



# Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

Vol. 37 Issue 7

March 2026



— RICHLAND, WASHINGTON —

## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Tumbleweed Festival Logo Selected

The Tumbleweed Music Festival is delighted to announce that Randi Vaughan, of Gartock Creative, in Charleston, West Virginia, has won the 2026 Tumbleweed Logo Contest!

Randi has won the \$150.00 prize, and her logo will be used on all Tumbleweed PR materials and T-Shirts for this year's festival.

We had contest entries from Washington, Oregon, Alberta, Canada, and The Philippines. All these artists are to be congratulated for and be proud of their fine designs, and we thank them for their efforts.

You may see more of Randi's graphic design at her website for [Gartock Creative](#).



## Hank Cramer In Concert

Saturday, March 21, 7:30 PM  
All Saints' Episcopal Church

[Hank Cramer](#), one of our most requested performers, will be in concert at All Saints Episcopal Church on Saturday, March 21, beginning at 7:30 PM.

Based out of Winthrop, Washington, in the heart of the North Cascades, Hank's repertoire is rumored to include hundreds (if not thousands) of songs, covering the gamut of cowboy, nautical, Celtic (both Irish and Scots), martial, and Americana music. Whether it's a love song about a cowboy for his horse (or is it really an allegory for his lost love?), a rousing sea shanty, a ballad of an injured knight seeking healing from a witch of the moors, or a memorial to fallen comrades, Hank brings passion and ethos to all he sings. His guitar is the perfect accompaniment to his rich bass voice. Hank's background covers

the gamut from underground mining, Army officer and paratrooper, 9-1-1 emergency communicator, deepwater sailor, and high-country outfitter wrangler. His love of history and desire to educate, combined with his life experiences, brings a real sense of authenticity to his musical interpretations and formal presentations. Those passions have led him to presentations such as "Northwest History in Story and Song" for Elder-Hostel, "Music Along the Oregon Trail" at the National Historic Oregon Trail Center, and founding two specialized music education programs, Sea Shanty Camp and Cowboy Song and Poetry Camp. His list of notable venues reads like a who's where of the American folk music world including Humanities Washington, Buffalo Bill Historic Center (Cody, Wyoming), the High Desert Museum (Bend, Oregon), the National Maritime Historic Park (San Francisco), the Maritime Museum of British Columbia, the USS Constellation (Baltimore), and Grays Harbor Historic Seaport (Aberdeen, Washington). More recently, he has been providing on-board music and history presentations to cruise ship tours of the Columbia River. And let's not forget our very own Tumbleweed Music Festival, at which Hank has performed for almost all of our 29 years of staging. We are indeed fortunate to again have Hank Cramer performing for 3RFS. Don't miss it. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at <https://3rfs.org/concerts-2>, for \$20 general admission or \$15 for 3RFS members. Saturday, March 21, 7:30 pm at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave. Richland. Park in back and enter through the basement. The concert will be in the sanctuary. Don't miss it!

## President's Pen by [Gene Carbaugh](#)

March brings St. Patrick's Day (March 17) and airs of Irish culture, especially

music. You can bet our First Friday and Second Saturday singalongs will be well-flavored with Irish songs, and Hank Cramer can be counted on to present some Irish and Celtic music at his concert. This past year I read Thomas Cahill's short book, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, and developed a new appreciation for St. Patrick and the role of Celtic Christianity. The story of St. Patrick ridding Ireland of snakes is pure legend, but his role in helping preserve learning and knowledge during the dark ages of continental Europe is fact. So, on Tuesday, March 17, I'll be toasting St. Pat and probably even break out my 50-year old green leisure suit in celebration.

March is also the time when our nominating committee (Frank Cuta) actively begins seeking candidates for our annual election of officers and members-at-large, which is two months off at the annual meeting in May. Consider this an opportunity to help provide direction to 3RFS through the monthly board meetings that oversee and facilitate the various programs we hold. Most of our board members have been serving for several years, and while committed to their ongoing roles, would not be at all offended by finding that others would like to step into their places. I, for one, will be retiring as

President and Vice-President Jim Kelly has also indicated he will be retiring this year. We have four member-at-large positions that fill out the board in addition to the Secretary and Treasurer officers. Our board meetings are held on the second Monday of the month and are open to anyone interested in attending. See the calendar for date, location, and time. Come and see how we operate and how you might so easily fit in! Or contact either [Frank Cuta](#) or me regarding opportunities to serve. Without ongoing new leadership, organizations wither and die.

