

By Michael Stein

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Those two young men, Jonah and Jacob Kletsch, have harnessed their skill and energy to start a new business in rural Rothsay.

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Whether you understand terminology like CAD, CAM, or CNC machining or not, Jonah and Jacob know the ins and outs quite well.

The brothers do machining, fabrication and design using computer integrated technology with machine tools. Those tools include a CNC plasma cutting table, which is used to quickly cut through a various thicknesses of plate style material.

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The resulting precision is incredible, and also essential to the particular material or part they're manufacturing.

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"We used to program code by hand right on the machine," Jonah added. "But now we can send those codes directly to the machine from the CAM software on our desktop computer."

The dream of operating such a business goes back even further for the two Kletsch brothers.

“From a very young age, we were always pretty hard on stuff at our house,” Jonah said. “And when our

“Last February I decided I can do this full time,” Jonah said. “We had the resources and the right people influencing us to make a go of it. And so far it’s been going pretty well.”

Jacob still works full time in Wahpeton, but puts in evenings and weekends at the Kbro shop.

With a website and social media presence, Kbro customers come from most anywhere.

“A lot of business comes from word of mouth,” Jacob said. “That person-to-person interaction still

goes a long way. Sometimes you think of machine shops as being run by grumpy old men. But we take the

“Our goals are good work, fast turnaround and craftsmanship,” Jonah said.

“Another part of our business is creating custom metal signs for businesses or individuals,” Jonah said.

That design skill came in handy when creating their own business logo and sign.

Considering themselves “just a couple kids from Barnesville,” the Kletsch’s say they know it takes a lot of hard work and dedication to come

The four Kletsch brothers still find time to put their collective skills together for another passion.

“One of our main hobbies is snowmobile racing, building the fastest and most durable sleds for when we start up racing again this winter,” Jacob said. “So instead of going out and partying, we get our hands dirty making something together and have a great time doing it.”



Another service offered by Kbro is the design and creation of metal signs.



A vital part of the process in creating precision components, such as Jacob is holding, is computer-aided drafting (CAD), which Jonah demonstrates.

One of the most awaited events of the seasonal changes is the display of colors in the hardwood trees in the fall. There is a lot of gasoline burned every fall by spectators looking at the brightly colored leaves in the Olaf Lake woods or Maplewood State Park. Those are the premier locations but there is also a very colorful display right in town and in the nearby woods.

The leaf display is occurring in stages this fall. Winds and rain pull the leaves from the trees about as fast as they change color. Many trees are bare already. But not everything is changing color at the same time this year. When you look into the deep woods, there is still a lot of green out there.

That green is from leaves still firmly attached to the white and red oak trees. Oaks traditionally change leaf color at about the same time as the rest of the trees but the dark mahogany colored leaves hang on to the branches for a long time before finally dropping.

This year the oaks remain green so far this fall. The trees are likely confused by the late spring and the abundant rainfall. They think the heat may be coming back again. That's the way to hope but it sure ain't the way to bet.

Meanwhile, the other hardwood trees around town and out in the woods are going through their color changes. Gone already and on the ground are the brilliant yellow leaves from the popple, aspen, quakes or poplar trees, whatever you care to call them, they're the same tree.

Depending upon the various species, the maple trees are still putting on a bright display of yellow, gold and brilliant red. The needles on the tamarac trees in the swamps are changing from green to golden before finally falling off. The birch trees hold on to a lot of remaining bright yellow leaves. The ash trees continue to hold some gold leaves but they will drop at the first hint of

If you have not made your annual leaf watching tour yet, you better hurry up. The leaves in the trees have already taken a real beating before high winds, rain and even snow moved in last week. There is still a small show of leaf color available out there but you better look quick.



The fall color display will soon be over as will the summer and Indian summer that we are always promised but never seem to get. What follows the leaf display is something we really don't want to think about yet, but it involves heavy coats, waterproof boots, headgear, lots of white and shovels.

Now where is that travel brochure that we had for Jamaica?



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