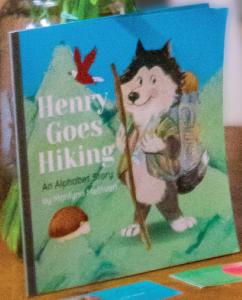


The High Desert

# PALETTE

Nov. 2022, Vol. 3, No. 1

**BLOOM NO MATTER  
WHERE YOU ARE**  
Page 8



**THE HAT**

An original poem by Kali Prudler, Page 14

**MARILYNN METHVEN**

Jump out There, Page 18



The High Desert Palette is produced and published by Willcox Theater and Arts



**WILLCOX**  
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Presents:

# THE HIGH DESERT PALETTE

Willcox Theater and Art's mission is to provide entertainment, education and cultural programs and activities for all ages! We began producing The High Desert Palette in 2020 as a way to better embrace that mission!

The *High Desert Palette* is published quarterly by Willcox Theater and Arts, Inc. 134 N Railroad Avenue, PO Box 217, Willcox AZ 85644. It is distributed free to Willcox Theater and Arts, Inc. Guest Artist Season Patrons and Willcox area businesses. The online version is published at [willcoxtheater.com](http://willcoxtheater.com).



Nov., 2022  
Vol. 3 No. 1

**W**elcome to *The High Desert Palette!* In our previous 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 local artists and creatives, so that our future issues can highlight their work and it can be shared with the community of Willcox and its surrounding areas! Contact us at 520-766-3335 or [willcoxtheater@gmail.com](mailto:willcoxtheater@gmail.com) to discuss your ideas.

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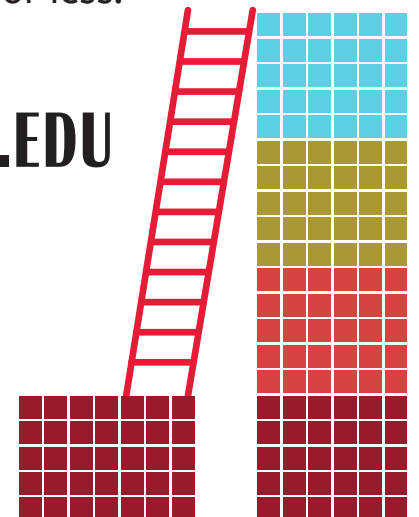
Marilynn Methven

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# RENOVATIONS

## A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT WILLCOX THEATER AND ARTS BY TAYLOR BELDEN

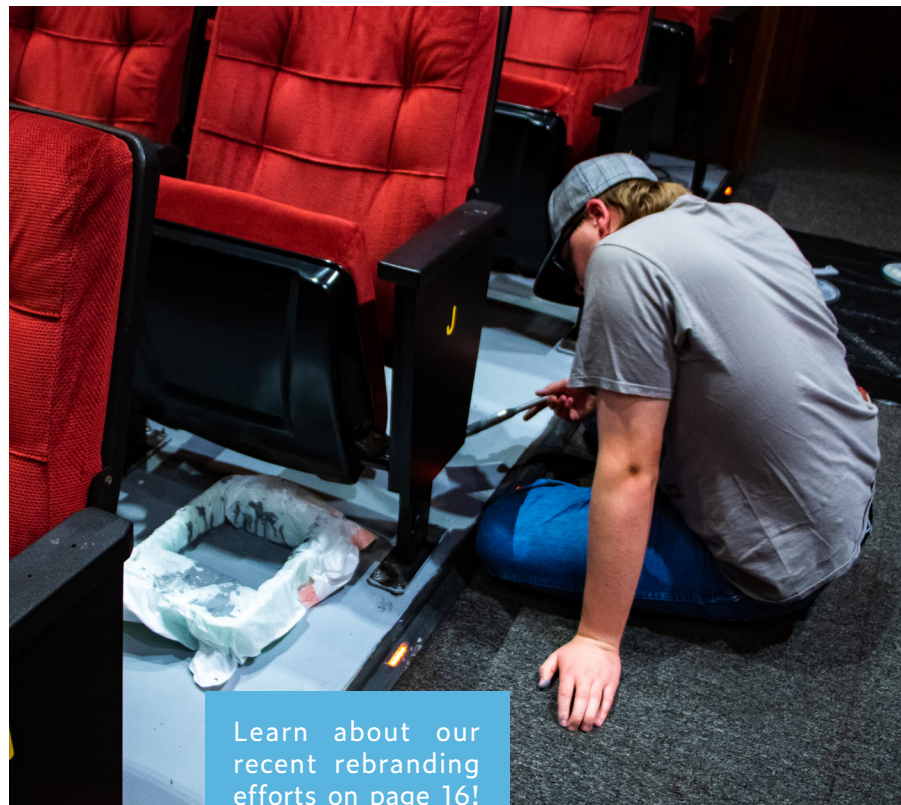
Our beloved historic movie theater here at Willcox Theater and Arts needed some love! It's been seven years since the Theater's major renovation in 2015 into the beautiful Art Deco style we now enjoy, and over time, paint starts to fade, lights need replacing and things need major maintenance. We took the plunge to close for one week and tackle as many jobs as we could to refresh the whole Theater.