### Carrie Damstedt returns to the Coffeehouse in March

Friday, March 13, 7 PM  
All Saints' Episcopal Church

Carrie Damstedt, previously performing as Dorothy Sted, is a local singer-songwriter. She's been writing music for over ten years, using what's happened in life to create lyrics that reflect the experiences and emotions she's had. She loves being able to craft words and sound into meaningful product."

Coffeehouse admission is \$8 for 3RFS members/\$10 for non-members and the show starts at 7 PM with an open mic. Come early if you would like to sign up for a performance slot. The coffeehouse is hosted at the All Saints' Episcopal Church at 1322 Kimball Avenue in Richland.

### First Friday Folkie Free For All

Friday, March 6, 7 pm  
Niel & Cheryle Kierulff's home

Friday, April 4, 7 pm  
Bill Darke's home

Sure and begorrah, but 'tis time for the Irish songs as we raise our voices at the March 6 First Friday Folkie Free For All, which will be at Niel and Cheryle Kierulff's home, 4101 Maple Lane in West Richland, beginning at 7 PM. Our usual format allows everyone at least two or even three chances to pick a song for the group to sing, or do a solo, or ask someone to do a specific song. And a friendly reminder to put on your calendar the April 3 FFFFFA at Bill Darke's home, 210 Somerset St, in Richland.

### Second Saturday Singalong

Saturday, March 14, 6 PM  
Round Table Pizza, Richland

March 14 at Round Table Pizza for our monthly Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong (SSSSS). Nautical music is the focus, but our songs will stretch from the high seas to the Highlands and from mermaids to sweet colleens. Bring your sweeties, voices, and instruments. Food begins at 6 PM with singing about 6:45. No nautical or music experience required, just a desire to make and enjoy music.

### Membership Renewal

Are you aware of your membership status? Our membership runs for 12-months from when you paid. You can conveniently renew online (<https://3rfs.org/participate/>) or by mailing in your membership form. Member dues are only \$20 (Individual) or \$25 (Family). Members pay discounted admission prices to events and have the satisfaction of knowing they are supporting local folklife events. If you're not sure of your membership status or expiration, send an email to [communications@3rfs.net](mailto:communications@3rfs.net).

### Tumbleweed News by Katrina Knight

Planning for this year's Tumbleweed continues. We've selected our logo for this year (see page 1). The planning committee has been meeting regularly to plan and discuss how we can improve the festival. Do you have ideas for improvements? If so, either contact me, or better yet, join the planning committee. We have some new members this year, but we can always use some more help, both with ideas and with actions. I know that when it comes to volunteers, I sound like a broken record. (Remember those? They've made a come-back in recent years.) It continues to be true that we can't continue to put on a good festival without help. We really need one or more people willing to take on the tasks of recruiting and scheduling volunteers, and we could use more management help in the Info Booth, as well as someone to take charge of setup and teardown. General volunteers to work at the festival are important as well.

Folk Talk is published monthly August through May by the [Three Rivers Folklife Society](#).

Editing and Production: Katrina Knight

Original Design: Theresa Grate

Send items of interest to:

[newsletter@3rfs.net](mailto:newsletter@3rfs.net)

Send memberships to:

3RFS Membership

P.O. Box1098, Richland, WA 99352

#### 3RFS 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Gene Carbaugh, President 509-946-0504  
Jim Kelly, Vice President 509 521-8368  
Frank Cuta, Secretary 509-967-2658  
Steve Ghan, Treasurer 509-308-9023

Tumbleweed Coordinator -  
Katrina Knight 509-587-3060

Members at Large:  
Katrina Knight 509-587-3060  
Bob Lewis 509-374-7520  
Alan Page 509-308-3574  
Scott Woodside 509-205-1125

3RFS Info: [www.3rfs.org](http://www.3rfs.org) 509-946-0504  
(Gene Carbaugh)

Applications for [food vendors](#) and [arts and crafts vendors](#) opened at the beginning of the year and we've already received a few. Please spread the word to vendors you know of or come across who you think would be a good fit. We want to have a good mix of returning and new vendors and word of mouth is a great way to spread the word and attract new vendors. Food vendors who serve affordable meals are particularly desirable.

