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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR...

Welcome to Spring!

From our *Home*™ to yours!

"After every winter comes spring, after every storm there is a blue sky, after every struggle you gain strength, after every disappointment comes opportunity." - Author unknown

Greetings from HOME!

Spring has sprung! And after a long year of living in a fog of grief, I feel like a dormant daffodil starting to sprig bits of green and pops of yellow. Much like life, the bloom may be short-lived, but its beauty must be appreciated.

I hope you will find sprigs of love and inspiration scattered through this issue of HOME.

Happy Spring Everyone!



Molly Payne

PHOTO by
SARA PAYNE KEYES

**"We don't make mistakes,
just happy little accidents."**

- Bob Ross



The guitar seen in the cover photo holds a special place in Carter's heart. Mistaking it for an old unused guitar, girls from the Rock & Roll Camp signed it for posterity. At first, Carter's heart sank when she saw her beloved vintage guitar, but she quickly embraced the accidental signings and cherishes it even more.



Carter Sampson

at home with her fur baby Bubba

PHOTOS by SARAH BARKER HUHN

Queen of Oklahoma

SPINS GOLD

I first met *Carter Sampson* about a decade ago. A friend had turned me on to her music and I immediately fell in love with her song, Queen of Oklahoma.

by **MOLLY PAYNE**

At the time we were only booking an occasional local musician on the morning show, so I was thrilled when Carter accepted the invitation to make the early morning trek for an appearance on KUSH. She arrived in the camper she'd been touring the area in, step-brother in tow. Not only did I get to meet the "queen" that day, but it was the start of a relationship with her and her music.

Carter's songs speak the words many of us can't seem to find. Her latest album, *Gold*, is chocked full of life-telling songs. When I met with Carter to interview her for this article, I had only heard a few cuts from the new album. Little did I know, many of the questions written on my page could be answered by absorbing the lyrics of her songs.

Born in Stephens County, Oklahoma, Carter and her younger brother grew up with a guitar-playing dad and a creative mom. "I'm a lot like my dad," Carter said. "He played in a band in high school and college and [growing up] I thought he was just the coolest dude in the world." He taught her to play guitar and exposed her to much of the music she still embraces today. "A lot of the reason I play music is because of him," Carter continued. "I always thought; because he gave me his record collection and how he'd wake me up to watch someone on Austin City Limits, that he was my biggest musical influence. But I've switched on that. It was really my mom, by default almost, because she was always listening to music in the car – and we were stuck there," she laughed. "Mom had a special way of listening to music, too. She would play an album over and over again until it was

dead." The songs of Bonnie Raitt, Dwight Yokum and Jimmy Buffet made up some of the soundtrack of Carter's youth.

Carter began performing at a very early age while enrolled in Miss Hickman's School for Music. Her mom likes to tell the story about watching four-year-old Carter on stage and how all the other little girls were backed up from the microphone. Not Carter, though. A natural performer, she held the microphone between her little hands.

"I feel like that was my first sweet taste of the stage," Carter admitted.

By the time she was in high school, Carter had formed her first band – Plain Jane. "I was really into all the riot girl stuff – screaming girl bands. I still love it to turn it up when I'm in a certain mood," she said. "But I also love jazz. My mom's mom was one of the first women to get a degree in music at OU. She had an Ella Fitzgerald album which I loved. Then my mom gave me a Billie Holiday record and I would play that when I felt really sad."

While Carter and her mom are very close, there was a time when she felt her mom was trying to "ruin her life," like when she sent her to the "White Gloves and Party Manners" class. Nine-year-old Carter spent her Saturdays, for what seemed to be an eternity, learning proper manners. The highlight of the class for Carter was during the fashion show when she walked down the runway in a silver dress, throwing gold confetti. "It made all the manner stuff worthwhile," she laughed. "I realize now that mom wasn't really trying to ruin my life, she was setting me up for success."

Like so many strong-minded teens, Carter counted down the days until she turned 18; she couldn't wait to test



her wings. Shortly after her much-anticipated birthday, Carter and a friend went to Europe for three weeks. She loved the experience and has traveled back to play several times since. In June she will tour the U.K. with a fellow-singer/songwriter, Amelia White.

Carter came back home and attended college for a while before striking out on her own by moving to Boston to gather life experiences. She learned a lot during that time – waitressing, bar tending and busking in the subway. She also learned that no matter how far she went, she had the support and love of her mom. “I’m grateful to have always had that safety net,” Carter said. To this day, Carter’s mom remains her number one fan.

A career in music isn’t easy – especially for a woman. But Carter keeps persevering to “punch out the glass when it gets in the way...” for herself and other young women.

A career in music isn’t easy – especially for a woman. But Carter keeps persevering to “punch out the glass when it gets in the way...” for herself and other young women. Several years ago she started the OKC Rock and Roll Girls Camp. Carter had visited and volunteered at one in Portland, OR. Liking what she saw, she decided to try it in Oklahoma. “I would have loved an opportunity do something like that when I was a kid, so I wanted to give that opportunity to girls now,” Carter said.

