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WELCOME FROM THE EDITOR...

IS IT FALL YET?

From our *Home*™ to yours!

"To all my relations, I bow to you. 'Cause we're all related - a common thread runs right through. May you be well, may you be happy, may you be peaceful and may you be loved."

—Metta, by Bob Sima

Well folks we've made it to fall and another issue of HOME!

I want to thank the contributors to the writing of this issue.

We've all heard "it takes a village to raise a child" - so I'd like to say it takes a family to write HOME!

Thank you to Jim Cox, for not only sharing your writing talent, but for sharing the mic with me this past year on Think About It Thursday. Jim is moving back to his home state of California. I will miss our talks, but I'm excited to see what great things lie ahead as he continues his journey.

Thank you to my nephew David Gouge for stepping out of his comfort zone to share his bittersweet feelings of summer's end.

And thank you to my daughter Sara Payne Keyes for always bringing light, love and humor to HOME.

And a special thanks to our readers!

Enjoy!

Molly





SOWN AND GROWN IN RED DIRT:
Presley Sullins Rains

PHOTO by TOM HARRIS

CITRINE: "A sunny colored quartz crystal, known as the 'stone of abundance.' Rare in nature."

by MOLLY PAYNE

There are times when you meet a young person and you immediately recognize a special spark. Some in the music industry call it the "It Factor." In a school setting they're often described as "a kid that's going to do great things in their life." Those embracing spirituality recognize the light burning bright inside. Others may put it more simply – "they're a gem!"

Seventeen year old Presley Elaine Nelson Sullins Rains is a true gem – a poetic mix of childlike wonder and old soul.

I first met Presley when she was a bubbly, elementary student with an ingrained knack for music. -Now she's an energetic senior at Perkins-Tryon High School leading its marching band. In that time span I've watched her grow beyond her pink guitar, heard her voice become more confident and observed her spirit sparkle even brighter. Recently Presley returned to the morning show to talk about her new album: American Summer. Afterwards, I had the pleasure of sitting down with her in the green room for a more informal, in-depth conversation about her life as a member of the Red Dirt Family, her passions, and her goals and dreams. I walked away impressed by her "beyond her years" insightfulness, kind heart – and her innate ability to express herself in an articulate and genuine way.

Presley is the daughter of Aleisha and Devin Rains and the late Red Dirt singer/songwriter, Chad Sullins. Two dads and one mom – not of the same household, but the builders of the foundation that has allowed Presley the space to grow and be.

Presley and her mom have an enviable relationship, one that exudes mutual love and respect. "My mom has always provided me a safe place where I can be completely myself," Presley said lovingly. "We talk about everything – even if we don't agree."

Presley also feels fortunate to have had two dads

to love her and provide for her in two totally different ways. That's why her chosen name is Presley Sullins Rains, it honors those relationships.

Presley admits having a troubadour for a dad had its challenges.

"I don't think it [being a father] was his calling – but he loved me so much," Presley said. "There were times I'd know he was doing what he was supposed to be doing, but I'd think 'But what about me?'"

Instead of remaining hurt or resentful, Presley was able to realize what a gift it was to gain a second dad. "When Devin came into my life, he was able to do all the 'dad' things for me that Chad couldn't," Presley said. "He filled in the gaps. And I think that helped me love my dad, Chad, even more and resent him less."

She acknowledges the impact Chad had on her is immeasurable – especially in regard to her love of music. Presley likened music to the presence of God in her life. There was never "one big moment or experience," music is just one of the building blocks of who she is. "It's always been a constant and comforting presence," Presley explained.

She also credits her Red Dirt family for providing inspiration and support. "As a whole, they've been my village," Presley said.

"So many pieces of me are shaped by the members of my Red Dirt family."

I asked her if there was anyone in her music family who she wanted to be like. After pondering a moment, she named one – Monica Taylor. "I can't remember when I first met her – she's just always been there. Monica has such a kind and gentle spirit," Presley said, smiling fondly. "She radiates warmth and kindness. She has something that makes you stop and listen, not just to her beautiful voice, but her character comes through when she's performing. You can truly see the gentleness of her soul in her song. I can't imagine anything better than being like her."



PICTURED ABOVE, Presley signing in at the KUSH. PHOTO by TOM HARRIS



Presley and Dad
Chad
PHOTO PROVIDED



Presley and Mom,
Aleisha
PHOTO PROVIDED



Presley and Dad
Devin
PHOTO PROVIDED

Another influence Presley mentioned is Ryan “Danger” McCall, her long-time guitar teacher and guitarist on her new album. “Ryan is definitely one of my mentors,” Presley said emphatically.

