on our pipeline  
Call – 662-235-0988**