



E-Citation replaces handwritten tickets in Cumberland County

By *Patty McQuillan*

FAYETTEVILLE – Handwritten pink traffic tickets were replaced in Cumberland County in March by laptop computers and radio waves. Now, when a motorist is stopped for a traffic violation, an officer's car computer spits out a ticket for the driver, and the information is sent by radio wave to the court's computer files. Cumberland County is the first in the nation to electronically file the ticket straight from the officer's laptop computer.

The new e-Citation (electronic citation) will eliminate a dozen or more labor-intensive steps in the clerk's office and at law enforcement agencies.

"These clerks who are doing data entry will now be freed up to do what they really need to be doing," Judge Tom Ross, director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, said at a March press conference. "That is to be in court helping the judges and helping the district attorneys and others with



Using laptop computers, officers in Cumberland County are able to electronically send information contained on traffic tickets straight to the court's computer files.

maintaining the records."

"This is almost a dream come true for me," Cumberland County Clerk of Court Tommy Griffin said about the new e-Citations. "It's just wonderful, allowing clerks to work like they're supposed to do."

The Cumberland County Sheriff's Department, the Fayetteville Police Department and the State Highway Patrol,

combined, generate approximately 50,000 citations each year in Cumberland County. When the officers, under the old system, delivered their handwritten traffic tickets to the courthouse, the clerk would assign and stamp courtroom and file numbers, separate the tickets by court date and courtroom and alphabetically file the tickets in filing cabinets. Clerks also had to enter all the information into a computer. Three days before the court date when the calendar was printed, the clerk pulled the ticket, and the citations were taken to the courtroom. If there was a continuance or a no-show, the staff had to repeat the process. Law enforcement personnel also had numerous steps in maintaining ticket files for their agencies.

"Using the e-Citation technology to cut paperwork and eliminate redundancy is tremendous progress in North Carolina, making our courts more efficient," Judge Ross said. "The paperwork overload stymied our operations for

(Continued on page 2)

Christie and Dallas Cameron survive house fire

Copper, the golden retriever, alerts family

By *Patty McQuillan*

RALEIGH – Milk, cheese, eggs, salt, pepper. Christie Cameron was suddenly struck by how this was going to be no ordinary shopping list several days after fire consumed her home in the early morning hours of Feb. 28.

Christie Cameron, clerk of the N.C. Supreme Court, and her husband, Dallas, former director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, were sleeping soundly after attending a festive Mardi Gras party that Saturday night. Her two sons, David and John, had been out late, as well, and were also deep in sleep. While they slept, firefighters believe a short in a recessed bathroom light fixture triggered the fire.

No one wants to think about what could have happened had Copper, the family's three-legged golden retriever, not hobbled over to the bed and pawed Christie awake. When she opened her eyes, she saw the orange blaze. Christie dialed 911 while shaking Dallas awake. She knocked on the door of 17-year-old John, and calmly told him he needed to get his shorts and t-shirt on, that the house was on fire. Then she went



Christie and Dallas Cameron shower their dog, Copper, with affection.

downstairs to alert 18-year-old David. Dallas, in the meantime, was able to carry out 12-year-old Copper, the two cats, Oscar and Gracie, and the family bird, Pennyroo, a Spectacle Amazon parrot.

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Christie (continued from page 1)

Christie said it wasn't until she and her family were outside at the end of the driveway that she realized the enormity of the situation.

"The roof over the master bedroom and John's room was engulfed in flames," Christie said. "We suddenly realized that what we thought had been a fire on the outside wall had actually already consumed most of the roof."



The Camerons feel blessed to have survived the fire that destroyed their home.

Three neighbors had called 911 before Christie's call came. Dallas said the firefighters did a spectacular job, even moving some furniture out of the house before they turned their hoses to the flames.

The next door neighbors took the Camerons in that night, and the following days were filled with insurance adjusters, building contractors, family, friends and neighbors.

"All I could think of was the flood victims and how that affected everyone there," Christie said with great empathy. "Here, I had the support of my neighbors and friends. What we have is just one big inconvenience compared to those flood victims."

Christie, Dallas, David and John have rented a house in the neighborhood while their home is being rebuilt.

The Camerons feel very blessed to have survived and have kept in good spirits. Christie said, "This is the one time I can truly say, 'Honey, I don't have a thing to wear.'"

