

RELIGION

Special Services At Knobsville Bernie Peirce, missionary to France, will be guest speaker November 22, at the 10:30 a.m. service. A Thanksgiving hymn sing will be held Sunday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. An offering will benefit Buddy's Food Bank. The church is located at 221 Knobsville Road, just off Rt. 522, approximately five miles north of McConnellsburg. All are welcome.

Woman's Conference A woman's conference will be hosted by Re-hoboth New Life with special guest speaker Jeannie Sipes of Freedom Worship Center. The conference will be held Saturday, November 21, at 5:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served and childcare will be provided. The conference will be held at 273 Church Road (Jerusalem Church), Warfordsburg. Pastor Lowell Bard invites all women to come and attend a night of encouragement and inspiration. More information may be obtained by calling 814-735-2544 or rehobothnewlifeministries.org.

Special Services On, Friday evening, December, 11, 2009, at 7 p.m., nationally known trumpeter, Chiz Rider, will be in concert at Immanuel Bible Church. Chiz comes to us locally from State College and has been playing trumpet since age four. He accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at age seven and since then has dedicated himself and his music to that service. One main purpose of his ministry is to strive to bring believers not only encouragement, but also edification by generating praise and worship within the heart. Pastor Steven Heaster and congregation invite the community to this event. Come take a break from the hectic Christmas season and enjoy. The church is located at 22054 Starr Rd, Three Springs. An offering will be lifted. For questions or directions, please call 814-448-9893

Christmas Cantata The combined choirs of McConnellsburg and Cito United Methodist churches will usher in the advent season by presenting the cantata "Christmas Is Forever." The cantata will be presented on Saturday, November 28, at 7:00 p.m. at McConnellsburg United Methodist Church, 121 North Second Street, McConnellsburg, and Sunday, November 29, at 9:15 a.m., at Cito United Methodist Church, 3746 Cito Road, McConnellsburg. There are a variety of musical styles including familiar carols and praise and worship songs. All are welcome.

Re-Creation To Perform The singing group Re-Creation will be presenting their "Evening of Christmas" program on Wednesday, December 2, at 7:00 p.m., at Cito United Methodist Church, 3746 Cito Road, McConnellsburg. The evening of entertainment celebrates music of the season, including Christmas classics, traditional carols, festive frolic and worship that celebrates the reason for the season. The program is free. An offering will be received to support Re-Creation's ministry to hospitalized veterans.

Pioneer Club/Youth Group Pioneer Club and youth group will be held at Rock Hill Mennonite Church December 2 and 16 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Ages 3-11 for Pioneer club and ages 12 and up for youth group. Any questions concerning Pioneer Club should contact Stacy at 485-0122 or Kim at 485-9074. Any questions concerning youth group contact Richard or Rebecca at 485-9498. All are invited to attend.

RECREATION

Chamber Mixer Fulton County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is hosting a chamber mixer Friday, December 4, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Fulton Theatre. All chamber members and interested parties are invited to attend. This event will coincide with Christmas In McConnellsburg.

BiValley Softball Organizing BiValley girls softball and travel teams are organizing for the 2010 season. Join Facebook group "BiValley Girls Softball" and get involved in the discussions and planning for a great season of softball. Call 717-372-5922 for more information.

Sight-In Days Fulton County Pistol and Rifle Club will hold its annual sight-in days at the club range November 21 and 22 from noon

until 5:00 p.m. Club members will be on hand for assistance if needed. This is open to the general public.

Gingerbread House Contest A Child's "Make and Take" Ginger Bread House Contest, for children ages 4 to 12 years will be held Saturday, December 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Fulton Theatre. Each child will be provided with a small gingerbread house and decoration supplies. Entries for each age group will be judged at 1 p.m. Winners of each category will be displayed at the newly renovated Fulton County Library. There is no admission fee, but donations will be accepted. Register at Fulton County Center for Families, any of the Fulton County libraries, Southern Fulton Elementary School office, McConnellsburg Elementary School office, or e-mail the child's name, age and phone number to Syoungblood@sakindness.org. To ensure enough supplies for all participants, preregistration is strongly encouraged. Sponsored by Simple Act of Kindness, a community out-reach program of Christian Social Services.

