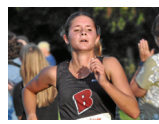


R Lake Geneva REGIONAL NEWS



'Christ-centered, mission-minded'
Faith Christian plans first international mission trip **SEE A7**



State bound
Badger XC qualifies 4 to state **SEE B1**

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

152nd year, No. 46 | Available online Wednesday, Oct. 30 and published Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024 | \$3

Aldermen recommend parks director position

DENNIS HINES
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The city of Lake Geneva is a step closer to implementing a parks director position.

Members of the Lake Geneva City Council Personnel Committee unanimously approved to establish a parks director position during their Oct. 7 meeting.

The position still has to be approved by the full city council. The city has budgeted about \$114,259 for a parks director position for 2025.

City officials first considered establishing a parks director position in the summer of 2023; however, they decided to implement a parks superintendent position to

work with the Public Works Department to help maintain the city parks instead.

Samantha Ingo was hired as the city's park superintendent in January; however, she has since resigned from the position.

Members of the City Council discussed the parks director position again during a budget workshop meeting, Sept. 19.

If approved, the parks director would report to the city administrator and would help establish a parks department for the city of Lake Geneva.

The parks director also would help maintain the city parks and work with representatives from the Geneva Lakes Family YMCA

and other local organizations to help develop recreational programs for the community.

Members of the Personnel Committee also discussed a draft job description for the position during their Oct. 7 meeting.

Alderwoman Cindy Yager, who drafted the job description, said the description is similar to what was proposed for the position when it was discussed last year, but a little bit shorter.

"I believe what I have drafted here is a very wordy document, as well. So I changed this from four and a half pages to three and a half pages," Yager said. "So I did



FILE PHOTO, REGIONAL NEWS

Members of the Lake Geneva City Council Personnel Committee has recommended to establish a parks director position that will help maintain Lake Geneva's parks and develop a parks department.

Please see **ALDERMEN**, Page A2



ERIC A. JOHNSON PHOTO, EJOHNSON@LAKEGENEVANEWS.NET

Members of the Lake Geneva Tourism Commission award grants to help promote several events throughout the year including the Balloon Adventure. The commission members hope to have an opportunity to award more grant funding in the future.

Tourism Commission approves proposed budget

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Members of the Lake Geneva Tourism Commission are hoping to receive more grant requests in the future.

The Tourism Commission awards promotional grants to help local groups and organizations advertise or market their event, and municipal development grants to help city officials pay for capital improvement projects that will help attract visitors to the community.

However, the main require-

ment for receiving a grant is that the event or project must encourage visitors to stay overnight at a Lake Geneva hotel.

Tourism Commission members have awarded about \$213,215 in grant funding, so far this year, and is proposing to allocate about \$200,402 for promotional grants and about \$221,425 in municipal development grants in their 2025 budget.

The Tourism Commission still has funding available for grant money that was not awarded in 2024.

Members of the Lake Geneva Tourism Commission discussed the issue before approving their proposed budget for 2025.

Brian Waspi, chairman of the Tourism Commission, said he hopes the commission members will have an opportunity to award more grant funding next year.

"Please come to apply for grants," Waspi said. "I personally would love to see some fun municipal development projects, too."

Tourism Commission member

Zakia Pirzada said she would like more events to be held in Lake Geneva, which would encourage more groups to apply for grants.

She said she would like more events to be held at the Hillmoor property and would like city officials to consider establishing a convention center, which would allow more events to be held during the off-tourism season.

"We can have a big indoor space," Pirzada said. "We can do a lot more activities in the

Please see **BUDGET**, Page A2

TV show to feature 'Lake Geneva - After Dark'

When the sun goes down over this world-class destination, the fun keeps right on rolling.

A special upcoming episode of Discover Wisconsin explores Lake Geneva's vibrant "After Dark" scene. The show marks the 600th episode for Discover Wisconsin - America's longest-running travel and tourism television series - and is scheduled to debut October 30.

"That's a big deal and we're honored to be part of this television milestone," said Stephanie Klett, President and CEO of Visit Lake Geneva, which partnered to produce the program. "Our community is best known for the lake itself, and all the sun and fun on the water. But when the sun goes down, in many ways, the party is just beginning. Great restaurants, happening pubs, music and magic, games and play opportunities for every age. It's a side of the Lake Geneva region we wanted the world to get to know better."

