



Folk Talk

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

Vol. 37 Issue 4

December 2025

The Whateverly Brothers

Sun. Dec. 14, 2025, 3 pm
All Saints' Episcopal Church

Get ready for some seasonal cheer as we welcome the [Whateverly Brothers](#) at a new time and date from our normal concerts. They will be appearing on Sunday, December 14th at 3 pm. At the same venue: All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave., Richland.

In case you are unfamiliar with the Whateverly Brothers, they are a maritime-themed group who does MUCH more, and for this concert, they will pull from their Yuletide Concert repertoire, from their yearly December Seattle event. They consistently delight audiences with their shimmering harmonies, striking arrangements, and offbeat humor.

Starting as a mainly maritime music band over twelve years ago, The Whateverly Brothers have broadened their repertoire considerably. Original member Dan Roberts plays guitar, mountain dulcimer, and mandolin, and sings bass. Chris Glanister came in early with a fine tenor voice, tenor banjo, cittern, whistle, mandolin, and, more recently, guitar. Their newest member, Bill Murlin, has a strong background in folk music and is a Woody Guthrie enthusiast and researcher. He has performed with several groups at the Tumbleweed Music Festival and is no stranger to the Tri-Cities folk music scene. He has recently moved from Portland to Seattle and is excited to join the Bros.



With the Whateverly Brothers, you can expect a variety of genres, varied instrumental textures, tight harmonies, and madcap humor. They have performed at almost every Tumbleweed Festival; Chris is the regular soundman at our physical North Stage.

You can preview their music and personalities on YouTube or Facebook by looking up their radio show, Fortnight of Doom.

"The Whateverly's are really a power group, tight, expressive and on target. Great job at Tumbleweed. These guys have way too much fun."

– Chris Lunn (Founder, Victory Music)

President's Pen by Gene Carbaugh

When the holiday season comes around, the Carbaugh household looks forward to it with joy and thanksgiving. One of our traditions is sending our Christmas cards and the infamous Christmas newsletter. The newsletter is one of our ways of reflecting on how we have been blessed this past year and on how we have occasionally had to deal with unexpected events. Looking back on 2025, our most unexpected event (tragic, bittersweet and blessing, all together) was Dan Maher's diagnosis of terminal cancer during his stay with us the first week in January, followed by his entrusting of his Seeing Eye dog KC, to us when he could no longer provide for KC's care – almost five months later to the day from the diagnosis. Yes, we miss Dan's music, friendship, and enthusiasm tremendously. But we have found KC to be a total delight and blessing to us, as in his retirement from a full-time service dog, he has learned to be a dog at heart. No longer under the "do not touch, pet, or talk to" restrictions of a service animal, he enthusiastically greets, plays, and races with every dog he can and enjoys people and kids of all ages.

He has taken up folk dancing and regularly attends 3RFS coffee houses and concerts. Dan blessed us in a way I'm sure he never realized he would, and we are ever so thankful for it.

Never let it be said that things slow down for 3RFS during the holiday season. Our second weekend of December is unusually full this year, with three back-to-back events. The Friday night coffee house on December 12th, the Second Saturday Singalong on December 13th, and the monthly concert featuring the Whateverly Brothers on Sunday afternoon, Dec 14th. Yes, Sunday afternoon is an odd time for a 3RFS concert, but sometimes dates and schedules just have to pile up.

In November, planning for the 2026 Tumbleweed Music Festival began. We have an excellent planning committee under the leadership of Katrina Knight, remotely operating from Baltimore, Maryland, thanks to Zoom. This will be the 30th year of the festival, and Katrina says it will be a joyously memorable event. Now is a good time to think about how you might be involved in the festival planning. This festival can't happen without the support of a hundred-plus volunteers.

As you prepare for the holidays, may your hearts and lives be blessed, and may you recognize the unexpected blessings that come your way. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year.

What's Up at The Princess Theatre in Prosser?

The Common Folk concert series at the Princess Theater, co-sponsored by 3RFS is on temporary hiatus due to the holiday season schedule of events. Meanwhile, our own 3RFS president, Gene Carbaugh, has a principal role as the on-stage narrator in the Princess Theater's production of "[A Christmas Story – The Musical](#)" which runs Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday matinees for two weekends, December 12-21. Support your president (and the Princess) by seeing the classic story of the boy who strives to get the coveted Christmas gift of a Red Ryder BB rifle ("You'll shoot your eye out, kid!").

