



# Folk Talk

A Newsletter for the Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

Vol. 37 Issue 2

October 2025

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## Nancy K. Dillon in Concert

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Sat. Oct. 18, 2025, 7:30 pm  
All Saints' Episcopal Church

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We are thrilled to present **Nancy K. Dillon** for our October 18 concert. A songwriter, performer, and visual artist, Nancy comes to us from Seattle. She writes compellingly, poetically, and sometimes mysteriously, finding inspiration in dreams and traveling across the landscapes of the western U.S. Her family heritage in Ireland, Scotland, Europe, and Britain provides rich inspiration and little known facts, like her father fighting in the WW2 Battle of the Bulge, and her 7th great-grand-uncle in Scotland writing a treatise called *Lex Rex* ("the law is king") upon which the 2nd Amendment was based. Nancy grew up in central Oklahoma surrounded by music. With her father being a composer, professor, jazz saxophonist, and church choir director, and her mother a former vocal teacher, it is not surprise that her talent blossomed. She performed in roots-based bands and was a backing vocalist and session singer until she decided to focus on songwriting in the new millennium. Her songs explore her American roots as well as her ancestral Celtic roots.

A veteran Tumbleweed performer, she has three full length CDs and an EP, as well as singles, all available on Bandcamp. Her 2018 CD, *A Game of Swans*, debuted in the Top 20 of the Folk Alliance Folk Radio Chart. It was subsequently released in Europe and the UK where it received extensive air play. A fourth album *Cawker City Blues*, is scheduled for release this year.

Nancy K. Dillon performs for 3RFS on Saturday, October 18, 7:30 pm, at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave, in Richland. Park in the back and enter through the basement. Tickets (\$20 general, \$15 for 3RFS members) can be purchased at the door or online at <https://3rfs.org/concerts-2/>

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## President's Pen by Gene Carbaugh

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For the 29th year, the Tumbleweed Music Festival again brought together musicians, audiences and volunteers in a joyful time of music, reflection, recreation, and community. While there is always room for improvements, I am constantly amazed at how it all seems to come together just in time. The weather even reasonably cooperated – a bit warm, but no wind, no rain, and no smoke! Thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen from the sound crews, the kitchen and hospitality staff, the emcees, the button sellers, the Info Boot staff, home stays hosts, and the many hands who did set-up, maintenance, and take-down. So many unsung heroes to make the festival happen! A special thanks goes to Katrina Knight and her Festival Planning Team that worked since last October to organize and facilitate the event. Also worthy of special acknowledgment are Dave Carson who handled the online technical aspects of registering and presenting performers, songwriting contest applicants, and vendors, and let's not forget Micki Perry, the heart and conscience of the festival program. Lastly, it was with fond but bittersweet memories that we bid farewell and rest in peace to the memories of Dan Maher and Chris Mesford who did so much for Tumbleweed since the very first festival. Dan's unswerving dedication to the festival was memorialized in a tribute and the official naming of the Dan Maher North Stage. Chris Mesford's vision of food and beverage hospitality for performers and volunteers was commemorated with the founding of the Chris Mesford Hospitality Suite in the Community Center.

With the festival now past, we begin our annual season of monthly sing-alongs, coffee houses, and concerts. These activities offer opportunities for our amateur musicians and singers to hone their skills in group activities, experience open-mic performances,

and witness professional musicians exhibiting their talents. All in a relaxed and open environment. The details for these upcoming events can be found in this newsletter and on our website

There is a continuing need for people to work behind the scenes to keep 3RFS viable. Here are three areas where additional help is needed: 1) a backup driver and equipment handler to transport Frank Cuta and his sound system to and from our monthly concerts. You don't need to run the equipment, just help with moving it, setting it up, and returning it (and Frank) to his Red Mountain home after the concert. Frank has a van that carries the equipment, but his visual disability requires a "roadie". 2) Producers for concerts handle some of the advance arrangements, set-up and take down of the concert hospitality snacks, introduce the performer, and emcee the announcements. 3) Tumbleweed planning committee volunteers who will meet by zoom on a monthly, biweekly, then weekly basis during the year to envision, organize, and make key decisions on the upcoming 30th Tumbleweed Music Festival. Hopefully one or more of these needs will tickle your fancy and lead you to contact me at 509-946-0504 or [president@3rfs.net](mailto:president@3rfs.net) and express your interest. We need you!

