



# The Wigwam

Southern Local School District Newsletter

Winter 2022

## Haugh Settles in as School Resource Officer

For more than three decades, Deputy Jeff Haugh served to protect residents through the Columbiana County Sheriff's Office, and he's continuing those efforts as the new school resource officer for Southern Local Schools.

Deputy Haugh rose through the ranks to become detective sergeant, where he investigated homicides and other major cases. The Wellsville resident, who is married with three children and six grandchildren, retired on Dec. 31, 2020, but returned to the patrol division one day later. When the opportunity presented itself to become SRO, he was assigned to Southern Local Elementary and Southern Local Jr./Sr. High Schools to aid the district and students. He began those duties on Jan. 3.

"I enjoy working with the kids," he said of the change. "I thought, 'Why not do what I like to do?' I'm just really open-minded and anything they need me for, I'm here."

Among his work so far has been to bring the CCSO K-9 officer to visit the pupils, offer ideas to bolster campus security and speak to elementary and high school students about character programs and other topics. The latter included sitting down



**Deputy Jeff Haugh, a recently retired detective sergeant with the Columbiana County Sheriff's Office, has put his roots down at Southern Local Schools as the new school resource officer.**

with the forensics class at SLHS and answering questions about using his skills to put criminals behind bars.

His background is quite diverse, having

worked at a pharmacy and funeral home as well as the sheriff's office. Haugh said he

**(Continued as HAUGH)**



## Simply Spellbound

More than a dozen students attempted to spell their way to the top during the Southern Local School District Spelling Bee on Feb. 2, but only three advanced to the county level. Sixth-grader Delaney Beadnell correctly spelled "inferior" to earn the winning spot while seventh grader Ella Roberts was first runner-up and eighth-grader Alli Myers was second runner-up. They will join other contestants from Columbiana County schools to compete in an online preliminary test at the end of February with the final 20 heading to the county spelling bee in March in Lisbon. The winner of that contest will then head to the 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Pictured are, from left, Roberts, Beadnell and Myers.

# *SLES Students Hold Kids Heart Challenge for AHA*

## **School Sets \$4,000 Fundraising Goal**

Southern Local Elementary School students are helping others once again by raising money for the American Heart Association.

The school kicked off its annual Kids Heart Challenge on Jan. 31 with separate assemblies for grades PreK-2 and grades 3-5. Physical education teacher Kathy Randolph said students learned the reason for the benefit and how the money helps others.

"It gets the kids enthusiastic about raising money," she said.

Fundraising envelopes were distributed and students can earn prizes based on levels from \$5 to \$1,000. They register by downloading the Kids Heart Challenge app or going online to [heart.org/KHC](http://heart.org/KHC), choose a daily health challenge and collect donations to support AHA. In return, they can earn thank-you gifts and online badges.



**Southern Local Elementary students Madyson Gruszecki and Carter Davis are moving to make money for the American Heart Association through the annual Kids Heart Challenge with hopes of making \$4,000 for the cause.**

Kids receive wristbands just for registering and could receive a Heart Heroes-themed stuffed toy plus jump ropes, T-shirts and a speaker set plus lower-level items. Additionally, they are eligible for a mystery gift

for every \$50 raised.

Randolph said physical activities will also come into play with a Move-A-Thon Feb. 25 in the gym, barring an increase in COVID cases. Various stations will be available with a warm-up dance and an obstacle course featuring jump rope, hula hoops and limbo, plus contests for the highest and farthest jumps.

"We're trying to raise \$4,000," Randolph added, saying some incentives are in place to help attain that goal.

One plan is for school teachers and administrators to dress as "Toy Story" characters and hold a picnic this spring. SLES garnered \$4,800 last year with school officials donning superhero costumes having a barbecue as a reward.

Formed in 1924, the American Heart Association has grown from researching prevention, treatment and a cure for heart disease --America's No. 1 killer-- to an organization of more than 33 million volunteers and supporters who are working to improve heart health and reduce deaths from cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

## **Aiming High Program Back at Southern Local Elementary**

Good character and positive choices remain the theme of special lessons for students at Southern Local Elementary School as the Aiming High program continues through March.

Representatives of the Family Recovery Center of Lisbon have been on campus since fall promoting good practices with programs for fourth- and first-graders as well as the multi-handicapped class. In January, educators Leslie Rivera and Denise Kuhlman began visiting the second- and fifth-grade classes each Thursday to share presentations on life skills such as decisions and consequences, peer pressure and respecting others, but inclement weather has extended Rivera's programs through mid-February.

Snow days were also a factor in changes to educator Kierstin

Fillman's schedule for kindergarten classes, which was reset from Feb. 17-March 17.

"The [kindergarten] program will consist of four 30-minute presentations in the classroom," said Larry Rudloff, SLES guidance counselor. "The focus of the program will be on life skills such as making good decisions, character building and knowing how to be a good person or citizen."

He added that each lesson is tailored to the specific grade level to help the kids understand the importance of their actions.

Meanwhile, Rudloff said the Family Recovery Center has conducted presentations at the school for more than a quarter-century. In the event of further weather-related school delays or cancellations, Fillman's program will be extended.

## **HAUGH**

## **(Continued from Front)**

had no initial plan to go into law enforcement; however, his path took him there and he graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Kent State University-Salem with subsequent police academy training. His 31-year career began at the county jail before he joined the road patrol. Finally, he elevated to the detective division and even became one of two local hostage negotiators and part of a joint task force to investigate major crimes. He spent 18 years as a detective before stepping down in 2020, and then he was rehired in road patrol division before joining Southern Local.

"I wanted to see some continuity in the [SRO] position and I think I have a lot to offer," Haugh commented, saying Southern Local leaders had a vacancy he sought to fill.

He's been settling in quite well and answering to the names "Deputy Jeff" or "Deputy Woody"—the latter a nod to his apparent resemblance to the popular "Toy Story" character. These days, he looks forward to working with students and visiting classrooms for more discussions. He also plans to take part in the Kelly Bear program to promote good character among elementary students.

Southern Local Superintendent Tom Cunningham welcomed the new SRO and said Deputy Haugh was a great addition to the staff.

"He brings a lot of experience with him to this position, which will enable him to be an asset to students, staff and the community," Cunningham concluded. "Not only will his presence be a safety measure, but his ability to communicate and build relationships will be valuable. He has jumped right into the position, reviewing our safety plans, talking with classes, being visible and approachable. We are fortunate to have him at Southern Local."



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