

## **ATASCOSA COUNTY JUDGES REPORT**

I made a fast trip to Phoenix last week to go to the funeral of a good friend.

That is the first time I have flown in over a year since COVID began. I had to wear mask in the airports and the entire time on the plane, which was a 2.5-hour flight. I had a mask on for over four hours. It gave me a new appreciation for the medical personnel that wear one for longer periods. Wow was that unpleasant. I was glad though because a full airplane is a dispenser of shared germs. I would not have gone either if I had not already had the COVID shots and the proper time had passed. Or, I would have driven. Anyway, it was quite an experience.

We just received notice that Atascosa County will receive \$9.9M from President Biden's "American Rescue Plan." As soon as I get the administrative instructions to get the money, I will begin plans to set up a daily county COVID vaccine clinic with a daily call-in center. This will depend on Vaccine availability. I expect that to be opening more and more each week. It appears we will have a substantial ability for business COVID damage grants, rent and mortgage assistance and more. I will keep you advised as I get more information. It is exciting because this can allow the county to target this money where it is really needed and best spent. I pray God will bless you all as we come out of the year "2020."

Be safe and hang on. Vaccination will set you "free."

Thanks for listening.