

# THE DRUMRIGHT MUSEUM GUSHER

November 6, 2023/ Vol 10

*sja* PHOTOGRAPHY  
Photographer: Susan Matney, D.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE OIL PATCH



**December 2nd**  
**9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
**Drumright Museum Lawn**



**DRUMRIGHT FOOD COURT**

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Join us on Facebook



Drumright Project Profits Benefit:



**Christmas Parade**  
**December 2nd**

**The Frisco Polar Express**

**See Page 4**

## DOWN AT THE DEPOT

### Honoring Drumright Veterans

With Veterans' Day approaching and threats of war in the Middle East again, it seems fitting to revisit our Military Room, down at the depot. At this museum, we have an entire room dedicated to preserving the artifacts and the memories of our local heroes that served proudly in the military forces of the United States. You may remember some of their stories.

John W. Smalley came to Oklahoma as a young man, seeking adventure during the early oil boom days. He was working as a mechanic in the old fields, when the U.S. entered into World War I in April of 1917. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and was shipped overseas to fight in Europe. He was attached to the Ninetieth

Division. Sadly, Sgt. Smalley was killed in action September 12, 1918, near Vileey, France. This was the first day of the Battle of St. Mihiel. He had bravely fought and was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action. Sgt. Smalley was also awarded the Purple Heart.

Raymond E. Camden was a member of the Drumright High Class of 1940. After high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Raymond was a Seaman, Second Class, serving aboard the U.S.S. Arizona in 1941. This battleship was stationed at Pearl Harbor, just off the island of Oahu, in the U.S. Territory of the Hawaiian Islands. On December 7,

1941, the Japanese launched a torpedo attack on the ships in Pearl Harbor. Japanese bomber pilots bombed the U.S.S. Arizona as well. The battleship sank into the harbor with 1,177 individuals aboard. Over 900 sailors were unrecovered. Raymond Camden is still onboard that ship and became the first Drumright serviceman to die during World War II. Barely 19 years old, he paid the ultimate sacrifice. His photo and Purple Heart are displayed proudly in our museum.

Drumright's military history is not complete without the story of Lester Carl Byard who served nearly four years as a prisoner of war during World War II. There are two large scrapbooks his family donated to the museum. Lester would have graduated with the class of 1940, but he quit school and enlisted in the U.S. Marines on January 12, 1940. Lester served as a Private First Class with the First Defense Battalion (an anti-aircraft battery) on Wake Island. This is where he was stationed when the island was attacked by the Japanese on December 7, 1941. The Battle of Wake Island coincided with the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Marines fought valiantly for two weeks, but Wake Island fell to the Empire of Japan on December 23, 1941. Over 1,600 military and civilian personnel were taken as prisoners. For four long months, his family struggled to

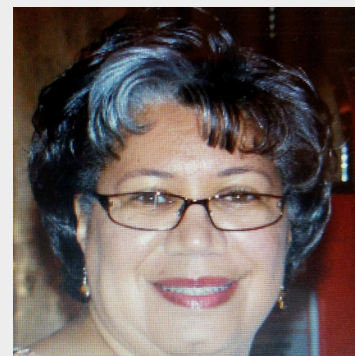
receive any information regarding Lester. Finally, they received word that he was a POW, being held in Shanghai, China. Two years later, he was moved to a prison camp in Osaka, Japan, where he endured horrible living and working conditions. Finally, on September 7, 1945, he was released and sent to California to recover at a naval hospital. Every letter, telegram and newspaper clipping were kept by his family, and are included in these scrapbooks.

Billy Hewitt was the first Drumright person to die while serving in the military during the Vietnam War. His greatest ambition was to become the best Marine he could be. The Vietnam War was raging overseas. By 1965, Billy had attained the rank of Sergeant. He was on active duty, fighting in the Danang Province of Vietnam, when he was killed by enemy fire. He died on July 6, 1966, just six days short of his twenty-first birthday. He was buried with full military honors at Ft. Gibson National Cemetery. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for his heroic service.