Christmas Gift Ideas

With the holiday season just around the corner, how about some 3RFS items as stocking stuffers or presents? For the music lover, there is our own 2-CD set "Front Row Seat" featuring live performances from past 3RFS concerts. At \$15, it's a really good deal featuring a smorgasbord of our favorite performers. We also have two song books, *Rise Up Singing*, and *Rise Again*, which are heavily used at our sing-alongs. And there is our Tumbleweed Music Festival branded merchandise, including t-shirts, hats, fans, and earrings. Maybe even grab some free buttons to decorate your tree or use as stocking stuffer. We'll have merchandise at the December 14th concert, so plan on picking something up for those special someones. Or, Contact Gene Carbaugh (509-946-0504) if you'd like to buy something but can't make the concert.



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folktalk@3rfs.net

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Looking Towards Tumbleweed #30

by **Katrina Knight**

Preparations for the 2026 **Tumbleweed Music Festival** are already underway. The planning committee is having meetings and working on making sure our 30th festival is a special one. We've reserved our space in the park for September 4-6. We've also turned in our grant application for funding from the City of Richland's Hotel/Motel Tax. We have some exciting plans that we are hoping to get additional grant money to support. (More on that later if we get the money.)

We've chosen the theme, "Tumbleweed: 30 Years By The River". Entry applications for the logo contest are available on the new site. The 2026 performer and song-writing contest applications are now available at the festival website. By the time you read this, the logo contest and vendor applications should be there as well. Please spread the word to anyone you think might be interested.

The next planning committee meeting will be at 6:30 pm on December 15, via Zoom. If you'd like to be more involved, we'd love to have you join us! Contact me at tumbleweedchair@gmail.com or (509) 587-3060 if you're interested. We welcome new people and new ideas, and there are plenty of jobs, large and small, to be done. We particularly need a volunteer coordinator, people to be in charge of merchandise and other sales at the info booth, and someone to take charge of set-up and teardown. Putting on a good festival (and we believe that's what we have) is only possible with the help of a whole group of volunteers. Unfortunately, many of our long-time volunteers are aging, and we need some new blood to take over for them.

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) with your interest.

3RFS Concert Season Features

Some of the Best-Loved Performers in the Northwest

by **Frank Cuta**

Get ready for the dynamite lineup that 3RFS has put together for you in the coming months. If you are a regular attender of our shows, you already love most of these old friends, so you might as well put a red circle around the third Saturday of every month, then sail on down to All Saints' around 7:20 pm each respective evening. This year, all of our concerts will be at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Richland, and with only 2 exceptions, they will start at 7:30 pm.

On November 15th, we had Heidi Muller and Bob Webb. Heidi's strong, sensitive lyrics and warm voice are unforgettable, and we hope you enjoyed the performance. Our concert on December 14th with the Whateverly Brothers is one of the calendar exceptions as it is on a Sunday and starts earlier at 3:00 PM. Dan Roberts, Chris Glanester, and Bill Murlin will bring a blend of tight harmonies, clever arrangements, and a touch of offbeat humor to the stage. Then join us on January 17th for an evening with the **Blue Ribbon Tea Co.** Bill and Kathy Kostelec offer us heartfelt, authentic music with real depth and sometimes a little grit.

You will not want to miss our fundraiser concert for the Tumbleweed Festival on February 21st with **Trilium-239**. Our homegrown acoustic trio of Janet Humphrey, Mary Hartman, and Michelle Cameron blends cello, guitar, and banjo with strong harmonies. Their music is known for its not-so-subtle social commentary and humor. On March 21st we are inviting **Hank Cramer** to do a "real" concert for us. Which is unusual because it can be hard to tie Hank down and get him to take money. He donates an extraordinary amount of his time and energy to supporting other musicians and causes. Known for his deep bass voice and broad repertoire, he often weaves history and music together and is often joined on stage by many other Northwest musicians. On April 18th, Blues return to the Tri-Cities with the seasoned acoustic guitar and vocals of **Michael "Hawkeye" Herman**. He has been gone too long. When the Hawk is in town, you can also count on getting a traditional blues workshop.

In May, we have 2 concerts. The first is on May 2nd with [Sofia Talvik](#). Sofia performs folk and Americana music with Nordic influences. Then, on May 16th, we will welcome again to our stage the rich vocals and versatile guitar playing of [Tracy Spring](#). Her music blends elements of blues, swing, jazz, and folk. This May concert will be offered free to members as it is held in conjunction with our annual membership meeting. But stay tuned in! A songwriting workshop with Tracy is also very likely.

