

The High Desert

PALETTE

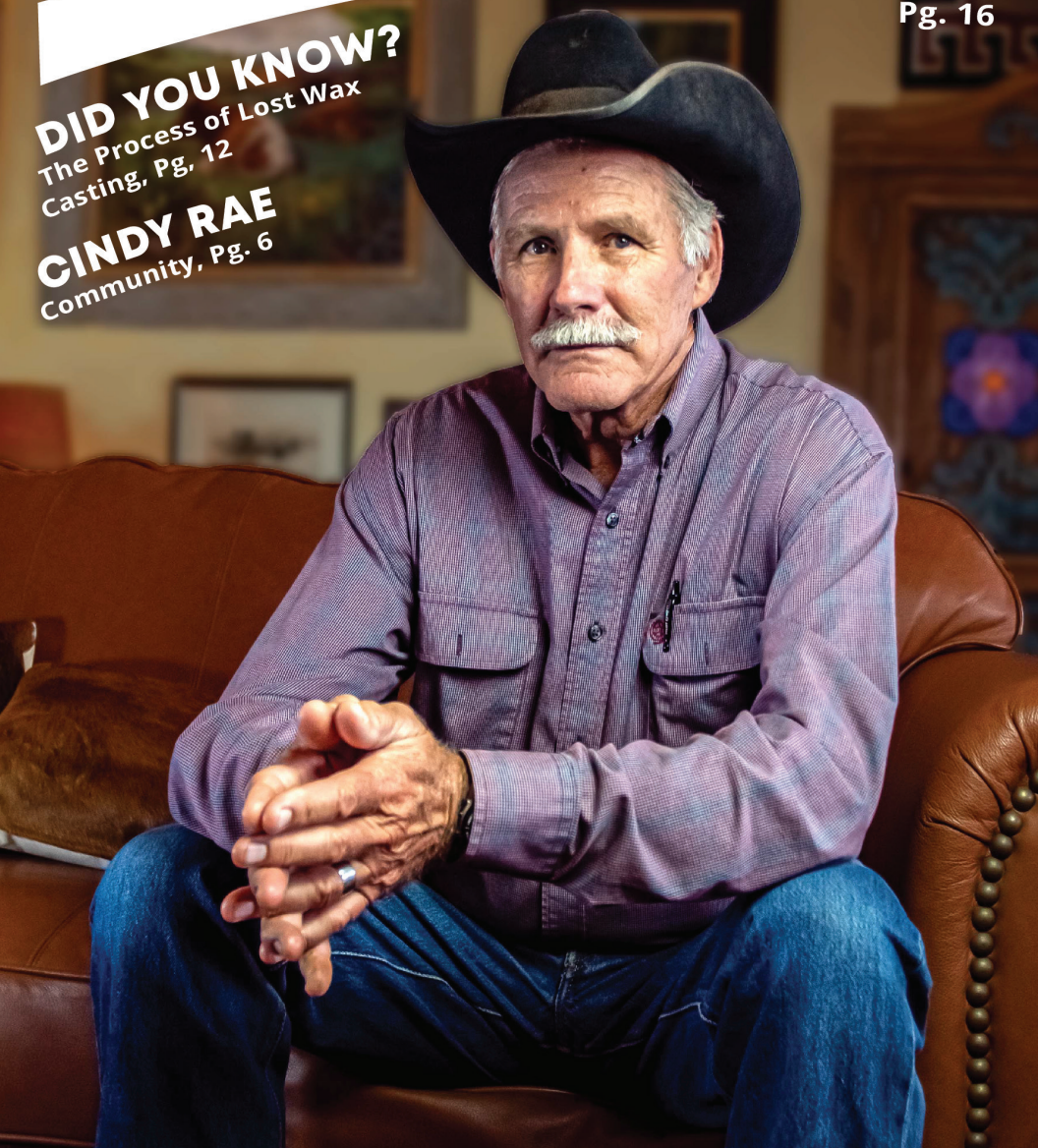
Sep. 2021, Vol. 2, No. 1

EXCLUSIVE

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WELCOME TO *The High Desert Palette*

Welcome to *The High Desert Palette*! In our first year's nine issues, we brought work from local artists to these pages to share – from painters to blacksmiths; writers to culinary artists; photographers to musicians – and we've barely made a dent in the list of talented creatives in the area.

