

Community:

A Regina teenager has found music helps him cope with a medical condition. **Page 3**

Enterprise:

A new business that has expanded to Regina is all about playing games. **Page 10**

Sports

A Regina football star is still in school, but is already being wooed by American universities. **Page 37**

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Regina **SUN** COMMUNITY NEWS

Look out Rory, Colby's here

COURTNEY WAGNER
Regina Sun Community News

Being compared to Regina Elvis impersonator Rory Allen may not make every 16-year-old happy, but for Colby Nargang it does.

Nargang, a Grade 11 student at Sheldon Williams Collegiate, has been singing Elvis tunes since 1999 when he first met Allen. He also enjoys singing Roy Orbison songs.

"They have got the most beautiful voices I have ever heard," says Nargang.

Nargang does not struggle with music, but he does struggle with things like doing up buttons or tying his shoes; this is because he has Williams Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that occurs in approximately one-in-20,000 people. People with Williams are often characterized by having a high interest, and sometimes ability, in music and tend to be quite sociable.

Living with his grandparents Jim and Joyce Nargang since 1999, Colby has been performing for groups and at events regularly, already earning over \$1,000 in the last month.

Jim, a retired city transit driver, says that people have found out about Colby by word of mouth, "everytime he appears, somebody else wants him."

Jim may very well be Colby's number one fan and enjoys not only being a sound man at Colby's performances, but going to Regina Pats' games and car races at Kings Park Speedway with his grandson.

Jim is also the nervous one at the performances. Colby says, "he is kind of shy, but I am not at all." For Colby, performing live is the best, "the bigger the audience the better, that is home to me."

Bullying at school is something Colby faces often, but says, "you can't let it bother you, it will eat you alive." Having great friends helps, too. Colby describes his best friend Ryan as an "awesome friend."

When Colby first met Ryan in Grade 9, Ryan was shy, but Colby has helped him break out of his shell, helping him gain the kind of confidence Colby has himself.

Jim is also protective of Colby. A transit worker for 28 years, he is no stranger to seeing kids get picked on.

"I encountered bullying when driving bus, but I always protected my people."

Jim says that Colby's problems with his peers are a struggle at times; the kids think he should be one way, "but he is not."

One thing Colby has no trouble with, says Jim, is saving his money.

"Colby is really tight with his money," he says, and he saves up to buy things that help him with his music.

"I saved allowance for six months to get an Elvis collection," and now Colby says, "I am thinking about maybe buying a bigger sound system."

Jim says the biggest part of Williams Syndrome is music. He says that someone with Williams Syndrome may be more musically inclined than the average person because their brain responds to the music differently.

Colby says that it doesn't take long for him to memorize a song.

"I can listen to a song six or seven times at the most, then I have it."

It is very obvious that he enjoys what he is doing, too. He performed at Telemiracle last year and had fun doing it. He had a lot of friends in attendance to cheer him on.

You would never imagine the voice that you hear could come



ROY ANTAL / Regina Sun Community News

Colby Nargang really puts his heart into belting out another song in his grandparents' living room

out of a high school student. But it does, and as he starts to sing, his eyes are closed and you can feel the love he has for the music. It's apparent that his grandpa Jim feels it every time, too. He seems amazed at the voice he is hearing, even though it is a voice he has heard many times before.

"I love it," says Colby of living with his grandparents. Jim is always with Colby for his performances and his grandma Joyce comes for some of them. Colby says she doesn't come all the time because she worries and fusses over him too much, something he can't stand.

Although there was a time when Colby could have used some help. At one of his first performances, he was a few songs into his set when a lady finally came up to let him know his zipper was down. Colby laughs at the memory and says that he worked it into his routine, but his grandpa was embarrassed.

Colby doesn't mind at all being compared to Rory Allen, and remembers a time that Allen told him there was room in the city for the both of them. It seems like the people of Regina are starting to find that out too, as more people are booking Colby for shows, some as far ahead as 2005.

Jim says that having Colby live with him has been great, and he enjoys doing things with his grandson.

"I have met so many beautiful people, says Jim, "we have a great life."