

# THE DRUMRIGHT MUSEUM GUSHER

December 4 2023/ Vol 11

*sja* PHOTOGRAPHY  
Photographer Susan Matney, D.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE OIL PATCH

**The Frisco Polar Express**

**Chamber Banquet  
&  
Silent Auction**

**For More Information  
See Pages 4 & 5**



## DOWN AT THE DEPOT

### The Grand Mural

Here's a riddle for you. What is eight feet tall and thirty-eight feet long, and is the first thing you see when you enter the museum? It is the Drumright Historical Society's grand wrap-around mural that covers two complete walls in the central room, down at the depot.

This mural depicts a timeline, telling the story of Oklahoma, beginning with the Native Americans, followed by the Spanish and then French explorers. It features traders and fur trappers, the Trail of Tears, and then the discovery of oil. The mural ends with a neat community, a town with businesses, and students graduating from high school. From left to right, it is filled with brilliant

colors and bold characters. It uniquely represents Drumright because if you look closely, you can see a tornado and even an oilfield tank fire in the background.

Just looking at this mural, you would assume it was painted by one single individual. But no, there were six artists working under the direction of James Brill. Those artists were Gene Bond, Cecil Hinds, Dorothy Parker, Maurice Saulsberry, Marie Talley and John Watson. It was Brill's instruction that gave the finished work the impression of being done by one artist.

Mrs. Emma Akin had been elected President of the Drumright Community Historical Society in May of

1965. There was some opposition to the creation of a permanent oilfield museum in the Santa Fe Depot, but in the end, the museum supporters realized their dream. By September of 1965, plans were made for the renovation of the depot, including the installation of exhibits and the creation of the grand mural.

James Brill was the mastermind behind the creation of this mural. He was an artist and a musician. Brill had come from the University of Oklahoma to teach at Drumright High School. He taught art and music and was the chair of the Fine Arts Department here from 1920 to 1926. When he left Drumright, he pursued a career in producing educational films and was highly successful.

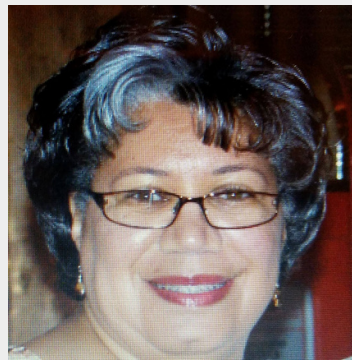
Upon retiring from his lengthy career with Encyclopedia Britannica, he planned to give back to the community that had nurtured him at the beginning of his career. Mr. Brill painted five different small panels to give Mrs. Akin an idea of the design elements he wanted to use in the mural. With her approval and his oversight, the work began. Those original small panels are also on display in the museum. The mural was begun in 1965 and was completed in 1967.

Brill said, "My happiest years were spent here, and I want to do something for Drumright.

It's my gift to the community." Mr. Brill retired to Terrell, Texas, but he commuted back and forth to Drumright many times while working on the mural. He never took a dime for his expenses. James Brill was the real gift to this community.

Oklahoma just celebrated its 116 th birthday on November 16, 2023. Come on down to the depot and take a look at our history, all thirty-eight feet of it in living color!

By: Patti Pouncil



Patti Pouncil



# TORNADO ALLEY SPORTS

## Historic Tornado Season Ends with Loss to Comets:

The football season is over, the Drumright Football team season ended when they lost 50-30 to Velma-Alma. Going into the game, Drumright was 12-0, and rated No. 2 in eight-man Class B football.

Starting last week Jaxon Bolton, a force on defense, had been hit in the ankles and wasn't able to play defense. He did get to play at the very last on defense, the same thing happened to Kevin Gooch, who was an all purpose back. Then, the flu hit two of our real good players. For our chance to get to the state semi-finals, everything went bad. Our guys weren't able to finish tackles that they were in position to make. To make it all worse, Velma-Alma fumbled 7 times, and came up with all of them. Conrad Reed kicked off in the 3rd quarter, it bounced off the Velma-Alma players' knee, and went 10 yards to where Velma recovered it. Velma has been like a cat with nine lives. Our Tornadoes looked like they could have quit but didn't quit. The key drive of the game, Tornadoes were behind 44-24, and Drumright scored from 55 yards out on 9 plays. The Tornadoes then held Velma. Velma had a good drive going. Down 44-30, Bryson Kelley had a 37 yard run during the drive, but disaster hit with a minus 12 yard pass and Drumright couldn't overcome it. We had them down at the first of the game 8-0, 16-1 and 24-20. Everything went downhill after that. Kelley had 275 yards on 31 carries, he was 10 of 18 passing for 68 yards. Jonathan Chavez caught six passes for 25 yards. Cole Gregory caught three passes for 44 yards, and Kevin Gooch caught two passes for four yards. Gregory and Chavez caught two 2-point conversions.

