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Scout spearheads school book drive

By GREG MENZA/Staff Writer

When Isaac Britt noticed two-thirds of the library shelves at his sister's new school were empty, the Spring Hill teenager decided to do something about it.

"I was looking for a worthwhile project to earn my Eagle badge, and I thought a book drive for the school would benefit the students here. It might help some increase their vocabulary and their interest in reading," Britt said.

Britt brought the idea to Marvin Wright Elementary School Principal Frances Smith and Media Specialist Lynn Caruthers. Both agreed a book drive would benefit the school, so Britt began planning the project. The 13 year-old Life Scout then enlisted the help of friends, relatives and members of his Scout Troop 139 and their parents.

"We started by printing posters and flyers about the book drive and distributing them around the county. Then we decorated drop boxes and put them in schools, churches, businesses and other locations to make it convenient for people to donate books," Britt said.

Britt also established a collection schedule for picking up the donated books which will be screened for suitability by Caruthers. Books that don't make the grade will be sold at a used book sale, and the money raised donated to the school library. The volunteer team then will help catalog the books for placement on the library shelves.

Britt's vision for the project goes well beyond stocking bare shelves. He is an avid reader who would like to pass on the enjoyment he gets from books to others.

"The information the kids will find in biographies, history books, science and reference books will give them a wide range of information they can carry with them throughout their lives," Britt said, "and the adventure and fiction books will fuel their imagination."

The used book sale will take place 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. during the school PTO's year-end luau and ice-cream social May 18. Marvin Wright Elementary School is at 4714 Derryberry Lane in Spring Hill. The school phone number is (931) 486-3586.

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