Art is meant to be shared: every page will share something intriguing and creative, and every issue is something that you can share with others after you've read it.

You can share with us your knowledge about more artists and creatives, so that our future issues will bring their work to the fore and for writers, share your writing in these pages.

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Sep., 2021
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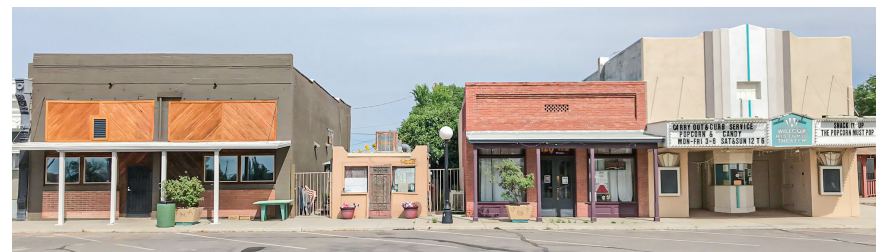


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Rygh Westby

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CINDY RAE

Community By Peter Spitzer

For Cindy Rae, community is important. Many locals in the area probably already know about Cindy's ability to bring people together through her music, but less well known is her volunteer efforts with local fundraisers, businesses, and groups.

Cindy has helped many organizations, such as the local hospital and Willcox West Fest. One of the biggest benefactors though, is our very own Willcox Theater and Arts! As Cindy put it, "It really just started because they gave me a place to play! But really, as I learned more about what the theater did for the community I wanted to help." Since Cindy started volunteering

around 2 and a half years ago her contributions have been immense. From the annual Shindig to the summer WAMM Fest; Cindy encourages support and donations to our community programs. This, combined with her help in many past fundraisers for Willcox organizations, has made her an invaluable part of the community. Surprisingly, though, even living in Willcox wasn't always a surefire bet for Cindy.

Hometown

Cindy Rae never expected to stay in Willcox. From kindergarten to 12th grade she had gone to 13 different schools, yet today, after over 50 years, Cindy Rae is still here. "I never thought in a million years that I'd be in Willcox 50 years later, we had been so used to moving I thought it was just a matter of time before we did."

This begs the question, why did she stay? The answer is the same reason she enjoys performing so much. The same reason she feels a drive to help today, "Really it's the people. People here are kind and just all around good hearted people."

“ Willcox has to be one of the most generous communities I've ever heard of. People just give.”

She went on to tell a story that perfectly encapsulated her point. A story of how when talking to her sister in upstate New York.

She was shocked, "She was talking about how happy she was that a local hospital

fundraiser for a sick kid raised around seven thousand dollars.

I couldn't believe it; I mean it's just a drop in the bucket compared to here. A hospital fundraiser here in Willcox raises 80 thousand plus every year. Willcox has to be one of the most generous communities I've ever heard of. people just give."

Staying Positive

After all this praise I had to ask, "If you could change anything about Willcox, what would you change?"



"I would change people's outlook on Willcox. People like to criticize small towns like Willcox. 'Oh there's abandoned buildings and pot holes in the street', but so does Tucson.

So does Phoenix. It's just not as obvious because you don't live there and Willcox is smaller. Everything you need is either here or not far away and the people are good. This is a good place to live."

By this point in the interview I wondered whether Cindy Rae could say anything negative at all about Willcox. So, I asked if she ever thought about leaving and what I got was something I think everyone reading this article can take away from, "Yes, I did. You know, through life you

have changes, and upheavals. I've had a few. I thought about leaving. But I've had a place by the gas plant for 33 years with 40 acres and it's just home. It's where I belong."

