

ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT

I have a hard time believing that it is nearly Thanksgiving and Christmas 2021. One of the joys about being an older person is that you remember the years that have passed. Usually, the passing of time is kind and leaves us remembering the good things. The pain of bad experiences tends to fade away. That must be God's way of allowing us to continue with life and serve Him.

We have much to be thankful for at this time. We see COVID-19 diminishing substantially. The economy is opened back up and is roaring back. Problems are created, such as supply shortages and inflation bubbles connected to shortages and uneven distribution. Although the county has had severe issues with tax revenue funding, we have worked hard to cut the budget and maintain the county and its functions. Thanks to our hardworking taxpayers, we have succeeded.

I predict (sometimes my crystal ball gets cloudy) next year, we will see many of these problems (inflation, shortages) smooth out. I am a big believer in capitalism and believe Adam Smith's 'Invisible Hand' ("The Wealth of Nations") will prevail as it always does. Capitalism working in our economy can be messy, but it is far better than any other system.

We must not forget the nearly 200 people who have perished in this county from COVID-19 (according to State Health Department). I offer my sincere condolences to those families. I do most probate cases in county court, and it is saddening how many I have processed in the past few weeks who passed from COVID-19. This holiday season will be a difficult time for those who have lost loved ones.

As we move into this season, I would like to ask everyone in Atascosa County to make an effort to seek a kinder, gentler society where we all care about each other. I suggest each of you find a Thanksgiving dinner serving those who have less than others and assist in serving or delivering on Thanksgiving Day. At Christmas, I suggest that instead of giving each other expensive gifts, we all find a good, needy cause to give money. There are so many ways we can find a way to share kindness. All we have to do is look for it.

Pick a day and search for a way to say something encouraging to everyone with whom you interact that day. It may seem hard at first, but will become increasingly easy the more you practice. I promise you that while the person you are kind to will appreciate it, you will receive the greater of the blessings.

Thank you for listening. "Where there is no vision, the people perish."