

UP TO \$85.15 COUPON SAVINGS INSIDE



WEEKEND | End of an era at Tribune. C1.

WILLMAR, MINN. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 \$2.00

DUELING MINN. APPEARANCES



Brady Slater / Forum News Service
Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden talks with union carpenter Taylor Johnson at the Carpenter Training Center in Hermantown on Friday afternoon.



Jillian Gandsey / Forum News Service
President Donald Trump claps as he approaches the podium at Bemidji Aviation Services on Friday during a stop on his "Great American Comeback" tour.

Biden jabs Trump on COVID-19 response, emphasizes economy

By Brady Slater
Forum News Service
HERMANTOWN, Minn.
Joe Biden didn't give updated positions on copper-nickel mining or Line 3 oil pipeline replacement during a campaign stop in Hermantown, Minnesota, on Friday, Sept. 18, as some would have wanted. But the Democratic presidential nominee, speaking at a carpenters union training center, took on President Donald Trump. In a half-hour speech mostly about blue-collar workers and the middle class, Biden opened by taking down the president's response to COVID-19. "So many lives lost unnecessarily because the president is only worried about the stock market and his re-election," Biden said in front of a crowd of fewer than 50 people, only a portion of them civilian guests and union carpenters — the rest

media, staff and U.S. Secret Service. The crowd was capped at about 50 people due to COVID-19 precautionary standards. The day arrived with a record 50 new cases of the coronavirus in St. Louis County, and a death toll hitting 198,886 nationwide — the highest figure for a country in the world. "If we just wore masks nationwide, we'd save 100,000 lives between now and January," Biden said, citing expert forecasts. "(H)ow many empty chairs around the dinner table, because of his negligence and selfishness." Biden, with running mate Kamala Harris, is vying for the presidency against the Trump-Mike Pence ticket Nov. 3. Matt Companario, an executive director with the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, led

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“So many lives lost unnecessarily (to COVID-19) because the president is only worried about the stock market and his re-election. If we just wore masks nationwide, we'd save 100,000 lives between now and January.”
JOE BIDEN

Trump delivers sprawling speech to thousands at Bemidji rally

By Hannah Olson
Forum News Service
BEMIDJI, Minn.
President Donald Trump spoke before a sea of thousands of red-hatted supporters gathered at Bemidji Aviation Services Friday evening, Sept. 18, coinciding with Joe Biden's Duluth visit and the start of early voting for the North Star State. Trump took the stage just after 6 p.m. after deplaning to fanfare and cheers of "four more years." Throughout his animated and combative speech in the "First City on the Mississippi," themes of police, refugees, jobs, democratic opponents and Social Security loomed large. The president also addressed several Minnesota-specific topics before rolling into some of his usual rally greatest hits. He began his address by mentioning Minnesota's Iron Range, then quickly

moving to Minnesota's relationship with refugees; however, he did not bring up last year's contentious Beltrami County vote. He addressed, "Sleepy Joe's plan to flood your state with refugees." "You know better than almost anybody," Trump said, referencing Minnesota's large Somali refugee population. Trump claimed that Biden supposedly has plans to increase Minnesota's refugee acceptance numbers by 700%. "Congratulations, Minnesota, good luck Minnesota, enjoy yourselves," he said sarcastically to a cacophony of boos. "Your state will be overrun and destroyed." He then moved to address the unrest in Minneapolis, taking an opportunity to blame Minnesota lawmakers for their mishandling of the situation.

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“Sleepy Joe's plan to flood your state with refugees. ... Congratulations, Minnesota, good luck Minnesota, enjoy yourselves. Your state will be overrun and destroyed.”
PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

Quiet protest is start for new anti-hate group in Murdock

Alliance formed to protest arrival this summer of white supremacist group
By Tom Cherveney
tcherveney@wctrib.com
MURDOCK — Carrying lighted candles and a lighted sign, a small group of people strode quietly but surely through residential streets Thursday night in Murdock, an autumn nip in the air. The group of 16 men and women made their way to the sidewalk in front of the former Calvary Lutheran Church, which is now the Third Hof, or gathering hall, of the Asatru Folk Assembly, a small group of pagan white supremacists. The men and women gathered Thursday chose to hold a quiet, candlelight vigil to make it clear that their protest of the arrival



of the Asatru Folk Assembly to this small Swift County community was a peaceful one. But don't expect the newly formed Murdock Area Alliance Against Hate to be silent. Murdock Area Alliance Against Hate holds candlelight vigil. "We have to stand up and say I'm not OK with this and I am not going to wait and see what happens," its organizer, Victoria Guillemard, told the West Central Tribune. The new group's goal, said Guillemard and others, is to speak up and inform people about their concerns about the Asatru Folk Assembly. If people simply stay quiet and welcome the