Fire destroys home of AOC employee in the west

HENDERSONVILLE – Cynthia Easterling, a court services analyst supervisor, said she was touched by the e-mails from fellow AOC employees who saw on the news that she lost her house to fire Feb. 12.

Easterling was with her daughter at a swim meet, and her son was at school when lightning struck her house located in the township of Zirconia. She said her husband, an environmental engineer, was probably having an X-Files moment as he calmly watched the windows explode while he stood in the kitchen. He was able to escape unharmed, but the fire that followed destroyed the top floor and melted everything inside. A large hole and a 25-foot trench in their yard show the path of the lightning strike to the house.

Easterling said church friends came to help clean up, but soon realized there was nothing they could do. She and her family are living in an apartment until they rebuild. ■



Cumberland County Clerk of Court Tommy Griffin said the new e-Citation system is a dream come true and will save his staff a lot of time previously spent filing tickets.

E-citation (continued from page 1)

years, and this new electronic filing system will eliminate many labor-intensive steps, breathing new life into the clerk's office."

Ross said once this pilot program has been fine-tuned, he plans to expand the e-Citation network to other counties. The \$500,000 cost of installing e-Citation was paid by the Governor's Highway Safety Program. The Criminal Justice Information Network, CJIN, provided the link between the various enforcement agencies and the Cumberland County Courthouse. North Carolina is the first in the nation to transmit traffic tickets by radio wave to the courtroom.

The e-Citation project was a joint project among many agencies including the Criminal Justice Information Network, the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department, the Fayetteville Police Department, the Governor's Highway Safety Program, IBM, Interplat Solutions, Inc., Mobile Data Solutions, the N.C. Highway Patrol and the Administrative Office of the Courts. ■

A Brief Recess

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Carolina courthouses

Fires damages the Pender County Courthouse

BURGAW – A courtroom fire believed to be deliberately set caused \$40,000 worth of damage to the Pender County Courthouse March 8. Clerk of Court Frances Basden said one of the maintenance men walked through the courtroom at 7:30 a.m. and saw nothing suspicious. About 8:15 a.m., when Deputy Clerk Pat Frye opened the door to retrieve some documents, all she saw was a black wall of smoke.



The Pender County Courthouse

No one was hurt in the fire which was set underneath a balcony at the back of the courtroom. Court was moved to the annex, and only one court day was lost because of the fire. The SBI is investigating. ■

Magistrates System up and running in 31 counties

By *Patty McQuillan*

The only computer work Jim Brown did during his 30-year career with Sears Roebuck & Co. was running a daily financial sales report. A typewriter suited Brown just fine the past 15 years he's been a magistrate in Alamance County.

"I was afraid that he would leave us when we went on this system," Chief Magistrate Sandra Herring said. "He actually does great with it and has learned a lot, showing that someone of his age with little computer experience can master this program."

The 67-year-old Brown praises North Carolina's new Magistrates System, saying it is unbeatable for what it can do.

"It was like wrestling a bear for me," Brown said when he began to learn the new computer program. "Now, I don't have as much typing to do. The format is already there. You just fill in the pertinent facts."

When the entire state is linked to the Magistrates System, those facts will be entered instantly into a central computer repository. A warrant filed in Henderson County, for example, will appear across the state alerting magistrates and law enforcement to outstanding warrants.

"The goal is to have the officer in the car put in the (license) tag number and check for warrants or alerts," said Basil McVey, deputy director of Court Management and Information Services for the Administrative Office of the Courts. "This will keep criminals from falling through the cracks."

Public safety is one of the most significant aspects of the state's new computerized Magistrates System. An officer with a laptop computer in his car can find out immediately the criminal history of the owner of the car he has stopped, an edge he's never had before, according to McVey.



After mastering the new Magistrates System, Jim Brown said the program is a real time-saver.

"This is the beauty of the whole system," Judge Tom Ross, director of the Administrative Office of the Courts said. "When this kind of information can be accessed by the entire criminal justice system, we feel officers' lives may be saved as well as citizens by getting potential criminals off the streets."

For magistrates, the new system means no longer typing tedious forms. With the stroke of a few keys, the magistrate can simply select pre-written information. Duplicate warrants can be made instantly. The program also helps magistrates determine how much bond to set.