The camp was a hit! Now, after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Carter and crew are excited to bring it back in July this year. She’s also thrilled about its new location – Camp Trivera, a Girl Scout camp near the zoo in OKC. The camp consists of 50 girls, 8 – 17, and a host of volunteers. Not only do they learn how to play an instrument and how to form a band and collaborate to write a song, they learn life skills to help empower them to be who they are. At the end of the week, they get to perform with their band on the stage of the Tower Theatre in OKC.

“The Tower Theatre is a pretty cool first gig,” Carter said with a laugh.

As I mentioned earlier, much can be learned about Carter by delving into the lyrics of her songs. Her new album, *Gold*, is taking the Americana Chart by storm, debuting at #24 and at this writing; it has risen to #15. It’s so good that it’s difficult to have any one favorite song.

Here’s my take on the songs, along with some tidbits about/from Carter.

The title cut, *Gold*, is a beautiful love letter to her mother. “I just wanted her to know she did a good job and that my brother and I are going to be ok – I’m going to be ok,” Carter said. Its lyrics, “I’ll be alright momma, ‘cause you made



Carter's new album is available on vinyl, too.

me out of gold...” grips the heart of every mother longing to know the child they’ve done their best to raise, will be ok.

Home reflects her time on the road, playing gig after gig. “Gave up a lot to live a life like this...for 90 minutes in a hot spotlight...” The song speaks of her journey as an emerging soul, “I’m not sure where my heart is, but I’m starting to find my way home...” It also gives another nod to her mother – “I can hear you talking in my ear...don’t forget who you are... stand up straight and you’ll go far...”

Drunk Text – This song title and opening lyrics can be a bit misleading... “I sent you a drunk text and I meant it...” In reality it’s a love song to her significant other, and fellow singer/songwriter, Erik “The Viking” Oftedahl. “Here we are...I even let you play my guitar...” she croons, “I wouldn’t have nothin’ if I didn’t have you...”

Erik’s the best,” Carter said. “He’s thoughtful... always so positive and helps balance me out – and he makes me laugh.”

Black Blizzard came from Carter’s curiosity about the Dust Bowl. “I didn’t really know much about it, other than what I’d been taught in school,” she admitted. After a little research Carter was able to conjure up lyrical images of what it was like “living in a black blizzard...” Kyle Reid worked his own special magic into the song, creating whirling notes, drawing the listener into the storm.

Yippie Yi Yo is almost like eavesdropping on a couple of cowgirls riding the range, confiding about their “man” trou-

“I’ve been joking that it’s my feminist cowgirl’s song...I don’t really write protest [type] songs, but my views are definitely reflected in my lyrics.”

bles. “What did he say? I can’t believe he said that to you...” It also sends a message of perseverance to women. “It’s hard being a woman today...you’ve got to get back on your pony and ride anyway,” she sings.

“I’ve been joking that it’s my feminist cowgirl’s song,” Carter laughed. “I don’t really write protest [type] songs, but my views are definitely reflected in my lyrics.”

Can’t Stop Me Now would make a good anthem for just about anyone, but certainly for women like Carter striving to “make it” in the music world. “Here I am, long time gone, I’ve traveled those miles and I’ve sang those songs...” It also speaks of Carter’s passion to continue to travel the world, being the best version of who she is. “I wanna go someplace new...my bags are always packed...I’m gonna do what I’m gonna do...can’t stop me now...”

Fingers to the Bone is a tribute to hard work and specifically to the man who built the house where she and Erik live. According to Carter, the story is that he’d been told “money doesn’t grow on trees” but discovered it did when he planted the pecan orchard behind their house. It was a lucrative endeavor which proved to some, that money does indeed grow on trees.

Today is Mine is a song about taking time for yourself – something Carter finds necessary to be able to create and thrive. “Today is mine...the morning belongs to me...I’m gonna do what I want to do...be my own company...” One of those things she loves to do is reading. “My mom was a seamstress, and she often would play an audio book while she worked,” Carter recalled. “I’m sure that had an influence on me, because I’ve always loved to read.” She also loves shopping for vintage clothing and unique items. “I collect a lot of things,” she said with a laugh. “I love anything Elvis or Dolly. My house has an eclectic mix of things.”

In *Pray & Scream*, Carter once again uses her lyrics to paint a picture of life in tornado country. “I’m gonna pray, I’m gonna scream...why does this thing gotta come down on me...” However, like many of her other lyrics, the listener may find a message about an inner struggle such as self-doubts or depression. “Sometimes I will write a song and then later realize it has a deeper meaning,” Carter said. “I guess that’s the Universe trying to tell me something.”