Defensively, Gooch, Tanner Willing, Kelley, Chavez, Jaxon Mach, Owen Gray, Chase Blowers, Chase Creekmoore, and Gregory made good defensive plays. We made history. We won our First District Championship since 1964. We finished the regular season undefeated 10-0, got to the third round for the first time ever, got ranked No. 4 in the state. Had large crowds, large crowds of alumni, and people who went to high school elsewhere.

The coaching staff of Chris Ellerick, Damien Gonzalez, Moses Williams, Scott Hollabaugh, Scott Loyd, and Cody Boyd did an incredible job this year. Gene Carroll, and Tony Harper did a great job on Skordle TV. Thanks to Miss Tornado Penny Gooch, Shivonne Gregory, Kim Kelley, Eddie Reed, Brandi Fisher, Stiles Burris, Brian Fisher and Lorren Barnett. The cheerleaders, the band, the student section were noisy, and I loved, watching everyone cheering and acting the way you're supposed to be at a football game. Coach Ellerick said "Frustration is we had two good teams playing and we didn't get any breaks, things didn't go our way. Tip your hat to Velma-Alma, it was very frustrating. We accomplished something that nobody thought we could do. They should be proud of themselves. No Drumright team has gone that far. They should be proud of their name and their jersey."

I hope Coach Ellerick can change the mindset here, he's off to a great start. I did a lot of whining in this article, but Velma is very good. They overcame the loss of their quarterback and the backup was very good.

Now on to basketball.

By Robert Marshall





Bryson Kelley sees a slight seam in the Velma-Alma defense.

Photos by J. D. Meisner and courtesy of the Keystone Gusher



Cole Gregory makes a nice grab in the end zone during round two of the 2023 OSSAA Class B Football Playoffs.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE OIL PATCH

*The Frisco Polar Express*  
*at the Santa Fe Depot*

**Santa is back!**

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

*Available dates:*  
**December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, & 22**  
**6pm 7pm 8pm**

**301 E. Broadway  
 Drumright  
 For reservations call  
 918-720-8550**

Hosted by: Boomtoom Theater & Drumright Historical Society

# THE FRISCO POLAR EXPRESS

## The Frisco Polar Express 2023

The collaboration between The Boomtown Theater and the Drumright Museum for their performance of "The Frisco Polar Express" is nothing short of magical. From the moment the conductor calls "all aboard," the travelers are transported into a winter wonderland of holiday cheer.

The Boomtown Theater, known for its exceptional productions, and the Drumright Museum, a treasure trove of local history and culture, joined forces to bring the beloved Christmas tale to life. The result is a heartwarming and visually stunning experience that captivates both young and old alike.

Two of the standout features of this collaboration are the meticulous attention to detail in the set design. Theater veteran Tammy Cook and her team, including Michael Davis, Kipp Dyer, Kim Matherly and Caden Semler have done a marvelous job creating the scenery that transports the Frisco Polar Express on its journey to the North Pole and a meet and greet with Santa! The whimsical interior crafted by Shivonne Gregory is magnificent, creating an immersive atmosphere that heightens the sense of wonder. Gregory states that without the assistance of numerous volunteers, including Ron Dyer, Deborah Wilson, Emily Warner, Chris Coonce, Erin Cook, Shane and Andrea Bruce, Tina Martin, Lynn Strickland and countless others, the train may have never left the station!

The cast, a mix of seasoned actors and local talents deliver delightful performances, contributing to the overall charm of a production that will undoubtedly become a cherished holiday tradition for the community.

With five dates and fifteen 'departures' left for the 2023 season, make sure to purchase your tickets by calling 918-720-8550 today!