Besides her passion for music and all it entails, Presley loves photography, film and books. “I can totally ‘geek out’ over all of these things,” she laughed. “I love the classics. One of my favorite books is *Catcher in the Rye*,” Presley continued. “I first read it when I was about 13, but I’ve read it at least 7 or 8 times. If I like a book, I’ll read it several times. I’ll get something new from it every time.”

Books, movies and music became Presley’s “best friends” during her middle school years. “I went to Epic from about halfway through 4th grade until high school,” Presley said. “It was a great experience – but I’m a very social person – I love people, connecting with them, so it wasn’t really the right fit for me. That’s why about a month before high school started, I decided to go back to public school – plus, I wanted to graduate from Perkins high school like my parents did.”

She attributes those years spent in virtual social isolation as a time of growth. “I felt pretty alone during that time, but I’m really grateful for it for a couple of reasons,” she continued. “One because everyone goes through some weird phases in middle school –

and I completely dodged that,” Presley laughed. “I was severely emo, and I still love me some punk pop,” she admitted freely. “And two – I wouldn’t have developed in a lot of ways – like in my music and imagination.”

Presley’s imagination carried her into experiences she couldn’t have during that time spent cocooning. “I had to get my social ‘fix’ from film and music,” she said. “Living vicariously probably made me romanticize a lot of experiences, but I think it made me appreciate the little things more and gave me more empathy.”

Presley also believes the hours and hours she spent listening to music, dissecting songs and placing herself into experiences not of her own, helped in the development of her songwriting. “That’s when I started figuring out my taste in music. Listening to different genres and putting myself into the songs. It absolutely helped me with my songwriting,” she said.

The tools she gathered in solitude Presley took with her as she made the transition back to the public school her parents and musical mentor, Monica, had attended. “It was a little awkward at first,” Presley said. “I had to learn to measure how much I could share of myself with people.”

“I didn’t know if they could take me!” she added laughing. “I have great friends now – and I can be my geeky self with them!”

Besides her passion for music and all it entails, Presley loves photography, film and books. “I can totally ‘geek out’ over all of these things,” she laughed. “I love the classics...”



Presley at Block 34 in Stillwater. (PHOTO PROVIDED)

So what's next for Presley? After graduating from Perkins-Tryon High School, she plans on pursuing a teaching degree, most likely at Oklahoma State University where she's applied and already been accepted.

She learned that by simply being her authentic self, it afforded others to do the same.

Presley is making sure she enjoys all the "high school" experiences she can – hanging out with friends, going to dances and just having fun. Her senior schedule is packed – including extra-curricular activities such as marching band, year book and FFA. Presley also continues to grow as a singer/songwriter – grabbing lyrics and riffs as the inspiration comes – day or night.

"Do you ever sleep?" the mother inside me asked.

"That's probably the only thing I don't get enough of!" Presley laughed.

"So how do you stay grounded – being involved in so many activities?" I asked.

"My number one – is my home – my family space," Presley said. "It's where I can be myself – even when I'm not my best version – like when I've had a long day. My parents know the real me and know that I'd never be hurtful on purpose. They love me and let me be who I am. I'm grateful home is a place where I can recharge. Not everyone has that."

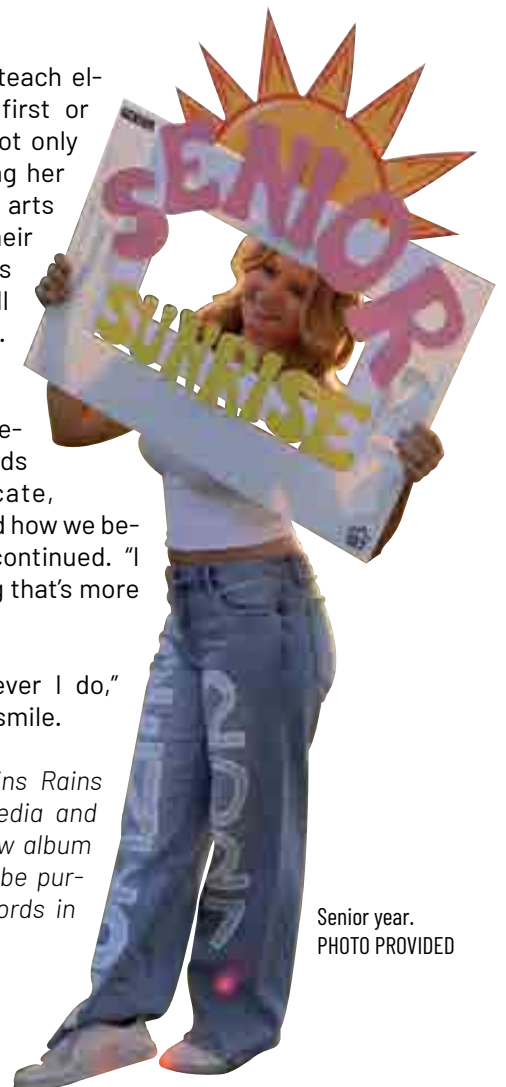
So what's next for Presley? After graduating from Perkins-Tryon High School, she plans on pursuing a teaching degree, mostly likely at Oklahoma State University where she's applied and already