Klett takes personal pride in the Discover Wisconsin landmark event, because she hosted almost 350 of the 600 episodes. Before she helmed Visit Lake Geneva, and before she served as Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Tourism for eight years, Klett hosted the show for 20 years.

"I am sentimental about that

Please see **SHOW**, Page A2



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FONTANA-ON-GENEVA LAKE

Fontana trustees okay lease extension for Lake Geneva Marine Co.

Geneva Lake Level Corp. funding request OK'd

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Lake Geneva Marine Co., Ltd. has a place to continue to move its West End operations in Fontana for another decade.

On Oct. 14, the Fontana Village Board approved a first amendment to its original 10-year 2014 lease contract with Fontana-based Lake Geneva Marine Co. and lessor Kevin Kirkland to extend the lease for another 10-year period, effective Jan. 1, 2025 and running through Dec. 31, 2034.

Under the terms of the lease, after the first five years of the lease, the lease as amended may be terminated by either party by giving a 1-year advance written notice of termination.

The rent payable during the extended lease term shall be subject to the same annual 3% increase as set forth in the original lease.

Lake Geneva Marine, 454 Lake Ave. in Fontana, provides new and used boat sales, boat maintenance, and boat storage and in/out valet services.

Funding request approved

Fontana trustees approved a \$3,000 funding request for 2025 from Lake Geneva-based Geneva Lake Level Corp. (GLCC) for its maintenance budget.

Founded in 1894, not-for-profit GLCC maintains and controls the water level of Geneva Lake to protect the riparian interests of the lake property owners through its operation and maintenance of the dam and spillway at the foot of Geneva Lake.

Fontana's share of the Geneva Lake Level Corporation's annual \$16,200 maintenance budget is 30%.

GLCC officers and directors are President Karl Otzen, Vice President Harold Friestad, Treasurer Larry Larkin, Secretary Clara Jacob, and board members John Anderson, Bill Gage, Jr., Harry Hartshorn, Ken Koranda, Ted Peters, Jim Weiss, Tom Howell and Dan Winkler.

More information about GLCC is available online at <http://genevalakelevel.com>.

Other news

In other action at the Oct. 14 meeting, the Fontana Village Board:

- Approved securing \$335,000 in five-year loan funding for the village's purchase of property at 500 S. Main St. at an interest rate not to exceed 6%.

- Approved a balanced \$1,115,338 budget for the Fontana-Walworth Water Pollution Control Commission (FWW-PCC) for 2025, a 3.21% decrease from the current \$1,152,320 budget. The three primary users of the FWWPCC are the Village of Fontana, the Village of Walworth and the Kikkoman Foods, Inc. plant in the Town of Walworth.

- Authorized Village Administrator Theresa Loomer to apply for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Surface Water Grants for the village's South Lake Shore Drive wetland and ravine restoration project and Potawatomi Creek tributary restoration project. The DNR's Surface Water Grants Program provides cost-sharing grants for surface water protection and restoration.

- Approved a zoning ordinance amendment for Chapters 18-370 and 18-371 regarding extraterritorial zoning procedures and existing standard lots to comply with state law.

- Set a \$100 per diem stipend for Board of Review members.

- Denied a request to change pier slips assignments on the Fontana Municipal Pier.

- Approved a \$469,419 payment to Burlington-based Wanasek Corp. for the village's 2024

SCHOOLS



ERIC A. JOHNSON PHOTO, EJOHNSON@LAKEGENEVANEWS.NET

Faith Christian School will be sending off its first-ever international missions team during a Jan. 17-23, 2025 high school ministry service trip to the Dominican Republic through Spartanburg, S.C.-based Mission Emanuel. Pictured front row, from left, are Admissions and Marketing Director Jessica Viss, Spanish teacher Jenny Tartaglia, Nadie Rabe, Jenelle Girard, Amelia Gebbink, Jocelyn Nicia, Jianna Tartaglia, Advancement Director Jason Gebbink and Whitney Turner. Pictured back row, from left, are Grady Ballard, Jake Wilson, Benjamin Grajek, Jasmin Turner, Landon Viss, Josh Kempka, Caleb Tartaglia, Andy Valadez, Dylan Johnson, Lincoln Shereos and Keith Gorsline. Founded in 1981, Faith Christian School is a Grades PreK-12 private, non-denominational Protestant school in Williams Bay.