By Tammy Posey

## Sponsor a Child for the Frisco Polar Express

The holiday season is a time of joy, celebration, and giving. One heartwarming way to spread the festive spirit is by sponsoring a child for a magical journey on The Frisco Polar Express. This enchanting event brings the beloved children's book, "The Polar Express" by Chris Van Allsburg, to life, offering an unforgettable experience for youngsters.

The Frisco Polar Express is a magical train ride that captures the imagination of children and adults alike. Together with the Drumright Museum and Boomtown Theater, this event recreates the enchanting world of the North Pole, complete with a visit from Santa Claus himself. Children don their coziest pajamas, sip on hot cocoa, and embark on a whimsical train journey filled with caroling, storytelling, and the excitement of meeting Santa.

While many families eagerly anticipate The Frisco Polar Express experience, not every child has the opportunity to partake in this magical journey. Financial constraints may prevent some families from affording the tickets, and that's where the spirit of giving comes in. Businesses and individuals can play a crucial role in making dreams come true for children by sponsoring their tickets to The Frisco Polar Express. Whether you wish to sponsor a specific child or children, you may also allow The Frisco Polar Express crew to choose a child for you. Shows run December 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th & 22nd with 6pm, 7pm, and 8pm "departures" nightly. The cost is \$10 per traveler. Please call 918-720-8550 to secure seats today, as spots are filling up quickly.

Embrace the magic of the season and help ensure that every child has the opportunity to embark on a journey aboard The Frisco Polar Express. All aboard the spirit of giving!

By Tammy Posey

## THE FRISCO POLAR EXPRESS



Tammy Cook and Michael Davis make sure the train is ready to leave the station.



Shivonne Gregory and Ari Lewis smile for the camera.



Shane Bruce shares a holiday greeting with a traveler.



Ron and Kipp Dyer with Little Miss Oil Patch 2023.

# CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



103 East Broadway, PO Box 828  
Drumright, OK 74030

## 2024 Membership Information Sheet

Business Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Business Type:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact Person:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact's Phone Number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Employees:

\_\_\_\_\_

What format would you prefer for communication? (Please circle one and include information)

Phone Call \_\_\_\_\_ Text \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

What would you like to see the Chamber do for you?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Circle the committees you might like to serve on:

Chamber Banquet  
Spring Events  
Summer Events  
Oilpatch Jamboree Jog

Oilpatch Jamboree Parade  
Oilpatch Jamboree  
Christmas Parade  
Christmas Bazaar

918-352-8013  
DrumrightChamber@gmail.com



Drumright Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. 828  
Drumright, OK 74030

October 31, 2023

Dear Chamber Member,

Thank you for your continued support of our community through the Drumright Chamber of Commerce.

Your membership provides us with a platform to strengthen our business climate and provides opportunities for existing and new businesses in Drumright. This in turn provides the economic base for our community now and into the future.

Please find the enclosed membership form and dues schedule and return your check to

Drumright Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 828  
Drumright, OK 74030

Thank you for what you are doing for our community.

Sincerely,

Angela Titus  
President  
Drumright Chamber of Commerce

## Drumright Chamber of Commerce 2024 Standard Dues Schedule

Individual	\$50.00
Non-Profit Organization	\$50.00
Small Business: 1 owner, 1-2 Employees	\$75.00
<b>Business:</b>	
3-9 Employees (Full Time)	\$100.00
10-15 Employees	\$150.00
15-25 Employees	\$200.00
25-50 Employees	\$250.00
50-100 Employees	\$300.00
100 & Up Employees	\$350.00
Hospital/Nursing Home	\$300.00
Utilities: Telephone/Electric	\$300.00
Banks	\$300.00
<b>Professionals:</b>	
Doctors/Attorneys/Accountants/Etc.	\$100.00
Associate Membership (See Below)	\$100.00
School	\$100.00
School Employees	\$30.00
Students	\$15.00
Senior Citizen (65 and over)	\$15.00
Additional Employees Paid by Business	\$30.00

- Part-Time Employees - Count 2 for 1
- New Businesses Receives 50% Discount
- Associate Membership: Any businesses in excess of 45 miles away

**Join today and get involved in the future of Drumright!**



- ✓ Know what's going on in our community by attending monthly Chamber of Commerce meetings and network with other business owners.
- ✓ Create a positive perception of your business and increase traffic through advertising and sponsorship opportunities
- ✓ Be included in community events and promotions

