

# The Sanford Herald

STAY INFORMED  sanfordherald.com  facebook.com/SanfordHerald  @sanfordherald

Thursday, June 9, 2022

sanfordherald.com • \$1

## RACING TO READ



Mark Rogers | The Sanford Herald

At Warren Williams Elementary School, students and staff helped accept the books. In front, from left, are Ian Tadeo Benitez, Neemiah Pearson, Ruby Alvarez, Ashton Marsh, Gabriel McLean and Dr. Andy Bryan. Second row, from left, Paula Goldston, Elias McKinney, Aaliyah Hernandez, Bailey Cruz, Zoe Hernandez Torres and Silvia Huffer. In back, from left are Millie Harris, Lesa Price, Allegra Hogan and Karen Kennedy.



Mark Rogers | The Sanford Herald

Pictured with some of the new books at W.B. Wicker Elementary School are Abbie Brummett, Manuel Berrios Santiago, McKenzie Judd, Aimee Petarca, Allegra Hogan, Karen Kennedy, Lesa Price and Dr. Andy Bryan.

### Schools benefit from funds raised by shuttered event

**BY MARK ROGERS**  
MROGERS@SANFORDHERALD.COM

Two elementary schools in Sanford are benefitting from funds raised from an event that was last held in 2017.

Several years ago, the City of Sanford and Lee County formed a Youth Council to promote civic education and engagement. The council lasted from 2007 until 2018. One of its fundraisers was a 5K that was called the "Race to Read." Funds from the race were utilized for book purchases for local elementary schools. The races were held from 2012 to 2017. One of the first book donations in the earlier council years were part of a grant the Youth Council received and every first grader in Lee County Schools that year was given a book they could take home.

SEE **READ/PAGE A2**



Mark Rogers | The Sanford Herald

Karen Kennedy, right, joined by Lesa Price and Allegra Hogan, speaks with students and staff at Warren Williams Elementary School.

# READ

FROM PAGE A1

Over the years, the Race to Read Spring event accumulated funds for a future book purchase. Once the Youth Council was no longer active, the funds were held for a future book donation project.

Karen Kennedy, who helped coordinate the project, said that because of COVID-19 the group was unable to make the donations until this year. On Wednesday, Kennedy, along with former Youth Council members, advisors and school officials traveled to Warren Williams Elementary School and W.B. Wicker Elementary School to present books to the schools.

Former Youth Council member Allegra Hogan spoke about the group's function during the presentations.

"I was a part of the Youth Council through high school," she said. "It was a really great opportunity to be able to connect with the community and do things for others. Because of that opportunity we are able to give you guys some books. I hope you enjoy and are able to read with your teachers and families."

Lee County Superintendent Dr. Andy Bryan was also on hand for the presentations.

"We'd just like to thank you for this contribution and all that you've done for our schools," Bryan told the group. "It has made a world of difference."

At Warren Williams Elementary School, Bryan led a group of children in saying "thank you" to the group, which included Kennedy, Hogan and Lesa Pice, former co-advisor of the Youth Council.

Principal Silvia Huffer was also thankful.

"I'd just like to say thank you very much for contacting us," she said. "We truly appreciate it. "I can assure you that these books are going to be put to good use — actually, we are

already reading them. It's a wonderful collection because it really works on a lot of social skills. We got a great variety."

At W.B. Wicker Elementary, Principal Aimee Petrarca also thanked the organization for the donation. Media Coordinator Abbie Brummett had requested a collection of books about the presidents. Petrarca said the qualities demonstrated by the Youth Council and through the books were things they talked about in school.

"We've talked about how important leadership, citizenship, reading and reading throughout the summer are," she said. "It's just nice to hear from lots of different sources — not just their principal and their teachers."



Mark Rogers | The Sanford Herald

Media Coordinator Abbie Brummett joins Manuel Berrios Santiago and McKenzie Judd in showing off some of the books at W.B. Wicker Elementary School Wednesday.

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE SANFORD HERALD

Call 919-718-1200

to start your subscription

**KENDALE** FINE JEWELRY • HAND GUNS  
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS  
TOOLS & EQUIPMENT  
ELECTRONICS • ANYTHING OF VALUE

← \$ → ALWAYS BUYING

PAWN SHOP MONDAY - FRIDAY 9-5 SATURDAY 9-4

2715 Lee Ave. SANFORD 919.774.7195



POST | FOUSHEE | PATTON  
TRIAL LAWYERS

Social Security  
DISABILITY Denied?

Call us, we can help!



Harris Post  
Social Security  
Disability Claimant's  
Representative

919-775-5616

Harris@centralcarolinalegals.com