'This is God-oriented..'

Faith Christian School to make first-ever international mission trip

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"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others..." — Mark 10:45

Looking to put their faith into action serving others, a total of 18 high school students at Faith Christian School in Williams Bay, along with 10 staff and parental chaperones, will travel to the Dominican Republic from Jan. 17-23, 2025 for the private parochial school's first-ever international outreach mission trip.

"We need to be Christ-centered, mission-minded," said Faith Christian School Spanish teacher Jenny Tartaglia, who has been spearheading the mission trip through Spartanburg, S.C.-based Mission Emanuel, which facilitates international



Tartaglia

mission trips for families, middle school and high school youth, church groups, men's and women's groups, and dental/medical teams. "This is God-oriented ... I'm thrilled that we get to be a part of what God has been doing, and is doing, that we become more aware of the greater things that God is doing ... as he opens doors of opportunity."

The 11.3-million resident Dominican Republic is a Caribbean nation that shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti. The Faith Christian mission group will stay, work and minister outside the capital city of Santo Domingo.

mingo.

Tartaglia, in her third year teaching at Faith Christian, said the "multi-layered" trip will have two facets, the major one being home construction. The secondary facet will be designing and developing a chapel service for local grade school children.

"The opportunity lends itself for us to accompany families ... to visit homes... in smaller groups," Tartaglia said of the relationships that are hoped will spring from the mission work. "We'll definitely be interacting in the community."

Tartaglia has a long history with Mission Emanuel, dating back to her 18 years teaching at Rockford Christian School, a private, nondenominational PreK-12 Christian school in 148,655-resident Rockford, Illinois' largest city outside metro Chicago.

While at Rockford Christian, Tartaglia participated in three international missions coordinated by Mission Emanuel.

"Families in Rockford have had a connection with this ministry for more than 20 years," Tartaglia said. "That connection meant students from Rockford Christian, and teachers from Rockford Christian, had the opportunity to accompany that ministry. In the end, it's been an open door that families and a school in Rockford have walked through..."

Tartaglia said one of her former Rockford Christian students, Nicole Braun, is now a full-time missionary with Mission Emanuel.

"She's been a catalyst for bringing kids from Rockford to the Dominican," she noted.

Now, Braun is Tartaglia's "go-to" for Faith Christian's trailblazing international mission trip.

While the international mission has been spearheaded by

Tartaglia, the school's Spanish teacher, the mission trip opportunity was opened to all interested high school students at Faith Christian.

"It's really mission-driven over language-driven," Tartaglia said. "Language ability is, obviously, a perk, but it's not required."

Widespread support

While Faith Christian School's upcoming international mission trip to the Dominican Republic is a high school trip, Tartaglia said the entire school community has rallied around the international outreach ministry.

"The elementary school is supporting us through their chapel offering," she noted. "They're so excited about us getting to go. The reason I'm particularly excited about this trip is the uniqueness of this trip — we get the opportunity to connect our school, elementary and high school, to their school. We have the opportunity to make some real connections. That's what thrills me about this trip ... Making connections that we've never had before."

And support for the trip extends beyond Faith Christian students, staff and families to the various home congregations of participating students as well.

"I am thrilled that there is such interest and enthusiasm and support," Tartaglia said. "This is a trip that has more than 28 passengers."

Tartaglia was first exposed to international mission trips when she traveled to Cuernavaca, Mexico alongside her sister, Jeanny, as high students in the summer of 1986 through Temple Baptist Church (now Crosspoint Church) in Rockford, where Clinton resident Tartaglia and her sister remain members.

In Cuernavaca, capital of Mex-

ico's Morelos state, cradled by the Tepozteco Mountains south of Mexico City, they facilitated a vacation Bible school for the children of missionaries in the area.

"Being on a mission trip in my high school days was life-changing..." Tartaglia recalled. "It's such a step of faith ... I'm grateful for the opportunity to give kids a life-changing experience ... This is the part that I can play."