Christmas In McConnellsburg Fulton County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is hosting the annual Christmas In McConnellsburg. A wide variety of vendors and events will take place at the Fulton Theatre. Friday, December 4, from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., shop for Christmas gifts and grab a bite to eat. Santa will appear for photos from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for \$2. Caroling and fellowship will warm your hearts. Saturday, December 5, event hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Gingerbread making from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and judging will take place at 1:00 p.m. Uncle Clem and Jana will be at the theatre Saturday only from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with free wagon rides around town (weather permitting). Shop for Christmas tree, wreaths, bows and more with outside shopping as well.

Winter Craft Show Shade Gap Auxiliary's winter craft show will be held Saturday, November 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 22, noon to 4:00 p.m. Twenty-three vendors, home-cooked food available. A photographer will be there for winter portraits. All are welcome.

Shooting Match Hustontown Area Volunteer Fire Co. will sponsor shooting matches every Saturday in November beginning at 1:00 p.m. First and second prizes will be awarded.

Open Stage Hustontown Fire Co. will sponsor an open stage on Saturday, November 28, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Kitchen opens at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and share talent.

X Card Shoots Fulton County Rifle and Pistol Club X-card shoots begin until November 20 and start at 7:00 p.m. Ten chances to shoot for \$10 at an X card. First place is a turkey or ham; second place bacon. The last round is \$5 to win the \$50 meat round.

THIS 'N THAT

Vendors Wanted Local vendors are wanted for Christmas In McConnellsburg event Friday, December 4, and Saturday, December 5, at the Fulton Theatre. Contact Deb Toothman at 717-485-3718 for details and space. Spaces are limited so call early.

Toy/Winterwear Drive Odd Fellows Lodge #773, New Grenada is conducting a toy/winter wear drive for local, needy children. Drop off boxes are located at The Fulton County News office and post offices in Hustontown, Waterfall and Wells Tannery. All toys, gloves, hats and scarves must be new and have original tags or be in original packaging. Items will be accepted through December 8.

Treasures For Kids Treasures For Kids is a Christmas program conducted by Fulton County Catholic Mission in partnership with Fulton County Services for Children and Advisory Board and the local chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. For information and to sign up for the program, call Sister Margie at 485-5917.

Afghans For Sale Hustontown Fire Co. has afghans for sale. Large in choice of cranberry, green or navy blue for \$39.99. Features the history of Hustontown. Make nice Christmas gifts. More information may be obtained by calling 987-3108 or 987-3115.

Used Book Drive Forbes Road field hockey teams are now accepting used books, magazines, movies, music and puzzles. Collection boxes have been placed in area businesses for these used items to be dropped off. The used book sale will take place in the Forbes Road cafeteria on Friday, December 4, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 5, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. In addition there will be a bake sale at those times. For more information, big personal donations or anyone wanting to put a collection box at a business call Becky Ford at 814-685-3432 or Carol Cline at 717-987-3996.

MEETINGS

Shooting Club Meeting The Fulton 4-H Shooting Club will hold a meeting Thursday, November 19, at 6:00 p.m., at Fulton County Rifle and Pistol Club. New members, ages 8-19, are welcome. More information may be obtained by calling Brian or Alice Gordon at 485-4031.

VFW Meeting A proposed amendment to the bylaws of VFW Post 655 and FOVA will be voted on at the respective regular meetings on December 2.

PA-R-PAC Meeting PA-R-PAC will be having their monthly meeting November 23 at Community State Bank meeting room at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a covered dish. New members are welcome. More information may be obtained by calling 485-5529.

Quilt Club Meeting Fulton County Quilt Club will meet Saturday, November 21, at 10:00 a.m., at Fulton Theatre. Members are encouraged to bring items for show and tell and any quilting/piecing questions they may have. Anyone interested in quilting is invited to attend. More information may be obtained by calling Cindy at 485-9200.

Sportsmen's League Meeting Fulton County Sportsmen's League will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the stone house at the trout nursery November 20. The drawing for the fall raffle will be held at the conclusion of the meeting.

Town Meeting Fulton County commissioners will host a town meeting December 3 at McConnellsburg Senior Center at 7:00 p.m.