Brown's computer screen, like screens in the 30 other counties hooked up so far, has tiny pictures next to the 14 arrest categories. Click on a tiny wine bottle and get the forms for an ALE citation; handcuffs stand for an arrest warrant, a ripped check for a worthless check charge, a deer for a wildlife citation and a man fleeing for a fugitive order.

Magistrates in the newest counties to come on line say the system is not without the normal start-up glitches.

"It's been working a little slow, going down a time or two, and we're still trying to learn the system," Cleveland County Magistrate James Dickey said. "In the long run, though, it's going to save us a lot of time."

Gaston County Magistrate Lisa Byerly agreed, "There are a few glitches in the software, but it's improving with time and, ultimately, it'll be a tremendous time-saver."

"The accuracy of this information is bound to go up," said Ross. "The system improves response time, saves clerks from having to re-enter information and gets the officer back out on the street faster. We hope to eventually connect all the counties, and we can begin to build the data system for a statewide warrant repository. This will be a significant improvement for the entire criminal justice system."

The Magistrates System is part of the Criminal Justice Information Network Study (CJIN) released in 1995. The project is funded from state and federal money, a total of \$9.4 million. The entire state should be linked by January 2001. ■

Chief Justice announces formation of new Media and the Courts Forum

RALEIGH – Chief Justice Henry Frye of the N.C. Supreme Court announced the formation of the Chief Justice's Media and the Courts Forum Feb. 24.

The 40-member committee made up of court officials, news media, academicians, law enforcement and attorneys will discuss ways to make court information more accessible to the public while retaining a person's right to a fair trial.

"When the fourth estate and the third branch of government meet, we each hold dear the U.S. Constitution, the companion Bill of Rights and the N.C. Constitution,"

Frye said. "Both the judiciary and journalists share one goal, that of keeping the public better informed."

Frye made the announcement at the Associated Press luncheon at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill. He said the forum will open discussions to help the courts understand the needs of reporters and for reporters to understand the restraints of the court system.

Frye pointed out the incredible strides the media has made in covering news as a result of modern technology, and, in comparison, how far behind the court system is technologically.

"Your funding is determined with each turn of the press or every aired commercial, while we in the courts must depend on public monies to pay for any technology," Frye said. He expressed hope that state legislators would take to heart the findings from the recent study by the GartnerGroup, the world's leading authority on information technology, and provide the necessary funding for a court system that is more user-friendly.

Cameras in the courtroom were introduced following a similar task force formed in the early 1980s. ■

A snapshot of

Yancey County Courts

By *Christy Hardee*

Warren Hughes is the clerk of Superior Court for Yancey County. A native of Yancey County, he graduated from Western Carolina University and received his law degree from North Carolina Central University. He practiced law for two years before becoming clerk in 1984. Former president of the Clerks' Association, Hughes said one of the biggest complaints he heard during his tenure was that smaller counties are not adequately staffed. He currently has six people working on his staff.



Sabra Westall is a deputy clerk. She has been working in the clerk's office for 10 years. She processes all the child support and does backup for juvenile and civil cases. She also serves as the receptionist, answering the phone and serving as the backup cashier. Westall said she enjoys handling child support because it gives her a chance to serve the public. "I am able to be here as their friend in the system," she said. "They don't feel nearly as lost with the changeover in the child support system since they have me here to



answer their questions and guide them through the process." Westall spends a lot of time in her garden attending to her perennials and azaleas. She said several brides have had their portraits made there.

Deputy Clerk **Kathy Ray** has been with the clerk's office for a little more than a year. She handles special proceedings such as foreclosures and adoptions. Originally from Yancey County, Ray has three children, ages 16, 13 and 3. "Yancey County is a good place to raise a family," she said.



Lora Patterson is the victim-witness legal assistant for the district attorney's office in Yancey County. She has worked for the district attorney for five years, handling indictments for Yancey and Mitchell counties and assisting the assistant district attorney in the courtroom. She is a certified DCI operator, so she is able to run criminal records for the district attorney. "I enjoy the courtroom scene," she said. "I like watching the cases unfold." Her father is the sheriff of Yancey County, and she said her job gives her the chance to see up-close what her father does.



Assistant Clerk **Lynda Howell** has been with the clerk's office for 16 years. She said she does a little bit of everything including bookkeeping and handling civil cases. She said her job is always a challenge because things change all the time. She said for a small community, the caseload has grown a lot over the last five years. She said they used to hold court once a month, but now hold it almost every day. There is only one courtroom in the Yancey County Courthouse, and Howell said they really need two.