Students participating in the upcoming international mission trip to the Dominican Republic have been busy with a number of fundraising initiatives, including car washes, bake sales and cheese curd sales. Additionally, Tartaglia said some students who have jobs "have been putting in lots of hours so that they can support this trip" with their wages.

"They see the value of the mission trip and they're putting in their hard-earned hours to be able to go, which is a beautiful thing," she said.

Helping make Faith Christian's first international mission trip a reality is strong administrative support for the ministry initiative.

"Ever since I walked in the door here, I've been strongly encouraged by the reception to the idea of going on a mission trip," Tartaglia said. "They've been so enthusiastic here. That enthusiasm has been displayed by people coming alongside me to make this trip happen."

Among those coming alongside her, Tartaglia said, has been "kindred spirit" Faith Christian Admissions and Marketing Director Jessica Viss, who has provided "logistics" support for the mission trip.

Tartaglia also found a strong supporter in Faith Christian

Please see **SCHOOL**, Page A9

TAX REFERENDUMS

Financially-squeezed schools, municipalities put referendum questions before voters on Nov. 5

Traver and Reek Schools, Village of Walworth, Town of Geneva seek funding boost



Martin

Andersen

Czaja

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As Lake Geneva area and West End voters head to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 5 for the fall general election, several financially-pinched school districts and municipalities will be seeking voter approval to exceed state-mandated property tax revenue levy limits for a potential financial boost to bolster beleaguered spreadsheets.

Reek School

The Linn Joint 6 School District will have two referendum questions before voters in support of Grades PreK-8 Reek Elementary School, W4094 S.

Lakeshore Dr. in Linn.

Reek School, serving parts of the Towns of Linn and Walworth and Village of Fontana, is a feeder school to Grades 9-12 Big Foot Union High School in Walworth.

In the first referendum question, the Linn Joint 6 School District is seeking voter approval to exceed state-mandated property tax revenue limits specified in Section 121.91 of the Wisconsin State Statutes by \$320,000 per year for four years, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year and ending with the 2027-2028 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational expenses, including those for educational programming,

staff salary and benefits, technology, maintenance and transportation expenses.

In the second referendum question, the Linn Joint 6 School District seeks voter approval, pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to secure general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$4,100,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a district-wide school facility improvement project consisting of safety, security and Building 7 infrastructure improvements; construction of an addition, including for a cafeteria and a music room; renovations to the elementary school wing; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment.

"Linn J6 is going to the voters with two referendum questions," said District Administrator Tami Martin. "The first one is an operating question, asking our

voters for \$320,000 for the next four years. This is due to rising costs, inflation, and the need to have competitive salaries and benefits. The second question is a capital question. The school board paid off the last referendum debt about nine years early, allowing us to look at our next capital project."

Martin said a number of factors are driving the district's operating referendum push.

"The operational referendum of \$320,000 for four years is needed due to rising costs such as maintenance, utilities, etcetera," she said. "A big portion of it will go to salaries and benefits. We have added salary costs with an increase in special education needs, which is exacerbated by the shortage of teachers in this area. Overall, our salaries are extremely low. In order to retain and recruit high quality teachers, we need to raise our salary base so that we can be competitive with

Please see **REFERENDUM**, Page A9

Referendum

From A7

area schools, as well as give our teachers a cost of living increase. Currently, Reek ranks last in the area for teacher salaries. We've had a positive feedback from our parents and community members stating they would like to see us offer our staff a competitive wage and benefit package."

In regard to the capital referendum, Martin said Reek School is need of renovated and expanded facilities to meet current and future needs in support of students.

"Due to our increasing enrollment and wide offering of extracurricular activities, we are in need of more space," Martin noted. "The capital referendum question is to address our shortage of gym space. Currently, our gym serves as the cafeteria, band room, sports complex, musical space, choir spaces, assembly space, and gym. It is the only space we have for groups of students over 30. Our music programming is taking off, with added offerings of Show Choir, a musical, and an elementary choir. We have had to limit the amount of extracurriculars we can offer because we don't have the space to house them. In an era of trying to get students off phones and technology, the last thing we want to do is limit our extra-curriculars.