" You know, through life you have changes, and upheavals. I've had a few. I thought about leaving. But I've had a place by the gas plant for 33 years with 40 acres and it's just home. It's where I belong."

"What made you stay?"

"Well at one point, I just decided that wherever I would go, well, there I am. I wouldn't change. I'm happy with where I live, where I work, and the people I know. You know, you have happy times and unhappy times.

You just have to get through it. You can

change your environment but you can't change who you are so when you get somewhere you just have to say, here I am."

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We have something at Willcox Theater and Arts for everyone. Take a look – discover something new, learn a skill, or just have fun! Head over to our website at willcoxtheater.com for more information and to register for events!



First Run Movies

Catch first run movies at our historic theater any day of the week with today's latest in comfort and digital technology!

Daily



Kids Art Club

Do you have a creative kid? Maybe a kid that would be interested in monthly artistic activities? Well this free art club is for them!

Sep. 10th



Retro Rewind - Penny Serenade

Enjoy classic films, like Penny Serenade, on our big screen!

Sep. 10th



Shadowbox Jewelry

Learn how to make a shadow box with old jewelry in this fun workshop taught by Kathleen Johnston!

Sep. 11th

Live on Stage - Cindy Rae

Enjoy the classic country sounds of Willcox' own Cindy Rae in a solo act with her Dad's Gibson guitar!



Sep. 17th

Paint Night

Paint along with a talented instructor as she walks you through a step by step tutorial on how to paint.



Sep. 18th

Jam Session

A group for adult musicians to meet and "jam" together for the purpose of entertainment and proficiency. - no electric amplified instruments and no drum kits.



Sep. 21st

Smartmaker

Join instructor Paola for a STEM oriented workshop designed to get your gears turning!



Sep. 24th

Matinee My Way - The Black Stallion (1979)

Enjoy a sensory friendly movie where the lights are turned up, sound turned down, and you are free to be yourself.



Sep. 24th

DID YOU KNOW?

The Process of Lost Wax Casting

By Joshua Allred

Melting down metals and shaping them into tools and pieces of artwork with the use of molds was a practice that can be found in the earliest of civilizations. The lost wax casting technique was introduced to provide an incredible amount of detail in metalwork sculpting. This system of casting, though since refined, has been used for the last 5,000 years!



Lion Figurine - late 2nd millennium BCE

The Process:



1. An original Sculpture must be crafted. This is typically done with clay, but materials can vary greatly.
2. The model has a silicon mold constructed around it. This is made of multiple parts to allow removal of the original sculpture. The material of this mold allows for the smallest of details to be preserved in the process. The mold is then fitted back together to create a 'negative' of the original artwork.
3. The inside of the mold is then coated in wax to replicate the original sculpture, creating a wax 'positive'. It is left to solidify before it is removed from the mold.

4. Wax pathways are attached to the replica to allow metal flow and for gas to escape during the process. This includes a 'pouring cup' (a funnel for liquid metal to later be poured into), gates (passage ways leading to various parts of the mold to allow for better metal flow), and vents (narrow passageways allowing gas to exit the mold).

5. The wax is coated in a half inch shell by dipping it in a liquid mixture called a 'slurry' and then into sand repeatedly.

6. The wax is melted out of the shell, creating a durable and heat resist mold for the liquid metal to be poured into.



7. The shell is secured and liquid metal is poured in. The most popular metal used is bronze, which melts at approximately 17,000 degrees fahrenheit!

8. The shell is knocked off with hammers and chisels, the gates, vents, and pouring cup are cut off, and the artwork is sandblasted to remove the remaining shell.

9. Finally, a patina is applied to add color to the sculpture by applying various chemicals to the metal at a high heat. A clear wax is applied for preservation.

2021-2022 SEASON OF LIVE EVENTS.

The 2021-2022 Season of Live Events is here! Prepare for classic country, fantastic guitar, finger-pickin', and fiddling-and so much more!



Cindy Rae

Enjoy the classic country sounds of Willcox' own Cindy Rae in a solo act with her Dad's Gibson guitar

Sep. 17th



Igor the Jazz Cowboy

Enjoy the "Jazz Cowboy" and his story songs that cover the U.S. borderlands from the Deep South to the Wild West.

