

# ECRW NEWSLETTER



*Per the Pres*

*by Rachel D. Minor*

Although it is no secret that I do not care for fall or winter, I do enjoy the Holiday Season and all that it brings. Thanksgiving is a time to think about all that we are thankful for, and Christmas is a time to remember Christ birth, both holidays allow us to rest from work, spend quality time with family and friends, serve others and make lasting memories. I hope all of these things shower your life this season.

We can rejoice that our great state of Texas is still lead by a Republican Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General. We gained control of the house and gained seats in the Senate, so prayerfully Republicans will be able to make some changes on a federal level. Although some that ECRW were supporting lost their election, Myra Flores in South Texas and our "truth and freedom" friend Kathryn Parker lost her run for Representative. We are proud of these women and their courage to run.

Ector Country Republican Women's Club is about to embark on a new season with the new leadership of Donna Kelm, as our President. I am excited to see what her high energy, strong passion and always welcoming personality brings to our club. I know she and the board will serve you well! To show your support for Donna as she takes on the task of leading us, please take the time over the holidays to renew your membership for 2023 at [www.ecrwodessa.com](http://www.ecrwodessa.com). We have memberships for everyone and every budget. You don't want to miss out on being informed and involved for 2023, and how you can continue to stand and fight for our freedoms!

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as your ECRW President for two years, to see your smiling faces each month, to listen to your passions about politics, your families, and the importance of faith as you navigate life's ups and downs. It has brought me so much joy to see our club come together to be educated on the political process, to register voters, to support candidates and to celebrate when those we supported were elected and to stand by those who experienced temporary defeat. This experience has taught me so much, and helped me appreciate even more, to live in the great state of Texas. You have blessed me beyond measure!



## *Table of Contents*

2. Christmas Luncheon
3. Odessa Housing
4. Brooks Landgraf
6. November Luncheon
7. Heritage
8. Mid-Term Election
- 9-10. Cartoonist
11. Recipe
12. Local Sales Tax
13. Pfluger Fly-By
14. Newsletter

*Christmas Luncheon  
December 6<sup>th</sup>  
11am - 2pm  
MCM Elegante  
Door Drawings*



*Membership Renewals*



*Per the Pres... continued*

*by: Rachel Minor*

“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,  
whose confidence is in him.  
They will be like a tree planted by the water  
that sends out its roots by the stream.  
It does not fear when heat comes;  
its leaves are always green.  
It has no worries in a year of drought  
and never fails to bear fruit.”  
Jeremiah 17:7-8

Please Join Us For The ECRW  
**Christmas Luncheon**  
Come and Go  
December 6th  
11:00-2:00  
MCM Elegante Waterfront Room  
Finger Foods & Desserts



# CHRISTMAS WISHES COME TRUE!

## Sponsorship Instructions

1. Decide how many children you would like to sponsor.
2. Contact one of the following to get your wish list:
  - Odessa Housing Finance Corp. (432) 362-2349
  - Connie Coats with Odessa Board of Realtors (432) 556-0169
  - Kenzie Voyles with PrimeLending (432) 967-7458
3. Maximum spending limit is \$150 per child. We ask that you do not purchase gift cards as a gift. Please provide gift receipts for clothes.

What to buy:

- **Children ages 12 & under** - 2 outfits & 1 item from wish list

OR

1 outfit, 1 pair of shoes & 1 item from wish list

- **Teenage Children ages 13 to 18** - 2 to 3 items from wish list
- **If you prefer to drop off a Cash Donation of \$150, we will shop for you to fulfill a child's wish list. Please contact Odessa Housing Finance (432) 362-2349 for this option.**

4. Purchase your items and return them unwrapped to the place you picked up your list or drop off your cash payment by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you for your support and generosity for these families who are a part of the Affordable Housing program. Some families are unable to provide Christmas for their kids and with your willingness to give we can make Christmas Wishes Come True!