With a detailed plan in hand of what needed to be done, we closed the Theater September 30th through October 7th. Our whole team takes huge pride in what we do, so all of our crew members were hard at work deep cleaning, fixing our popcorn machine and repainting the theater!

Outside, the box office was cleaned out and swept and cobwebs were cleared from nooks and crannies, while on the inside, both movie theater floors were painted, and the chairs and carpet professionally cleaned. The hall entrance was repainted, and now boasts a nice accent wall to greet you as you walk to the concession area. The concession and bathroom floors were sanded down and restored as well.

The concession area received special attention. The walls were repainted to freshen up the space and incorporate the colors of our new brand. All the display cabinets were repainted, as well as our central "W".

There will always be work to do, but we got a lot done in that week. When you come for a movie, take a look around, and then give a "Thank You" to the crew behind the counter who did all the great work. See you at the Theater!



Learn about our recent rebranding efforts on page 16!



# Bloom no Matter Where you Are

By Taylor Belden

When walking into The Corner Store and Boutique you are met by a sense of welcome that makes you feel at home. This little store on the corner of Haskell and Stewart St near the Railroad Avenue Historic District greets its visitors with two very friendly faces, the smell of homemade goodies, custom printed shirts, and many accessories. Owners Amber Williams and Sandra Lopez each have a mission they are very passionate about.

## — Two Friendly Faces —

Amber, who does the boutique side of the store, has owned her business for ten years and prints out many of the t-shirts displayed at The Corner Store and Boutique. Amber started her journey by making baby blankets and selling them on Etsy before securing a small space at Randi's Hearts and Flowers, a nearby shop offering craft consignment space. She outgrew the room she had there, and started looking for her own space.

Her passion is for small businesses and relationships with her customers. "At the end of the day, it's really just a t-shirt, but when you can make it exactly what someone wants and it's personalized, that's a fun thing to do." She started

doing shirts about four years ago and is excited that her business is growing.

Meanwhile Sandra, who met Amber as a customer, provides baked goods for the store. Her

*"At the end of the day, it's just a t-shirt, but when you make it exactly what someone wants and it's personalized, that's a fun thing to do."*

reason for baking comes from the loss of her grandson, Ethan, who passed away by suicide in 2020 at age 13. For Sandra,





# Sandra Lopez

- 10 -

baking became a way to raise awareness and address stigma related to mental health. "It's

*"When you come and buy something from Ethan's Heavenly Creations, you are actually making a donation. I'm not doing it for profit."*

actually known as a depressed treat shop, or sweet shop. Because if you think about it. You see

things in grey and black when depressed. There's no color in there. But when you bake, you bring out all the colors of the rainbow. Like a kaleidoscope, it's full of colors." This is how Ethan's Heavenly Creations was born.

True to her mission, Sandra donates a portion of the proceeds from the treat shop to the National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) and the Ethan Ardrey Foundation, which is named after her grandson. "When you come and buy something from Ethan's Heavenly Creations, you

are actually making a donation. I'm not doing it for profit."

