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Publisher's Perspective

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If you want to navigate around the state fair, there's an app for that

By Tim Douglass, Publisher of the Pope County Tribune

As we round the corner from summer into fall, it's nearly time for the often advertised term, "The Great Minnesota Get Together."

In other words, its time for the Minnesota State Fair. My wife, Kim, and I talk about attending the state fair each year, but we haven't made it a priority since our boys have grown up and moved out of the home.

This year? Maybe.

Which brings me to some news about the state fair for those who walk around looking at their cell phones.

There is a new interactive online map of state fair foods, events and new brews, I'm told in a recent news release.

 Planet Krouton, a Minneapolis-based geospatial technology company, has launched its Minnesota State Fair Wayfinder. This is a free resource to patrons of the Minnesota State Fair and is available at planetkrouton.com/statefair

 According to a recent news release, Planet Krouton marries place data with event data to create temporary mapping visuals for busy events.
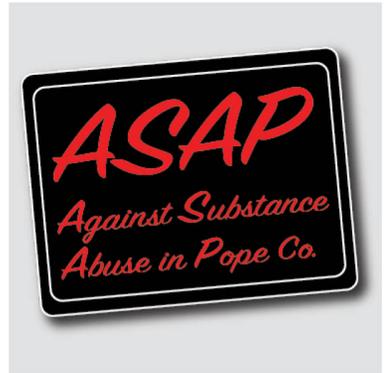
 With the State Fair Wayfinder, patrons have access to a map that has all the new food vendors, new beers and beverages as well as most of the events happening at the many venues during the State Fair.

 "The State Fair is one of the few remaining shared experiences that almost all Minnesotans hold in common. When I am at the fair my pride in being Minnesotan swells from this amazing event that only "we" as Minnesotans understand. The Minnesota State Fair Wayfinder will help people discover new parts of the fair, and make more of their experience," Andrew Harvey, founder of the new app, said in that news release.

Here are a few of the features of this new service:

• Pictures, descriptions, and locations of all of the new foods at the fair.

• The location and names of all new beers and wines available.

• Thousands of events taking place.

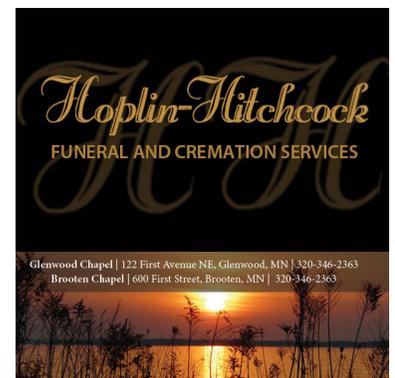• Navigation with estimated walking times to your destination.

Planet Krouton was founded in 2018 by Andrew Harvey, a lifelong geographer and geospatial programming specialist.

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It was nice to visit with new shop owner Nic Helgaas last week. He recently purchased cobbler equipment and opened "The Cobbler's Last," a shoe repair business located next to the Pope County Tribune office at 12 1st Street S.E. in Glenwood.

Nic has been busy since he purchaed the equipment on July 1. The first task was cleaning up and organizing the shop, which was no small task. It took a lot of work and there were a number of nights I saw Nic and a few friends working long after business hours.

All that hard work paid off, however. The new shop is clean, organized and functional. Nic, a 2001 graduate of Minnewaska Area High School, began almost immediately getting orders to repair shoes, boots, purses or whatever needs repairing.

He does have some unclaimed shoes in his possession that he hopes he can match with the owners.

So, if you get the chance, stop by the shop and say hello to Nic. Bring him some repair work or just check out what he can do for you.

It's an old trade, but it's nice to have that trade available to this community.

Who is Pope County Tribune?

The Pope County Tribune has been serving Pope County since 1920. We are the legal newspaper for the city of Glenwood, Minnewaska Area School District and Pope County.

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