been accepted. "I want to teach elementary kids – probably first or second grade," she said. Not only does she want to pass along her own love of reading and the arts to children embarking on their school journey, Presley wants to help them develop the skill of curiosity she's learned. "It's a trickle effect," Presley said. "It's not just about learning to read and comprehend or loving books, words are the way we communicate, it leads to independence and how we become part of society," she continued. "I can't imagine doing anything that's more impactful."

And music?

"Music will be in whatever I do," Presley said with a knowing smile.

You can follow Presley Sullins Rains and her music on social media and streaming platforms. Her new album American Summer can also be purchased at Velvet Fudge records in Stillwater, OK. (K)



Senior year. PHOTO PROVIDED



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OCT. 24	Brock Niehus
OCT. 30	Gus Burns - Record Release
OCT. 31	No Live Music - Happy Halloween!

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NOV. 7	Ethan McCord
NOV. 13	Aidan Kirkland
NOV. 14	Asher Myers
NOV. 20	Reagon Carter
NOV. 21	Beau Ladd
NOV. 27	Gage Wilkerson & Jolie Marshall
NOV. 28	Anthony Ray Phelps

DEC. 4	Maddox Ross
DEC. 5	Dylan Stewart
DEC. 11	Garrick Fausett
DEC. 12	Connor Wilson
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I'd like you to meet...

JEREMY and SHANNON PASQUALL / Photo by MOLLY PAYNE

A Couple of Twisted Okies:

JEREMY AND SHANNON PASQUALL

Jeremy and Shannon Pasquall, transplants from Broken Arrow, opened a business in Cushing in hope of making a positive change in their lives and so far, it hasn't just changed their lives, it is changing the lives of others throughout the community.

Jeremy and Shannon are the owners of Twisted Okies, a marketplace for artisans in downtown Cushing. But it's more than just a place for locals to sell their wares, it's a place to create, mentor and build a community.

"It's all been really organic in the way it happened," Jeremy said.

The Pasqualls (rhymes with "rascals") vision began a little over a year ago when they decided to pack up and move from the home they'd known for the past 25 years to a more rural area. "Tulsa had really started encroaching on Broken Arrow and we decided we needed a change," Jeremy said. He was thinking they might move to southeast Oklahoma, but after a visit with their daughter in Glencoe, Shannon had a different thought. "Let's move here!" Shannon declared.

And while they could both agree living close to their daughter and grandkids in Glencoe would satisfy their longing for a more rural life, it wasn't the ideal location to open the business they envisioned.

However, a mere 30 minutes away, was Cushing. Not only did it meet their "more rural" criteria, its location is almost equal distance between Tulsa and Oklahoma City, which they deemed a perfect fit for their business. They procured a building in downtown Cushing and Twisted Okies was born.

Initially they saw their business being similar to what they had been doing in Broken Arrow - hosting

paint parties and events, along with a place to "set up shop" to make special order items. But with the amount of square space their building had to offer, the couple knew they had the ability to do more. A new idea literally "blew in" during the "Small Business Saturday" event in downtown Cushing last November.

"It was cold and the wind kept blowing vendors' things around," Shannon said. While Jeremy was scurrying back and forth to their building to find things to weigh things down in Centennial Park, she overheard Mike Kennedy, president of Downtown Cushing Revi-

talization Association (DCRA), asking someone if they knew anywhere the vendors could go to alleviate the wind issue. Shannon impulsively chimed in, saying, "We have the perfect place! Twisted Okies!"

"I thought to myself, 'Jeremy is going to kill me,'" she said laughing.

Grateful for a warm and spacious place to sell their crafts and continue the Cookie Walk, vendors made their way up the street and around the corner to Twisted Okies.

"I was clearing space as fast as I could and told people to set up wherever they could," Jeremy recalled, grinning. "It was crazy, but fun!"

Not only was it fun, it was fortuitous - it set the ball in motion for what came next - indoor craft fairs during the "down" months.

"We asked the vendors if they liked the idea and they all said 'yes'," Jeremy continued.

Since then, Twisted Okies has opened its doors to host craft fairs regularly during the "off season" and other times the rest of the year.

"We don't want to impede on other local markets, so we try to schedule ours accordingly," Shannon explained.

Jeremy and Shannon
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But it's more than just
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build a community.