The last song on the album, *There’s Always Next Year*, was released at the end of 2020. It was written as a message of hope for all those struggling through the pandemic. “I know these months were hard on you...you didn’t live life like you wanted to...don’t beat yourself up for letting yourself down...”

“I felt it was timely, so I went ahead and put it out there,” Carter said. “Since it’s still pertinent, it made the final cut on


the album.”

“We didn’t do great, we did the best that we could...hal-lulujah there’s always next year...”

Well, Carter, we think you did great by giving the world your heart in these songs. And we look forward to see what you come up with next year and the next...and the next... Thank you for sharing your “Gold.”

To purchase Gold on limited red vinyl or CD, visit www.cartersampson.bandcamp.com.

Information and applications for Rock and Roll Girls Camp OKC are available at www.girlsrockokc.com

Gold was released by Horton Records, mastered by Garrett Haines, Treelady Studios and engineered and mixed by Kyle Reid, who Carter fondly calls a wizard because of his many musical talents included on the album. Also playing on the album – Johnny Carlton and Lane Hawkins. 



Carter singing at her album release show at the Old Church.

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TIME

by ROBIN KELLISON



Passing fast is the movement of time
Bodies degrade, diminish, decline
Years fade away with no warning sign
Building memories in the back of our mind
Can time be lost if memories remain?
Years that are gone fill your brain
With love and sadness, happiness and pain
For time is not lost...
It is just exchanged.

ROBIN KELLISON is a songwriter, poet and bead artist. 

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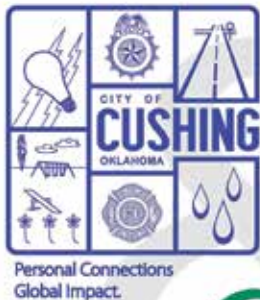
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RIGHT PATH OF VOLUNTEERING

by **AMANDA LEVIS**
Americorps Member, Media Marketing Coordinator

“...this article is probably going to seem like a love letter to our volunteers of the Right Path, mostly because that’s exactly what it is.”

I’m just going to be right up front with you, **this article is probably going to seem like a love letter to our volunteers of the Right Path, mostly because that’s exactly what it is.**

If you have ever volunteered at a nonprofit organization, you know exactly what I’m talking about. People of all ages show up willingly to give their time, energy and skills, knowing that the only compensation is the joy of serving others.

Although if you’re lucky, you might get to witness the difference you’ve made in someone else’s life.

The Right Path has been in operation for over 26 years.

The programs are designated to strive consistently to achieve the mission – *“To empower people with disabilities and challenges to reach for their highest potential, with the help of a horse.”*

During my involvement as a volunteer in the program

If you have ever worked alongside Leslie, you know it is “all about the kids.” Everyone else is just along for the ride. It is a beautiful experience to watch her one-on-one with a struggling child, riding in the cart behind Bud.

over the last decade, and more recently as a full-time employee, I’ve noticed there is one demographic of volunteers that shines a light on its own – our retired crew.

A significant amount of our volunteers are retired from their major roles as nurses, teachers, police officers, mechanics, military and a variety of other vocations. Together they dedicate themselves to sharing their approach, knowledge, and life experience, continuing to make a positive impact on all those they can reach.

The benefits, for participants and other volunteers, to be on a team laced with retired professionals and potential members are obvious. However my curiosity was aroused –

What’s in it for them?

According to Second Wind Movement (and several other sources), the advantages of volunteering after retirement are exponential. Not only do they get to maintain their sense of purpose (if they choose an organization that is meaningful to them), they put themselves in a position to grow new relationships with people that share their passion. Other benefits include keeping their mind sharp, continuing to learn new skills, promoting happiness and longevity – and my person favorite – the opportunity to bridge generation gaps.

If I stood in the middle of the barn at The Right Path and looked for the brightness light, there would be no doubt that I would be staring directly at Leslie Kirkland, founder of Right Path. She is a retired physical therapist who has retired from retirement to once again take the reins of The Right Path. This non-profit organization is designed for riders to participate at no cost. The programs – William’s Walk (serving children with disabilities and challenges) and Hooves on the Ground (serving the Veterans community), started with her dedication and continue to grow because of her drive to leave a legacy that is about bringing people and horses together as a team to serve others.

As the Executive Director, Leslie has created an environment where details matter; standards are understood and applied, as well as reviewed if necessary. Nothing is taken for granted when it comes to the safety of the participants, horses, volunteers and staff.

If you have ever worked alongside Leslie, you know it is “all about the kids.” Everyone else is just along for the ride. It is a beautiful experience to watch her one-on-one with a struggling child, riding in the cart behind Bud.

Even as the child is asking a hundred questions, Leslie is studying their every move, taking note of their responses, looking for ways to advance their social and cognitive skills, then communicating with a team to make a plan of action and celebrate the progress. She also takes time to grow their life skills, confidence, and self-worth, while maintaining her own. She brings all that positivity through teaching them horsemanship.