Leann Chrisawn is a deputy clerk who handles juvenile court and small claims. She also helps out with criminal court and serves as the head cashier. Chrisawn said in a small county, it's essential for the staff to be cross-trained, so they can cover for one another when someone is out. Working and living in a small town, Chrisawn said she knows just about everybody. When she is not working, Chrisawn spends her time playing softball with a team out of Asheville.



Darrell Huskins is one of three magistrates in Yancey County. The magistrates each work two days on, then they have four days off. On the days they work, the magistrates work from 8:30 to 5:00 during the day and are on-call at night. On the days he is not working as a magistrate, Huskins works in a sawmill. He said one job is all mental, and the other is completely physical. Huskins has been a magistrate for 13 years. He said being a magistrate in a small county is difficult because you know everyone and their families, and they all know you. He said he often carries the job home with him, worrying if did the right thing, especially in domestic situations.

Deputy Clerk **Tammy Fender** has worked as a clerk in Yancey County for 14 years. She backs up bookkeeping and handles all of criminal court, taking judgments in court and closing out cases in the computer. She said she enjoys her job because she likes having the opportunity to help people. "Most people who come in here really have problems," she said. "This job gives me the opportunity to say a kind word." Living in a rural community, Fender said a lot of people can't afford attorneys and don't know where to go for help, so she tries to help them out whenever she can. "It's just a matter of knowing the right place to call," she said.



With a view of the mountains out her window, **Wanda Woodby** has one of the best seats in the clerk's office. An assistant clerk, Woody has been with the clerk's office for nearly 16 years. She handles estates, orders supplies, serves as the equipment

person, and is the jack-of-all-trades. Dealing with estates, she said she helps a lot of women learn for the first time how to take control of their lives and their possessions. She said a lot of the older women she deals with don't know anything about bank accounts, what they own or where it is. She also handles guardianships and said she feels like she's helped raise a lot of the children in Yancey County. When she's not working, Woodby stays busy with her farm, growing herbs, wild flowers, berries and apples.

Computer program replaces Mitchell County's wooden box

By Christy Hardee

BAKERSVILLE – Tucked away in the mountains of North Carolina in the small town of Bakersville, the Mitchell County Courthouse appears to be miles of winding roads away from the rest of the modern world. Yet, despite its remote setting, Mitchell County Clerk of Court Ted McKinney is making sure the county's court system is not left out in the dark when it comes to utilizing new technology.

McKinney said when he was first sworn in as clerk in December 1998, the courthouse only had one personal computer and one working typewriter, and the staff still

pulled numbers out of an old wooden box to select individuals for jury duty. Since then, quite a bit has changed.

For starters, McKinney got five new computers for the court staff and several working typewriters that he acquired from the state's surplus property warehouse in Raleigh.

"You've got to have the tools to do the job," he said. "I've had other clerks call and tell me that the next time I go to Raleigh they need some typewriters, too."

Using his own money, he also purchased a radio which allows him instant contact with any of the county's four magistrates whenever one is needed and installed a phone line and a telephone in the courtroom, so he can communicate with his assistant without having to climb an extremely narrow set of stairs to send in a note.

As impressive as all these technological advancements may be to a county that is used to doing more with less, they are nothing compared to the new jury selection computer program McKinney purchased with county funds. It could be said that the Service Commander for Jury Selection program, designed by Jack Berry of Service Commander Software,

Inc., is responsible for ushering the Mitchell County clerk's office into the modern era.

Prior to installing the program in November 1999, the clerk's office selected jurors the old-fashioned and extremely time-consuming way. When a jury was needed, clerk staff pulled out an old wooden box filled with 3,000 numbered circles. The numbers corresponded to a list of county residents, prepared by the jury commission who spent months verifying and typing up names provided by the DMV, the Board of Elections and the phone book. As one staff member pulled 125 numbers out of the box, another wrote down the numbers. The list of numbers was then sent to the Register of Deeds

office where someone there would type up the names that corresponded to the 125 numbers. Then the list of 125 names was sent to the sheriff's department where someone else would have to type up the letters to send to all 125 prospective jurors.

