

## ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

Remember that the grand opening celebration of JP3 is Friday, Feb. 14 at 11 a.m. We will have finger foods and I believe a cake. It is two miles north of Jourdanton on SH16.

I made a mistake last week when listing the early voting sites, starting February 18 in Atascosa Co. In the Pleasanton area it is JP4 just south of Pleasanton. The others are the elections office in Jourdanton, the JP2 Office outside of Lytle and the EMS training room on Avenue H in downtown Poteet. That will be a total of four (4) sites and any registered voter in our county can vote at any of them.

My topic this week is the digital world. I love it. Since I became County Judge, we have hired an IT manager (badly needed), and started a Facebook page and a website. The website is rapidly becoming a great resource of county information. The internet is a resource I use constantly to research county and legal issues. We have implemented digital sign-in for payroll for employees bringing us into the modern era and leaving behind handwritten timesheets giving us much more control and accuracy. The digital era has permitted our move into countywide voting and multiple early voting sites. We have fantastic new digital voting equipment. I now do much of my judicial bench work by computer. We are digitizing all deeds and records making online searches easy. We are digitizing all county commissioner court records for access. We have highly secure digital locks on the doors in the new Justice Center. The digital locks can be accessed through the internet by the correct authority. I carry my cell phone with me 24/7 for county emergency needs and emergency court needs. Facebook has become a great resource for staying in contact and information. There are downsides to this. So, like all good things, Facebook and the internet can be abused by ignorant people. And there are truly evil people trolling these sites. The internet can be a dangerous place especially for youngsters. Having said this, I would not want to do away with it. I have said many times I would love to go back and be younger, but do not want to give up my cell phone or the internet!

Quote: "There are two ways to live: you can live as if nothing is a miracle; you can live as if everything is a miracle." Albert Einstein

Thank you for listening.

We want you to be proud of your county government.