Armed with a cause, the illumination cast by Leslie, her team of volunteers, and the staff, is truly inspiring. It is no wonder that so many retired professionals choose the Right Path as their “make a difference” destination.

As a child, I spent lots of time with my grandparents, soaking up their combined knowledge. Even as the herd of siblings scattered, I gravitated towards my elders. Now as an adult, it has been over 20 years since all of my grandmothers passed on, and my horse whisperer Grandpa Dale Strickland was laid to rest last year.

I believe they would be both happy and proud that I landed at a horse ranch, surrounded by volunteers focused on serving the disabled community and veterans.

I would like to send an abundance of appreciation to the pillars in our community who weren’t satisfied with having acquired knowledge, but have chosen to share it with the next generation.

If you or someone you know is looking for a volunteer home or just seeking purpose – the light is on at The Right Path.

If you or someone you know is looking for a volunteer home or just seeking purpose – the light is on at The Right Path. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Stacy Hagins at 918-352-4110 or the website: therightpathok.org for information on donations, events, or becoming a participant. 



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If there's threatening weather, be assured we are looking at the latest radar resources and providing updates to the public as it approaches. **KUSH** is watching...

WEEKDAY LINEUP...

KUSH starts your morning with news, weather, ag and energy reports, along with a bit of inspiration to get your day started on a positive note.

6:00am - 7:00am

SPORTSMAP RADIO - Follow the Money features veterans of the Las Vegas sports betting scene, Mitch Moss and Pauly Howard, who combine their knowledge of sports, gambling and pop culture.

7:00am - 8:00am

NATIONAL / LOCAL NEWS - Ag reports, Native News, music & more!

8:00am - 10:00am

HOME, hosted by **MOLLY PAYNE**. Get your day started at HOME with great music, news, weather and more! Laughter is the norm and blushing is expected when local characters, musicians, special guests from around the country and yes, even politicians and officials are brought into Studio B for questioning in an entertaining and informative way.

10:00am - NOON

KUSHBRAND MUSIC - two hours of a unique, eclectic music mix, which we think is like nowhere else. You will hear Americana, Folk, Country, Red Dirt - and maybe even music by someone you know - on **The KUSH!**

NOON - 12:30

OKLAHOMA NEWS energy and ag reports plus financial news, including the **BLOOMBERG MARKET MINUTE**, which airs six times each weekday, 9:59, 11:59, 1:59, 3:59, 4:59 and 5:59.

12:30pm - 4:00pm

Check out our **KUSHBRAND MUSIC** mix of Americana, Red Dirt, Texas music, pop and classic country, local music, and the occasional wild card selection!

4:00pm - 5:00pm

BLOOMBERG'S SOUND ON - Bloomberg Chief Washington Correspondent Joe Mathieu delivers insight and analysis on the latest headlines from the White House and Capitol Hill, including conversations with influential lawmakers and key figures in politics and policy..

5:00pm - 5:30pm

LOCAL NEWS, energy and ag reports, weather and financial news.

5:30pm - 6:00am

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WEEKEND LINEUP... SATURDAY

7:00am - 9:00am

BLOOMBERG BUSINESS WEEK - Joined by Businessweek's award winning editors and reporters, hosts Mark Mills and Karen Moskow bring insight and analysis to the week's top stories from Businessweek magazine.

9:00am - 10:00am

KUSHBRAND MUSIC

10:00am - 11:00am

NATIVE AIR with HUGH FOLEY Native American Indian Radio features contemporary and traditional American Indian Music, news and community announcements. Native Air also features many live, vintage, and rare recordings.

11:00am - 11:20am

FIRST INDIAN BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor Jr. Pratt shares words of inspiration with listeners.

You'll want to stay tuned, because Saturday listeners are often treated to **HUGH FOLEY** spinning a few tunes as he airs the latest music coming to the **KUSH**. Those that "make the cut" will become a part of the extensive play list on **KUSH** and **RDROK.com**.

The rest of Saturday and all through the night, the music continues with a wide variety of Red Dirt, Americana, Texas Music artists, along with a few local and old-time favorites. In fact, you might even hear a surprise selection or two on **The KUSH!**

SUNDAY

7:00am - 8:00am

INTO THE BLUE BROADCAST features the very best in new, current and vintage Bluegrass music.