Now, using the Service Commander for Jury Selection program, McKinney simply enters the date a jury is needed, the court type – either district or superior, the type of case – criminal or civil, and the number of potential jurors needed. Then the computer does the rest. In a matter of minutes, he has his list of jurors, and the sheriff has a stack of letters ready to be sent out.

McKinney said another added benefit of the program is that it allows him more control over the potential jury pool. When he learns that someone has moved from the county, the person has died or their status has changed in some other way affecting their eligibility for jury service,

he can automatically enter that information into the computer and update the list. The program also allows the clerk to enter information on jurors who have been excused from service and the reason for the excuse.

"Now at any time, I can pull up the list and know exactly where we stand with the jury before going into court," McKinney said. "This program has saved us hundreds of man-hours compared to the way we used to select juries. Now from start to finish, I can have the letters to the sheriff's department in less than 30 minutes."

McKinney has taken full advantage of the extra time the program has afforded him by searching for even more ways to utilize technology to improve the efficiency of the clerk's office. His latest project is the development of his own web site at www.clerkofcourt.org. Once completed, the web site will contain useful information on the Mitchell County court system, the clerk's office, links to other legal resources and a jury schedule which will allow jurors to easily pull up the date and time they are supposed to be in court.

"That alone should cut out at least 100 calls a week to the clerk's office," McKinney said. "I paid for this web site myself, but I'm using it for the benefit of the clerk's office. I believe the clerk has a certain responsibility to the people of his county. This is my service to the community." ■



Mitchell County Clerk of Court Ted McKinney uses a new computer program to select juries in a more time-efficient manner.



Prior to purchasing the Service Commander for Jury Selection program, juries were selected by drawing names out of this wooden box.



Around the state

Judicial Appointments

G. Galen Braddy was appointed District Court judge for District 3A on Jan. 28, replacing the retired Judge E. Burt Aycock. He took the oath of office on Feb. 10.

Lonnie W. Carraway has been appointed District Court judge for District 8, effective March 10. He replaces Judge Paul L. Jones who was recently appointed Superior Court judge.

Bradley R. Allen, was appointed to a newly created District Court judgeship for District 15A on Jan. 28. He took the oath of office on Feb. 4.

District Court Judge **A. Moses Massey** of District 17B was appointed Superior Court judge on Feb. 21 to fill the vacancy of Judge Jerry Cash Martin who retired Jan. 1. He took the oath of office on March 3.

Judge **Forrest Donald Bridges** became senior resident Superior Court judge for District 27B upon the retirement of Judge John M. Gardner on Feb. 29.

K. Dean Black was appointed District Court judge for District 27B on Jan. 20 and took the oath of office Feb. 25. He replaces the retired Judge James Thomas Bowen.

Jerry Braswell was appointed to a newly created special Superior Court judge position Feb. 1. He took the oath of office on Feb. 14.

Clerks donate money to help others

During their winter conference, members of the Clerks' Association donated six \$1,000 gift/grants to Hurricane Floyd victims working in clerk's offices in areas affected by the storm. In addition, they also gave \$500 to the Catawba County Run for Life in memory of the late Barbara Towery who was the former clerk of court for Catawba County.

Judicial support staff to meet in Kill Devil Hills

The annual North Carolina Judicial Support Staff Conference will be held April 4-7 at the Ramada Inn in Kill Devil Hills. The members of NCJSS are comprised of trial court coordinators, judicial assistants and arbitration coordinators working for Superior and District Court judges throughout the state.

The group meets annually for several days to participate in well-planned classes with heavy concentration on computer training and automation of court programs.

"Crutch bunch" rules in Iredell County

In a strange twist of fate, two Superior Court judges working in Iredell County were on crutches during the same time period in March. Senior Resident Superior Court Judge C. Preston Cornelius fell on the ice and broke his leg, while Special Superior Court Judge Richard Doughton was attacked by his own bull. Court-house staff affectionately dubbed the two the "crutch bunch."



Judge Cornelius and Judge Doughton

Clerk nominated to serve as district governor

Beaufort County Clerk of Court Thomas Payne was nominated to serve as governor for Rotary District 7720 for the program year 2002-2003. Under Rotary International procedures, clubs within the district have 30 days to challenge Payne's nomination. In absence of a challenge, Payne will take office as district governor on July 1, 2002.