Currently Twisted Okies has 22 vendors, each with its own booth space, offering their items for purchase during business hours. Each week a different vendor is showcased at the front of the store. “We have fun with it,” Jeremy said.

After experiencing the warm welcome of the Pasqualls at Twisted Okies, vendors saw another opportunity – they asked if they could put their unique, hand crafted items in the store.

“We had the space – so it seemed like the perfect thing to do with it,” Shannon said.

Currently Twisted Okies has 22 vendors, each with its own booth space, offering their items for purchase during business hours. Each week a different vendor is showcased at the front of the store. “We have fun with it,” Jeremy said. “We’ll have contests for the vendors – like People’s Choice awards and Shannon will make a sign for the ‘Vendor of the Month’. We even give cash prizes – we just want to build up our vendors and support for the vendor community.”

Because of the varied talents of the crafters/creators, collaboration often presents itself, like when Shannon was approached about making a spirit stick for a cheer squad. She had what she needed to make part of it, but one of the other vendors had 3D printing abilities to make the stick to attach the rest to. Together they were able to make exactly what the patron wanted.

“We collaborate quite a bit,” Jeremy said, making it a win/win for everyone.

Not only do the vendors collaborate on projects, but they are involved in the non-profit the Pasqualls recently started – Cushing Creative Hub. “Our friends Jon and Misti – Red Beard Custom Printing – have been helping from day one,” Jeremy said.

The non-profit was created to help encourage young people to “think outside of the box” and become entrepreneurs.

“So many times kids in the creative community can get overlooked,” Jeremy said. “We were both band kids, so we kinda know how that can feel.”

They also understand the financial pinch families may be feeling with limited funds for creative projects. The non-profit allows them to offer free craft time to kids at the craft shows as well as supporting a scholarship program for young entrepreneurs. Recently Cushing Creative Hub presented its first \$250 scholarship to a young recipient who met the criteria.

“There are several things we look for in a possible scholarship recipient,” Jeremy explained. “They have

to be 21 or under. They have to have a product of some kind and participate in craft fairs. And they need to be ‘go-getters’ – curious and looking for opportunities to create a business doing what they enjoy.”

Alongside promoting and mentoring young entrepreneurs, Cushing Creative Hub offers various workshops for 3D printing, laser designs and cutting. They’ve also set aside an area for craft supplies to be purchased inexpensively or used for children’s crafts. “We take donations of any kind of art or craft supplies – new or gently used,” Shannon said. Monetary donations are also accepted by the non-profit.

Although Twisted Okies and Cushing Creative Hub are still evolving, the one thing that remains steadfast is the Pasqualls’ desire to make Cushing a destination and creative hub for local makers, crafters and artisans from across the state.

“Come see us! See what we’re doing here in Cushing,” Jeremy said excitedly. “We’d love to talk to you and show you all the different kinds of things people are making around here!”

Twisted Okies, 215 N Cleveland Ave in Cushing: Open Tuesday & Wednesday: 10 am – 6 pm; Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 10 am – 9 pm and Sunday noon – 6 pm Closed Monday

Twisted Okies offers unique items made by local artists, including custom apparel, tumblers, jewelry door signs and home decor. Also available – paint parties, birthday parties, custom items and more! Follow Twisted Okies and Cushing Creative Hub on Facebook for upcoming events. 

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by **JIM COX**

What's the difference between Country music and Hip Hop? Pop and death-metal? Impromptu syncopated jazz and dub-step? It's obvious. Just by listening to them you can hear that they are different. But at their core, they all use the same 12 notes.

When I moved to Oklahoma, I had no idea there was such an active and thriving music scene happening here. I assumed I would hear nothing but country music everywhere with maybe the occasional underdog rock band struggling to be heard. Man, was I wrong.

Being surrounded by the people who grew up with red dirt both on their boots and in their playlists, has shown me just how broad the musical river runs through these parts. There is something about the music created in this area that I can't put into words, but so many have put into amazing song.

I have been inundated with all kinds of sounds and styles of music that I had either always overlooked, or had just painted over with the broad stroke of "Folk-country." I had heard of Red Dirt and Americana music, but had lumped it into the same category and labeled it "not my style." I certainly had

When I moved to Oklahoma, I had no idea there was such an active and thriving music scene happening here. I assumed I would hear nothing but country music everywhere with maybe the occasional underdog rock band struggling to be heard. Man, was I wrong.

The impactful musical presence not so many know about is the Fulkerson Jam. As I said before, it is a private acoustic jam circle for musicians that happens every Tuesday in Drumright, but I can tell you from experience, it is a whole lot more than that.

no idea the roots of these incredible styles of music had here in Payne County when I chose to move to Cushing. Some call it chance, I call it synchronicity.

