

Frenship man to be trustee for School for the Blind

Posted by Karen Michael on FrenshipToday.com
 'Daughters have a way of inspiring fathers to action, and North Ridge Elementary School student Scout Sonnenberg inspired her own father.

Lee Sonnenberg was appointed to the governing board of trustees for the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired earlier this summer.

All three of Lee Sonnenberg's children have congenital glaucoma, but Scout's case is worse than that of her older siblings.

Sonnenberg said the family is lucky to have "amazing" services for Scout, but he said Sherry Airhart recommended that she go to a summer camp at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, or TSBVI, last summer.

"I was just so impressed with the school and the camps and the way it was run," Sonnenberg said. "Scout grew so much in that week. It really benefited her to be around kids that have the same issues, the same challenges."

Scout became much more confident, Sonnenberg said.

"As a parent, I was just so amazed to see that," he said.

After bringing Scout home from that first camp, Sonnenberg said he wanted to contribute to the school, but he knew he couldn't volunteer in a classroom because TSBVI is in Austin.

But in looking at the school board online, he noticed a spot was open for a parent member. TSBVI has nine appointed members, including three former students with visual impairments, three parents of students with visual impairments and three people who work with students with visual impairments.

"That position is one they have a hard time filling because it's so specialized," Sonneberg said.

After applying and speaking to local politicians, he said it took him nine months to be appointed as a trustee, a role he will have for six years.

"I got sworn in in June and I was able to go to graduation," Sonnenberg said. "I'll have to go (to Austin) six times through the year."

One of his goals as a trustee is to get more children from this area involved in the school's programs. Students here could take part in week-

end programs offered here, or they could go as a large group to camps offered at TSBVI.

"I guess that's one of my main goals, just to make sure more kids from this area can participate or benefit from this school," Sonnenberg said.

Since the trip to camp last year, Sonnenberg said Scout has attended other classes at TSBVI, including a recent two-week stint at the school. In addition to academic classwork in the mornings and field trips in the afternoons, Scout was required to help prepare her own meals and do chores.

"She was gone for 11 or 12 days. For us, that was the longest she's ever been away from the family. It was kind of hard," Sonnenberg said. "She just loves it. Every time she comes home, there is a marked change in her."

Sonnenberg is associate director for parking and transportation services at Texas Tech.



2013 Blackwell High School Junior Varsity Football Schedule

All games begin at 7 pm or at conclusion of junior high game.

August 29	Westbrook (here)
September 5	at Westbrook
September 12	at Brookesmith varsity
September 26	Blanket
October 3	at Veribest
October 10	at Roscoe Highland
October 24	at Robert Lee



2013 Blackwell Junior High School Football Schedule

All games begin at 6 pm.

September 12	at Brookesmith
September 19	at Trent
September 26	Blanket
October 3	at Veribest
October 10	at Roscoe Highland
October 24	at Robert Lee
October 31	Lohn
November 7	Panther Creek

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The COKE COUNTY will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 6.31 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The first public hearing will be held on August 23, 2013 at 9:00AM at Coke County Courthouse, Commissioner's Courtroom, 13 E 7th, Robert Lee, Texas.

The second public hearing will be held on September 3, 2013 at 9:00 AM at Coke County Courthouse, Commissioner's Courtroom, 13 E 7th, Robert Lee, Texas.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: Roy Blair Bobby Blaylock
 Wendell Lee Troy Gene Montgome
 Gaylon Pitcock

AGAINST:

PRESENT and not voting:

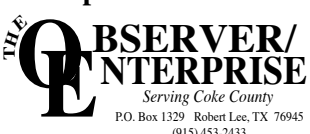
ABSENT:

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in COKE COUNTY last year was \$44,936. Based on last year's tax rate of \$0.543447 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$244.20.

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in COKE COUNTY this year is \$48,472. If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of \$0.474845 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$230.17.

If the governing body adopts the proposed tax rate of \$0.504831 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$244.70. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearings and express their views.

**Editorial & Advertising
 Deadline is 2 pm on
 Tuesday preceding
 publication.**



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