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Chicago Tribune

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

FUROR PROMPTS REBUKE

Trump calls racism 'evil' as backlash hits White House over initial response to Va. violence



ALEX BRANDON/AP

BY NOAH BIERMAN
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday answered two days of bipartisan furor over his initial response to deadly protests in Charlottesville, Va., with a new statement for the first time explicitly blaming white supremacists for the “racist violence” over the weekend.

“Racism is evil and those who cause violence in its name are criminals and thugs, including the KKK, neo-Nazis and white supremacists, and other hate groups that are repugnant to

everything we hold dear as Americans,” the president said in a roughly two-minute statement, reading from a teleprompter at the White House.

“To anyone who acted criminally in this weekend’s racist violence, you will be held fully accountable. Justice will be delivered,” Trump added.

The president’s statement was a hastily arranged do-over that implicitly acknowledged the need to stanch the self-inflicted damage his first reaction had caused him and his administration.

Criticism and outrage had continued to build, including

among Republicans, to Trump’s Saturday remarks blaming “many sides” — in effect lumping together for fault the anti-racism counter-protesters with the gun-wielding white supremacy groups Trump declined to name.

The episode has emerged as another defining moment in the young Trump presidency, one in which critics across the political spectrum faulted the president for failing to lead with moral clarity to unify the country amid civil strife. Trump’s initial remarks had prompted stalwart conservatives such as Colorado

Turn to **Trump**, Page 7

Dems call out Rauner for reaction to Virginia

Governor scrambles to call Charlottesville death “domestic terrorism” after criticism of hesitancy to discuss national issues. **Page 6**

■ White supremacist, anti-racist groups see victory in Va. **Page 6**

■ Emanuel adds to criticism of Trump’s delayed response. **Page 7**

Country can no longer act superior

Racism and homicide in Charlottesville show us that America isn’t “better than this.” **Rex W. Huppke**, Page 2



The life, death of a civil rights martyr

Charlottesville victim reminds us to stand up to hatred. **Dahleen Glanton**, Page 7



Special glasses demand seems to eclipse supply

Some scrambling for protective eyewear days before solar event

BY JOHN KEILMAN
Chicago Tribune

Not long ago, it seemed to Melissa Larson that solar eclipse glasses were everywhere — at the Walmart, the Best Buy and all over the internet. Surely she could take her time before she and her husband left for southern Illinois to catch a prime view of this rare cosmic phenomenon.

But a few weeks later, her confidence vanished. Store after store was sold out, and websites were demanding a pirate’s ransom for the glasses — if they had them at all.

So Larson, of Inverness, put a notice on Craigslist on Monday offering to buy two pairs for \$20. As of late afternoon, she had no takers.

“The only thing I can find online are 10-packs,” she said. “That’s ridiculous. Who needs

10 of them?”

Like fidget spinners or flu shots, solar eclipse glasses have become scarce just as demand has reached a frenzy less than a week from Monday’s event. The Chicago Public Library announced it would give away 15,000 pairs, only to be greeted with lines Monday that stretched out the door at some branches.

“If they’re not out already, they won’t be around much longer,” spokesman Patrick Molloy said. “We knew it would be popular, but we didn’t know the demand would be that heavy.”

In Naperville School District 203, the high schools sagely ordered their supply more than a year ago, but other schools are still scrambling to track down the gear. Spokeswoman Michelle Fregoso said administrators are planning to livestream video images of the celestial event for children who

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STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Alejandro Padilla Rodriguez came to the U.S. in 1961 and led a life that included two years in the Army.

IMMIGRATION AT A CROSSROADS

After over 50 years in U.S., veteran aims for citizenship

78-year-old working toward long-held goal of casting a ballot

BY ALISON BOWEN
Chicago Tribune

When he moved to the United States from Mexico more than half a century ago, Alejandro Padilla Rodriguez felt he had two duties. The first was to serve his new country, so he enlisted in the Army. The second was to vote.

After two years of military

service and decades of work ranging from making plastic molds at a Skokie factory to working as a janitor in a Chicago public school, the 78-year-old finally has begun the process of applying for citizenship to be able to cast a ballot.

“People ask me why it took so long,” he said. “Because I’m working and working and working.”

Rodriguez said he has been a permanent legal resident since he arrived in 1961 to join his father, who had emigrated from Monterrey, Mexico, to work at a

factory. Together they were able to earn enough to bring his mother and siblings to the U.S.

While still in Mexico, Rodriguez read some information at a consulate about what life would be like in the United States. He recalled that it explained that becoming a U.S. resident included rights as well as responsibilities, including the duty to serve. He enlisted in the Army in 1962, a year after arriving in Chicago, and was based at Fort Story in Virginia.

Turn to **Veteran**, Page 5

Pop star’s victory could put blame in place

With court win in groping case, Taylor Swift had resources, fame to take on abuse, and her words are meaningful. **Heidi Stevens**, A+E

Tom Skilling’s forecast High 83 Low 67

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