### Session on the Horizon

*December 4, 2022*

by State Representative Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa)

Work has officially begun for the upcoming legislative session as the bill filing period opened for Members of the Texas House and Texas Senate earlier in November.

No matter what, I will always be committed to representing the hard-working people of the Permian Basin. That means fighting to defend and expand individual liberty in Texas for all Texans. That is why I am especially proud of what we accomplished in 2021, when the right to life and the right to defend one's own life were prioritized more than ever before.

When the Roe v Wade decision came down, Texas was ready, having passed legislation in 2021 specifically for such an eventuality. Thanks to HB 1280, abortion became illegal in Texas without any additional action required by the state following the landmark Supreme Court decision.

Texas also became a "constitutional carry" state in 2021 — meaning that any law-abiding Texan can carry a handgun without permission, aka a license, from the government.

I'm certainly proud of these accomplishments, but by no means do I think we should rest on our laurels. The 2023 legislative session will be about defending the ground we've worked so hard to gain and moving the ball further in areas where we've stalled in the past.

The Texas legislature meets at the Texas Capitol for a 140-day regular session beginning the second Tuesday in January every odd-numbered year to vote on proposed legislation and pass a balanced state budget. On January 10, 2023 the Texas legislature will convene for the 88th Texas Legislative Session and I've wasted no time in preparation having already filed several bills at the time of writing.

As always, I'm committed to fighting to protect Permian Basin jobs, which are increasingly under threat from the federal government. That is why I have filed House Bill 33 to stall the implementation of any new federal regulations on oil or natural gas production in Texas. HB 33, nicknamed the "Texas Energy Independence Act," will ensure no Texas state taxpayer dollars or resources are used to implement any new federal regulations on oil and gas production in Texas.

House Bill 33 prohibits Texas state agencies and officials from contracting with or providing assistance to any federal agency or official regarding the enforcement of a federal statute, order, rule, or regulation regulating oil and gas operations if the regulation is not already existing law.

The Texas Energy Independence Act will help preserve the Texas economy, and, hopefully, the United States of America as a global force for good. The Texas Energy Independence Act is the first of many pieces of legislation I plan to file in 2023 to defend Texas energy. I'll also be working hard to ensure that the Permian Basin gets its fair share of the budget surplus we've helped to create, estimated to be the largest in Texas history at \$27 billion.



Additionally, I'm fighting for the rights of every Texas taxpayer and homeowner. While property taxes are assessed locally, rather than statewide, I remain committed to finding every available opportunity to reduce the property tax burden on Texas families and businesses. We can use part of the budget surplus to buy down property taxes, but the impact of that will barely be felt even if we dedicated all \$27 billion to the cause. I'm interested in all available ways to curb the growth of property taxes in Texas.

As your state representative, in addition to being upset by ever-increasing property tax bills, I am deeply convicted to pursue policies that allow for the bright light of transparency to shine through on our state and local governments at every available opportunity. That is why I filed HB 159 and HB 187.

HB 159 reinstates the requirement on local taxing entities that any proposed changes to property tax rates be published in local newspapers. This will help ensure rural Texans have access to information regarding proposed changes in their property tax rates regardless of their access to the internet. HB 187 requires ballot measures for the approval to issue bonds or other public debt to be submitted to voters and taxpayers only during a November election, removing the option to vote on debt during lower turnout elections. I believe that both of these bills are steps in the right direction to prevent continued out-of-control local government debt and property tax increases.

We face many challenges as a state and nation in the upcoming year, but I'm confident Texas is well-positioned to be a leader and show the world what free people can do. I'm honored to serve as your voice in the Texas House. Thankfully, that voice is echoing louder than ever in the Texas Capitol.

God bless Texas,

Brooks Landgraf





*November Luncheon*



*Permian's Black Magic Choir*

*Jenny Cudd Spoke on the events and results of January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

**Jenny asked for anyone to help January 6<sup>th</sup> Political Prisoners**

**PatriotMailProject.com**

Write the January 6<sup>th</sup> defendants. You can also put money on their books. Be a part of the Christmas Project for the children of J6 defendants.