If you listen to Molly Payne and myself on “Think About it Thursdays,” our thought-provoking morning show every Thursday morning at 9 on KUSH radio, you may already know my story about finding The KUSH, and also a private little jam circle called the Fulkerson Jam, right when I moved to Cushing. If you don’t listen, just know they have both been a God-send for me, and are the reason I have been able to dive into the local music scene as deeply as I have.

The KUSH is the local radio station that everyone in the area knows, or should know. You’re reading their magazine right now, so you’re connected to The KUSH whether you know it or not.

They have been a part of the community in Cushing for over seventy-five years, broadcasting to Payne County 24/7, and giving Red-Dirt and Americana artists a platform to shine the whole time. Their impact on your music scene is pretty obvious, and is something this area should truly cherish.

The impactful musical presence not so many know about is the Fulkerson Jam. As I said before, it is a private acoustic jam circle for musicians that happens every Tuesday in Drumright, but I can tell you from experience, it is a whole lot more than that.

It’s a place where singers and songwriters get together to play and sing their tunes in an atmosphere that feels more like playing music with people, rather than a performance for people.

It’s a place that showcases the love and support this area

has for its musicians, as well as a place where those same musicians can collaborate and influence each other’s styles and lives. It’s a place where any music fits. The most talented and least practiced in the room are seen for the heart presenting their music, and are treated with the same care and respect. It’s a place where both the sound and the soul of music are cultivated and appreciated, and anyone who has had the pleasure of attending will tell you the same.

I grew up playing different styles of rock music, and that was it. The songs I write now still reflect that upbringing clearly. I knew my songs wouldn’t “fit” with the country-driven scene I had imagined, so I was hesitant to even show up, but luckily for me, I went to Fulkerson Jam that first night anyway.

I played my “rock” songs right in line with everyone else, and no-one thought twice about it. They all tapped their feet and strummed along like it was just another song to jam along to. It happened like that every week. Laughter and music alongside friendship and talent—what could be greater?

Over time, my rock songs started sounding like they were wearing a straw hat. The same songs I had considered too “rocky” for Oklahoma were fitting

right in with a dobro, a box-drum, and some sweet acoustic solos. The way I sang even started to evolve. My entire songwriting process was evolving, and I loved it!

The same songs I had played over and over again were morphing into something new. All the songs I heard my fellow strummers and pickers play on Tuesday nights were influencing my style, and it didn’t take me long to realize that all of them were helping in creating my new style. All this got me looking at music from a new perspective.



Boys From Oklahoma legend Gene Collier (center) jamming with some fellow musicians. PHOTO by Jim Cox

We are all playing the same chords, but making different songs. We all have the same 12 notes available to us to make our music, it's just how we present them that makes a different song. I can add variations to my chords, and use them in different scales, but it's the same 12 notes.

A, A#, B, C, C#, D, D#, E, F, F#, G, G#

Every song I have ever written, learned, or heard is made up of the same 12 notes. They are just put together differently. The most thuggish gangster rapper and the most twangy country singer both draw from the same bag of musical notes and scales to express the music that is in their soul.

So I ask again, what is the difference between country music and hip-hop?

I say it's the heart behind the creation. It's the decision to make something authentic and unique from the soul of your culture. It's the drive and desire within every musician that makes something new and exciting from the same 12 notes.

The difference has never been in the music—music is as consistent as consistency can be—the difference we hear is the heart and soul of the musician creating the song. Same 12 notes, very different arrangement.

That is what the incredible music community at Fulkerson Jam— and really the entire music scene here in the Cimarron Valley— has shown me. That



A jam-packed night of music and fun at Fulkerson Jam. PHOTO by Jim Cox

no matter how you arrange those 12 notes, it's the heart you play with, and the soul you create from, that makes the music special.

So to every musician writing a new song, learning an old cover, or strumming those same chords again and again, keep doing what you're doing. Just by making the music you love, you're playing a pivotal part in the evolution and growth of your incredible local music scene. Never stop playing those same 12 notes— your music depends on it.

P.S. Fulkerson Jam is a private event for musicians. For more information, check out their facebook page. @FulkersonJam. Please be respectful if reaching out. 



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by **DAVID GOUGE**

REFLECTIONS OF *Summer's End*

Summer always ends the same way. It fades away into another memory like a chapter break. It tucks into memories of past loves, adventures, failures and achievements.

Lighting your first big firecracker in July or having that first kiss on the lake. Driving like there is no tomorrow - on empty. Forgetting where you left the keys. Saying goodbye to that first kiss.

It's all there in the summer.