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## We Mourn Matt Hammer

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One of our local musicians, Matt Hammer, passed away on August 19. Matt was a veteran performer at Tumbleweed, Riverfest, 3RFS concerts, and coffee houses. He was a legendary Alaskan musician, capturing the grandeur of Alaska and its history in his songwriting and performances of "Colonel Vaughn" and "Serum Run". His humor was never more apparent than in his musical imitations of famous performers (e.g., Elvis, Neil Diamond, Johnny Cash, others) doing such songs as "I'm a Little Tea Pot". Matt will be sorely missed in our community, and our hearts go out to his wife, Lona.

## 29 Years and Counting

by Katrina Knight

The 29th Tumbleweed Music Festival went well, and everyone had a good time despite the heat. As always, we had a great bunch of performers, including both old friends and new. Friday night's concert started us off with an interesting group of performers. Sadly, some of the bands we originally chose and looked forward to hearing couldn't make it due to health or other issues. We're hoping they'll all be able to come next year. Saturday and Sunday's full schedule of performances filled our stages and workshop areas with a wide range of acoustic music. Saturday, we heard a great bunch of songs from the finalists in the Jane Titland Memorial Songwriting Contest, and later in the afternoon we held a tribute to our late friend Dan Maher on the newly renamed "Dan Maher North Stage." Saturday night's concert headliners were [The Geoducks](#), [Deb Seymour](#), and [William Pint & Felicia Dale](#). They all did a great job! The festival ended on Sunday with our themed concert featuring a variety of performers doing

their "Play Time!" songs and a fun contra dance featuring music from Banna Damhsa with calling by Joseph Erhard-Hudson.

By the time you read this, video of both the Dan Maher tribute and the Saturday evening concert should be available at our website.

<https://tumbleweedfest.com>

We're already thinking about ideas to make next year's festival even better, but we desperately need more people to make it happen. If you'd like to join next year's planning committee, please contact me at (509)587-3060 or [tumbleweedchair@gmail.com](mailto:tumbleweedchair@gmail.com).

No experience is necessary, just a willingness to help make the festival happen.

## Local Trio to Perform

Fri. Oct. 10, 2025, 7 pm

All Saints' Episcopal Church

October's coffeehouse features a trio of local musicians who are joining forces for an evening of acoustic music. It will feature music selections that have influenced all performers and is sure to entertain as well as inspire.

LJ Da Corsi is a retired Director of Public Works for the City of Prosser. A proud veteran of the United States Coast Guard, he and his wife, Kimberly Starr, share a blended family of four grown children (one deceased) and are blessed with five grandchildren—four girls and one boy. LJ picked up the guitar at age 14, with Ride Captain, Ride by Blues Image as his very first song. A self-taught musician who is still learning and growing, he explores a wide range of genres including rock, soft rock, folk, country, Christian gospel, old-time gospel, bluegrass, old-time fiddle backup, Broadway, jazz, swing, and western swing.

In addition to performing as an occasional pit musician at the Princess Theatre in Prosser, LJ has been part of successful groups such as Travelin' Shoes (old-time gospel) and Private Reserve Jazz (Broadway and popular jazz), a five-piece combo that included his wife Kimberly, as lead vocalist. These days, he can often be found in spirited jam sessions with fellow musicians Alan Page, and Prosser pickers Mike Means and Paul Nicodemus.

Kimberly A. Starr's first performance was as a tightrope walker in her kindergarten class circus, sparking a lifelong passion for theatre and music.

She holds a BA in Theatre from Whitman College and an MA in Theatre Production from CWU, has taught theatre at the high school and college levels, worked both on and off stage for numerous theatre productions, performed as lead singer for Private Reserve, a local jazz combo, as well as singing at private and public functions. She's thrilled to perform tonight with her husband, LJ, and other talented musicians.