**StopHate.com**

Links to all fundraisers for the J6 defendants can be found here along with updates, interviews, articles, & documentaries.

Jacob Lang - **J6Truth.org**

Ryan Nichols - **RescueTheUniverse.com**

Thomas Caldwell - **SaveOurFarmVA.com**

Jeremy Brown - **JeremyBrownDefense.com**

**JennyCudd.com**

My website just links to the Patriot Mail Project & Stop Hate websites. If you know of a group where I could bring awareness about the J6 Political Prisoners, please let me know.



Contact your representatives & demand they intervene. To date, 678 days since January 6<sup>th</sup>, the only representatives to say anything about the inhumane & illegal treatment of J6 defendants are Representatives: Louie Gohmert, Marjorie Taylor Green, Matt Gaetz, Paul Gosar, & Andy Biggs.



Heritage Corner

by Shaye Lane

FREEDOM

... they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. MATTHEW 2:11



Warren Earl Burger

THE GOVERNMENT AND NATIVITY SCENES

Warren Earl Burger, Chief Justice of the United States from 1969 to 1986, delivered the Supreme Court's opinion in the 1985 case of Lynch v. Donnelly, which upheld that the city of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, did not violate the Constitution by displaying a Nativity scene. Noting that presidential orders and proclamations from Congress have designated Christmas as a national holiday in religious terms for two centuries and in the Western world for twenty centuries, he wrote:

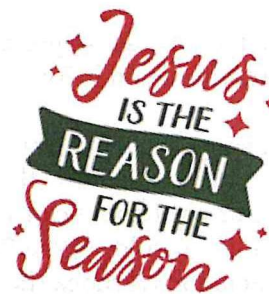
*There is an unbroken history of official acknowledgment by all three branches of government of the role of religion in American life. . . . The Constitution does not require a complete separation of church and state. It affirmatively mandates accommodation, not merely tolerance, of all religions and forbids hostility towards any. . . . Anything less would require the "callous indifference" we have said was never intended by the Establishment Clause. Indeed, we have observed, such hostility would bring us into a "war with our national tradition as embodied in the First Amendment's guaranty of the free exercise of religion."*

Contact US!

We welcome your feedback and want to hear from you.

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*Mid Term Election 2022 What Next?**by: Judy Calloway*

Early voting started October 24<sup>th</sup> and we went to the polls on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Texas stayed Red and Odessa stayed very red. Out of nearly 83,521 registered voters in Ector County only a total of 25,590 voted during the election including early voting. It may have been that we didn't have any contested races locally to draw the interest of voters. All but 2 of the local elected candidates had no opponents. Only the County Commissioner for Pct 4 and the Justice of Peace Pct 3 had both a Republican and Democrat on the ballot. Republican Billy Hall became the Pct 4 Commissioner becoming the first Republican to hold this Democrat stronghold position. This makes the entire Commissioner Court and County Judge all Republicans. Bill Bowen was elected the Justice of Peace Pct 3 beating Gerardo Arzate. Elizabeth Baeza was the only Democrat on the local ballot and was unopposed for Justice of Peace Precinct 4.

In Midland Lori Blong was elected as the first female to be Mayor of Midland and Amy Stretcher Burkes was elected to the Midland City Council. Amy is active in Midland Young Republican being one of the organizers of that group. She also heads a committee for the Midland Republican Women and is mother of 3 young children.

The Red Wave did not happen the way we hoped nationwide but pretty much did in Texas. All the top Texas government officials from Governor down are Republican. This includes Railroad Commissioner and Land Commissioner. This is 28 years that Republicans have controlled the top spots in Texas government.

Other areas in Texas were not as fortunate as Ector County and SD 31. The southern valley part of Texas had great hopes of a Red Wave that fell short with the defeat of our Mayra Flores by her Democrat opponent Vicente Gonzales. This is a huge disappointment. In addition, Cassie Garcia also lost to a democrat opponent. Both Mayra & Cassie are the wives of Border Patrol officers. Positive for the Cameron County Republican Women was that Monica De La Cruz won a state representative position HD15 and so did Janie Lopez for HD 37. The ladies of Cameron County Republican Women worked hard for these victories.