The Corner Store and Boutique also provides helpful resources on mental health in Ethan's Corner, an in-shop booth developed offering free takeaways for interested shop goers. Ethan's Corner also has books which are available for any age.

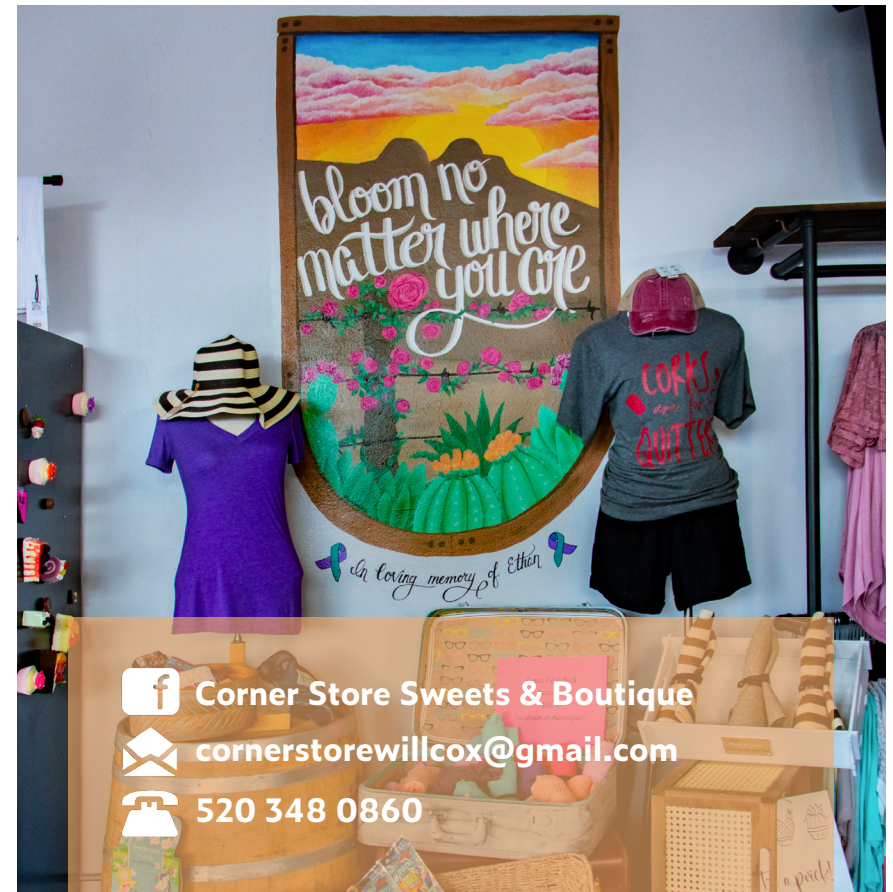
Sandra also had a small spot at Randi's and jumped at the opportunity to join Amber in looking for a bigger space." I had a very small location, so

when she came looking for things, I kind of jumped on board without even asking!"

## — Labor of Love —

The pair renovated the empty building for their shop with the invaluable renovation skills of Amber's husband Vic, holding a grand opening on May 20, 2022. "It's been a labor of love," said Sandra. "We both were determined to succeed." And succeed they did.

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 **Corner Store Sweets & Boutique**  
 [cornerstorewillcox@gmail.com](mailto:cornerstorewillcox@gmail.com)  
 **520 348 0860**

# EVENTS

Willcox Theater and Arts has something for everyone. Take a look – discover something new, learn a skill, or just have fun! Visit our website at [willcoxtheater.com](http://willcoxtheater.com) for more information and to register for events!

## RECURRING:

### FIRST RUN MOVIES

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Matinees Sat. and Sun., @ 2 & 2:30pm.  
@ Willcox Historic Theater



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Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday @3pm.  
@ The Palace of Art and Theater



### ACE OF ARTS

Join a talented instructor, who teaches you about different mediums in art. Bring a lunch for a nice social break!

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday @ 10am.  
@ The Palace of Art and Theater



## COMING SOON:

### CRAFT CLASSES – CATHEDRAL WINDOW –

Make a lovely pillow or table runner using a "Charm Pack" with instructor Cori Aten!

