



Contributed / The Wicked Bees

The Wicked Bees band members include, from left, Clyde Schuman, Andrew Danielson, Isaac Homuth, Andrew Ochoa, Dan Christianson and Dorian Walker.

## New Wicked Bees EP is 'the bee's knees'

Local band celebrating with CD release party, live concert

BY LONNA WHITING  
The Arts Partnership

Local reggae/ska-infused horn band The Wicked Bees got back together in 2023, and one short year later, here they are tooting their own horns to a fresh EP, "Knees."

The upbeat, energetic album is the product of six collaborating musicians ranging in age from 23 to 33, including an electrician, a sound engineer and a few band directors. Current band members are Dan Christianson, Andrew Ochoa, Andrew Danielson, Clyde Schuman, Dorian Walker and Isaac Homuth.

Christianson, 33, is The Wicked Bees frontman and a West Fargo Public Schools band director. As The Wicked Bees' official unofficial media representative, he said he's excited to share "Knees"

with old fans and new at two separate events this week.

"We love ska and reggae, and we can't wait to share this upbeat music with everyone," he said.

A "Knees" CD release party on Thursday starts at 6:30 p.m. at Swing Barrel Brewing Company, 814 Center Ave A, Moorhead, and is open to all ages. For the \$10 entry, attendees get a CD, snacks, games and a live acoustic set.

"We are going to have food, games, a mini acoustic set and more," Christianson said, adding that the CD release party at Swing Barrel is all ages and will include entertainment for all tastes. "You can bring the whole fam to support your local ska band."

Friday night, the band comes out for a live performance at Dempsey's. It's a free show, but 21+,

so families are going to have to leave the kids at home.

Christianson added that he and fellow bandmates are always up for introducing others to the power of music — ska and reggae, to be exact.

"We want people to connect and share a communal experience together through a musical experience. A lot of ska music is upbeat so usually it goes hand in hand with having good clean fun," he said. "We call it the 'Knees EP' because we think it's the bee's knees."

### Buzzing with local art support

"Knees" is made possible in part by local art supporters. As a 2023 Individual Arts Partnership grant recipient, the band received \$1,500 in funding to hire a producer/engineer and record

"The Bees," a five-song EP of original ska/reggae music in a professional studio.

Formerly known as Ska-Skank Redemption, The Wicked Bees are largely influenced by third-wave music like Sublime, as well as classics like The Police and The Beatles. While the group plays popular songs, its has long been drawn to creating original music.

"I think collectively, we have a lot of jazz and r&b in the style of George Clinton and the Parliamentary Funk — anything that's got really well done horn lines with a very in-your-face 'we don't care they're there' feel," Schuman said in a July 2023 interview with The Arts Partnership and The Forum.

In 2011, Ska-Skank Redemption released "Wicked Bees," a move



Contributed / The Arts Partnership

Four of six members of The Wicked Bees are pictured at Brewhalla ahead of a 10th anniversary show in July 2023. Members pictured include, from left, Andrew Ochoa, Clyde Schuman, Andrew Danielson and Dan Christianson. Not pictured: Dorian Walker and Isaac Homuth.

### If you go

**What:** Wicked Bees' 'Knees' EP all-ages CD release party

**When:** 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17

**Where:** Swing Barrel Brewing Company, 814 Center Ave. Suite 1, Moorhead

**Live show:** 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18, at Dempsey's Public House, 226 Broadway N, Fargo; free

that landed them bigger gigs, including at Vans Warped Tour in Shakopee, Minnesota, and Sunshine Music Festival in Willmar, Minnesota. When they were just three weeks old as a band, they opened for popular band Fishbone, and also played a 311

show in Minneapolis.

In September, The Wicked Bees played a gig as part of The Arts Partnership's Community Supported Art program, a three-event series modeled after community supported agriculture.

BEES on B12

## Keeping cabbage in the family

### 200-year-old cabbage cutter handed over to next generation near Frazee

BY KEVIN WALLEVAND  
WDAY

FRAZEE, Minn. — What do families pass on to the next generation? Maybe it's a lefse griddle or krumkake iron.

If you're German, it could be the legacy "cabbage cutter."

In fact, one large family near Frazee is now passing the "sauerkraut-making torch" to the young chefs about to carry on a tradition.

At the Mort and Babe Mortenson farm just east of Frazee, it's not just a family reunion. It's cabbage-cutting and sauer-

kraut-making day.

It feels like Christmas; the Bluetooth speaker plays an old German accordion song as work begins. There is the sound of laughter and a fast-moving slicer.

"We are having a sauerkraut festival with our fifth generation," said Babe Mortenson, a descendant of Henry Enslin.

This crew has been slicing cabbage and making the family sauerkraut recipe since the early 1900s, when Enslin came from Fellbach, Germany, and brought with him a cabbage slicer.

"It means a lot," said Marie Brekken, another descendant.

Henry's grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren now eat the sauerkraut made with that same slicer, now nearly 200 years old.

"We are using the actual kraut cutter that came from our great-great-grandfather," Babe said.

Now the slicer is being passed on to the next generation.

"It is really not about the sauerkraut, it is about getting all of us together," Eric Enslin said.

CABBAGE on B12



Kevin Wallevand / WDAY News

Descendants of Henry Enslin gather at the Edna and Marv Mortenson farm near Frazee to slice cabbage and make sauerkraut with a 200-year old slicer their family brought over from Germany in 1902. The 5th generation is now going to take over the slicer for family sauerkraut making day.