Katherine Parker lost the HD 74 State Representative race to incumbent Eddie Morales of Eagle Pass. We certainly hope to see Katherine again in Texas politics.

Some of the other bright spots for Republican Women included the newly elected governor of Arkansas, Sarah Huckabee Sanders at 40 years old, is the first female governor of Arkansas. In Alabama another 40-year-old Republican Women, Katie Britt became the first female Senator. These are both strong Southern strongholds of the Republican Women making their marks. In Georgia we are facing a runoff between Senator Warnock the incumbent Democrat and Herschel Walker the Republican opponent. This election may decide the Republican control of the senate after losing Arizona and Pennsylvania. At this point Republicans will control the House 220 to 212. The Senate is Dem (48) to Rep (49), it takes 51 for majority.

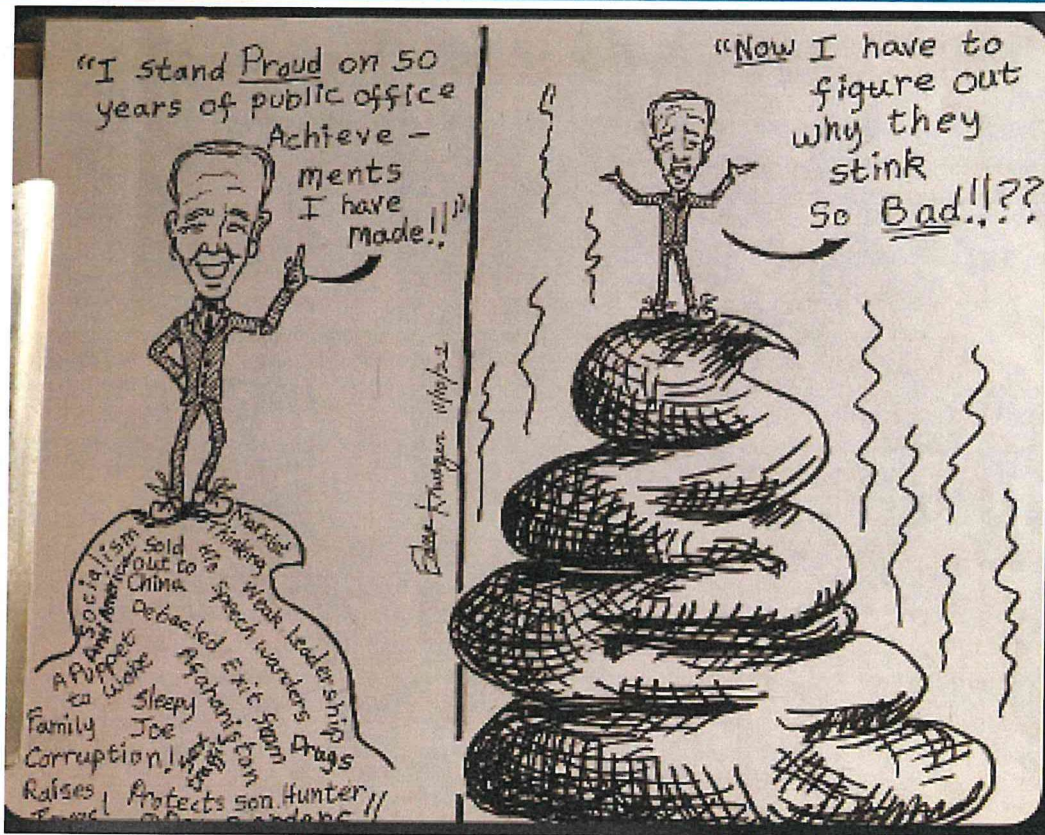
We have lots of work to do in this off year to prepare for the next big election. We must stay educated and involved to **KEEP TEXAS RED!**





Cartoonist

by: Edna Krueger



**POLITICS**

*Nancy Pelosi to step down as House Democratic leader after two decades, with GOP set to take narrow majority*

PUBLISHED THU, NOV 17 2022 12:30 PM EST UPDATED THU, NOV 17 2022 10:35 PM EST

**KEY POINTS**

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced she will step down from her congressional leadership role, ending a two-decade streak as the top House Democrat.