Tom Cherveney / West Central Tribune

Participants in the candlelight vigil Thursday night in Murdock stop for a photo in front of the KMS Elementary School. They walked through residential streets to the former Calvary Lutheran Church, now the Third Hof of the Asatru Fellowship Assembly, to protest the arrival of the group. Asatru Folk Assembly, it will be free to spread a message of racism in the community and surrounding area, participants in the vigil said. It was just over two months ago that the vigil participants said they learned that the Asatru Folk Assembly had purchased the vacant church building in Murdock. The Asatru Folk Assembly describes itself as "an expression of the native, pre-Christian spirituality of Europe." The group's Statement of Ethics page on its website explicitly calls for community separation along ethnic lines. The new owners of the church building say they

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Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg dies at age 87 from pancreatic cancer

By Lawrence Hurley and Andrew Chung
Reuters
WASHINGTON — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a stalwart liberal on the U.S. Supreme Court since 1993, died Friday at age 87, the court said, giving President Donald Trump a chance to expand its conservative majority with a third appointment at a time of deep divisions in America with a presidential election looming. Ginsburg, a champion of women's rights who became an icon for American liberals, died at her home in Washington of complications from metastatic pancreatic cancer, the court said in a statement. She was surrounded by her family, the court said. Her departure could dramatically alter the ideological balance of the court, which currently has a 5-4 conservative majority, by moving it further to the right. "Our nation has lost a jurist of historic stature," Chief Justice John Roberts said in a statement. "We at the Supreme Court have lost a cherished colleague. Today we mourn, but with confidence that future generations will



Ginsburg

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BIDEN

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a tour, which included welding stations and a volunteer project where carpenter and millwright apprentices are building new boards for the Duluth Heights Youth Hockey rink.

Biden told the crowd that all projects with federal dollars should include American-made materials.

"It can drastically impact the economy of the country," he said.

Biden's arrival in the Northland came one day after he appeared in a nationally broadcast town hall on CNN. During that event he strove to establish himself as a compassionate and stable alternative to Trump.

His visit coincided with the start of early voting in Minnesota and other states across the country. Trump was also campaigning Friday, with a stop in Bemidji, Minnesota.

"We need a president who knows we don't have a shortage of CEOs,

we have a shortage of plumbers and construction workers," Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., said.

Outside the union center, hundreds of Trump and Biden supporters lined busy U.S. Highway 53, flying banners and flags and eliciting honks and a large law enforcement presence.

Peter Sich, 67, of Alborn, Minnesota, sat in a lawn chair along the highway with his friend, Butch Sorenson, 70, of Island Lake, Minnesota.

"We're trying to do all we can do to change the course of our country," Sich said. "I feel strongly that Trump and his administration have mass corruption and is an embarrassment for veterans."

Both Sich and Sorenson enlisted for military service in the 1970s right out of high school.

"I don't think most veterans appreciate being called suckers and losers," Sich said, referencing The Atlantic report this month using unnamed sources to cite Trump disparaging Marines who died in World War I.

Biden's late son, Beau Biden, served in the Army and was deployed for a year in Iraq.

"My son spent a year in Iraq. He wasn't a loser or a sucker; he was a proud patriot," Biden said, before bringing up a well-known grievance the Scranton, Pennsylvania, native has with Trump. "These are the guys who always thought that they were better than me, than us, because they had a lot of money."

Biden's economic plan called for a now-familiar tax increase for people making over \$400,000 per year. Money raised would go toward putting tradespeople to work by modernizing infrastructure, bringing broadband internet to all homes, and reinforcing existing homes and structures.

Biden said his plan calls for millions of buildings and homes leaking energy to be restored to efficiency. He wants to build 1.5 million new affordable housing units, and invest \$100 billion in what he called "crumbling schools." He ripped Trump

for not having plans, and talking big on improving infrastructure while failing to implement a massive infrastructure program.

Biden said he'll invest \$2 trillion in roads and bridges.

"I'll do it without raising taxes," he said. "You have nothing to worry about if you make less than \$400,000. If you make more you'll pay your fair share."

He targeted Fortune 500 businesses that make billions but pay "zero" taxes, and he chided the president for using only the stock market as a metric for American prosperity.

"It's time to reward hard-working Americans and not the wealthy," he said, citing billions of dollars in profits for the most wealthy despite widespread hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic.

After his speech, Biden appeared in Canal Park, meeting residents and talking to children.

