

Holmes Students Inducted Into Honor Society



Holmes County residents (from left): Ty Blackstock, Kalon Johnson, Melvin Williams, Ebony Huntley, Danielle Gibson and Brantley Holder, took part in Thursday night’s, April 11, Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony on the Goodman Campus. The students were inducted into the Kappa Alpha Chapter. (Photo submitted)

Delta Health Alliance receives HRSA funding for maternal & child health program

Press Release
The Health Resources and Services Administration of the US Department of Health and Human Services has awarded a five-year funding grant to Delta Health Alliance to increase maternal and infant outcomes for expectant moms and families in four rural counties through its Delta Healthy Start Collaborative.

The Delta Healthy Start Collaborative, which is part of Delta Health Alliance’s broader home visiting initiatives, will combat infant mortality and low birth weight babies in regions of the Delta where resources are not readily available, particularly women’s health resources. The four-county service area (Leflore, Humphreys, Holmes and Yazoo) historically sees higher incidences of infant mortality, preterm and low weight births, and teen births, particularly in low-income families.

“Preterm births have an economic impact in the Delta of \$51,600 per birth with 71% of that being medical costs, but those avoidable medical costs are greatly reduced through home visiting programs,” states Karen Matthews, CEO for Delta Health Alliance. Matthews continues, “This HRSA funding will lower those costs and ensure that Delta children are healthy and hitting developmental milestones.”

According to Carolyn Willis, DHA’s Vice President of Education Programs, “This new funding means we can continue to build on the work of the past five years, while expanding the scope and



Parent Educator Vanessa Wilson (right) bonds while working with Delta Healthy Start participant. (Photo submitted)

scale of services in the five years to come.” Willis, who oversees DHA’s Home Visiting Initiative, knows the success that DHA’s current maternal and infant health programs have seen in the Delta such as DHA’s pilot study program, located in Sunflower and Leflore counties.

“Almost 90% of children in families participating in are meeting age-appropriate development benchmarks, a figure higher than the national average. And, 32% of participant are less likely to have low birth-weight babies and premature births.”

DHA’s Delta Healthy Start Collaborative utilizes Parent Educators trained in the evidence-based Parents as Teachers model to work with pregnant moms and infants/children up to 18 months, utilizes the Center

for Disease Control’s Pre-conception Health to support women’s health, and fosters fatherhood participation through Partners for Healthy Babies/ 24/7 Dads program.

Partners of this collaborative include the Mississippi State Department of Health’s Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health, Greenwood OB/GYN Associates, the Leland Medical Clinic, Desoto Family Counseling Center, the Universal Parenting Place, the Delta Fresh Foods Initiative, and Greenwood Leflore Hospital.

To learn more about Delta Health Alliance’s Home Visitation Initiative program and Delta Healthy Start, go to www.deltahealthalliance.org or follow DHA on social media.

Road Closure



According to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, MS Highway 14 between Ebenezer and MS Highway 17 in Holmes County is closed due to damage from Saturday’s storm. The route will remain closed until crews can make repairs to the road. (Photos by MDOT)



Living With Children

By John Rosemond
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Julie Jargon is a reporter with the Wall Street Journal. Heretofore, she has written about food companies like Starbucks and McDonalds. As of April 2, however, Ms. Jargon is writing a WSJ column titled “Family and Tech,” described as dealing with “the impact of technology on family life.”

In her inaugural column (April 2, 2019), which could have been written by public relations folks at Sony and the American Psychological Association, Ms. Jargon strives to convince her audience that simply because a child has difficulty putting down the game controller and finding creative, productive things to do does not mean he’s a video game addict.

Given that addiction is defined as being obsessed with and having great difficulty ceasing the use of a harmful substance or involvement in a non-productive or pathological activity, I fail to see anything but contradiction

in Ms. Jargon’s thesis. We’re talking about kids who will not stop playing video games unless a parent or the imminence of a bodily function forces them to stop. How’s that not an addiction?

The manager of a large west coast convention hotel

once told me that when his property hosted a “gamers” convention, his staff had to threaten attendees with pulling the plug on their devices to get them to drink water or eat even a cracker. Many of the attendees wore adult diapers so they wouldn’t have to stop playing. That, by any other name, is addiction. It’s also sick. It’s also where a child or teen’s obsession with video games may lead if parents don’t pull the plug

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