

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

I am writing to you to thank you for reading my ramblings for eight years.

I also want to thank the Pleasanton Express for allowing me to write to you (mostly) about county business so I could do my best to keep you informed. I am pleased to leave this office with no significant building needs facing the county. I did my best to build what was needed to bring this county into the twenty-first century with adequate infrastructure. My crystal ball is too cloudy to know what that means in years, but I hope those needs are met for at least the next eight to 15 years. The taxes you and I will pay to cover their cost is less than one-half of one cent of taxes, which is fixed for 20 years (actually about 17 years since completion was a few years ago). To be progressive while being fiscally responsible is how I hope to be considered. As I have said here many times, being cheap and not maintaining our needs is not being fiscally responsible.

So many people have been nice to me in the last couple of months, thanking me for my job. I have and will continue to say that my accomplishments have always been tied to a team effort. I could do nothing alone. I will take credit for the leadership to action, but nothing could have been done without the support of the commissioners, the county staff, the local press and the public. We have made many changes to county government over the eight years including many in human resources, budgeting, policy and services. I hope the changes stand the test of time. I understand all things need periodic review and possible changes. That is what I have tried to do. There may be better ways to do some things in the coming years and I support that effort of constant review.

As I write this column, I have 19 days left as your County Judge. My blessing of this season is the eight years I have been blessed to serve the citizens of this county.

Thanks for listening. May God bless us all. Goodbye.