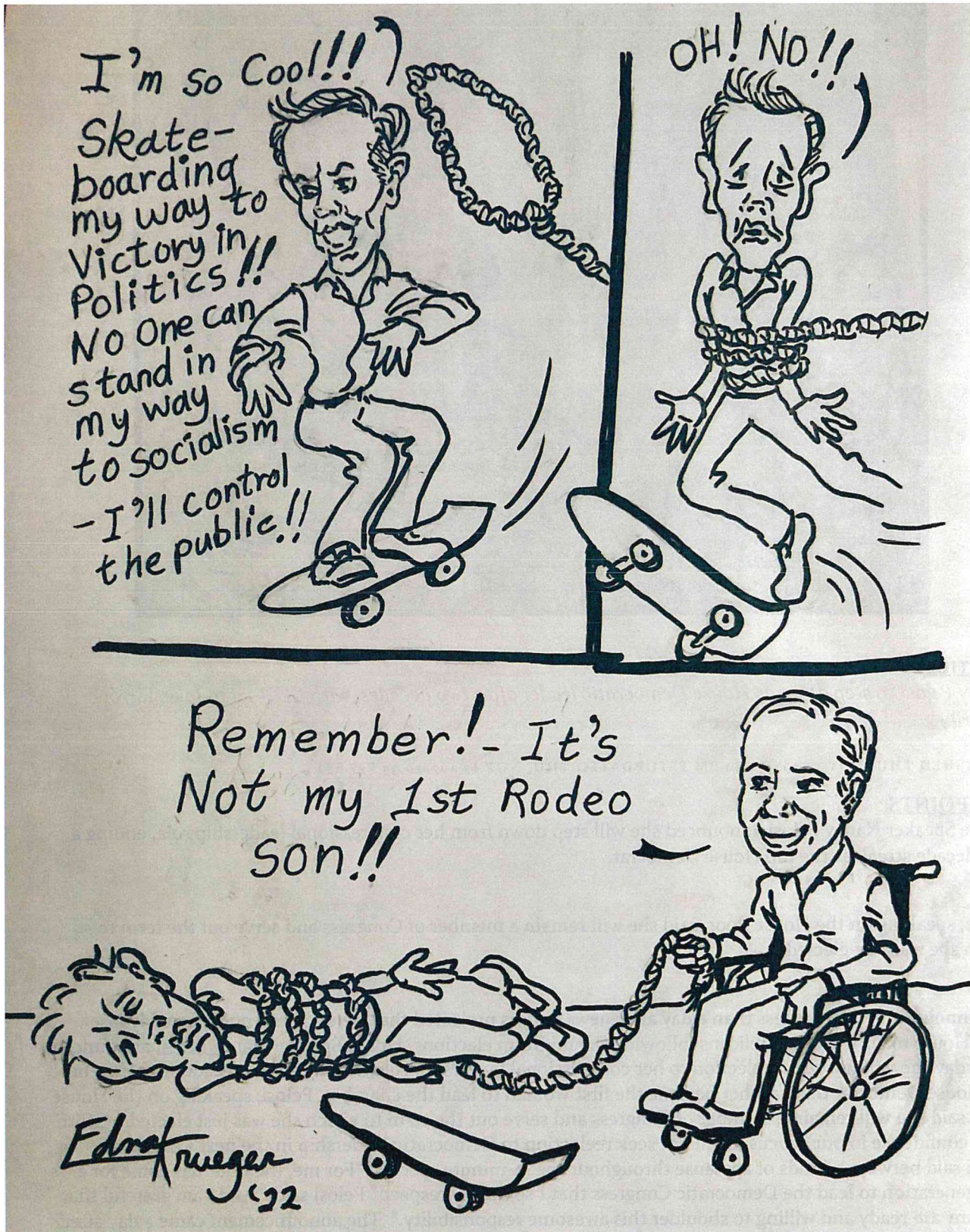
Pelosi, speaking on the House floor, said she will remain a member of Congress and serve out the term to which she was just elected.