Getting in trouble, sleeping all day to stay up all night. A first job experience that teaches lessons not found in textbooks. The sun rises and sets the same way. However it is different each time.

Not knowing any better keeps the anecdotes innocent.

As the years progress, some lakes dry up. Some memories seem forgotten, only to crash into play through scent or sound. A laugh or tear echoes in time.

The stars still shine bright for you and the memories still permeate a bittersweet transition. 

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LIVE MUSIC...

...AND OTHER FUN EVENTS IN OUR AREA

HALLOWEEN/PUMPKIN PATCHES FALL FESTIVALS

Now thru Oct 25 - Pumpkin Patch at The Twelves, 121 W 68th St, Stillwater

Now thru Oct 31 - Stillwater Pumpkin Patch, 524 N Stallard, Stillwater

Now thru Nov 1 - Oh My Gourd Pumpkin Patch, 9212 E Glencoe Rd, Glencoe

Now thru Nov 8 - Parkhurst Pumpkin Patch, 720 S Henney Rd, Arcadia

Now thru Nov 7 - The Hex House, Extreme haunted attraction, 5610 W Skelly Dr, Tulsa

Now thru Nov 1 - Wicked Forest of Terror, 9420 I 40 Service Rd, OKC

Now thru Oct 31 - Haunted Castle Halloween Festival, The Castle, Muskogee

Now thru Oct 31 - Twisted Roots Haunted Trail, 1900 E 62nd St N, Muskogee

Now thru Oct 31 - Guthrie Haunts, 4524 Riverside Cir, Guthrie

Oct 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31 - The Last Train Ride (Presented by DCRA), Downtown Cushing

MUSIC / OCTOBER

Oct 23 - American Aquarium w/Kalyn Fay, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

Oct 23 - Miss Brown to You, UCO Jazz Lab, Edmond

Oct 23 - Hooks & The Huckleberries, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

Oct 24 - Kierston White, Mac Leaphart & Justin Clyde William, The Blue Door, OKC

Oct 25 - Freedy Johnston, The Blue Door, OKC

Oct 27 - Sunny Sweeney, The Blue Door, OKC

Oct 30 - Belle & the Vertigo Waves, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

Oct 30 - Van Full of Nuns, Pop Punk Nite, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

Oct 30 - The Red Dirt Rangers, The Blue Door, OKC

Oct 31 - Scott Evans, Justin Bloss, and Jacob Dement, The Blue Door, OKC

NOVEMBER

Nov 4 - Neko Case w/Destroyer, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

Nov 5 - West Texas Exiles, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

Nov 5 - Southall w/The Ransom Brothers, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

Nov 6 - West Texas Exiles, The Blue Door, OKC

Nov 7 - Boomtown Barn Dance Benefit, Red Dirt Rangers, Aidan Kirkland, family fun and more! 5 - 8 pm, The Right Path, 16620 Old Shamrock Hiway, Drumright

Nov 7 - Laila Biali, UCO Jazz Lab, Edmond

Nov 7 - Rock-n-Folk-n-Chili Cook-Off, Greyhounds, JD Slmo, Samantha Crain, Stepmom, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

Nov 7 - Shelly Phelps & The Storm, The Blue Door, OKC

Nov 8 - Betty Soo, The Blue Door, OKC

Nov 10 - Rival Sons w/The Blue Stones, The Velvetears, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

Nov 11 - J Plank, The Blue Door, OKC

Nov 11 - Calder Allen w/Max Goen, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

Nov 11 - Wilderado w/Ken Pomeroy, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

Nov 12 - William Elliott Whitmore w/Division Men, The Blue Door, OKC

Nov 12 - Chris Knight w/Jared Hard, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

Nov 12 - Hayes Carll w/The Droptines, Lance Roark, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

Nov 13 - Michelle Shocked, The Blue Door, OKC

Nov 13 - The Soda Crackers w/Tanner Fields & The Goodtimers, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

Nov 13 - National Fiddler Hall of Fame 2026 Induction Ceremony, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

Nov 14 - The Shandies + Tipps and Obermiller, The Blue Door, OKC

Nov 15 - David Nail: Down to the Studs Tour, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

Nov 20 - Amy Lavere & Will Sexton, The Blue Door, OKC

Nov 20 - The Wise Guys - Beatles Celebration, UCO Jazz Lab, Edmond

Nov 21 - Travis Linville w/The Conor Culpepper Trio - Cimarron Breeze Concert, the Old Church, Perkins

Nov 21 - Travis Roberts, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

Nov 21 - Garrett "Big G" Jacobson, UCO Jazz Lab, Edmond

Nov 21 - Party Water - Kyle Reid, The Blue Door, OKC

Nov 22 - Backwoods & Friends, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