"Additionally, the capital referendum is for updating our whole school security needs, as well as renovating our elementary wing. The elementary wing has not been touched in about 30 years. We have storage issues and maintenance issues that have to be addressed in order to keep the facility safe and up to date for today's students. We are fortunate that the board is about to pay off the 2012 secure entrance referendum and renovation. Therefore, the capital needs can be done with minimal tax impact. It is important to our board to maintain a safe building and keep it updated to protect our community investment. The best analogy I have is that at home, when you pay off your kitchen remodel, it is time to tackle the bathrooms. We are paying off the last capital project, so it is time

to address the next need of gym space and elementary updates and renovation."

Martin said both referendum questions, if passed, would "have minimal tax impact" on district taxpayers.

"Current projections show an increase of \$5.00 per \$100,000 assessed value," Martin noted. "Therefore, a home with an assessed value of \$500,000 would see about a \$25.00 increase."

More information on the Reek School referendum questions, including a tax impact calculator, are available online at <https://www.linn6.k12.wi.us/page/referendum-draft>.

Traver School

In the Linn-Bloomfield Joint 4 School District, district electors will vote on a referendum question seeking approval to exceed state-imposed property tax revenue limits for recurring purposes in support of Traver Elementary School, W3490 Linton Rd. in the Town of Linn.

Traver is a feeder for Grades 9-12 Badger High School in Lake Geneva.

In its referendum question, the district is seeking voter approval to levy \$650,000 in excess of the revenue limits imposed by Section 121.91(2m) of the Wisconsin Statutes for the 2024-2025 school year and for each successive year thereafter "to maintain and enhance student safety and learning and to provide for operational needs of the school district."

"On Nov. 5, voters in the Linn-Bloomfield J4 School District will decide the fate of a referendum aimed at increasing the district's revenue limits by \$650,000 annually," said District Administrator Allyssa Andersen. "The funds are crucial to maintain student safety and address the operational needs of the school. Traver School, which serves students from 4K through 8th grade, is a district that has been part of the community for 180 years. Generations of families have been educated at Traver. Its mission is to create a safe, inclusive environment where students thrive both academically and personally. The district is driven to provide a high-quality educa-

tion with a small, dedicated staff. Traver works hard to take care of kids and families every day."

The district faces several challenges according to Andersen, driving the need for the referendum.

"Despite passing a referendum in 2021, several unforeseen challenges have since emerged, including stagnant state funding, rising special education costs, and declining enrollment," Andersen said. "These issues delayed critical projects, such as roof repairs, that the district can no longer postpone. Our expenses are rising and we're unable to increase our funding. The revenue limit formula forces us to seek community support to complete high-cost projects, like the roof. We just cannot squeeze big projects into our annual operations anymore. And yet, kids can't learn without a roof over their heads and a safe building. We constantly monitor the budget to find reductions by streamlining services and sharing costs. We work hard to stretch our taxpayer funding while still keeping our students in the forefront of our work."

If approved, Andersen said the referendum will fund "necessary improvements over the next four years and beyond." Major projects include replacing outdated roofs, installing secure entry systems, replacing aging playground equipment, and modifying a bathroom for accessibility.

Andersen said the district has reduced its original project list by focusing only on the most urgent needs — those that directly affect student safety and learning.

For homeowners, Andersen said the referendum's financial impact "will be modest," noting the owner of a \$500,000 home would pay about \$24 more per month in the 2024-25 school year, with the amount dropping in subsequent years as the district's levy decreases.

Andersen emphasized that the district has carefully planned its budget to stretch the funds over several years, ensuring the school remains financially stable.

As the referendum approaches, district leaders encourage residents to visit www.traverschool.org/referendum-2024 for more

information, including a tax calculator to see individual impacts.

Village of Walworth

The 2,759-resident Village of Walworth is going to referendum at the Tuesday, Nov. 5 general election to seek voter approval to exceed its state-mandated property tax revenue levy limit by \$298,472 in 2025 and future years on a recurring basis "for the purpose of hiring additional full-time employees, hiring additional part-time employees to cover vacancies, and retain current full-time employees to provide 24/7/365 fire and EMS coverage."

"Due to state-imposed levy limit laws, the Village of Walworth can increase the tax levy only by the passage of a referendum with a majority of voter approval," noted Village President Louise Czaja. "A 'yes' vote will provide funding for the Village Fire/Rescue Department to provide EMS staffing to ensure quick response times during emergencies. An increase in calls has put a strain on part-time and paid on-call staff. The Village relies primarily on property tax to fund critical services. By this critical referendum question, we are asking the taxpayer, by voting 'yes,' to aid and assist the emergency services in this, their time of need."