The announcement came less than a day after news outlets projected that Democrats would narrowly lose their House majority to Republicans following the midterm elections. House Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) announced Thursday she will not seek reelection to her congressional leadership role, ending a two-decade streak as the top House Democrat that saw her become the first woman to lead the chamber. Pelosi, speaking on the House floor, said she will remain a member of Congress and serve out the term to which she was just elected. "With great confidence in our caucus, I will not seek reelection to Democratic leadership in the next Congress," Pelosi said between rounds of applause throughout the 14-minute speech. "For me, the hour has come for a new generation to lead the Democratic Congress that I so deeply respect," Pelosi said. "And I am grateful that so many are ready and willing to shoulder this awesome responsibility." The announcement came a day after news outlets projected that [Democrats would narrowly lose their House majority to Republicans](#) following the midterm elections.



Cartoonist

by: Edna Krueger



Congratulations Governor Abbott's re-election



Submitted by: Pinterest

## Sweet Potato Casserole: A Healthier Thanksgiving

### Recipe

#### Ingredients

- 40 oz. can cut sweet potatoes in light syrup, drained ✓
- 1/2 cup 2% milk
- 2 eggs, whisked
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice ✓
- 1 tsp. vanilla ✓
- 1/2 tsp. salt



#### Topping

- 2 tbsp. butter, softened
- 1/2 cup crushed pecans or walnuts ✓
- 1/4 cup brown sugar

#### Instructions

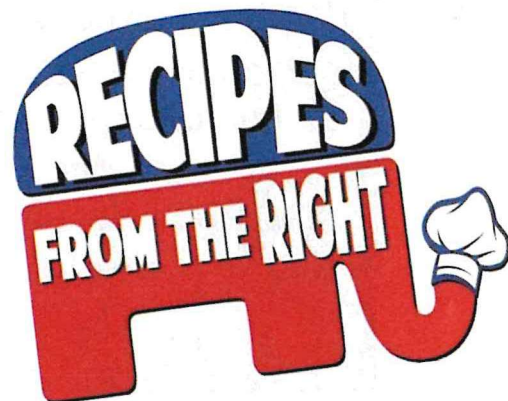
1. **Preheat the oven.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. **Combine the casserole ingredients.** In a large bowl, combine drained sweet potatoes, milk, eggs, sugar, butter, pumpkin pie spice, and vanilla, and salt, mashing potatoes and stirring well. Pour into an oven-safe 9x9 inch dish or pan, set aside.

40 oz. can cut sweet potatoes in light syrup, drained, 1/2 cup 2% milk, 2 eggs, whisked, 1/3 cup brown sugar, 1/4 cup butter, softened, 2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice, 1 tsp. vanilla, 1/2 tsp. salt

3. **Combine the topping ingredients.** In a small bowl, combine butter, pecans, and sugar until well blended. Sprinkle pecan mixture over casserole.

2 tbsp. butter, softened, 1/2 cup crushed pecans or walnuts, 1/4 cup brown sugar

4. **★ Bake.** Bake for 45 minutes, or until set. Let sit for 10 minutes. Serve hot.





Local News

News Releases



## November sales tax check up more than 7%

Posted November 11, 2022

The City of Odessa’s November sales tax check, which reflects sales made in September, was up 7.39% compared to last year at this time.