Nov 27 - Jason Boland & The Stragglers w/ Johnny Mulenax, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

DECEMBER

Dec 3 - Slaid Cleaves, The Blue Door, OKC

Dec 3 - Scott H. Biram, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

Dec 4 - Jason Eady, The Blue Door, OKC

Dec 5 - Rachel & Griffin w/Wayne Gottstine, The Blue Door, OKC

Dec 5 - Caleb Lee Hutchinson - Long Line of Losers Tour, Mercury Lounge, Tulsa

Dec 9 - Mark Rubin - Jew of Oklahoma, The Blue Door, OKC

Dec 10 - Wade Forster, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

Dec 11 - Giovannie & The Hired Guns, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

Dec 12 - Steve Hamby & The Oklahoma Space Program, Cimarron Breeze Concert, the Old Church, Perkins

Dec 12 - Silverada, Vandoliers, Jason Scott & The High Heat, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa
Dec 16 - Peter Mayer: A Stars & Promises Christmas "This Town", Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa
Dec 17 - Ian o w/Marina Rocks, The Blue Door, OKC
Dec 18 - Jackson Dean, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa
Dec 18 - Pat Byrne, The Blue Door, OKC
Dec 31 - Wyatt Flores, Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

OTHER EVENTS IN THE AREA

Drumright Monthly Market - **1st Saturday of the month now through December**

Oilton Flea and Farmer's Market - **3rd Saturday of the month now through December**

Oct 30 - Dale's Diner Annual Halloween Dance w/The Thunderbirds, 418 E Moses, Cushing, 6 pm

Dec 3 - Stillwater Holiday Parade of Lights, 6:30 pm, Downtown Stillwater

Dec 5 - Drumright Annual Christmas Parade, 6 pm, downtown Drumright

Dec. 12 - Cushing Chamber of Commerce Annual Christmas Parade, 6 pm, downtown Cushing

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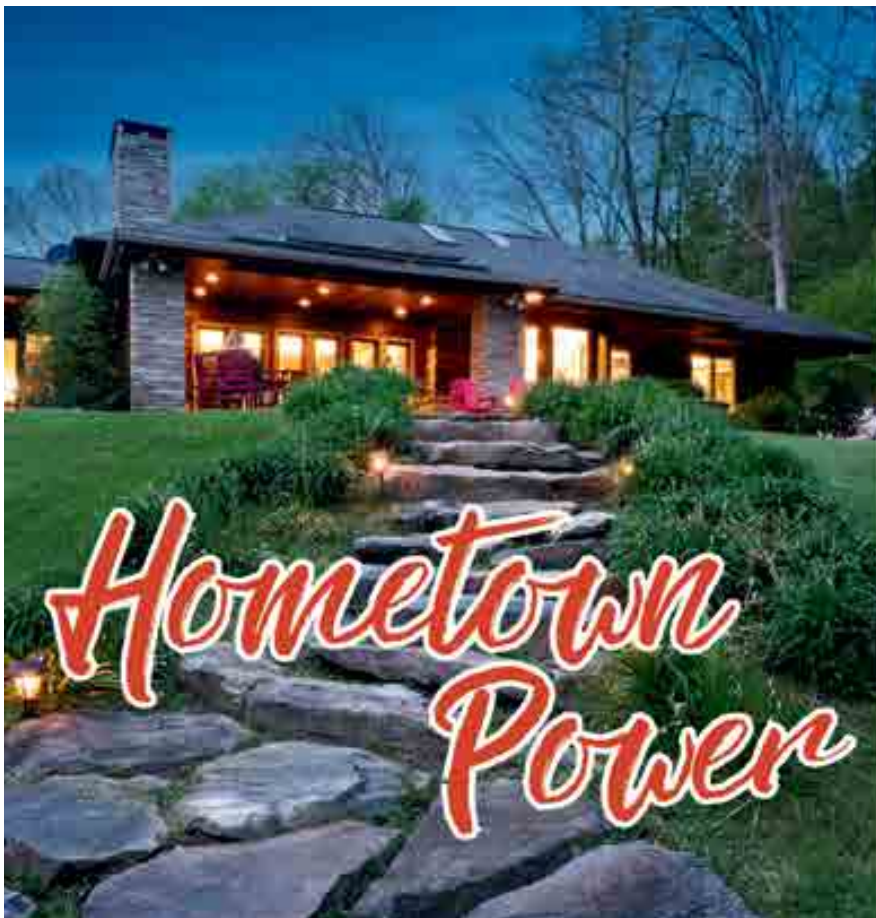
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← We had a great 2026! We hope you will join us in 2027! →

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PHOTOS by **MOLLY PAYNE**

"Change the way you look at things, and the things you look at will change." -Dr. Wayne Dyer

by **SARA PAYNE KEYES**

When I was in 3rd grade I got glasses. I hated them. Refused to wear them. My dad made me a cool school box out of airplane parts, so I hid the glasses in that while I was at school. I didn't like how they looked or how they felt on my face. Foreign. Unknown. Alien.