Alan Page (perhaps a "talented musician") is a freelance whisky drinker and is looking to pad his retirement income from tonight's coffeehouse (so give generously). He also drums with a local band and once tried out for Drum Major in high school. Not being chosen led him to years of playing the saxophone through high school and college. He eventually gave the saxophone away to the neighbor kids and picked up the guitar and percussion instruments. He continues to learn and explore music and is looking forward to tonight.

## Wanted: New 3RFS Info Flyer

Our tri-fold 3RFS info flyer is now several years old and needs revision to be more eye-catching and relevant. Have you ever wanted to try your hand at creating a brochure? We could use a visually-artistic person to take our very wordy flyer and revise it to something with eye-catching pictures and briefer writing. Might that person be you? Contact Gene Carbaugh ([president@3rfs.net](mailto:president@3rfs.net)) with your interest.

## Jane Titland Memorial Songwriting Contest Winners Announced

This year's Jane Titland Memorial Songwriting Contest took place on Saturday afternoon at Tumbleweed. The winners were:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** Patrice Webb: *Let's Go Riding*

**2nd Place** Katie Fitz: *Playtime*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** Peter Rothbart: *Play Time*

**People's Choice:**

Peter Rothbart: *Play Time*

We congratulate the winners and all our contestants who submitted such a variety of interesting songs. You can hear all the finalists performing their songs as part of our virtual festival at <https://tumbleweedfest.com>.

*Folk Talk* is published monthly August through May by the Three Rivers Folklife Society.

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P.O. Box 1098, Richland, WA 99352

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## Introducing the New Editor

by Katrina Knight

As some of you know, I've been doing too many jobs for 3RFS and thus, we've been searching for a new newsletter editor. I'm happy to tell you that we've found a good one. As of the last newsletter, I've turned the job of editing over to Jacob Keffer. He is enthusiastic and off to a great start, particularly since he got a bit of a trial by fire by starting with the biggest newsletter of the year.

I want to give you all a bit of an introduction to him. Jacob grew up in Cleveland, Ohio where his parents introduced him to a wide variety of music and art, including great folk singers like Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Leonard Cohen, and many more. His family instilled in him a strong mindset for supporting the arts as well as the needs and lifestyles of "the common folk." He played percussion in orchestras for over a decade. He also loves the outdoors, including fishing, hiking, camping and exploring nature. He fell in love with chemistry at a young age, studied energy materials during his undergraduate and Masters degrees, and continues to do research on batteries at PNNL.

## Riverfest 2025

Sat. Oct. 4, 2025, 10 am to 3 pm  
Columbia Park, Kennewick

### Main Stage Performances:

10:20 [Trillium-239](#) - In Dedication to Matt Hammer

11:00 Colville Indians perform

12:40 [Maddysen Hope](#)

1:25 [Hank Cramer and Michelle Cameron](#)

2:00 Colville Indians perform

Businesses, community organizations, and people of all walks of life throughout the region have joined together to host RiverFest 2025. RiverFest is a FREE, fun, and educational family event, featuring exhibitors, vendors, and entertainment to showcase all the benefits of the Columbia River Power System and highlight the four lower Snake River dams including navigation, irrigation, recreation and power. People of all ages will find something fun to do and learn about at RiverFest! To learn more, go to their website:  
<https://riverfestwa.com/>

## Folk Events

### October

3	First Friday Free For All	7 pm	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
4	Riverfest	10 am - 3 pm	Columbia Park, Kennewick
10	3RFS Coffeehouse - LJ Da Corsi, Kimberly A. Starr, Alan Page	7 pm	All Saints', Richland
11	Second Saturday Sea Singalong	7 pm	Round Table Pizza, Richland
13	3RFS Board Meeting	7 pm	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
18	3RFS Concert - Nancy K. Dillon	7:30 pm	All Saints', Richland

