

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

My working day is consumed with COVID19. I begin each day with a meeting with the County Emergency Manager David Prasifka and EMS Director Don Penny. We review the statistics of our county, discussing past cases and current ones. We have been very concerned with the new cases in Pleasanton, Poteet and where they came from. We have asked CDC (communicable Disease Control and Prevention) and TDSHS (Texas Department of State Health Services) to investigate for violations of the Governors, mine and the cities orders. We have been praying for the persons that have been hospitalized and quarantined. This disease, though very selective, strikes devastatingly fast on some people.

I have been on the phone yesterday and today with the Office of the State Attorney General to get clarification on the last Governor's order. It is very difficult to understand some of the guidelines for the purpose of law enforcement.

There is no doubt that the economic downturn as a result of the COVID19 pandemic is going to hurt the county's finances. As we start working on the budget this summer it will become more evident as to where we are, but it does not look good.

On a happier note we are moving forward to capture the \$1.5 million Public Defender grant for the county court system and the district court system. This could offer better bond management for the incarcerated, prompter court action working with misdemeanor court and the felony court, as well as the juvenile court. We are also working on a grant to receive nearly \$2.2 million from the state for repair of our county roads.

"Quote of the week, "The only way to fix the problems of democracy is with more democracy," Al Smith, former governor of New York and General Manager of the construction of the Empire State Building.

Thanks for listening.

We want you to be proud of your County Government.