Drug Court conference held in Wilmington

Drug Treatment Court Administrator Randy Monchick talks with nationally known substance abuse prevention guru, Mike Nerney, following his presentation at the March Drug Treatment Court Training Conference held in Wrightsville Beach. Nerney talked about how to help substance abusers cope with negative emotional skills and said that over time, cravings diminish.



Mike Nerney and Randy Monchick

The first speaker of the conference was Duke pharmacology professor, Dr. Wilkie Wilson, who explained that the human brain is not mature until the age of 21, and one reason why teenagers often make irrational decisions. He said addictions can develop rapidly when a person is incapable of making wise decisions. "We're treating a serious biological problem, not a moral problem," Wilson said.

Communications committee formed

A communications committee has been formed in response to information received from the AOC employee survey indicating the need for better communication within the agency. The first meeting was held Feb. 24, and committee members agreed to consider the following recommendations to improve communication within AOC:

1. Publication of a functional telephone directory,
2. Establishment of a suggestion box program,
3. Establishment of a regular e-mail/list serve to employees on issues of interest,
4. Publication of an AOC and judicial branch event schedule,
5. Creation of opportunities for interdepartmental meetings and gatherings,
6. Encouraging deputy directors to share more information with their staff,
7. Establishment of a touring schedule for the director to meet and talk with employees, and
8. Building employee trust through regular meetings and cross agency training.

If you have other ideas or suggestions, please contact one of the following committee members: Carol Minton, Administrative Services; Ervin Kelly, Sentencing Services; Larry Vellani, Sentencing Services; David Michael, CMISD; Dawn Prince, CMISD; Greg Weaver, CMISD; Pamela Best, Legal Services; Mark Vanderpuy, Legal Services; Katie Gardner, Human Resources; Cynthia Leeks, Human Resources; Gretchen Aylsworth, Guardian ad Litem; Catherine Darby, Guardian ad Litem; Cy Gurney, Guardian ad Litem; or Patty Barbour, Administrative Services. ■

Gov. Hunt proclaims April 6 Guardian ad Litem Day

By Christy Hardee

At the hospital a newborn baby girl is withdrawing from cocaine. Her homeless mother has given birth to two other cocaine-addicted babies. Both were removed from the mother's care because they became severely malnourished.

An eight-year-old deaf child was found unclothed by a relative in the back room of his home. Two known sex offenders were touching him; one was his stepfather.

A ten-year-old girl came home from school with a note requesting that she be treated for lice. The child's mother brutally cut the shoulder length hair to the scalp, gashing the girl's head. The girl returned to school in tears with bruises all over her body.

Last year 60,687 cases involving 102,168 children in North Carolina were reported to the state's Department of Social Services. Of these cases, 19,512 were substantiated. These included 33,133 children who were physically abused, severely neglected or required dependency. Guardians ad Litem represented 15,627 of these children, promoting their best interest in court proceedings.

On April 6, the hard work of the Guardian ad Litem staff and volunteers will be recognized as the state observes Guardian ad Litem Child Advocate Day. Gov. Jim Hunt proclaimed April 6 as Guardian ad Litem Child Advocate Day to acknowledge the program's work to enhance the quality of life for children by having volunteers act as advocates for abused and neglected children in the complicated and often unfamiliar court and child welfare systems.

"Each and every day, volunteers, attorneys and Guardian ad Litem staff face very difficult situations yet find the strength to tackle them and do it with competence," said Ilene Nelson, Guardian ad Litem administrator. "Sometimes this work is done

without much thanks or credit, but those involved with the program deserve much of both. "

Established by the North Carolina legislature in 1983, the Guardian ad Litem program provides trained independent



volunteer advocates to represent and promote the best interest of abused, neglected or dependent children involved in the court and works toward a service system that ensures these children are safe.

After an initial training program, Guardian ad Litem volunteers are sworn in

by the Juvenile Court and work as a team with an attorney advocate. Their recommendations on the child's needs assist the judge in making the best possible decision on the child's future. There are currently 3,660 volunteers across the state representing more than 12,000 children. However, there are still more than 3,000 children who have no volunteer advocate.

In observance of Guardian ad Litem Child Advocate Day, all District Court judges across the state have been asked to read Gov. Hunt's proclamation in their courtroom on April 6. Other activities planned across the state to celebrate the day and to recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month include volunteer recognition luncheons provided by Outback Steakhouse restaurants, blue ribbon distributions, candlelight vigils, courthouse marches, mall displays and other educational events. ■

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