Lastly, what did you think of this preview of our upcoming 3 Rivers concerts? Also, we are starting to look at booking the 2026-2027 season, and we would love to know who you would like to see on our stage! Contact at frank@cuta.net

First Friday Folkie Free For All

Fri. Dec. 5, 2025, 7 pm
210 Somerset St., Richland

The December First Friday Folkie Free For All is Friday (of course), Dec 5th, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Bill Darke, 210 Somerset St, Richland. Join the fun as we will likely include some favorite Christmas or seasonal songs, or any other song you might wish to lead or request. The format is to go around the circle with each person having an opportunity to request or lead a group song, do a solo, or even request someone else to do a song. Yes, you can pass to the next person, but, seriously, you surely have a favorite song you'd like to hear us do, right?! Instruments enthusiastically welcomed, but not required.

Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong

Sat. Dec. 13, 2025, 6:30 pm
Round Table Pizza, Richland

Attention all hands. Braving the December weather, the Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong will be December 13th at the usual location – Round Table Pizza on George Washington Way in Richland. Order your pizza at 6 pm and begin the nautical and Yuletide singing festivities around 6:30 or so. Can you think of a nautical Christmas song besides "I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In...?" Thankfully, we aren't limited to just sea songs at this event, so come join in the celebration of the holiday season!

Folk Events Calendar

December

5	First Friday Free For All	7 pm	Bill Darke's, Richland
8	3RFS Board Meeting	7 pm	Bob Lewis', Richland
12	3RFS Coffeehouse Featuring David Prince	7 pm	All Saints', Richland
13	Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong	6 pm	Round Table Pizza, Richland
14	3RFS Concert - Whateverly Bros.	3 pm	All Saints', Richland
15	Tumbleweed Planning Comm. Mtg.	6:30 pm	Online via Zoom
15	First Night of Hanukkah Light the Hannukiah!		
24	Christmas Eve Remember milk and Cookies for Santa!		
25	Merry Christmas!		
26	Kwanza & Boxing Day		
31	New Year's Eve		

January

1	Happy New Year!		
2	First Friday Free For All	7 pm	Lona Hammer's, Kennewick
9	Coffee House - TBA	7 pm	All Saints', Richland
10	Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong	6 pm	Round Table Pizza, Richland
12	3RFS Board Meeting	7 pm	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
17	3RFS Concert - Blue Ribbon Tea Co.	7:30 pm	All Saints', Richland
19	Tumbleweed Planning Comm. Mtg.	6:30 pm	Online via Zoom

Gene Carbaugh's - 803 Birch Ave., Richland
Bill Darke's - 210 Somerset st., Richland
Bob Lewis' - 2954 Crosswater Loop, Richland
All Saints' Episcopal Church - 1322 Kimball Ave, Richland
Round Table Pizza - 1435 George Washington Way, Richland
Lona Hammer's - 2200 W. 8th Pl., Kennewick

Coffeehouse Featuring David Prince

Fri. Dec. 12, 2025, 7 pm
All Saints' Episcopal Church

[David Prince](#) is a Richland local with roots in Illinois and Texas. A former music teacher, he has performed in many rock and country bands. David plays in Dr. Rock & the Sturgeons, a local rock band, and continues to perform as a solo artist. He also provides aome vocals for The KCD Band, a Texas band frontlined by a good friend of his, Casey Stainslaw.

We are very excited to host David, and cannot wait to hear some amazing rock/country tunes at our next Coffeehouse at All Saints'!

A healthy man,
indeed, is the
complement of the
seasons, and in
winter, summer is in
his heart.
- "A Winter Walk",
Henry David
Thoreau

YES!

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

I would like to contribute at this level:

_____ \$1000.00
_____ \$250.00
_____ \$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).

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____



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 _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

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

The Whateverly Brothers

Sunday, December 14th, 2025 @ 3 pm

All Saints' Episcopal Church

1322 Kimball Ave, Richland

*Tickets at the door or purchased in advance at
www.3rfs.org/concert.htm*

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



Coffeehouse - David Prince

Friday, December 12th, 2025 @ 7 pm

All Saints' Episcopal Church

1322 Kimball Ave, Richland

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



*Come in from the cold and cozy
up with some warm drinks and
warm tunes!*