

Pleasanton Express

Judge Cude May 3 Article

Hola Amigos! The Juvenile Justice system has become a large part of my role as County Judge. I've since learned that the ecosystem for the juvenile justice system needs to be strong for the sake of the youth in our communities; this particular ecosystem includes the Juvenile Probation Department, Local Law Enforcement, the School Districts, the County Attorney's Office, and all beneficial resources and programs available to help the youth and prevent them from entering the adult prison system. I take all my responsibilities as County Judge very seriously, especially my role and its impact on a juvenile's future. I realize the importance of strong partnerships working together efficiently to better our community's future. One of my goals as County Judge is to maintain strong relations with entities that have a hand in the Juvenile Justice System. I especially want to thank the School Districts and Law Enforcement Agencies, including the Sheriff's Office, for always being available and communicating their insight and experiences. Relying on their insight has assisted me in achieving a level of understanding of the current struggles impacting our youth.

Every week, I conduct anywhere from 6-10 juvenile court hearings in conjunction with the Juvenile Probation Department and the County Attorney's Office. One of the many items heavily impacting our youth is the usage of THC vape pens. I want to highlight the work of the Atascosa County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff David Soward and his Investigative team for identifying one of the THC vape pen contributors heavily impacting the youth in Poteet's School District last week. The Sheriff's Office had a significant seizure of large quantities of illegal drugs and paraphernalia, weapons, nearly \$40,000 in US currency and 300 THC vape pens. Thank you to the Sheriff's Office for the coordinated effort to eliminate drugs that impact our Atascosa County youth. As your County Judge, I will continue to work towards understanding needs and working alongside partners and County personnel to ensure Atascosa County is a safe and healthy place for families to thrive. Together we are Atascosa Proud!