Forum News Service reporters Dana Ferguson and Andee Erickson contributed to this report.

Willmar 5-Day Forecast

Table with 5 columns: Morning, Afternoon, Evening, Tomorrow, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Includes temperature, weather icons, and wind speed.

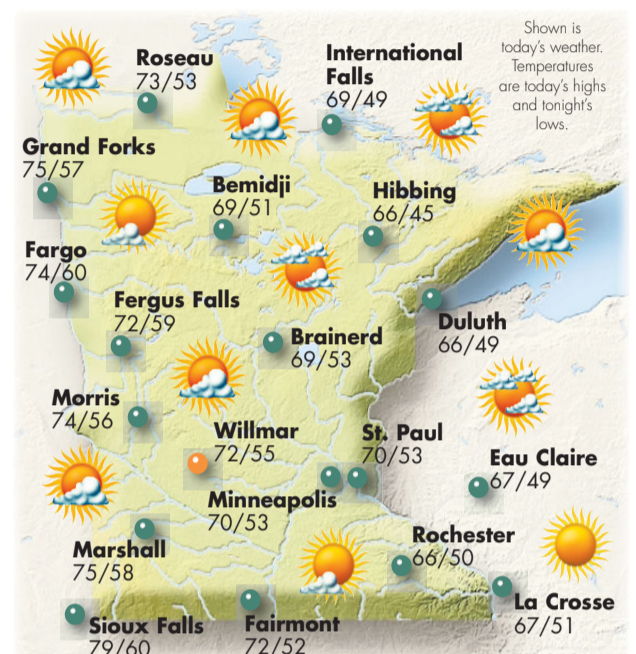
Almanac

Table with 2 columns: Temperature, Precipitation. Includes high/low, record high/low, and 24 hrs to 5 p.m. yest.

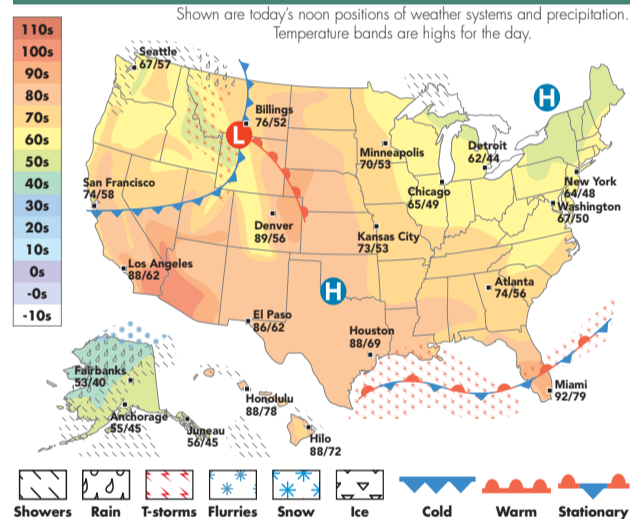
Sun and Moon

Table with 4 columns: Sunrise, Sunset, Moonrise, Moonset. Includes times for today and last.

Regional Weather



National Forecast



National Summary: A large batch of cool air from Canada will control the weather over much of the eastern half of the nation today. The core of the Canadian air will continue to bring the risk of frosts and freezes over the interior Northeast into early next week.

TODAY'S INFO

What's happening?

Do you know of something that might make a good story or photograph for the newspaper? Just give us a call at 320-235-1150, or stop in our office at 2208 Trott Ave. S.W., Willmar.

Corrections

If you have a question about accuracy of information in a news story, please call the news department at 320-235-1150.

If any corrections are necessary, they will be published here.

Lottery results

Winning numbers drawn Friday night are: Daily 3: 6-4-3 Gopher 5: 14-29-33-34-41 Northstar Cash: 9-13-18-23-29 Mega Millions: Numbers were not available at press time.

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TRUMP

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"Ever heard of a place called Minneapolis?" he said. "It's a shame, it's such a shame."

He then mentioned the multitude of signs apparently poking fun at the idea the protests are not subject to COVID-19 gathering restrictions which labeled attendees as "peaceful protesters" or read "this is a protest."

He suggested their gathering might serve as "a protest against stupidity" or one against "Sleepy Joe."

He joked with the crowd about its size, mentioning that he was told on the plane that there was "just a smattering" of people waiting for him.

"We've got a lot of people here," he said, which was met with cheers. "We're outside which actually makes people happy. This doesn't include the 10,000 people

they had to turn away. Sometimes you have Democrats running an airport."

Later in his speech, Trump expressed his support for Line 3.