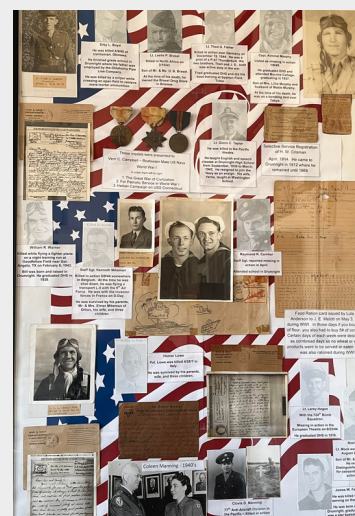
There are more stories to be viewed in our military room. We have uniforms, swords, flags, medals, scrapbooks and more on display. Drumright does not lack for military heroes. Just

come take a look and honor those who have protected our country.

By: Patti Pouncil



Patti Pouncil



## **Tornado Alley Sports by Robert Marshall**

### The Elerick Legacy:

A significant hiring for Drumright was Chris Elerick, the son of Phil Elerick. Phil Elerick was a remarkable football coach in his own right, having won two State Titles at Cashion. In 1979, Elerick's football team secured a victory over Lone Wolf with a score of 17-14. They also triumphed over OCS (28-22), Waynoka (34-6), and Blue Jack (57-20). In 1981, they defeated OCS in the final match with a score of 44-14. Their successful run also included wins against Helena Goltry (48-14), Shidler (42-12), and Parnell (26-6). The state finals that year were held in Cushing, a memorable experience. Although Phil coached at Drumright with a record of 9-11, his imagination was unparalleled.

### The Swinging Gate Play:

When Drumright faced a challenging opponent like Hominy, Phil ran the swinging gate play, typically used for extra points. He implemented it for an entire half, which was exciting to watch. It caught Hominy off guard as they scrambled to adjust, and though Drumright lost 58-40, the outcome could have been worse considering the talent the Buck had. Phil imparted the wisdom that "One coach will run a play, and the next play, the other coach will counter it."

### Chris Elerick's Journey:

Chris Elerick had his coaching stint at Yale, where he managed to turn around an average program. He reached the State semi-finals three times. In 2001, Yale triumphed against Oaks (42-0) in the first round and Tipton (18-14) but fell to Medford. In 2003, Yale outperformed Central Sallisaw (38-6) but lost to Alex in the second round. In 2004, they managed wins against Dibble (42-32) and Foyil (36-6) before succumbing to Morrison in the Semi Finals. His next coaching venture was at Stroud.

### Success at Stroud:

In 2007, Stroud secured a win against Foyil (36-6) before losing by a single point to Washington, Oklahoma in 2008. Stroud reached the state finals in 2009 but lost by a single point, 7-8, to the powerful Tonkawa at Lewis Field in Stillwater. Their journey included victories over Savanna (54-6), Pawnee (21-13), Cashion (52-7), and OBA. They made the playoffs many times in 2A after moving up from Class A. Chris's sons, Drew and Grant, also achieved significant success in their careers at Stroud.

### Current Success:

Chris is experiencing substantial success at Drumright this year with an 8-0 record. If Drumright can beat 7-1 Barnsdall at Barnsdall on Friday, the Drumright Tornadoes will secure their first District title since 1964.