According to a City of Odessa news release, the city received a check of \$5,927,300.90. This amount includes the Economic Development sales tax of one quarter cent. The City of Odessa will receive \$4,741,840.72 and the Odessa Development Corporation will receive \$1,185,460.18. The year-to-date total sales tax revenue for FY22-23 is up 29.96% or \$2,148,547.26 as compared to the budgeted amount expected at this point in the fiscal year. In addition, the ‘22-23 year-to-date amount is above the previous fiscal year-to-date amount by \$1,416,236.58 or 17.92%



### NEWSLETTER

If you are interested in submitting information to be placed in our newsletter please email to: [ecrwtxas@gmail.com](mailto:ecrwtxas@gmail.com) ECRW allows all Republican candidates to place articles as well. **ECRW does not support one Republican candidate over another.** We just support Republicans as a whole! If you have any questions, please contact

Donna Kelm cell: 432-413-8894.





November 23, 2022

I just visited the El Paso border sector with Republican leaders in Congress to say thank you to our Border Patrol heroes who will be spending Thanksgiving working overtime to keep our country safe.

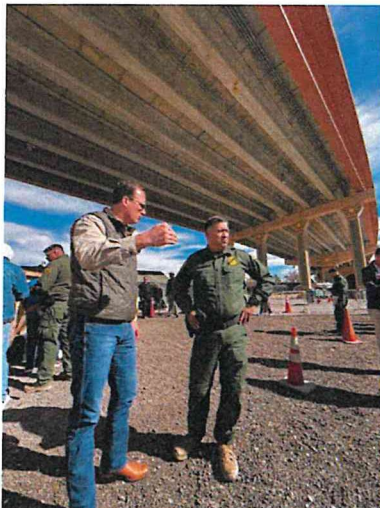
President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have abandoned Texans and turned their backs on their own Border Patrol heroes who have put themselves in harms way to protect the security of our Nation.

The last time I visited the El Paso sector of the border, our delegation uncovered the terrible reality that known and suspected terrorists were crossing into our country via the open southern border and Democrats and the mainstream media denied it. We now know over 100 Known and Suspected Terrorists have attempted to cross our border illegally, and we have no idea how many are among the 600,000+ gotaways who evaded arrest.

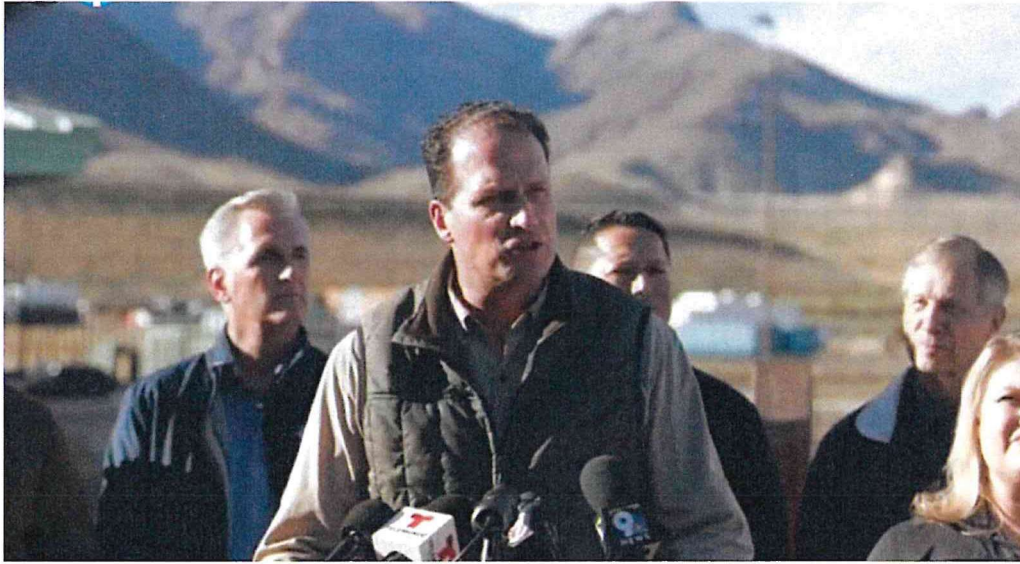
The system is blinking red, and our National Security is in peril.