After a while, I decided to give up my denial. The desire to see things clearly, started to outweigh the discomfort of that big change. I was a fresh reader, I wanted to read books! I wanted to see! I did not want to start relying on something outside of myself to do that. But I had to accept that was how my eyeballs were made.

Acceptance.

I have worn glasses and contacts and contacts and glasses - back and forth back and forth since the late 1980's.

For some unknown reason, I carried a belief that in middle age, my eyesight wouldn't go badly in any other direction other than the predicted impending decline. It didn't occur to me to think otherwise. Sure, people's eyesight gets worse in middle age, but not mine! Mine has already been on the downslope!

Mind you... No one told me that information. I just believed my own thinking.

Soooo, it turns out that is not true.

My new mid-life - aka "half-dead" - trick is; in order to see my phone, computer or read my book close up, I have to take my glasses off, and in order to see sharp features of people or objects, or the TV, I have to put my glasses on!

On off - on off - Back and forth - back and forth.

Turns out - I get to be near sighted AND far sighted with an ample and unique wobble of astigmatism. All at the same time!

Am I taking the quote I live by too literally?

"Change the way you look at things, and the things

you look at will change." -Dr. Wayne Dyer

The things I look at are changing all right!

I vaguely remember the eye doctor asking me if I was interested in bifocals the last time I went in. I must have still been holding my WRONG belief that I couldn't possibly need bifocals. I did not have that kind of vision!

So now I know the solution, and I am lucky I have it available. All I have to do is call and make an eye doctor appointment.

Sounds simple enough!

However, I am plagued by the inclination that I can only make important phone calls, either under intense agonizing pressure or perhaps if and when the stars and planets align juuuust right and precisely in such a way where I could face and then complete such a monumental task.

Neither of those things have happened as of this writing date.

From the outside looking in, it looks like a choice. I am choosing to not help my situation. I could just do it! Just call! Get an appointment and go!

Easy Peasy Lemon Squeezy!

But man... those internal blocks are strong!

At any given time I am dividedly distracted. My to do list is ever flowing. Making appointments, especially for myself, easily slides down and off of the priority list.

I started reflecting. Would I rather not see? Am I not ready to see things more clearly? What are the obstacles? Am I afraid? What am I afraid of?

Am I afraid of the change that is coming? Even if I benefit from the changes, they are still hard to get used to. Foreign Unknown. Alien.



PHOTO ABOVE: The dad-made cool school box made out of airplane parts which doubled as a place to hide the glasses.

It appears as though I am the one who is containing the obstacle. I am right back in 3rd grade. Right now, the solution to seeing things more clearly is hidden in my school box.

At my job, I get to work with toddlers, mostly 2 year olds. What amazing little creatures they are! One of our favorite activity songs is called "Going on a Bear Hunt" - The gist is - We are going on a bear hunt, we've got our binoculars and we are NOT scared. There are obstacles in our way and we discover we can't go over them, we can't go under them, we can't go around them... so we gotta go through them. In the end, we learned we were a little bit scared, and we did it anyway. We found what we were looking for, and decided maybe we didn't want a bear after all.

I think it's a cool BIG lesson for cool little people.

This lesson could apply to things other than my Optical Obstacles. What if I could stop looking at the obstacles, and start seeing my way through them? What if I opened the container my fears were in and let them breathe a bit?

In September, we had a very special musical mystic troubadour named Bob Sima come to visit and play for us. He has a song aptly named, The Obstacle. These synchronistic lyrics clanged my soul's truth bell!

*"You can always go around what
you don't want to go through
But it will soon again be found
In a slightly different truth
Denying is relying on a voice that's been lying to you...
So listen. To what the fears say.
The obstacle is the way, the obstacle is the way
Where wounds turn to wisdom and scars into stars.
The obstacle is the way."*

The whole song is an uplifting journey. It recognizes the



Sara and her bear hunt binoculars.

inevitable hard times and gives us reminders that we will get through whatever obstacles we are faced with.

*"So lean in and breathe out
It will always make you stronger...
Lean in and breathe out
The fears they just get smaller..."*

Hmmm...guess I'd better get out my scheduling book now...

**Learn about Bob Sima, his music and more at www.bobsima.com. Many of his uplifting songs can be found on YouTube and other streaming services.* 



Photo credit: OMHOF

Congratulations to the one and only
Dr. Hugh Foley for his
well-deserved induction into the
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HUGH!**



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