8:00am - 1:00pm

GOSPEL/INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC

1:00pm - 5:00pm

KUSHBRAND MUSIC - AMERICANA BLEND

5:00pm - 6:00pm

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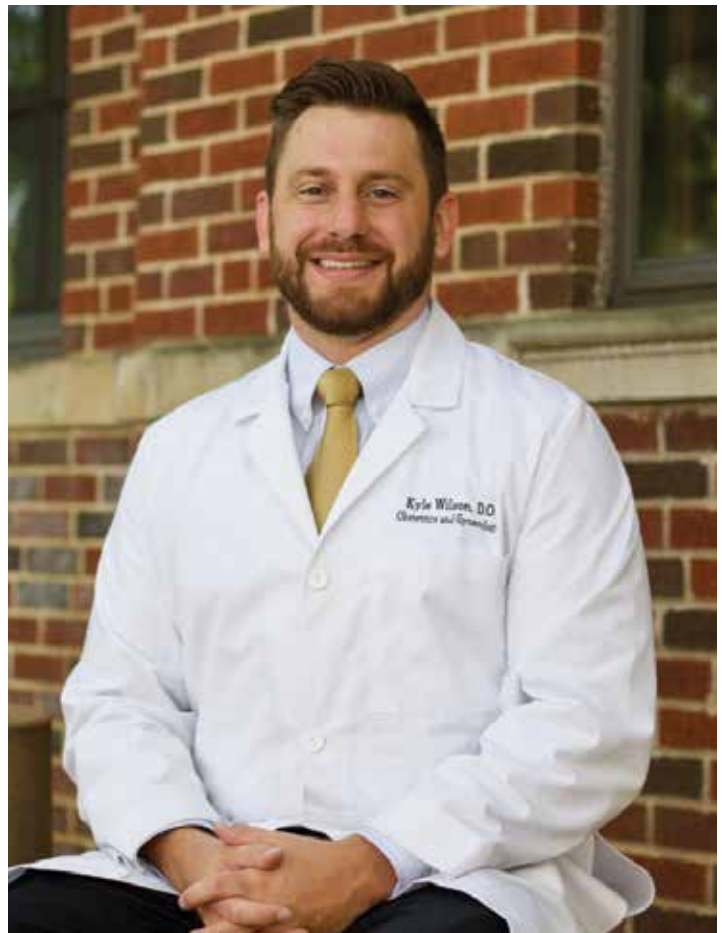


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A Personal Tribute to *Naifeh's*

by **MOLLY PAYNE**

When Joe Naifeh announced he was retiring and closing Naifeh's Deli & Grill, I was saddened and shocked. Being in the same age bracket as Joe, I could understand him wanting to retire. What I couldn't imagine was MY life without Naifeh's - not just the food, but the family and the support they have shown me and KUSH.

Since the inception of the morning show in 2008, "Momma says..." has been a part of the morning show script. Joe Naifeh was one of the first business owners to believe and support the crazy idea of a locally produced morning talk show, featuring a completely "green" radio host and her friend. Not knowing what to expect, he accepted a guest spot. Soon he became a "regular" - delivering food from Naifeh's kitchen. Homemade chicken and noodles, tabouli, cabbage rolls, sandwiches - whatever delights "Momma said" - were hand-delivered for us to sample on the air. It was a great time to be a KUSH Girl! I not only gained weight during that time, I gained a friendship with Joe and Momma.

Some of my favorite memories are of Momma milling about the restaurant, taking orders, and teasing me about something I'd said on the radio. More often than not, Joe would be peeking out from the kitchen while he cooked.

As Momma sightings became rarer, I'd always ask Joe about Momma and he'd asked how my momma was doing. A trip to Naifeh's was kinda like visiting a favorite relative - you knew you were going to be in good company while having something delicious to eat.

But as we all know, things change. The pandemic was hard on businesses - especially small "mom & pop" types like Naifeh's. And yet, in spite of any challenges he may have been facing, Joe Naifeh did his best to continue supporting the community any way he could. I witnessed it personally. When others were dropping their advertising, Joe stepped his up - he felt it was important to do something to help a fellow small business - the local radio station. This is something I will always remember and be grateful for.

The Naifeh family has left an indelible, "nearly perfect" mark on this community. No doubt we all could learn from their example. 🍋



Thank You

Momma, Joe & Cathy, Nick & Misty and the entire Naifeh family
for serving us so well!



Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

~ John Wesley (1703-1791)



Alone we can do so little.
Together we can do so much.



Rep. John Talley
HOUSE DISTRICT 33

john.talley@okhouse.gov
405-557-7304
www.JohnTalleyhd33.com



DELIGHTING IN *Leopard Print & Glitter*

by **SARA PAYNE KEYES**

Diving deeper into my 40's, I haven't been quite sure of what to expect. I have never been this old before! I have listened to my elders tales, and heard one might acquire some new mysterious aches and pains, perhaps an extra pound or 20. I could imagine energy levels decreasing some, more frequent doctor's appointments and additional gray hairs sprouting from my head.

What I did not anticipate however, was this new strong attraction to leopard print. I am simply fascinated, y'all.

Now, I never have had a repulsion to the big cat print. I am a Leo and a cat lady, so I love all the cats in the land. But wearing faux fur print anything hasn't really been my style... until now.

It happened so suddenly!

