

Kitsap County Chronicle

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Voice of the African American Community

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Mt. Zion 49th Anniversary Slated

The Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church will be celebrating their 49th Anniversary on Sunday, August 22, 3 p.m. at 13th & Hewitt Street in Bremerton. This year's theme, entitled "Standing on Zion", will feature some of the charter members of the church along with Mary M. Golden, pictured above, one of the original members. A dinner will be served before the celebration, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. You must RSVP by calling 377-9169 479-6589 or 692-3712.

Governor Lowry Proclaims August Child Support Awareness Month

Citing a need to educate the public about child support and paternity issues, Governor Mike Lowry has proclaimed August as "Child Support Awareness Month."

The proclamation notes an alarming rate of births outside of marriage. It suggests education and local action as ways citizens can help curb the rising incidence—especially to teens—of pregnancy outside of marriage.

Preventative education for youth is especially important now, according to a March 1993 report by Washington Kid's Count. The annual report monitors trends in the well-being of children and families in Washington. The report notes:

- Every 27 minutes an infant is born to an unmarried mother of any age;
- 1 in 14 births during 1992 was to an unmarried teen mother;
- Teenage mothers tend to drop out of school, and 60 percent of their children grow up in poverty; and
- An expected one-third increase in high school

enrollment by 1997 will add over 80,000 students.

Reducing teen pregnancy is a continued goal of state government, as evidenced by the 1993 Legislature's approval of funds to begin a preventative education campaign.

Also, the state Office of Support Enforcement (OSE) works hand-in-hand with

schools to inform youth about their rights and fiscal responsibilities should they become teen parents.

The public can get information about OSE's free paternity establishment and child support collection services by calling 1-900-442-KIDS.

Flood Victims Receive Support

Local support for Midwest flood victims continues to pour in to the local Red Cross. To date, over \$6,000 has been donated by Kitsap and North Mason County residents and more contributions are being received every day.

"The longer the floods last, the longer it will take to help people get back on their feet again," says Joe Elmore, chapter manager of the Kitsap-North Mason County Chapter.

Meanwhile, the Red Cross wants to remind local residents that disasters can happen to anyone, anywhere! In the past year, the Kitsap-North Mason County Red Cross's disaster volunteers responded to 60

single family fires. Over \$22,000 in assistance was given to 45 families for emergency food, shelter, clothing, household furnishings, and medical supplies.

The Red Cross recommends that you prepare yourself now against the possibility of disasters—at home, at work, or at school. One way to prepare is to put together a disaster supplies kit.

Anyone who wants more information about local and national Red Cross disaster relief efforts, disaster preparedness, or would like to sponsor an event to support these efforts, should call 377-3761.

Washington State Association for Black Veterans Open Office

Last month, Harold Whitehead, president of the Washington State Association for Black Veterans (WSABV) announced the opening of their office at 9252 - 57th Avenue South in Seattle. WSABV is the Washington State Department under the auspices of the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS).

WSABV is chartered as a non-profit corporation in Washington State to provide information, advocate and provide services in an attempt to improve the plight of veterans, particularly Black veterans. Many minority

veterans are seeking employment and economic development opportunities that will empower them toward self-sufficiency and equal access to financial assistance in creating businesses that will be able to employ many people.

Presently, the agency does not receive any grants and is being financed by membership and staffed by volunteers. It will be open Monday through Friday, from 1 to 5 p.m..

Although it isn't funded to operate any specific programs, WSABV will provide outreach services to connect veterans with existing services. WSABV

will be very active in advocating, on behalf of veterans to ensure that they are treated fairly and receive all of the benefits that they are entitled to receive.

Presently, it appears that minority veterans are not being treated fairly in the job market in private industry and municipal governments, according to the WSABV.

Another major activity will be to encourage lending institutions and the Small Business Administration to make special effort to "reach out" to minority veterans and assist them in getting loans and technical business development assistance.

Youth Foundation to Provide Helmets

Helmets for Youth Foundation is a newly formed charitable organization. It was established for the express purpose of providing bicycle safety helmets to children, ages 3 to 5, residing in Kitsap County whose families might otherwise be unable to purchase the helmets. The helmets are to be provided free of charge.

The Foundation was founded on the fact that most severe bicycle related head injuries are preventable. For example, the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center (HIPRC) states that wearing a bicycle helmet reduces the risk of serious head injury by 85 percent. HIPRC also cites that the nearly 600 cyclists under the age of 14 who die each

year, 80 percent of those suffer head trauma.

They will begin fundraising and helmet distribution in late-summer and early-fall. Contributions are being sought from public and private businesses and organizations.

For information, call Jeff Pritchard at 344-3716 or 842-2409.



Robinson and King to Wed

Vincent James Robinson of Bremerton and Casaundra Monneett King of Seattle will wed Sunday, August 29, 4 p.m. at Alki Room, Seattle Center, First Avenue North and Republican in Seattle. The reception will be immediately following the ceremony. Robinson is the son of Otis and Dianne Robinson of Bremerton. King is the daughter of Teddy and Shirley Peoples of Seattle.

HAPPY 20TH CLASS REUNION EAST TECH HIGH SCHOOL