

# MASKS continued from page one



Skyla hard at work sewing mask



Several Mask Skyla has made

with the community theater at The Star Theater. Currently, she is in the play "FairyTale Courtroom."

But one of Skyla's latest accomplishments has been donating masks to those in need, but never expected to reach as many people as she has this far.

"I sew each and every mask by myself between working on the dairy farm, even if that means staying up until midnight to get them done," Skyla said.

Skyla has made over 1,200 masks and has reached counties all over Kentucky. She has even sent masks to areas in Ohio.

"I have no intentions of stopping," Skyla said. "Helping people is a passion that was struck in me that I do not see burning out anytime soon. When I started making these masks, even to help one person would have been a blessing, but to watch that number grow is an amazing sight to see."

Skyla has been a blessing to so many people and Russell County is lucky to call her its own.

After high school, Skyla plans on attending college, but is yet undecided on where she will attend. She wants to pursue her dream of becoming a veterinarian.

# SIGNS continued from page one

suggested earning the money with a fundraiser through the community. Jessica Gossage, a teacher and reading specialist at Salem Elementary School, reached out to LouAnn and Brooke when she became aware of the fundraiser and offered to order everything needed at wholesale. This helped in a great way as well.

A GoFundMe account

was started, and money was raised to buy 220 signs for all of the seniors. The GoFundMe account was created Thursday, April 16 around 3 p.m., and by Friday, April 17 at 6 p.m. - just 27 hours later - the goal was reached.

"The Citizens of Russell County are amazing for making this happen," Brooke said.

# EXTENDERS continued from page one



K&A Mask Extender in use.

during a worldwide pandemic whether it's a trip to the grocery store, the bank, or even a doctor's office, most people will be wearing a face mask or face protection of some kind.

This is a new way of living for everyone. Even in doctors' offices where a doctor may not normally wear a mask just for a general checkup is now wearing them full-time. It was brought to attention that the elastic from the face masks were rubbing the back side of the ears of the health care workers.

In Russell County, there have been individuals who are trying to solve this problem.

K&A Custom Woods, a local boutique/custom wood shop, is making mask extenders to donate to healthcare providers first, but also anyone else that may be in need. K&A began with Kathy Hites and her daughter Ambria Hites as a boutique to sell women's clothing.

However, Kathy is always using her mind to come up with creative ideas. This is when K&A Custom Woods began to take place. Kathy and her husband Chris learned how to edit and create beautiful wood engraved pieces. This new venture began in March of 2019, and business has been at an all-time high during holidays such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Christmas.

During the pandemic, business seemed to remain steady. However,

they knew that people had supported them not just from their little town but all over the United States. The Hites family wanted to return the favor.

"Since the Coronavirus became a worldwide issue, we heard the need for mask, and we really wanted to help people," Ambria said.

In the beginning, they were able to get their hands on disposable masks and donated them to whomever was in need.

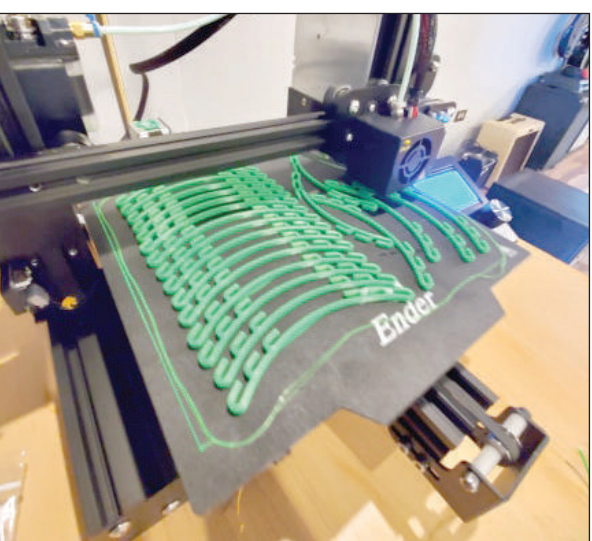
"Dad came up with a design on how to make mask extenders, and instantly mom wanted to get them out to people who needed them," Ambria said.

They have made over 100 extenders and have been giving them away for free. The extenders are made from acrylic, making them very easy to sanitize and clean.

Mark Blasko is new to the community but is also full of passion when it comes to helping those in need.

Mark is the owner of Cumberland Guitars in Jamestown, located right off the square in a building from 1939. According to Mark, this is the only building in the county on the National Historic Registry. Mark is a graduate of Luthiers International, a guitar design and repair school. He was also a Product Specialist for Gibson's brands.

See EXTENDERS, Page 9



Cumberland Guitars show Mask Extenders being made

# Cheers for positivity



Russell County Cheerleaders Staying Positive During COVID19 Pandemic.

# "They are Made for This" Senior Shirts 2020

Cheyenne Popplewell  
The Times Journal

Gift your senior or your adopted senior a t-shirt. Or purchase yourself and others a shirt to show your support for them. The seniors need support now more than ever.

Shirts will be mailed to the senior with a graduation card, small gift, and a note of your choice included in the card.

Shirts are \$20 each and an additional \$3 for sizes 2XL and up. Please email your orders to southernanchorky@gmail.com by May 2 with the number of shirts and the sizing needed. If separate shipments are needed, please note that in the email. When the invoice is received, please change the shipping information to your senior's name and address. Leave your per-

sonalized note with the card note.

The back of the shirt reads as: SENIOR 2020, YOU WERE BORN WHEN THE WORLD WAS GRIEVING OVER 9/11 AND YOU ARE GRADUATING AS THE WORLD GRIEVES A PANDEMIC. ALTHOUGH THE TWO BIGGEST LAUNCHES INTO FREEDOM (BIRTH AND GRADUATION) HAVE TAKEN PLACE

IN THE MIDST OF TRAGEDIES JUST KNOW THAT THE WORLD IS AN AMAZING, LOVING, BEAUTIFUL PLACE AND IT IS WAITING FOR YOU WITH OPEN ARMS. WE GRIEVE WITH YOU THAT YOUR SENIOR YEAR IS ENDING THIS WAY BUT WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW YOU OVERCOME AND SOAR. YOU WERE MADE FOR THIS.

GROW YOUR BUSINESS!

Call Today to place your business advertisement in the Times Journal 866-3191