It started out with just catching it out in my peripheral... "Oooh, that's cute.." But as of this moment, I own not one, but two pairs of leopard print shoes, plus a couple sweaters. Not to mention what's in my online "save for later" carts. Along with this big cat pattern intrigue, I have noticed a big ole helping of the "neeeee" for more gold and glitter in my life. My living room wall is now adorned with shiny gold decor. My maximal-



ist heart is on the hunt for even more to add to my constellation of "pretties".

Earlier this year I went to Wal-Mart on an urgent quest for gold glitter nail polish. "I need gold glitter nail polish. I need it today. I don't know why this is the most important thing right now, but here we are.." An employee overheard me talking to my friend - I think he could sense a touch of desperation. He said "How about this one?" and offered me a bottle of shiny gold polish with two sizes of glitter in it. It fit my vision perfectly and it was \$1.96.

Affordable joy in a nail polish bottle. Thanks Wal-Mart guy!

These new phases I am in got me to overthink for a while. What is all that about? What does it mean?!

I began thinking about leopards and what they could symbolize. Of course the first thing I think of is the super-cool, rosette markings on their fur. How the marks on their bodies both camouflages them and makes them unique and stand out. I think of leopards as strong and quiet hunters. Wild. Determined to attain their goals with wisdom, patience and the ability to adapt to their surroundings. I also had the thought - that although

cougars and leopards may be like feline cousins, a woman in her leopard print phase of life and a woman in a cougar phase of life are different vibes entirely.

When I got to thinking about the gold and glitter side of this coin, I couldn't help but think that Carter Sampson's song and title track on her new album "Gold" has a little to do with my newfound delight. In this song, her daughter heart sings out "I'll be alright momma, cuz you made me out of gold"

I really enjoy that perspective. As both a mother and a daughter, I want to keep that thought close to my heart. What if I started thinking and believing my momma made me out of gold? That might do me some good.

If my kids stub their toe, they are liable to hear me

say "Hey! I made that foot! I worked hard on making that body part just for you! Don't hurt it!" I love to be humble and amusing to remind them. I really do mean it though. My kids are like my greatest works of art. Hearing Carter's understanding and gracious words to her mom just makes my heart feel good.

This enchantment for wearing leopard print design on my body and having an attraction to shiny sparkling gold may actually be a kind of cool phase to be in. I feel like I am on a hunt, like a big cat, for those flecks of gold in life.

They might be fickle and fleeting, but they are there. These little moments of happy, are little lights that make the darkness not quite as dark. And who doesn't need more of that?

**"There is always light.
If only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it."**

- Amanda Gorman 

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APRIL

- Apr 20** - The Wood Brothers, doors 6:30 pm, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa
- Apr 20** - Seth Lee Jones, 9:30 pm, The Colony, Tulsa
- Apr 21** - Great Okie Songswap w/Robert Williams, Terry Ware, Gregg Standridge, TZ Wright, 8 pm, The Blue Door, OKC
- Apr 21** - Cooper Alan Spring Tour, doors 6:30 pm, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa
- Apr 21** - Women of Woodyfest, 8 pm, The Blue Door, OKC
- Apr 22** - One Act Plays, 7 - 9 pm, Cushing Community Theatre, Cushing
- Apr 22** - Reggae Night/Travis Fite, 8:30 pm, The Colony, Tulsa
- Apr 22** - KC Clifford, 8 pm, The Blue Door, OKC
- Apr 22** - Jenks Herb & Plant Festival, 8 am - 4 pm, Downtown Jenks
- Apr 22** - The Right Path Williams Walk Charity Trail Ride, Bell Cow Lake, Chandler
- Apr 23** - One Act Plays, 2 - 4 pm, Cushing Community Theatre, Cushing
- Apr 26-29** - Okemah Pioneer Days, Carnival, live music & more, Okemah
- Apr 27-29** - Norman Music Festival, historic downtown E Main, Norman
- Apr 27** - Ward Davis in concert, 8:30 pm, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa
- Apr 27** - Shinyribs in concert, 8 pm, Beer City Music Hall, OKC
- Apr 27** - Movie Night, "Wind River" (Domestic Violence Prevention Awareness), 16+ only - *trigger warning for sexual violence and language*- 6:30 pm, Buffalo Theatre, Pawnee
- Apr 29** - Jason Wagoner & the Brand New Wagonmasters, 7 pm, Cushing Community Theatre, Cushing
- Apr 29** - Iris Festival, Will Rogers Gardens, OKC
- Apr 29** - Lisa Morales, 8 pm, The Blue Door, OKC
- Apr 29** - 80s Prom, 8 pm, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa
- Apr 29** - Red Clay Strays, 8 pm, Beer City Music Hall, OKC
- Apr 30** - Blackberry Smoke, 7:45 pm Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa
- Apr 30** - Kaliedoscope Festival & Block Party, Child