Drumright beat Barnsdall 46-0 and gained the title of District Champions.  
 Photos by Toni Roberts

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE OIL PATCH

### 2023 Drumright Christmas Parade Registration Form

#### DRUMRIGHT CHRISTMAS PARADE



**Saturday~December 02, 2023**

Parade line up will begin at 5:30 on Jones & Broadway. The parade will be at 6:00pm. Please fill out the bottom portion of this form and get it back to the Drumright Chamber Office by email [drumrightchamber@gmail.com](mailto:drumrightchamber@gmail.com), mail to PO Box 828 or drop off at the Chamber Office 103 E. Broadway. For any questions or more info please call Angela at 918-352-8013

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Organization/Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Entry- Float \_\_\_ Antique Auto/Vehicle \_\_\_ Official \_\_\_ Police/Fire \_\_\_

Other (Please Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### *The Fisco Polar Express*

*at the  
Santa Fe Depot*

All Aboard for the chance to hear the story, sing the familiar songs, & enjoy a warm cup of hot chocolate! As we prepare to end the evening your child will receive a sleigh bell straight from Santa's sleigh!

Pajamas are welcome!  
 Be sure to have your child write a letter to Santa, we have a mailbox to the North Pole!

Tickets \$10 per Traveler

**301 E. Broadway  
 Drumright  
 For reservations call  
 918-720-3550**

#### *Available dates:*

November 24 & 25 December  
 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, & 22  
 6pm 7pm 8pm



Hosted by The Boomtoom Theater & The Drumright Historical Society

# Obituaries

## **Raeleigh Dawn Ritter - Dennis**

Memorial services for Raeleigh Ritter-Dennis were held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Drumright High School Riddle Field. Rev. George Brock, III of the Olive First Baptist Church officiated.

Raeleigh was born in Cushing, Oklahoma on November 30, 2007 to Clayton Dennis & Jessica Ritter. She passed tragically from this life in Drumright, Oklahoma on September 30, 2023 at the age of 15 years & 10 months. She was a freshman at Drumright High School & enjoyed playing softball & spending time with her friends. She was preceded in death by her Grandfathers: Jimmy Randall, Jr. & Randy Akins; & Great Grandparents: Martha & Jack Ritter – William Dennis - & Jimmie Randall, Sr.

Those left to mourn her passing include her Mother: Jessica Ritter of Tulsa; Father: Clayton Dennis & stepmother: LeeAnn Dennis of Drumright; Siblings: Allyson & Keegan Ritter of Tulsa – Braeden Dennis of Mannford; Grandparents: Marie Ritter of Tulsa – Sarah Dennis of Drumright – Fern Dennis of Drumright – Paul & Brenda Rusco of Drumright; Plus several Aunts – Uncles – Cousins – Other Relatives & a vast number of friends.

Services entrusted by Michael's Funeral Home



## **Molly Ann Gregg**

Molly was born on October 30, 1949 in Cushing, Oklahoma to the late Everett & Ruth Sager. She passed from this life on October 10, 2023 in Drumright, Oklahoma at the age of 73 years, 11 months, and 10 days. Molly was raised and educated in Ripley, Oklahoma. She married Donald E. Gregg in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 29, 1975, eventually making Drumright their home. She retired from the Cushing Police Department in 2009. Molly loved her family, as well as knitting and bowling. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her Brother: Melvin Sager; Sisters: Mary Retherford, Everonie Cooke, & Nancy.

She leaves to cherish her memory, Husband: Donald Gregg of the home; Sons: Robert Emerson & wife Juanna of Cushing, Tim Hancock & wife Donna of Litchfield, II; Daughter: Tammy Hall & husband Oscar of Newton, Ks; Sisters: Mila Myers of Ripley, Janat Marler of Tulsa. Plus numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and other family & friends.

Services entrusted by Michael's Funeral Home

# Obituaries

## **Michael Garrol Guinn, Sr.**

A memorial service for Tulsa resident, Michael Garrol Guinn Sr., was held 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 30 th in the Drumright River of Life Christian Center with Rev. Kevin Vogele officiating.

Michael was born in Drumright, Oklahoma on March 13, 1969 to Garrol Thomas Guinn & Verba (Smith) Guinn. He passed from this life in Tulsa on September 26, 2023 at the age of 54 years, 6 months, & 13 days. Michael was raised & educated around Drumright & Davenport & was a 1987 Graduate of Davenport High School. He enjoyed playing music and was a master tinkerer, able to fix just about anything. He was preceded in death by his father.