Garden Club Meeting North End Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday, November 24, at noon. Members will assemble holiday swags for Leisure Living. Meeting will be held at the home of Donna Sain, 115 North First Street, McConnellsburg. New members are always welcome. Please call 717-485-4789 for further information.

Extension Meeting The annual meeting of the Fulton County Cooperative Extension Association Board will be held on December 8, 2009, at the Fulton Theater in McConnellsburg. The business meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 p.m., with a guest speaker at 7 p.m.

FOOD & DINING

Free Community Thanksgiving Meal A free community Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings will be served Thanksgiving Day, November 26, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the McConnellsburg United Methodist Church (on the square in McConnellsburg). All are welcome. Delivery available for shut-ins. Call 485-4815 to arrange delivery. Donations of canned foods for Fulton County Food Basket will also be accepted during this time.

Thanksgiving Dinner Warfordsburg Senior Center will be hosting a Thanksgiving dinner social November 20 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The club will provide the turkey, stuffing, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy. Bring a covered dish and come and enjoy dinner and music by the Country Cousins. Cost is a donation. Please RSVP at 294-6020 for a reservation.

Thanksgiving Pie Sale The Saint Stephen Family Life Committee is sponsoring an apple and cherry pie sale on Saturday, November 21. The cost of the pie is \$7.50 for plain and \$8 for crumb. The pies may be picked up after 9:00 a.m. on November 21. To place an order call Sister Margie at 485-5917.

Community Thanksgiving Meal A community Thanksgiving dinner will be held at Needmore Bible Church Thursday, November 26, at noon. All are welcome to join in for a traditional meal with turkey, stuffing, gravy, veggies and more. The meal will be provided at no cost. For more information, please call 717-573-2212.

Which States Have The Highest Standards For Students?

Each state comes up with its own standards for student achievement. A new study from the National Center on Education Statistics compares them.

By Judy Nichols Douglass

STAFF WRITER OF

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Which states have set a high bar for their students – and which states have low expectations?

Under the No Child Left Behind Act, each state comes up with its own standards for student achievement. A new study from the National Center on Education Statistics compares these standards.

According to the study, the states that set the highest standards for fourth-grade reading proficiency in 2007 are:

1. Massachusetts
2. Missouri
3. South Carolina
4. Minnesota
5. (tie) Maine
5. (tie) Vermont

And the bottom five are:

48. Mississippi
47. Oklahoma
46. Tennessee
45. Michigan
44. Alabama

The list goes to only 48 because two states – Nebraska and Utah – did not have data available.

The study also looked at standards for eighth-grade reading proficiency. South Carolina, Missouri, Minnesota, and Vermont are in the top five, as they were for fourth grade. But Massachusetts, which was No. 1 in the list above, dropped to No. 10 for eighth grade. And Florida moved up to the fifth spot.

Only one state from the

fourth-grade bottom – Tennessee – repeats in the lowest rankings for eighth grade. The other states bringing up the rear for eighth grade are Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, and West Virginia.

The report includes rankings for mathematics standards, too. The states that set the highest bar for fourth-grade math proficiency in 2007 are:

1. Massachusetts
 2. (tie) Missouri
 2. (tie) South Carolina
 4. Washington State
 5. (tie) Vermont
 5. (tie) New Hampshire
- The bottom tier is:
48. Tennessee
 47. Colorado
 46. (tie) Michigan
 46. (tie) Mississippi
 44. Alabama

As for eighth-grade math, the highest-ranking states are the ones that were tops for fourth-grade math – except Vermont and New Hampshire come out of the list and Hawaii, Minnesota, and Maine go in.

The state at the bottom of the eighth-grade-math list is Tennessee (once again). Georgia, Oklahoma, Illinois, and Connecticut round out this group.

Using a national scale, the report determined that what states consider proficient varies by as many as 78 points.

"It's a very big puzzle to me, how there can be such a difference," said John Easton, director of the Institute of Education Sciences at the U.S. Education Department, according to the Associated Press.

One thing to keep in mind is that these rankings deal with state standards – not with the actual performance of students. It's conceivable that a state has low standards, yet students there do very well. The reverse – weak performance in a high-standards state – is possible, too.

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