

Adoption Day is celebrated Tuesday

By RICH ADAMS

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CHEBOYGAN - Three children will have new families - legally, that is - after their adoptions are finalized Tuesday during the fifth annual Michigan Adoption Day at the Cheboygan County Building.

Family Division Judge Robert John Butts will finalize the adoption after a ceremony from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the 89th District Court courtroom on Tuesday.

“We're very excited about this event,” Butts said Thursday in a news release. “In most cases, people are not happy to come to court. Adoptions are one of the exceptions, a joyous occasion for the families and for the court, the Department of Human Services and the service providers involved with the families.”

Adoption is the only answer for children who can never return home because of abuse and neglect, Butts stated. There are many children available for adoption in the state, waiting for safe and loving homes.

“In addition, there are many children who have never really known their father and mother, and a step-parent comes forward and becomes that needed parent,” Butts explained.

Thus far in 2007, the Cheboygan County Family Court has finalized the adoptions of nine children and seven more are pending finalization. An information desk will be set up outside the Probate Court courtroom on Tuesday for those interested in more information on adoption.

Michigan Adoption Day has taken place on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving for the past two years. The theme for Adoption Day is “giving thanks for families.”

For those interested in adoption, the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange has information. Call the Exchange at 1-800-589-6273 or visit the Web site at www.mare.org. Other organizations and their contact numbers are the Department of Human Services at 627-8500, Cheboygan County Family Court at 627-8876, Catholic Human Services at 231-947-8110, Child and Family Services at 1-800-779-0396 and Lutheran Adoption Services at 989-686-3170.