Dec. 3 @ 2pm @ The Palace of Art and Theater

### LIVE ON STAGE – OCOTILLO –

A fun and festive live concert featuring Cindy on the cello and Robert on mandolin and guitar!

Dec. 9 @ 7pm @ The Palace of Art and Theater

### CRAFTING CLASSES – SNOWMEN WREATHS –

Join Instructor Kathleen Johnston in crafting snowmen wreaths out of yarn and a snowman wire!

Dec. 10 @ 1pm @ The Palace of Art and Theater

### MATINEE MY WAY – THE POLAR EXPRESS –

A movie showing where the lights are turned up, the sound is turned down, and you are free to be yourself!

Dec. 23 @ 10am @ Willcox Historic Theater

# THE HAT

By Kali Prudler

It's not about the shape of your hat  
If it's tacoed or curled, or just plain out flat  
It's the content of heart  
The character under your brim  
It ain't bout' your hair  
Or your mustaches trim  
It's not a style of clothes  
It's the style of life  
It's tending to cattle before the first light  
Chore's aren't over after work  
We're stretching barbed wire  
Til' our hands blister and hurt  
It's not just riding the horse  
It's to guide him without force  
Pushing cattle under a dripping sky  
And appreciating the view while birds soar and fly  
It ain't always acting tough  
It's knowing when to let down your bluff  
It's bowing your head at the table  
And thanking God that you're able  
It's sitting in the barn on a brutal cold night  
Nursing orphaned calves in the pale moonlight  
It's not about the shape of your hat  
If it's tacoed or curled, or just plain out flat

In September 2022, the Willcox Art Commission held a community wide competition for Western Poetry. Participants were invited to submit "original pieces of any style or genre of poetry on a theme of western life, broadly understood". From 14 entries, "The Hat", by Kali Prudler, was awarded the top prize, with a \$50 reward.

My names Kali Prudler and I'm 16 years old, I've lived on our ranch about my whole life. I wrote this poem last year, I wrote it in an attempt to bring more attention to everything it takes to be a cowboy. People seem to have their own ideas of what makes a cowboy whether it's what they wear or how they talk. But it takes a lot more than a southern accent to make a hand.

-Kali Prudler







Rebranding effects many aspects of a business, including interior design and maintenance. Read about our theater building's renovations on page 6!

## REBRANDING

### A BEHIND - THE - SCENES LOOK AT WILLCOX THEATER AND ARTS BY JOSH ALLRED

Do you ever wake up in the morning and spend a lot of time trying to figure out what to wear? How you look is a big part of your identity! The same is true for any business, and we at Willcox Theater and Arts thought it was high time for a change of clothes!

If you have read an issue of the High Desert Palette before, visited our Facebook page, or been to our locations, you may have noticed some changes. For example, our logo now incorporates updated font choices and a colorful look to do our exciting activities and programs justice. We have even begun to implement those same fonts and colors to our interior design to help make us stand out and brighten up our space for our patrons!

We hope you like the new look! Keep your eyes peeled to spot the changes we make to our look as we continue to grow and expand.



"Making changes to a logo and visual elements of a business is a big deal, and isn't done without a lot of planning. When preparing to make changes, members of the staff first met with the Board of Willcox Theater and Arts to discuss the mission and purpose of WTA and to gather direction for the design process as a group. Once notes were taken and a clearer vision was had, I sat down to begin brainstorming how to represent the goals of WTA visually.

It's common, and a good practice, to spend some time drawing out ideas with pencil and paper before working with design software to design the images that will be used in everything from Facebook posts to booklet designs. The task of rebranding for WTA was a process to experimenting with ideas, working through revisions provided by fellow staff members, and repeating the process until everyone was happy with a final result. Sometimes the first idea is the best idea, but there is no way to know unless you experiment!"

