## **Pleasanton Express**

## Judge Weldon Cude Article August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

As the Summer ends and the start of a new school year approaches, it's time for our community's youth to head back to school. It is with great pride and responsibility that we embrace the upcoming school year, ensuring that our schools provide a safe and secure environment for students, faculty, and staff. I want to emphasize the importance of teachers and local law enforcement working together to foster a safe learning environment. Teachers are the backbone of our society; day in and day out, they shape the minds of the upcoming generations. In today's world, they face many challenges inside and outside the classroom. Join me in supporting them as they embark on the new school year. If society has taught us anything over the last few years, it is paramount that we and our schools maintain a solid and supportive partnership with local law enforcement agencies. The safety of our schools must always be a top priority. I want to thank the law enforcement officers and agencies for their cooperation with the schools in Atascosa County. Because of their presence and partnerships, they help create an assuring atmosphere for parents every day at school drop-off. As your County Judge during these uncertain times, I will always advocate for our educators and the School Districts' safety. We can create a united community that cherishes education, nurtures its students, and prepares them for opportunities and challenges. As a community, we must encourage open communication between schools, law enforcement, and parents to allow for the swift dissemination of information regarding safety concerns or essential updates. Please remember and remind your children that it is critical to promptly report to the appropriate authorities if you notice any suspicious behavior or potential threats. Whether you are a parent, teacher, first responder, or active community member, we can ensure that our schools remain sanctuaries of knowledge so that the students can focus on their education without fear or distraction. Please join me in prayer over the schools in Atascosa and beyond for this upcoming school year. Pray for hope, determination, and dedication to the student's well-being. I wish for nothing but a safe and successful school year for all! Together we are Atascosa Proud! Sincerely, Weldon Cude.