### November

		Sat-Sun	
7	First Friday Free For All	7 pm	Niel Kierulff's, West Richland
8	Second Saturday Sea Singalong	7 pm	Round Table Pizza, Richland
8-9	Fall Folk Festival The Spokane Folklore Society		Spokane Community College
10	3RFS Board Meeting	7 pm	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
14	3RFS Coffeehouse - Maddysen Hope	7 pm	All Saints', Richland
15	3RFS Concert - Heidi Muller & Bob Webb	7:30 pm	All Saints', Richland
23	Songwriters in the Round	7 pm	Princess Theatre, Prosser
24-26	FallSong Festival (Portland Folk Music Society)	Fri-Sun	Online via PFMS

Gene Carbaugh's - 803 Birch Ave., Richland  
Niel Kierulff's - 4191 Maple Lane, West Richland  
All Saints' Episcopal Church - 1322 Kimball Ave, Richland  
Round Table Pizza - 1435 George Washington Way, Richland  
Princess Theatre Green Room - 1228 Meade Ave, Prosser  
The Lair, Spokane Comm. Coll. - 1810 N Greene Street, Spokane, WA 99217

## First Friday Singalongs

Fri. Oct. 3, 2025, 7 pm  
803 Birch Ave., Richland

Fri. Nov. 7, 2025, 7 pm  
4191 Maple Lane, West Richland

Join us every First Friday for the Folkie Free For All (FFFFFA) at which we each get to pick a song for the group to sing, or do as a solo, or request someone else to do, or just pass and let the next person select. We meet at 7 pm and usually go around the group twice, then break for some snacks and return for another round of songs, wrapping up about 9:30 or so. For those with instruments, this is a great time to practice accompanying yourself and others as we sing. Beginners are most welcome. The venue rotates each month between homes. Our October 3 Free For All will be at Gene Carbaugh's home.

November 7 will be at Niel Kierulff's. Think of your favorite song and make it a request!

## Second Saturday Singalongs

Fri. Oct. 3, 2025, 7 pm  
803 Birch Ave., Richland

Fri. Nov. 7, 2025, 7 pm  
4191 Maple Lane, West Richland

Every Second Saturday is the Sea Song Singalong (SSSSS) at Round Table Pizza on George Washington Way in Richland. The food portion begins with ordering pizza at 6pm, allowing a half-hour or so to eat, then music begins sometime after 6:30. Strictly ad hoc in format, someone starts (or requests) a song, and everyone joins in. No planks to walk or rigging to climb, just tune up your vocal chords and pitch in.

**YES!**

**I want to help 3RFS and  
the Tumbleweed Music  
Festival roll on!**

I would like to contribute at this level:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1000.00  
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\_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

☐ Please keep my gift anonymous (Donor names will be listed in next year's programe unless you indicate you wish to remain anonymous).

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Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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## Membership Application

*Your membership gives you voting rights in the Folklife elections, discounts on events, and is tax deductible.*

\_\_\_ Individual (\$20) or \_\_\_ Family (\$25) Renewal? Y / N

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please send Folk Talk: US Mail** ☐ **and/or Email** ☐

**I can help 3RFS with:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments at concerts    | <input type="checkbox"/> Setting up chairs   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taking admission at events  | <input type="checkbox"/> Folding Newsletters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrating folk arts     | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership          |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising         |

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*Presents...*

**Call 509 947-6735 for information**

## **Nancy K. Dillon**

*Saturday, October 18th, 2025 @ 7:30 pm*

*All Saints' Episcopal Church*

*1322 Kimball Ave, Richland*

*Tickets at the door or purchased in advance at*

*<https://3rfs.org/concerts-2/>*

*\$20 general admission / \$15 3RFS Members*



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### **Songwriters in the Round:**

**Brad Keeler, Lyle Morse, and Patrice Webb**

**Thursday, October 23th, 2025 @ 7 pm**

**Princess Theatre Green Room**

**1228 Meade Avenue, Prosser**

**Tickets \$15**

**<https://prosserprincess.ludus.com/index.php>**



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## **Coffeehouse - LJ Da Corsi, Kimberly A, Starr, Alan Page**

**Friday, October 10th, 2025 @ 7 pm**

**All Saints' Episcopal Church**

**1322 Kimball Ave, Richland**

**\$10 general admission / \$8 3RFS Members**