-Josh Allred

# JUMP OUT THERE

By Josh Allred



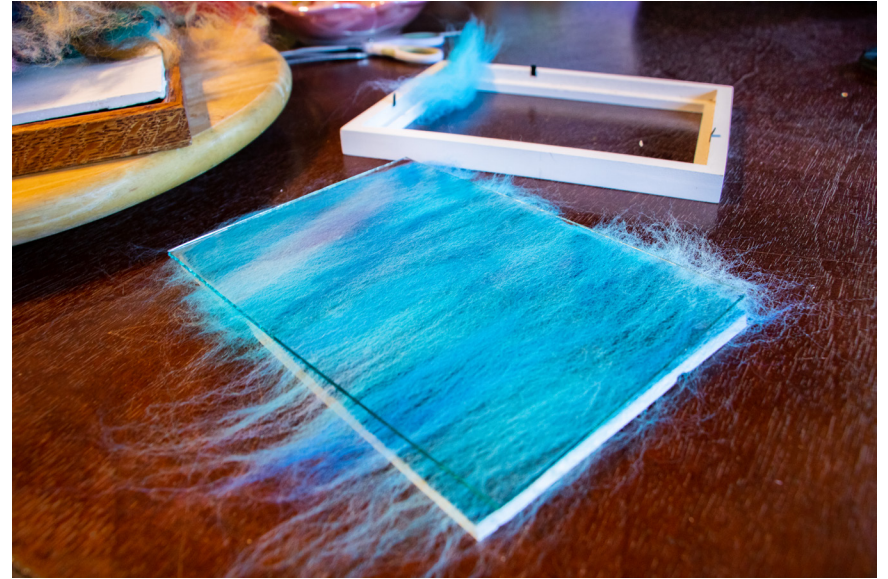
Marilynn has had many opportunities to jump out there! From living on a farm in Alaska, homeschooling her nine children, and discovering her love for art, she has been an example of living unafraid and enjoying the process of learning.

## A Vacation from Real Life

Among the goats and other animals on Marilyn's Alaskan farm were Shetland Sheep. Sheep whose wool needed to be routinely sheared to keep them cool in the summer and reduce the risk of parasitic infestation

and disease. What better use for a sheep's spare wool than colorful works of art?

While living in Alaska, Marilyn met some ladies who were more than willing to share their love for wool based arts and crafts with their new friend. "I met some ladies and they were all talking about spinning and wool and knitting and stuff and I'm like, 'Well, I have a whole attic full of wool and I'm not quite sure what to do with it!'" Exposed as a candidate for wool related hobbies, she was quickly pulled along to a retreat where she discovered the art of wool



painting through a class being held at the event.

Wool painting is the practice of arranging fibers of different colored wool on a backing and placing glass over the finished piece. The weight of the glass presses the layers of wool together, creating an image with unique texture and bright colors.

Marilynn was almost immediately hooked. "I was just sucked into it. All the cares - I have nine children and I was

homeschooling and I was doing all that - all of that went away. I was sucked into my picture and really enjoyed the little vacation from real life."

**I was just sucked into it. All the cares - I have nine children and I was homeschooling and I was doing all that - all of that went away. I was sucked into my picture and really enjoyed the little vacation from real life."**

Want to see some finished wool paintings by Marilyn? Check out her work on page 31!



It was in 2014 when Marilyn began selling her wool paintings. Having already been involved in a farmers market, she had an audience to present her work to. "I was selling strawberries at a farmers market and I decided to take a couple of the pictures I had made. And I sold one! That's encouragement to keep going because you see their face and they get very excited about something that's unique and apparently colorful and beautiful enough that they want to hang it in their home!"

### Learning What Works

Though Marilyn's artistic journey saw its start in wool painting, she has jumped into the exploration of many art media, including the creation of various forms of books.

Combining her talent for wool painting, she would first provide personalized artwork for notebook covers. "I started out by putting paintings I had done as my covers. So then I could sell them on Amazon."

True to so many small business owners, she learned how to offer her work for sale on her own, learning here and there what works and what doesn't. For example, she found that just because her notebooks didn't immediately sell, didn't mean they weren't any good. "I can order author copies, which is a funny name for something with no words inside, but I can order those and then sell them at my booths. That's a good test, because if they're not selling online you think, 'ah, well, I must not have made anything

really pretty.' But, when people see them in front of me they're like, 'Ooh, I love your designs!' And so then you're like, 'Ok, well that's not it, I just don't keyword well."