Abuse Prevention Awareness, 1 - 7 pm, Stonecloud Brewery, Stillwater

MAY

- May 3** - Shakey Graves, doors open 7 pm, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa
- May 3** - The Psychedelic Furs, 8 pm, Tower Theatre, OKC
- May 4** - Ramblin' Jack Elliott, 8 pm, The Blue Door, OKC
- May 4 - 6** - Calf Fry Festival, 5 pm each night, Tumbleweed Dancehall & Concert Venue, Stillwater
- May 5, 6** - 100 Mile Yard Sale, various locations including Cushing, Yale, Oilton, Stroud, Bristow, Cleveland, Hominy, Ralston, Pawnee and more
- May 4 - 7** - BikeStock Oklahoma 2023, Rt 66 Biker Rally, Depew
- May 5 - 7** - Steam Engine Show, Steam Park Grounds, Pawnee
- May 5 - 7** - Norman Pride Festival, various locations, Norman
- May 6** - Jim Thorpe Celebration and Yale Trade Days, Jim Thorpe Park, Hwy 51, Yale
- May 6** - Drumright Monthly Market, vendors & live music, 9 am - 3 pm, Drumright Museum grounds, Drumright
- May 6** - Jim Thorpe Celebration & 5K, 8:30 am - 2 pm, Jim Thorpe Park, Yale
- May 7** - Bob Childers Gypsy Cafe, 75 songwriters, 5 stages, Stillwater
- May 7** - Take Me to Church w/Stars Go Dim, Stephen Stanley, Voth, Annie Dixon, Gracee Shriver, doors 6 pm, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa
- May 8** - Gary Clark, Jr, doors 7 pm, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa
- May 11** - Chris Cagle, 8 pm, Tower Theatre, OKC
- May 12,13** - Monte Montgomery, 8 pm, The Blue Door, OKC
- May 12** - Mike & the Moonpies, 8 pm, Tower Theatre, OKC
- May 12-14** - Tulsa International Mayfest, 11 am, 400 S Main, Tulsa
- May 13-14** - Tulsa Festival of Kites, 10 am - 6 pm, E 43rd & S Garnett, Tulsa
- May 13** - Nettie Davenport Day Celebration, 8 am - 3pm, Main St, Davenport

May 13 - Bristow Tabouleh Fest, 9 am - 4 pm, Main St. Bristow

May 14 - Round Barn Rendezvous, acoustic music, 12 - 5 pm, Arcadia

May 19 - Mike McClure & The Red Dirt Rangers, 8 pm, The Blue Door, OKC

May 20 - Oilton Flea & Farmer's Market, 9 am - 3 pm, Hiwy 99 & 4th St, Oilton

May 20 - And Then There Were Two/Skye Pollard, 10 pm, The Colony, Tulsa

May 20-21 - John Fullbright Band, 8 pm, The Blue Door, OKC

May 21 - Paul Benjamin Band, 10 pm, The Colony, Tulsa

May 25 - CCoC "Toast to Broadway" Ladies Night Out, Spring Edition, 5:30, Cushing

May 25-29 - Will Rogers Stampede PRCA Rodeo, 7:30 pm, Will Rogers Stampede Arena, Claremore

May 25-28 - Roots Ball, Medicine Park

May 26 - CHS Meet & Greet, 12 - 4 pm, Cushing Alumni Hall, Cushing

May 26 - Kyle Nix, 8 pm, Beer City Music Hall, OKC

May 26 - Ruby's Festival, Ruby's, Stroud

May 27 - CHS Meet & Greet, 12 - 6 pm, Cushing Alumni Hall, Cushing

JUNE

June 1 - Ray Wylie Hubbard, 8 pm, Tower Theatre, OKC

June 1-3 - Red Earth Native American, National Cowboy Museum & Western Heritage Center, OKC

June 2 - Luke Bulla w/Jared Tyler, 8 pm, The Blue Door, OKC

June 3 - City Wide Garage Sale, Agra

June 4 - Drumright Monthly Market, vendors & music, 9 am - 3 pm, Drumright museum grounds, Drumright

June 8 - Tad Benoit, 8 pm, Tower Theatre, OKC

June 9 - Pecos & The Rooftops, doors 7 pm, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

June 9-10 - Disney's Beauty & the Beast, doors 6:30 pm, show 7:30 pm, Freeland Center, Bristow

June 10 - Ice Cream Festival, Tilghman Park, Chandler

June 10 - Pawnee Bill's Original Wild West Show, 11 am - 9 pm, Pawnee Bill Ranch & Museum, Pawnee

June 11 - Disney's Beauty and the Beast, doors 1:30 pm, show 2:30 pm, Freeland Center, Bristow

June 11 - Round Barn Rendezvous, Round Barn, Arcadia

June 12 - Robyn Hitchcock, 7 pm, The Blue Door, OKC

June 13 - Robbie Fulks, 8 pm, The Blue Door, OKC

June 14 - American Legion Post 108 Flag Retirement Ceremony, 6 pm, American Legion Post, Cushing