His remaining family includes his Mother: Verba Guinn of Coweta; 2 Children: Michael Guinn of Tecumseh – Breanna Alcorn of Texas; Grandchildren: Joshua – Jaden – Makynlee – Brayden – Atreya – & Valkorie; 2 Sisters: Anita Philpott of Broken Arrow – Jennifer Rowland of Midwest City; plus SEVERAL Nieces – Nephews – Cousins - other relatives - & friends.

Services entrusted by Michael's Funeral Home

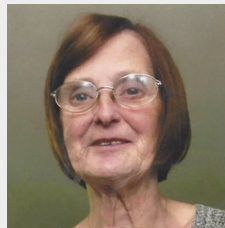
## **Connie Jo Harrington**

Funeral services for Drumright resident, Connie Harrington, were held 10:00 a.m. Monday, October 16th in the Crossway Church at Cushing, Oklahoma. Pastor Sonny Johnston will officiate. Interment followed in the Stroud City Cemetery.

Connie was born in Yale, Oklahoma on October 12, 1951 to the late Reverend Francis Boyer & Goldie (Mitchell) Boyer. She passed from this life at her home on October 11, 2023 at the age of 71 years, 11 months, & 29 days. Connie was mostly raised in the Shamrock area. She attended the Shamrock Schools but graduated from Drumright High School. She married Tommy Wayne Harrington at Eufaula, Oklahoma on June 13, 1977. This union brought her a husband and a 7 year old son to raise, Tommy Jr. 2 years later Andrew Boyd was born. These boys were the light & love of her life. Another great love of hers was her Lord & Savior and she was never ashamed or shy to share the amazing glory of God. She enjoyed fishing with her daddy and taking the boys fishing. She also crocheted and made so many beautiful blankets for everyone in her life. She enjoyed traveling to different lakes and places and spending time with their family. Her kind and generous nature will be missed by all she touched. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a Son: Tommy Harrington, Jr. Great Grandson: Judd Wayne Harrington; 2 sisters: Joyce Bowman & Sue Beth Looney; & 1 Brother: Lloyd Boyer.

She leaves behind her loving Husband: Tommy of the home; Son: Andrew Harrington & wife Karen of Drumright; Grandchildren: John – Judd & Kaci – AnnDrea & Robert – Joshua – Hannah – & Krystall; Great Grandchildren: Kaydence & Kooper – Maverick & Indie; plus numerous Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, other relatives & friends.

Services entrusted by Michael's Funeral Home



# Obituaries

## Heather Madison Marie Johnson

Memorial services for Heather Johnson were held 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 11th at the Drumright High School Riddle Field. Rev. Kevin Vogele of the Drumright River of Life Christian Center officiated.

Heather was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on August 14, 2008 to Heath Ryan Johnson & Jessica Marie (Wiegert) Johnson. She passed tragically from this life in Drumright, Oklahoma on September 30, 2023 at the age of 15 years, 1 month, & 16 days. She was a freshman at Drumright High School & enjoyed playing Softball & spending time with her family & friends. She was preceded in death by her Grandfather: Roger Wiegert; & Great Grandfather: Lyle Whitworth.

Those left to mourn her passing include her Mother: Jessica Johnson of the home; her Father: Heath Johnson of Drumright; Sister: Shelby Johnson of the home; Maternal Grandparents: Treasea & Paul Horton of Wewoka; Paternal Grandparents: Harlen & Sandra Johnson of Sallisaw; Great Grandmother: Dee Whitworth of Edmond; Aunts & Uncles: Tammara & Shaun Rhodes of Muskogee – Anthony & Cheryl Wiegert of Massachusetts – Lance Johnson of Bristow; Cousins: Lane – Mackenzie – Michael – Emily – Zackary - & Hayden; and not least, her Boyfriend: Gavin Brimmer; along with Several other relatives and an entire community of friends.