Oct. 15th



The Manhattan Dolls

Tap your feet to a swing-style female vocal trio with the sound of The Andrews Sisters!

Nov. 19th



Sahnas Brothers

Enjoy beautifully blended sounds of Greek culture and classical Spanish guitar!

Dec. 17th

'HEDY! The Life and Inventions of Hedy Lamarr'

Enjoy the one woman wonder, Heather Massie, in her performance of the play 'HEDY! The Life & Inventions of Hedy Lamarr'!



Jan 29th

Carolyn Camp and Joe Baker

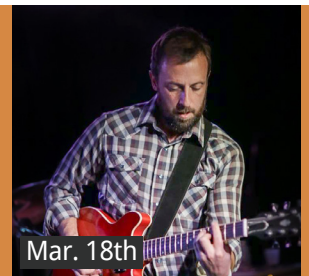
The fiddle/guitar duo trade off vocals, provide each other's harmonies and do a fair share of old-time fiddle instrumentals.



Feb. 18th

J Scott Howard

Enjoy riveting, finger picked guitar, harmonica and vocal renditions of tunes ranging from Motown hits to Texas Troubadour classics.



Mar. 18th

Sticks and Tones

Henry's piano and guitar combined with Maria's fervor on marimba, drums, world percussion, and water will carry you on a spirited voyage of heart and mind.



Apr. 30th

Learn more about our performers and their performances on our website at willcoxtheater.com and facebook page @willcoxtheaterandarts! Tickets are available for purchase on our website! Get yours today!



RYGH WESTBY

A Diary in Paint

By Joshua Allred

When you enter the home of Rygh (pronounced "Rig") and Trish Westby in Benson, AZ, you can expect to be met with smiling faces, a warm western atmosphere, and paintings; lots and lots of paintings. The artwork all belongs to the artist

himself, and the setting serves not only as a beautiful living space, but as what Rygh calls an in-home gallery. A place where people can come and get an idea what his work looks like in a more accurate backdrop than the cluttered and impersonal environment of traditional art galleries.

There are two things immediately evident in Rygh's paintings. First they all depict



Check out pg. 25 to see some of Rygh's Beautiful Paintings!

a beautiful perspective of cowboy life. Second, they all share a story. A feature, and defining characteristic, of his paintings is that they are derived from life experience. "They are a diary in paint," Rygh explained while naming individuals, horses, locations, and circumstances involved in many of his paintings. "One thing that really kinda' warms my heart is when - like on some of these Western Horseman covers or something - a cowboy would say 'I recognize that horse' - and they would, occasionally."

“ I wouldn't do it otherwise. You have to love what you're painting.”

and Trish are in their 50th year of marriage- is vital for Rygh's paintings, "It takes more than one person to make an artist."

This practice and lifestyle makes his art not only relatable, but authentic. It has been said and will continue to be said that an artist has to love what they do. Rygh loves his life as a rancher, and so he paints it. "I wouldn't do it otherwise. You have to love what you're painting."

To Make an Artist

The process for his paintings involves engaging in ranching work where his wife, Trish, will take photographs that are later used as reference photos. This long standing teamwork -Rygh

Rygh's passion for art and the cowboy lifestyle was with him from an early age. Even when he didn't grow up ranching and had a Father who discouraged such a lifestyle. "My Dad didn't





want me to go that way because he was raised on the Canadian prairies. He had all the romance of the west pretty much beat out of him." Ironically, his father was also the very person who planted the seed of longing for the west in Rygh. "He made one fatal mistake. He took us to a Dude Ranch when I was five years old. And I made up my mind - right then when I was five years old - I was going to be a cowboy no matter what."

“ I made up my mind - right there when I was five years old - I was going to be a cowboy no matter what.”

In art he references the name of great artist Charles Russell as an early inspiration, "When I was in my pre-teens I discovered Charles Russell. To say that his

work was an influence on me would be the understatement of the year. That lit a fire that still burns."