During the speech, word was received that Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died Friday at age 87. Unless Trump was told prior to deplaning, it seemed he may have been unaware during the speech.

A voice from the crowd shouted, "Ginsburg just died!"

Trump did not make any mention of her passing during his speech, though a vacant Supreme Court seat adds even greater weight to the Nov. 3 election.

Originally, Trump was scheduled to speak in Mosinee, Wisconsin, immediately following the Bemidji event; however, it was held Sept 17 instead and he did not need to end the speech in time to fly to another engagement.

Trump's speech was sprinkled with many of his regular rally talking points: Hillary Clinton's email scandal, to echoes of "lock her up"; on Biden, "Truth is, he's not fit to be president"; a tangent surrounding conservative leaders, historical statues and Abraham Lincoln; and expected shots at Ilhan Omar, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Gov. Tim Walz, all met with boos.

While Trump's speech went into the evening, the day began early for many Great American Comeback Tour attendees.

Due to parking restrictions, attendees were shuttled in from an offsite parking location.

Upon arriving at the airport, attendees waded through entry gates, picked up masks, had their temperatures taken and collected signs upon entry, and went through TSA-style screening. Although free face masks were made available to the attendees at multiple points during

the event, they did not appear to be widely worn once inside.

Announcements indicated only Trump-Pence campaign merchandise would be allowed on the premises and that anyone intending to protest needed to go to a designated protest area.

Once inside, crowds milled around to the tune of patriotic music, as well as Celine Dion, Backstreet Boys and David Bowie. Current state guidelines restrict large gatherings at 250 people. The rally crowd easily passed this tenfold.

The crowd size was the first of many digs at Gov. Walz throughout the evening.

Republican Michelle Fischbach, a candidate for Minnesota's 7th Congressional District, mentioned that while conservatives will have to wait more than two years to try to vote Walz out of office, it'll be worth the wait.

PROTEST

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have been "warmly greeted by the local folk of our new community," according to a post on their Facebook Page, "Baldurshof: Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly."

"People waving and stopping by to welcome us to the neighborhood. It was unbelievable to say the least," the Facebook post states.

Laura Thomas of Benson, who helped organize the Murdock Area Alliance Against Hate, said her research of the Asatru Folk Assembly made her very concerned about the newcomers to town. The Southern Poverty Law Center classifies it as an "extreme hate group," she told those who gathered on Thursday night. The center calls it a white supremacist organization.

The Assembly members have been busy, arriving on weekends to restore the long-vacant building and spruce up its grounds, according to local Murdock residents and the group's Facebook page. Most of the vehicles have out-of-state license plates, mainly from the Dakotas, according to the local residents.

The group says it is not racist, but the group's leader, Matthew Flavel, spoke at a 2018 event that also celebrated what would have been the 100th birthday of George Lincoln Rockwell, according to an earlier report on the group published in the West Central Tribune. Flavel in the speech described Asatru Fellowship Assembly beliefs as

a "white man's religion."

Pam Skoglund was among those carrying the lighted candles Thursday through the streets of Murdock. Her children were all baptized in the Calvary Lutheran Church, where she and her family worshipped until its closing several years ago. "I find it very upsetting, sad, very sad," she said of the church building's purchase by the Asatru Fellowship Assembly.

"It's awful to see that someplace that was there to spread love is encouraging hate," said Karen Falk, also a former member of Calvary Lutheran who joined the candle-light vigil.

Those who joined the vigil said they wanted it known that Murdock is a welcoming community to all people. The Rev. Denise Fossen, pastor of the Kerkhoven Lutheran Church, said she joined the vigil to speak out against those who oppress others.

Guillemard is a law student living with her mother, Annelle, in Murdock, where she grew up. Mother and daughter said they were surprised when they learned about the purchase of the church building. To start the Murdock Area Alliance Against Hate, a group of mothers got together to decide what to do, Victoria said. Their desire, she said, is to keep Murdock as a welcoming and safe community.

Guillemard said the Murdock Area Alliance Against Hate will start its efforts to inform people in the area about the Asatru Folk Assembly by launching its own Facebook page. Her hope is that at some point, the



Tom Cherveny / West Central Tribune Victoria Guillemard helped organize the newly formed Murdock Area Alliance Against Hate to protest the arrival in Murdock of the Asatru Folk Assembly, a small group of pagan white supremacists that bought a vacant church to use as a gathering hall.

group can host an open — and COVID-safe — meeting to provide information about it.

Advertisement for Jennie-O Turkey Store Career Fair. Includes logo, date (Saturday, September 19, 8:00 am to Noon), location (1530 30th St SW, Willmar MN), and contact information.