Spreading the word that we are accepting [performer applications](#) until April 20 would also be helpful. We've gotten some really interesting applications so far, from near and far. We'd love to continue adding more variety to our performances. We've made progress in getting a greater variety of acts over the past few years. My goal is for everyone who comes to the festival to find performers they feel a connection with. We need more younger artists performing in genres that are attractive to younger audience members, including both children and younger adults. Performances representing a greater variety of ethnic styles would be great too. Do you know musicians or dancers who might be interested? Please tell them about Tumbleweed and encourage them to apply.

### Tumbleweed Website Problems Under Repair- by David Carson

In mid-January, something happened to cause our festival website, [tumbleweedfest.com](http://tumbleweedfest.com), to become unavailable due to an expired security certificate (the registration that allows for secure connections to sites). When that was sorted out, and the site was again available, something happened that reset the contents of the site to the middle of 2025.

Our folks at Artmil Design, who did the initial site design and currently host the site, were unable to find hide nor hair of the many, many files that were changed or added after that time, and that has meant that I have spent quite a few hours reconstructing the site to be about the 2026 festival, and not 2025.

That process is ongoing. All applications (and their online versions) are now for this year's festival, and I have begun reconstructing the other pages (mostly the "Past Tumbleweed Festival" pages) to match.

## Folk Events

### March

<b>6</b>	First Friday Folkie Free For All	7:00 pm Fri	Niel Kierulff's, West Richland
<b>9</b>	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
<b>13</b>	3RFS Coffeehouse with Carrie Damstedt	7:00 pm Fri	All Saints', Richland
<b>14</b>	Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
<b>16</b>	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	6:30 pm Mon	Zoom
<b>21</b>	Hank Cramer Concert	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints', Richland

### April

<b>3</b>	First Friday Folkie Free For All	7:00 pm Fri	Bill Darke's, West Richland
<b>10</b>	3RFS Coffeehouse with Jim Coleman	7:00 pm Fri	All Saints', Richland
<b>11</b>	Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
<b>13</b>	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
<b>16</b>	Community Lecture: Wes Weddell "Going from Story to Song"	7:00 pm Thur	Richland Library
<b>20</b>	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	6:30 pm Mon	Zoom
<b>28</b>	Hawkeye Herman Concert	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints', Richland

### May

<b>2</b>	Sofia Talvik concert	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints', Richland
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All Saints' = All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave., Richland  
 Bill Darke's = 210 Somerset St., Richland  
 Gene Carbaugh's = 803 Birch Ave., Richland  
 Niel Kierulff's = 4191 Maple Lane, West Richland  
 Richland Library = 955 Northgate Drive, Richland  
 Round Table Pizza = corner of George Washington Way and Torbett St, Richland

So, I'd invite all of you to please take a run through the site and, if you find any particularly egregious errors, let me know. You may send your comments to [davidmcarson14@gmail.com](mailto:davidmcarson14@gmail.com). Thanks!

last week of the month. Please contact [Katrina Knight](#) (509-587-3060) for details. Katrina edited our newsletter for several years and has agreed fill in on a short-term basis. Our need is immediate.

### Wanted (Needed!!!): Folk Talk Editor

We have an immediate need for a new Folk Talk newsletter editor. This is a really important position in our organization because Folk Talk is our primary source of information and communication of our activities and events to our members, website, and public. The editor is not expected to be the article writer, but does need the skills to organize, compile, edit for grammar and appearance, and submit the computer files to our printer by the

### Events To Travel To

Singtime Frolics 2026 will be a weekend of singing and harmonies, of sing-alongs, and of shared songs. It takes place March 27-29 at Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in Corbett, Oregon, high above the Columbia River Gorge. To register or for additional information, go to: [Portlandfolkmusic.org/singtime](http://Portlandfolkmusic.org/singtime).

# 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 program unless you indicate you wish to remain anonymous.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



## Membership Application

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send Folk Talk (choose one) US Mail**  **Email**  **Both**

**I can help 3RFS with:**

- Refreshments at concerts
- Taking admission at events
- Serve on Board of Directors
- Demonstrating folk arts
- Setting up chairs
- Folding newsletters
- Publicity
- Membership
- Fund raising

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