Despite the overwhelming crisis, Secretary Mayorkas continues to ignore the severity of the crisis and mislead the American people. Last week during a House Homeland Security Committee hearing, [I personally asked Sec. Mayorkas if the border was secure](#). He laughed at me and asserted the border is "completely secure." A complete lie. As every single Border Patrol Agent told me today, our border is wide open.

Yesterday we delivered a message to Secretary Mayorkas today that he must resign, or he will be held responsible for his actions and failures. The new Republican majority will not stand by as he and President Biden threaten our safety and security.







Thank you for reading. It is the honor of my lifetime to serve you in Congress. Please follow me on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) for daily updates.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "August Pfluger".

Rep. August Pfluger  
Member of Congress

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## *The Newsletter*

by: *Donna Kelm*

As I was completing the newsletter I tried to think of the perfect poem, saying, prayer, etc. All the while, I'm listening to Dolly Parton's Mountain Magic Christmas special on TV. It was so heartfelt and made me realize a lot of people in our world are feeling the same! Dolly's desire was to uplift an exhausted world's spirits by sharing the unique 'mountain magic' she has always found in and around Dollywood at Christmas. Her final song "When Life Is Good Again" summed up what I was trying to do, say and share. Our country has been through so much and has affected us all. We need to do our part to make our world a better place to be, which means each person has a part to play. West Texans have always been known as the friendliest people in Texas. Let's bring that back by taking time to greet a person, help someone in need, invite someone to dinner, pick up the phone and say hello. Teach your children and grandchildren the West Texas way of life! It's the small things in life that matter most.

*I pray each of you have a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year! God Bless You!*



## *When Life Is Good Again*

*Song by Dolly Parton*

When life is good again  
I'll be a better friend  
A bigger person when  
Life is good again  
More thoughtful than I've been  
I'll be so different then  
More in the moment when  
Life is good again

I'll open up my heart  
And let the whole world in  
I'll try to make amends  
When life is good again

We've been brought to our knees  
We've been so ill at ease  
There are no guarantees  
But you know life goes on  
This too shall pass away  
Bring new and different days  
We need to change our ways  
And right our wrongs

Let's open up our hearts  
And let the whole world in  
Let's try to make amends  
When life is good again

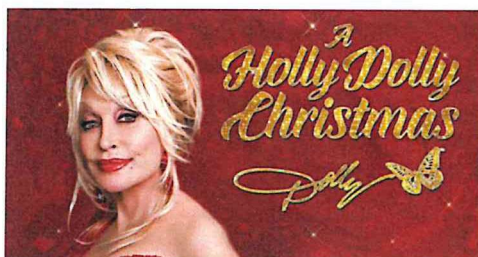
I'll open up my doors again  
And hear the message in the wind  
Repent of all my sins (Hallelujah)  
When life is good again

I'll try to be someone  
On which you can depend  
A helping hand to lend  
Let's open up our eyes  
And see what's goin' on  
If we're to move along  
From where we've been

Let's open up our hearts  
And let the love shine in (shine in)  
We've all got knees to bend  
And we'll just pray 'til then  
Ask God's forgiveness when  
Life is good again

And it's gonna be good again  
(It's gonna be, it's gonna be)  
It's gonna be good again  
It'll be alright (it'll be alright)

God's the reason for all things  
You want rainbows, you get rain  
We'll all be forever changed (forever  
changed)  
I'll sail my boat and fly my kite  
Walk in the park, go out at night  
And hold my loved ones extra tight  
When everything is on the mend  
I'll even drink with my old friends  
Sing and play my mandolin  
We'll make it through this long dark night  
Darkness fades when faced with light  
But everything's gonna be alright  
When life is good again



### **"Christmas Is"**

***Christmas is a time for caring  
Bein' at your best  
Christmas is a time for sharing  
Knowin' you've been blessed  
Christmas is a time for givin'  
Love is made of this  
That's what Christmas is***

**Merry Christmas!**