Walworth Fire/Rescue was established in 1901, adding emergency medical services (EMS) rescue response in 1950.

More information about the Nov. 5 referendum question is available online at <https://www.walworthfdrescue.com>.

Town of Geneva

In 5,528-resident Geneva, the town is seeking voter approval on Nov. 5 for a safety and municipal operations referendum to exceed state-mandated property tax revenue limits by \$1.5 million on a recurring annual basis beginning in 2025 "for the purpose of employing and equipping additional Police Officers, cover municipal operating costs, facility improvements, and eliminating the current outstanding debt obligation."

If approved by voters, the additional \$1.5 million property tax levy, a 64.655% levy increase to \$3,819,644 over the current

\$2,319,644 levy, would increase annual property taxes by \$69 per \$100,000 in assessed property valuation.

"As is the case for most every municipal government, service, school, business, household, individual, etc. these days, we are all experiencing financial shortfalls," said Geneva Town Chairman Joseph F. Kopecky. "Our Town's primary ability to raise money to pay the cost of providing all operations and services is through taxes. Taxes are based on a percentage of our Town's valuation. To increase our tax levy limits we either need increased development to increase our valuation, to enter into a loan or bond arrangement, or through voter-authorized additional spending. The vehicle to have voter-authorized additional spending is through referendums.

"More development brings more costs for services to a municipality, so 'development-related' levy increases are off-set by the cost of maintaining those increases with more maintenance of roads and infrastructure and policing of those areas.

"We instead are required to either borrow money, which involves the added cost of interest for the use of the borrowed funds, or ask the voters to provide more economic support through a referendum, which we are now doing with our Town of Geneva Safety and Municipal Services Referendum.

"Our referendum asks the voters of the Town of Geneva to support an annual levy increase of \$1.5 million dollars for each upcoming year. These funds will be used to hire up to four additional police officers, replace an annual operating expense loan which we currently required to enter to cover our operating costs, perform needed short-term handicap access repairs/replacements together with some remodeling of the existing Town Hall to accommodate space for the additional police officers, and to create a non-lapsing fund dedicated toward the eventual replacement of our aging Town facilities."

For more information on the Town of Geneva referendum question, visit <https://townof-genevawi.com/referendum-info/>.

School

From A7

Head of School Drew Popejoy, a longtime colleague at both Faith Christian and Rockford Christian School.

"I served as the high school principal at Rockford Christian for 10 years, where the trip to Mission Emanuel was already a well-established tradition when I arrived," Popejoy noted. "My middle daughter, Summer, participated in six of these trips and graduated in 2019. I was fortunate enough to accompany her on the trip during her senior year.

"When I came to Faith Christian in 2021 as principal and athletic director, I hoped to start a similar tradition here. In 2022, when I became Head of School, I had the opportunity to hire Jenny Tartaglia, who had relocated to Wisconsin. Jenny and I had worked together at Rockford Christian, and we both participated in the 2019 mission trip. We often talked about how impactful the experience was and how great it would be to give students here the same opportunity to serve overseas.

"Seeing the tangible impact of our work on the ground — whether it's building houses, leading vacation Bible school on the streets, or simply talking and serving the community — is truly

life-changing. Jenny and I discussed the 'right time' to launch a mission opportunity for Faith Christian students and where we should go. As it happens, the current director of Mission Emanuel now lives in Wisconsin, and since we both have experience with the organization and can vouch for its integrity, it felt like a perfect fit.

"It's incredibly exciting to offer this opportunity to our staff and students. My hope is that all our students will get the chance to give back, whether locally or internationally. God calls us to 'go' — whether that's across the street, across the state, or across the globe. This trip is certainly a step in the right direction toward providing our students with incredible opportunities, and I hope it's just the first of many."

"I immediately felt a tug from God"

Among the students participating in Faith Christian School's inaugural international mission trip in January is sophomore Amelia Gebbink of Lake Geneva.

"My reasons for going on this trip are to grow my relationship with God and to see how God helps people all over the world," Gebbink said. "I am looking forward to serving the people in the Dominican Republic and making new friends in another country."



