

Pleasanton Express

Judge Cude April 12<sup>th</sup> Column

Greetings amigos! I hope everyone had a blessed Easter weekend with friends and family. The celebrations continue as this week is the 76th Annual Poteet Strawberry Festival.

I look forward to participating in the festivities and seeing everyone enjoy this fantastic local event. I want to thank the countless volunteers, farmers, non-profits, small businesses, first responders, and visitors that work together to make this event possible. I pray for a successful year and for the safety of those attending.

I want to acknowledge the Atascosa County Commissioners and the County Department Heads in today's column. As members of the Commissioners Court, each Commissioner represents one of four precincts within the County. In 2021, the County Precinct lines shifted to accommodate population changes resulting from the 2020 Census data. Over the last two years, the County Commissioners have adjusted to changes and faced new challenges. In addition to myself beginning my term as County Judge in January 2023, the Commissioner's Court incorporated a new member, Mr. Mark Bowen, as Precinct 2 Commissioner.

I look forward to continuing to work alongside Commissioner Mark Gillespie (PCT 1), Mark Bowen (PCT 2), Eliseo Perez (PCT 3), and Kennard "Bubba" Riley (PCT 4) as we enter the year's second quarter. The County website, [www.atascosacounty.texas.gov](http://www.atascosacounty.texas.gov) is the best resource for locating the Precinct Maps and accessing updated contact information for all members of the Commissioner's Court.

Last week I mentioned operational efficiency as one of my priorities for the County offices. To ensure all County Departments serve the public to the best of their ability, we are working to improve policies that affect when and how County offices operate. Keeping County residents in mind as our highest priority, all public-serving County Departments have updated their regular office hours from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. This does not include offices of Elected Officials or First Responder personnel that work varying shifts to provide services twenty-four hours daily. Since January, I have had many insightful discussions with County Department Heads regarding our internal policies and procedures. As County Judge, I want to continue listening to public feedback and implementing positive change to the best of the County's ability. If you have feedback, please reach me at [countyjudge@co.atascosa.tx.us](mailto:countyjudge@co.atascosa.tx.us) - Together we are Atascosa Proud!