

Kitsap County Chronicle

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Voice of the African American Community

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Monica Ewing Is Finalist In Pageant

Monica Tamera Ewing, a Central Kitsap High School senior, is one of ten finalists for the 1993 TCI Cablevision Armed Forces Queen's Pageant. She is being sponsored by Kitsap Optical, Inc. The scholarship pageant will be held at the Bremerton Performing Arts Center in Bremerton High School on Monday, May 10. The event will officially kick-off Bremerton's Armed Forces Festival. Other pageant finalists are: Tina Arciaga, Jennifer Bradley, Jennifer Carter, Christina M. Daluria, Erika Eklof, Nikkole Karl, Tawnya Howard, Rebecca Merrill and Katherine M. Smith.

Women Of Color Conference Scheduled For This Saturday At Olympic College

The fourth annual Multicultural Women of Color Conference at Olympic College will feature *Women of Color: Working Together* on Saturday, March 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Bremer Student Center.

Early arrivals are invited to a "Meet Fair" between 9:30 and 10 a.m. before the conference. Child care will be available. Registration is now underway; early registration

is encouraged.

According to Melody Huggins, program coordinator, "Everyone is invited to attend. Opening the conference will be Marguerita Sugiyama de Mendoza, senior executive Policy Coordinator in Washington State with Governor Lowry's office.

The guest facilitators at the workshops will be Cora Deluria, Opal Robertson, and Gene Liddell."

Conference workshop topics are:

- Women of Color Similarities/Differences;
- Why We Should Work Together; and
- Economic Concerns.

The conference fee of \$15 covers the workshop and all materials, a luncheon featuring a variety of "multicultural" dishes, and entertainment by "The Total Experience Gospel Choir."

Campaign For Healthier Babies Begins

It's time for corporations, clubs, organizations and families to form teams for the 1993 March of Dimes WalkAmerica. This annual pledgewalk will happen at 11 sites across Western Washington, including Kitsap County, on April 24, to raise \$850,000 (\$27,000 in the county) for the March of Dimes Campaign for Healthier Babies

which strives to give every baby a healthy start in life.

Potential team captains can call the March of Dimes at 1-800-345-5188 and individuals can either call or pick up a pledge form at all Key Bank locations in Western Washington.

WalkAmerica is supported by generous contributions by KIRO

Broadcasting, Key Bank, and Washington Dental Service.

In addition to \$400,000 in research grants at the University of Washington, the dollars raised by WalkAmerica are used for local grants, public and professional health education efforts, advocacy and outreach. In Kitsap County, recent grants to the Bremerton-Kitsap Health District, Kitsap Project Family and the Red Ribbon Campaign have furthered efforts to reduce maternal substance abuse and to provide critical service links for pregnant teens.

For more information call 1-800-345-5188.

Property Taxes Increase

Total property tax collections in Kitsap County will increase from \$100.7 million in 1992 to \$123.3 million in 1993, or 22.3 percent. Of this total, \$50.0 million is the

result of levies voted and approved by taxpayers.

The average overall tax rate for Kitsap County is 13.349 dollars per \$1000 of assessed valuation.

Lowry Urges Low-Income Families To Apply For Earned Income Credit

Governor Mike Lowry urged lower-income working families to take advantage of a little-known federal tax credit that could put real money in their pockets.

The federal "Earned Income Credit" provides up to \$2,200 for families who earned less than \$22,370 last year — if they file a federal income tax return.

"This is one of the best opportunities for lower-income working families to keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets," Lowry said at a news conference held last month to kick-off the 1993 EIC Outreach campaign.

"Last year, over 190,000 families in our state qualified for the credit and this brought in almost \$150 million," Lowry said. "It is good for our families and it is good for our economy. It is a real win-win situation."

However, more families are eligible and more needs to be done to notify them, Lowry said.

"Our goal is to increase the number of eligible families filing for the EIC by 10 percent, and to increase total EIC benefits flowing into the state to \$200 million," Lowry said.

"This doesn't cost the state a dime," Lowry added, "yet the benefits increase a family's purchasing power and help revitalize communities because the money is spent locally on rent, food, and gas."

The maximum credit for one child for the 1992 tax year is \$1,324. Families with a child born in 1992 may receive an additional tax credit of up to \$376, and families purchasing health insurance for a child may receive an extra credit of up to \$451.

Families who became unemployed at some point during 1992 should take special note of the EIC. Some of these families will qualify for the credit for the first time.

Nancy Amidei, a former syndicated columnist and senior lecturer at the University of Washington's School of Social Work, said outreach efforts are particularly necessary in rural and non-English speaking communities.

"We are concerned about recently unemployed workers or others who

have been affected by the slow economy who may need this benefit but know nothing about it," said Amidei, who is coordinating the statewide EIC outreach effort.

Families with questions about the EIC can call the Internal Revenue Service toll free number, 1-800-829-1040, or visit one of 200 statewide free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance centers.

Volunteers Sought For YWCA's ALIVE Shelter

The ALIVE Shelter for battered women and their children, provides confidential emergency housing, individual and group counseling, a 24-hour crisis line, legal advocacy, children's programming, and community education and outreach.

Volunteers are currently needed to assist counselors in providing shelter services.

Contact Cathy Dell or Judy Bennett of the YWCA at 479-5116 for information and application procedures.



Sheldon Sponsors Toby Tebo As Page

Toby Tebo of Bremerton, recently served as a Senate page for one week in Olympia. Sponsored by Senator Betti Sheldon, D-Bremerton, Tebo, age 14, learned how the Legislature is organized into two legislative bodies. Tebo, son of Ronald and LaNita Tebo, attends Ridgetop Junior High School, where he is a freshman. He is a member of the ASB Advisory board, Honor Society, jazz band and the Natural Helpers. He is also ASB president and a "Domer" for the Mariners. In his spare time he enjoys baseball, basketball, and soccer.

SK Cagers Sweep AAU Tournament—See Page 5