Rygh went along with that interest through a lady who gave oil painting lessons in his area and then later he made an attempt to study art a bit in college, "I had tried to take a little bit of art in college and I just butted heads with the art department. You know, because they were into Jackson Pollock and

De Kooning and all that crazy stuff. And so basically I got D's in art college." Rygh didn't abandon art and, true to his personality, tried to do things his own way.

After starting out at the bottom of the ranching world he only fell more in love with the cowboy lifestyle. "All of that stuff sort of seeps into you and artistically I wanted to do something with it." Rygh became aware of a few painters making cowboy artwork when he was starting out in ranching. One prominent influence in his life was painter Bill Owen.

“ One time he told us ‘You guys have lived a real life! That’s what I paint about; a real cowboy life.’”

"Once I met Bill and knew he was making a living selling art, I thought, 'you know what, I'm making \$200 a month on this ranch, and I have a wife and little baby. I need to be thinking about something that can feed us a little better'."

And so he made the plunge and began to professionally produce paintings. Rygh's advice for aspiring artists mirrors his own process for learning, "If it's possible to get professional training, do it. And not just from college art classes or something." He cites the artists Bill Owen, Joe Beeler, and James Reynolds as artists that he was able to sit with, observe, and/or learn from as he honed his skills. "It's stuff like that where I got some of my best instruction."

It's My Paint

Rygh's ability to masterfully combine skill and authenticity is

really what sets him apart as an artist. Despite the ups and downs of working in the art industry, and the hard work involved in ranching and horse training, Rygh has truly lived his life to the fullest. "After some of the 'adventures' we've had I thought my father-in-law might be kind of sore about how I had done for his only daughter. However, one time he told us, 'you know, you guys have lived a real life! That's what I paint about; a real cowboy life, and I'm happy to share it with you through my paintings.'"



See more of his western artwork:

 [ryghwestby](https://www.instagram.com/ryghwestby)
 [westbyranch.com](https://www.westbyranch.com)

LOOKING BACK ON OUR SUMMER EVENTS

Summer has come and gone and school year has started. Willcox Theater and Arts had an awesome turnout to our summer events! We hope you had as much fun as we did!

As we head back into the fall keep a look out for some of our recurring events to start popping back up!





See pg. 10 to see what is coming soon to Willcox Theater and Arts!

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ART LOOK

Featured are paintings by Rygh Westby

"Almost every piece of art I make has a basis in a particular incident. Ninety five percent of the horses in my paintings are individuals that I have personally known or have ridden or trained. The broncs in my bucking horse paintings are those that I broke myself with few exceptions. The men in my pictures are men that I have worked with and who are known and respected by other cowboys. That is something very few cowboy artists can claim. It is an element in my work that is both intangible and unmistakably obvious at the same time. Cowboys can recognize and name the horses in my paintings. That is something that I find immensely satisfying."

- Rygh Westby

Read more about the artist on his pg. 16 feature article!



"Morning on Kirby Creek" 18x26 oil, 1986



-“El Segundo” 22x28 oil, 1987



-“Temptation” a 12x24 oil, 1986



-“Dos Amigas” 24x30 oil, 2019



-“Foster Care” 24x24 oil, 2019

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Art, music, movies, theater, dance, digital arts, handcrafts, writing – all creative expression – play such an important part in our lives. From 3 to 93, we all need to express ourselves and also enjoy and celebrate the creativity of our neighbors.

Willcox Theater and Arts empowers our community to create, learn, experience and take part in a wide variety of creative expression, supported by our talented creative staff. Help us fan everyone’s spark of creativity and excitement in accomplishment.

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, we count on individuals and corporations who contribute each year. Ticket and class fee revenues comprise a small portion of our budget. It is through the generosity of individual donors, corporate sponsorships, and foundations that we can raise the curtain on quality arts programs. Your contributions will support our ability to keep classes, programs, and ticket prices low for the entire community—from students to seniors and everyone in between.

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