Tartaglia

Also participating in the Dominican Republic mission trip is Tartaglia's daughter, Clinton senior Jianna Tartaglia.

"I am going on this trip because I want to see another part of the kingdom of God and how far His hand reaches to other parts of the world," she said. "I am looking forward to serving the kids in the community, and that I get to go with my friends."

Another Faith Christian senior participating in the upcoming Jan. 17-23, 2025 international mission trip is Jenelle Girard of Elkhorn.

"When the mission trip was mentioned, I immediately felt a tug from God to sign up for the mission trip and help wherever I could," Girard said. "I am looking forward to being out in the world helping people in another country."

Also participating in the Dominican Republic mission trip will be Delavan freshman Jayden Johnson.

"My reason for going on this trip is to help spread the Gospel to people who don't have access to it," he said. "I look forward to helping build houses and leading vacation Bible school. I am excited to go on this mission trip because this is my first mission trip, and I want to experience something



Johnson

tian for four years, I believe this mission trip aligns perfectly with our school's mission to develop our students' minds and hearts. We are committed to shaping students who excel academically and have a deep, Christ-centered passion for making a difference in the world. Opportunities like this help foster leadership, humility, and a lifelong commitment to serving others.

"I'm incredibly excited about this trip, and I believe it will be a pivotal experience for both our students and our school. We hope that this will be the first of many mission opportunities as we continue to encourage our students to step out in faith and serve both locally and internationally."

Those wishing to donate in support of Faith Christian School's international mission trip to the Dominican Republic can send donations payable to Faith Christian School, P.O. Box 1230, Williams Bay, WI 53191. Indicate "DR Mission Trip" on the check's memo line.



Gebbink

will allow them to move beyond the classroom and become the hands and feet of Jesus, serving a community in need.

"As a parent, I am thrilled that Faith Christian is giving my daughter and her classmates this chance to experience the transformative power of serving others in a different culture. It's one thing to talk about service and compassion, but quite another to see those values in action, and I'm excited to witness the impact it will have on them personally and spiritually.

"From my perspective as Advancement Director, having served in this role at Faith Chris-

Board

From A8

Education.

Expanding its board policy services to Wisconsin in 1989, Neola currently serves 337 Wisconsin school districts including, in addition to the Big Foot Union High School District and 11 other Walworth County school districts — Delavan-Darien School District, East Troy Community School District, Elkhorn Area School District, Fontana Joint 8 School District, Geneva Joint 4 School District (Woods School), Genoa City Joint 2 School District, Lake Geneva Schools inclusive of the Lake Geneva Joint 1 School District and Lake Geneva-Genoa City Union (Badger) High

School District, Linn Joint 4 School District (Traver School), Linn Joint 6 School District (Reek School) and Sharon Joint School District No. 11 (Sharon Community School).

Other news

In other developments at the Oct. 21 meeting, the Big Foot Board of Education:

■ Made their annual review and approval of the district's school safety manual and protocols.

■ Approved the not-to-exceed \$200 purchase of an in-building gun safe for use by the school resource officer and other local law enforcement.

Upcoming dates

Upcoming November dates of inter-

est at Big Foot High School include, but are not limited to, the following:

■ **Friday, Nov. 8** — Early release at 11 a.m.

■ **November 15-17** — Fall musical "Cinderella," Big Foot High School Auditorium. Shows at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

■ **Nov. 27-29** — Thanksgiving break.

Next meeting

The next regular meeting of the Big Foot Board of Education will be held on Monday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m., in the library board room at Big Foot Union High School, 401 Devils Lane in Walworth.

Persons needing special accommodations should call 262-275-2116 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Lease

From A7

street and utility improvements project.

■ Approved entering into a \$22,448 contract with Green Bay Pipe & TV, LLC for sanitary sewer televising in the Buena Vista Subdivision.

■ Approved entering into an \$11,670 contract with Green Bay Pipe & TV for sanitary sewer television in the Arrowhead Easement area.

■ Approved an operator's license application for Kimberly Riebe, employed by Fontana Shell.

■ Approved planning for the village's 2024 employee holiday party, which is slated for either Friday, Dec. 13 or Thursday, Dec. 19 at Abbey Resort, Fontana.