Marilynn became more and more confident in making books, advancing to designing more complex and unique page designs for recipe card books, teacher oriented books such as a scissor skill book and handwriting books, and eventually illustrated children's books.

### The Process of Learning

Creatives the world over can take a page from Marilyn's book

**Jump out there. Don't wait until it's perfect, because a whole bunch of people get slowed down trying to wait until they are a certain level with their art or a certain level with their books before they try to get some things out there."**

when thinking about getting into a certain artistic medium or trying to start a small business."Jump out there. Don't wait until it's perfect, because a whole bunch of people get slowed down trying to wait until they are a certain level with their art or a certain level with their books before they try to get some things out there."

She believes a person shouldn't be ashamed of the process of learning a skill or afraid of putting out products that don't necessarily meet a personal standard. "I have 100 low content - just lined books - on Amazon. I don't bring them all to my booths because they aren't all that good! I was learning designing. I was learning what was going to work."

"It seems like there's always another thing to learn, so you've really got to enjoy the process of learning." Today Marilyn continues her work in wool painting and illustrating children's books, all the while jumping into new interests in the form of water color and acrylic painting.

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# ARIZONA SKY AND LAND

In September, 2022, Willcox Theater and Arts hosted a project to create a banner featuring community taken photos highlighting the beauty of Willcox and the surrounding area! With the help of the Willcox Arts Commission, the many submissions we received were narrowed down to a selection now displayed in our Heritage Courtyard. Enjoy some of the submissions on the next two pages!



Dos Cabazas - Sandee Garrido



Willcox Arts  
Commission  
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Home Ranch windmills - Tina Thompson



Indian Bread Rocks Recreation Area - Sandra Laden



Summer Rain - Kay Sea



Willcox Beauty - J Lopez



Home Ranch windmills - Tina Thompson



Mountain Shower - Tracey Wilson



Photos depict the 40th Annual Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame Banquet held September 29th, 2022.

# IT'S THE PEOPLE

**By Eddie Browning**

In 1983, Ellen Clark was the director of the Willcox Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. Carl Clapp, the renowned artist from Casa Grande, but with roots in Willcox, approached her with the idea of starting a Cowboy Hall of Fame. The timing was perfect, as the leaders of Willcox were looking for ways to define our community.

Leaders were asking, "What makes Willcox special?" The answer was always, "It's the people." The idea of a Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame seemed like a perfect fit. Ellen said, "Carl Clapp provided the initial energy to put this wonderful idea in motion." Ellen's first phone call was to long time rancher, J.E. Browning, to gain his support of the idea, and with Mr. Browning on board, the work began.

The first dinner was scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 1983, as part of a Founders Day event. Six local ranchers were identified to be the Charter Members, and Mr. Clapp agreed to paint their portraits. The Willcox Packing House provided

the steaks, long time public works director, Freddie Romero, tended the grill, Ellen did the baked potatoes and beans and Carol Parsons Dunagan, helped make the salads.

Held in the Willcox Community Center, the original seating chart shows there were about 250 tickets sold at \$12.00 each. Loren Price, Chamber President, was the Master of Ceremonies and presented the stories to the overflow crowd.

In 1986, the Cowboy Hall of Fame dinner was moved to be held on the Thursday of Rex Allen Days and became the opening event for the weekend of activities. From 1983 – 1994, the Cowboy Hall of Fame portraits were displayed in the Museum of the Southwest, which was part of the Willcox Visitors' Center on Circle I Road. In 1994, with Dorman Brown, President of the Rex Allen Museum Board of Directors, an agreement was signed for the portraits to be on loan to the Rex Allen Museum and displayed to the satisfaction of the Chamber and Carl Clapp.

The year of 2022 marks the 40th anniversary of the Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame. We have inducted 124 members representing all phases of the cattle industry. And yes, forty years later the dinner still features steak, beans, baked potatoes and a salad all while honoring our rich heritage.

# THANK YOU

Willcox Theater and Arts thanks the following individuals, foundations, businesses, and government agencies who are supporting our programming during the 2021-2022 Season.

