



INSIDE:
Fall Sports
Spotlight, B4-9

Pioneer Weekender

your weekend starts here

Saturday, September 19, 2020

Unlock digital at bemidjipioneer.com/activate

TRUMP LANDS IN BEMIDJI



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

President speaks to thousands of supporters at airport

By Hannah Olson
holson@bemidjipioneer.com
Bemidji
President Donald Trump spoke before a sea of thousands of red-hatted supporters gathered at Bemidji Aviation Services Friday evening, coinciding with Joe Biden's Duluth visit and the start of early voting for the North Star State. He took the stage just after 6 p.m. after deplaning to fanfare and cheers of "four more years." Throughout his animated and combative speech, themes of police, refugees, jobs, Democratic opponents and social security loomed large. During his visit to the First

City on the Mississippi he 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," he said, and referenced Minnesota's large Somali refugee population. Trump spoke about how Biden supposedly has plans to increase Minnesota's refugee

acceptance numbers by 700 percent. "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. "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 labeled attendees as "peaceful protestors" 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."

TRUMP: Page A12

More coverage inside and online at bemidjipioneer.com

- ▶ Protesters hold rallies of their own, A2
- ▶ Biden visits Duluth for campaign stop, A3
- ▶ 86-year-old Bemidji man gets VIP treatment, A6
- ▶ Bemidji Pioneer reporters checked in from various locations throughout the day on Friday, Sept. 18, covering events related to President Trump's historic visit to Bemidji.

For a visual timeline of the day, including photos, videos and more, visit bemidjipioneer.com.



\$2.00
124 Years Number 53
Copyright 2020

www.bemidjipioneer.com
218-333-9200
news@bemidjipioneer.com

Informing the Bemidji area and North Central Minnesota since 1896

SPORTS.....B1-B2
OBITUARIES.....A9
OPINION.....A4

CLASSIFIEDS.....B10-12
OUTDOORS.....B3
COMMUNITY.....A8

WEATHER.....A3
PUZZLES.....B12



"Cleanliness is very good-very clean."
Shana Driskell - Ward, Arkansas

"Your COVID-19 safety precautions are head and shoulders above the rest of the casinos we visited."
John Demuth - Grand Rapids, MN

NORTHERN LIGHTS
CASINO HOTEL AND EVENT CENTER
WALKER, MN

CEDAR LAKES
CASINO HOTEL
CASS LAKE, MN

Shingobee
SPORTS MARINA
WALKER, MN

WHITE OAK
CASINO
DEER RIVER, MN