Services entrusted by Michael's Funeral Home



## Gerry Don Lyons

Gerry Lyons, resident of Drumright, passed from this life on October 11, 2023 at the age of 65 years & 25 days. A visitation was held at Michael's Funeral Home in Drumright on Sunday, October 15th in the Memorial Chapel.

Gerry was born in Cushing, Oklahoma on September 16, 1958 to Helen Louise Lyons. He was raised & educated in Drumright & was a graduate of Drumright High School. He had lived all of his life in this area and had worked as a concrete & brick mason in the oilfields. Gerry married Charletta Overstreet on May 2, 1992 & they have remained together until his death. Gerry was a member of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church & enjoyed fishing, BBQ, & spending time with his family & friends. He was preceded in death by a daughter: Alisha Harrison; his mother: Helen Louise Johnson; his Stepfather: Pearl Johnson; & Grandparents Archie and Athlena Lyons.

His remaining family includes his wife: Charletta Lyons of Drumright; 3 Daughters: Brandie Overstreet – Brittany Overstreet – Rina Atkins; 2 Sons: Billy (Merella) Overstreet & Brandon (Winter) Overstreet; 32 Grandchildren – a host of Great Grandchildren; 4 Aunties: Jeanetta McGee of South Carolina, Celestine McIntosh of Kansas, Bertha Lyons of Texas, & Wanda Lyons of Lawton, Ok. As well as several other relatives and many friends.

Services entrusted by Michael's Funeral Home





# Obituaries

## Thomas Joe Stalcup

Graveside funeral rites were held Tuesday, October 10th in the Highland Cemetery at Oilton, Oklahoma. Mr. David Ridenhour of the Broadway Church of Christ officiated. Military funeral honors were provided by the United States Navy.

Tom was born in Oilton, Oklahoma on August 13, 1940 to the late Thomas Virgil Stalcup & Ruth Ann (Johnson) Stalcup. He passed from this life in Tulsa, Oklahoma on October 5, 2023 at the age of 83 years, 1 month, and 24 days. Tom was raised & educated in Drumright & was a 1958 graduate of Drumright High School. After graduation, he joined the United State Navy and was honorably discharged in 1963. He made his home in Tulsa & Sapulpa until moving back to Drumright in the early 1990's. He eventually secured a job with Sun Oil Company and retired as an electrical engineer in 2005. He married Sharon Smith in 1993 & they remained together until

her death in 2013. Tom enjoyed camping & going places in his motorhome. He was also an avid ham radio operator. But none was more precious to him than spending time with his family & grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister: Betty Loveland.

He leaves behind 3 Children: Page Stalcup of Bixby – Lisa Looper of New York – Penny Exendine of Drumright; Grandchildren: Randi & Mike Davis – Ashley & Michael Homas; Great Grandchildren: Reznic & Stella – Elanor & Fionia; & a host of numerous other relatives & friends.

Services entrusted by Michael's Funeral Home



## Matthew Joseph Stanton

A memorial gathering was held for Drumright resident, Matt Stanton, at 3:00 p.m. Thursday, October 12th in the Memorial Chapel of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright.

Matt was born in Cresent, Oklahoma on September 1, 1967. He passed from this life suddenly on October 5, 2023 due to injuries he received in a motorcycle accident near Cushing. He was 56 years, 1 month, & 4 days old. Matt was raised & educated in Cresent, OK. He moved to Drumright in 2000 & had worked as a local handyman. He also was employed by Oklahoma State University working security for special events. Matt never met a stranger and was always willing to help you out if he could. He will be missed by all he encountered. He was preceded in death by his mother: Gertrude Stanton.

His remaining family includes his wife: Tina Stanton of Drumright; Children: Destiny Morales & Mykayla Johnson; Grandchildren: Bryson Lee – Preston Butch - & Lane Carter.

Services entrusted by Michael's Funeral Home

