

News

Berks teens stunned by racial violence in Virginia



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People across the country are still shaken from the tragic death and injuries that occurred at a rally protesting the removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from a Charlottesville, Va., park, on Aug. 12.

Heather Heyer, 32, was killed and 19 people were injured when a rally attendee, James A. Fields, drove his car into a crowd of counterprotesters at the event, which drew white nationalists, neo-Nazis and other far-right figures from around the nation, according to news reports. Also, two state troopers assigned to work the rally were killed in a helicopter crash. Fields, 20, has been charged with Heyer's murder.

Abigail White, a senior at Wilson, said, "Personally, it's hard for me to understand how someone could ever think one person is inferior to another because of race. This was an eye-opening experience and it just goes to show that Nazism and racism are still alive in America."

"I hope our country can become unified as a result of this event because that's what I think we need at a time like this," Abigail said.

Ataya Woodard, a junior at Oley Valley, was disgusted with the events that occurred at the protest rally.

"I have no idea where these people got their ideas from or how they are able to hate so much, but I hope that humanity can overcome this and continue to try and take steps forward, instead of backwards, such as what occurred in Charlottesville, Ataya said.

"Never should people be running over and injuring other people simply because they believe something different," she said. "We are not savages."

Haley Richard, also a junior at



READING EAGLE: NATALIE KOLB

River Peterman, 4, of Pottstown was among those at a recent rally in support of Charlottesville, Va., at Pottstown Borough Hall.



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A memorial for Heather Heyer in Charlottesville, Va., who died when a car rammed a group protesting the presence of white supremacists rallying in support of a Confederate monument.

Oley, agreed, saying, "Everyone has a right to their own opinion, but people get out of hand too quickly and let their emotions completely control them. The man who hit those people did a completely awful thing and I am glad that I do not go to school with anyone like him."

Fields' classmates and teachers said he always had an interest in Nazism, according to *The New York Times*.

In a press conference, President Donald Trump condemned the hate and blamed both sides for the violence, which has drawn criticism from citizens, politi-

cians and journalists.

It is sickening that anyone can have so much hate for other people. Since Aug. 12, many vigils have been held throughout the country to support those injured or affected by the violence that occurred in Charlottesville, Va.

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