June 14 - Kin Faux w/special guest Ragland, 7 pm, The Vanguard, Tulsa

June 16 - 17 - Dancing Turtle Interactive Celebration of the Arts, 315 W. 8th, Stillwater

June 22 - 24 - Bixby Green Corn Festival, music @ 7 pm, Charlie Young Event Park, Bixby

June 23 - Dane & The Soup, 10 pm, The Colony, Tulsa

June 24 - Andy Adams, 8 pm, The Blue Door, OKC

June 26 - Lions Meadows of Hope Annual Golf Tournament, Stillwater Country Club

June 28 - WHiRLiGiG, 8:30 pm, The Colony, Tulsa

June 29 - July 2 - 77th Annual Pawnee Indian Veterans Homecoming

June 30 - Fleet Foxes Shore Tour 2023, doors 7 pm, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

JULY

July 1 - Parker Millsap, 8 pm, The Vanguard, Tulsa

July 1 - Drumright Monthly Market, vendors & music, 9 am - 2 pm, Drumright museum grounds, Drumright

July 1 - Yale Trade Days & Fireworks Festivities, Jim Thorpe Park, Hwy 51, Yale

July 8 - Midsummer 5K Run & Walk, 7:30 am, Rt 66 Coliseum, Stroud

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Feeling the Cimarron Breeze

"MY SOUL IS AWAKENED, MY SPIRIT IS SOARING AND CARRIED ALOFT ON THE WINGS OF THE BREEZE."

-- ANNE BRONTE

by **MOLLY PAYNE**

After 10 years of bringing sweet music to the ears of concert goers, the Cimarron Breeze Concert Series has come to a close...sort of. Its host, Cimarron Songbird Monica Taylor, recently announced there isn't going to be a new season of the series of shows. Even with a great cast of volunteers and supporters, it takes a lot of time and preparation to put together the Cimarron Breeze concerts. And although Monica has thoroughly enjoyed hosting the concerts and all that's entailed, ten years seemed like a good time to take a break to focus more on her own musical career. And she has plenty to concentrate on! This past year Monica released a new album, *Trains, Rivers & Trails* and is set to release another album this summer – A

Red Dirt Ramble, Volume I – a tribute to the pioneers of Red Dirt music. It includes 9 recordings of songs written by Bob Childers, Jimmy LaFave, Don Morris, Tom Skinner, and other Red Dirt artists. With a second tribute album in the works, along with promoting the current ones, Monica and her husband and musical partner Travis Fite will still be filling the air with great music.

The caliber of talent playing concerts at the Old Church has been nothing less than remarkable. The very first concert featured Jimmy LaFave. "Jimmy didn't hesitate in saying yes," Monica recalled fondly. Over the years, he continued to support the endeavor and chose to play there one last time before his death in May, 2017. That show was one


of the most heartfelt and heartbreaking shows I've ever had the privilege to attend. You could literally feel the love permeating the room as he said goodbye through word and song.

It's not uncommon for an artist to come back for a second, third or fourth time (or more) to play at the Old Church. Some of the local "regulars" include the Red Dirt Rangers, Randy Crouch, John Fullbright, The Cherokee Maidens & Sycamore Swing, Parker Millsap, Carter Sampson, Don Morris, Tom Skinner, Wink Burcham, Jacob Tovar, Miss Brown to You, Jared Tyler, Mike McClure, Chuck Dunlap, Nellie Clay, Woodyfest performers...the list goes on and on. All in all, there have been over 320 featured or opening-act performers coming in from all over America, Canada, France, the Netherlands and six indigenous Indian nations. With anywhere from 75 to 150 people attending each show, the Cimarron Breeze Concert series has had a total of over 10,000 attendees.

Oh...but did I mention the food? Most of the Cimarron Breeze Concerts started with a gathering of attendees and performers sharing a delicious potluck meal. This alone required a host of volunteers, who became Monica's "right hands."

Some of the amazing volunteers who have been faithful throughout the years are Sage Powell, Scott Sewell, Lory Ferguson, Sarah Barker Huhn, Adam Miller, Travis Fite, and the late Dennis Whiteman. "I couldn't have done it without their help," Monica said. "They're like family - they ARE family."

Not only are volunteers like family, but guests as well. And if you've stayed long enough after the show, you're probably in one of the "family photos" taken at the end of the night.

I feel fortunate to have experienced the magic that happens at the Old Church. There's something really special about listening and feeling the music in the historic church in Perkins. I'm looking forward to more opportunities to feel the Breeze again. According to Monica, Cimarron Breeze shows at the Old Church will continue, just not on a regular basis. Monica will be holding her album (A Red Dirt Ramble -Volume I), release show there in late June and a cast of Woodyfest singer/songwriters will be there for the annual post-Woodyfest show in July. Be sure to follow Cimarron Breeze on Facebook and at www.cimarronbreeze.com for information about upcoming shows. 





See you at The Breeze!





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