## SUSTAINING BENEFACTOR

Linda Drew, John Cropper, Jerry Sunderland, Legacy Foundation of Southeast AZ, Ron Berry, AARP, Arizona Complete Health, Andrew and Audra Terry, Cienega Ranch, Bowie Pecan, Inc, Calvin and Susan Allred, Arizona Community Foundation, Bootheel Foundation, Valley TeleCom Group, Willcox West Fest, Empire Southwest

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# NORTHERN COCHISE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

TMC HEALTH

## ART LOOK

Featured are wool paintings by Marilyn Methven! Read more about the artist and her work on page 18.

artbymarilynn



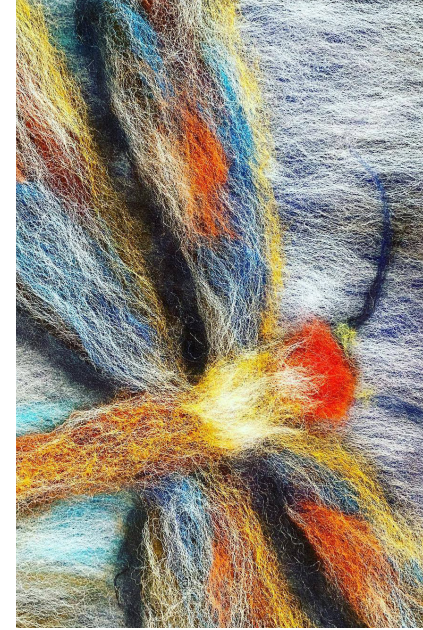
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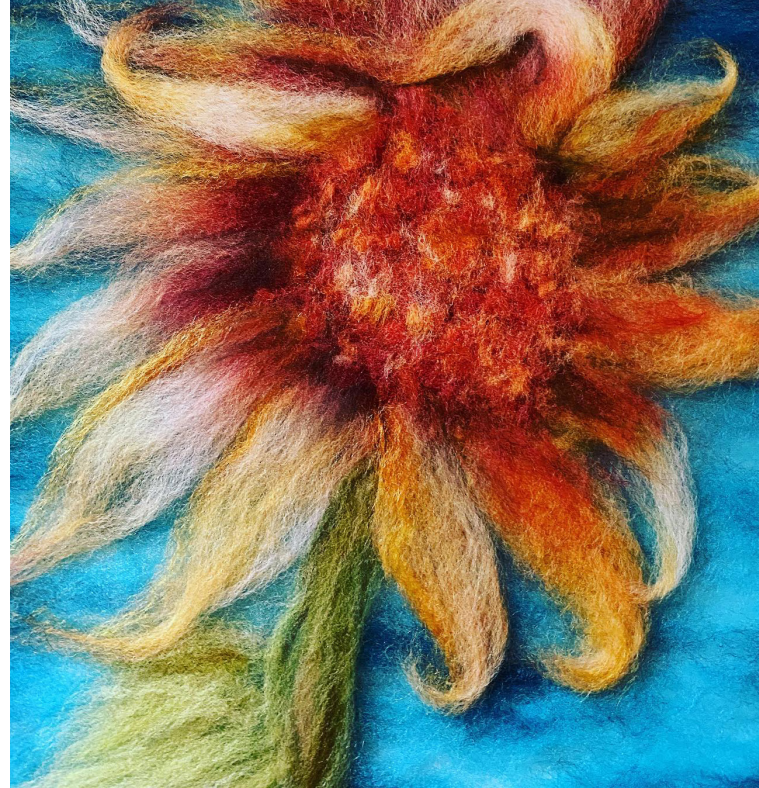
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*The High Desert Palette* welcomes contributions that highlight creativity and creative people in Southeastern Arizona. We seek to explore the creative impulse, showcase creative product and inspire creatives in all fields. Original contributions in artistic and/or creative fields and articles or feature interviews with the people who create them will be accepted. Let us know of creative individuals we might highlight in future issues.

Please contact *The High Desert Palette* at 520-766-3335 or [willcoxtheater@gmail.com](mailto:willcoxtheater@gmail.com) to discuss your ideas.







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