You are cordially invited to attend the  
**Drumright Area Chamber of Commerce  
Annual Banquet & Silent Auction**

**TideWater Winery**  
Thursday, January 25th, 2024  
**Banquet begins at 6:30 PM**

Dinner catered by  
**Joseph's Fine Foods**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Single Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 per ticket  
Table (8 tickets) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$200 per table

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return this portion with your payment by **January 19th, 2024** to:  
Drumright Area Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 828 Drumright, OK 74030

# Obituaries

## **Frankie Jo Posey**

Frankie Jo Posey was born July 7, 1935, to Frank and Alta Ryan in Oilton, Oklahoma on the Vida Way lease. She departed this life November 14, 2023, at the age of 88.

Frankie attended Vida Way school until the eighth grade, then graduated from Oilton High School in 1953. On August 14, 1954, Frankie Ryan and Walter Posey were united in marriage at the Oilton Free Will Baptist Church and together they raised three children, Greg, Mendy, and Matt.

She was the owner and operator of Oilfield Clerical Services. She enjoyed sewing, genealogy and traveling. She also loved studying the Bible. She was a member of Shiloh Ministries Church.

She is survived by three children, Greg Posey of Ponca City, Oklahoma, Mendy Garcia and husband Jesse of Albany, Oregon, Matt Posey and wife Tammy of Bethel Acres, Oklahoma; four grandchildren, Carson Hammons and husband Jake of Northport, Alabama, Brittney Quinn of Oilton, Oklahoma, Philip Garcia of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Kim Holman of Tulsa, Oklahoma; four great grandchildren, Rachel Thomas and husband Brandon of Ponca City, Oklahoma, Autumn Posey of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Ally Posey of Cushing, Oklahoma; two great great granddaughters and two great great grandsons. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one grandson, Ryan Posey, one daughter in law, Sara Posey, and two sisters, Betty Jean Lindsey, and Mary Lou Carr.

Funeral services were held Saturday, November 18, 2023, at Shiloh Ministries Full Gospel Church with interment followed at Highland Cemetery, Oilton, Oklahoma.

Services were entrusted to Matherly-Davis Funeral Home





# Obituaries

## Amy Riddle

A memorial gathering and celebration of life for Drumright resident, Amy Riddle, will be held at a later date in January 2024.

Amy was born in Hemingway, South Carolina on January 25, 1947 to the late Waldo Baxley & Ruth (Purvis) Baxley. She passed from this life in Oklahoma City on November 19, 2023 at the age of 76 years, 9 months, & 25 days. Amy was raised & educated in Toombsboro, Georgia, attended Abraham- Baldwin College, and in 1970 graduated from the University of Georgia with a B.A. in journalism. She moved to Tulsa in 1978 & worked for the Williams Companies, Agrico Chemical until her retirement. After retirement, she managed the Tidal Winery in Drumright for several years while living on a ranch north of Drumright with her husband Jim Riddle. Amy was very active in the Tulsa Chapter Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, the Tulsa Garden Club, Up With Trees of Tulsa, & the Creek County Master Gardeners. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a Brother: Terry Baxley.

Her remaining family includes her husband: Jim Riddle of Drumright; Daughters: Gina Pelletier & husband Shawn of Owasso - J.J. Ward & husband Greg of Sapulpa; Son: Matt Riddle of Sapulpa; Granddaughter: Kennedy Ward & husband Spencer of Owasso; Grandson: Braden Ward & Fiancé Sierra Scott of Kiefer; Sister: Dawn Baxley of Georgia; Sister-In-Law: Nancy Baxley of Georgia; Brother-In-Law: John Riddle & wife Maryann of Virginia; Nieces & Nephews: Ginger & Chris Colson - Avery & Ryan Lytle - Sherri & Daryl Valentine - Jonathan & Jinny Potter - Glenn & Melanie Baxley - Kyle & Chela Riddle - Allison & Sonny Riddle - Angelia & Frank Riddle; numerous Great Nieces & Nephews; plus cherished friends: Norma Small - Nancy Tholen - Trula Roberson - & Debbie Crall, all of the Tulsa area; and several other relatives and friends.

Funeral and cremation services entrusted to Michael's Funeral Home

in  
loving  
memory

