

| WAY TO GO! |



Dispatcher of the year

Farmville Emergency Communications Dispatcher Michael Driskill has been chosen as this year's Telecommunicator of the Year. According to Farmville Emergency Communications Director Jackie Gilbert, Driskill was nominated by his peers for going above and beyond with accuracy and his attention to detail. "Dispatcher Driskill constantly updates rosters, accessible lists, and departmental forms that are used daily in the center," Gilbert said. "Without these accessible lists, it would delay crucial contact." Driskill worked as a dispatcher for the Town of Farmville from 1975 to 1980. He returned in 2010 serving as a dispatcher for 15 years in all. Pictured are, from left, Crystal Barton, deputy director, Michael Driskill, Jackie Gilbert, communications director and Chris McKay, shift supervisor. (Send "Way to Go!" photos with a description and names to WayToGo@FarmvilleHerald.com.)

| EDITORIAL |

Don't shut out the public

Local governments have a lot to deal with these days. When they ran for office, no candidate thought they would be dealing with the twin issues of a worldwide pandemic and a crashing local economy. It's a daunting doubleheader of dilemmas guaranteed to define the local area this decade. But in this new mode of emergency operation, our leaders should not shut out the public. We have quickly seen many board of supervisors and town councils enact emergency declarations and suspend public comments. Buckingham, Cumberland, Charlotte and Prince Edward county supervisors have offered opportunities for the public to call in and submit comments by email or voicemail. The Farmville Town Council has as well. Other public bodies such as Victoria's Town Council and Lunenburg County's Board of Supervisors do not have any online options for residents stuck at home to keep abreast of what is happening in their town or county. While local governments should be congratulated for quickly adjusting to this new normal and providing online or conference call methods for the public to attend board meetings, it isn't enough to let the public hear what is happening. Boards need to work to provide methods to let residents speak to their elected officials as a board, in real time. Buckingham and Cumberland counties are deciding on potential tax increases in the coming week. The Buckingham County supervisors only had one written public comment on a tax increase that could be as much as 10% more in the coming year. If it had been a typical board meeting, there would have likely been many more citizens there to ask questions and present their opinions. It is a difficult time and challenges are many but, now more than ever, local governments need to work to explain their positions and give residents every opportunity to participate in the process. Boards should utilize technology to take public comments as part of the meeting from citizens who have something to say. Having to interact and respond to questions and comments from citizens during a meeting is a very different dynamic than a citizen writing an email or leaving a voicemail. Hopefully, municipalities will return to meeting in person and taking live public comments in the next three months or so but until then, each board should work to find ways to include public comments in the process. This is not a time to shut the doors on the citizens who need our government leaders to be responsive and effective during this time of uncertainty and crisis.

Falling down the rabbit hole

If I'm not working, sleeping, cooking or dancing, chances are I'm watching videos on YouTube. The video-sharing platform is home to millions of unique content creators, and almost 5 billion videos are watched on the website every day. At least 4 billion of those views are from me.



ASKED AND ANSWERED BY ALEXA MASSEY

There is nothing I enjoy more than going down the "YouTube rabbit hole" as I like to call it. There's something for everybody on the website, whether it's cooking videos, makeup tutorials, music videos, what have you.

One of the best parts of YouTube is that there are countless videos on the site that help you learn something new. Since many people have nothing but free time right now, I thought I would compile a list of just a few things you can learn for free by watching a YouTube video.

- Learn to cook dishes from your favorite books, movies and TV shows

The YouTube channel "Binging with Babish" follows American filmmaker Andrew Rea (alias Oliver Babish) as he teaches you how to make hundreds of famous recipes from popular entertainment. Babish will teach you how to cook the Big Kahuna Burger from *Pulp Fiction*, Turkish Delight from *The Chronicles of Narnia* and, if you're brave enough to make it, Rachel's English Trifle from *Friends*. Some of Babish's recipes border on the ridiculous, but others will leave your entire family wondering where in the world of fiction their delightful dinner came from.

- Learn how to make the world's prettiest soap bars

"Royalty Soaps" is a YouTube channel created by Katie Carson. Carson, the self-proclaimed Duchess of Soaps, runs an extraordinarily successful soap-making business by crafting one of a kind, gorgeous soap "loaves" which she then cuts into individual bars. Carson explains her process from start to finish, including scent oils, dyes, and how to make soap that can only be described as a work of art. Carson also goes into the necessary safety precautions for handling the chemicals involved in soap making. Give her channel a look. I've spent hours watching the Duchess at work.

- Learn about abandoned places

YouTuber Dan Bell has made an online

career exploring abandoned buildings across the country. Several of his episodes have taken place right here in Virginia. Bell's videos document his walks through the nation's abandoned and decaying buildings, many of which have grim backstories. His extremely popular "Dead Mall" series is a great chance to learn about the decline in America's shopping malls as Bell wanders among the ruins of 80s-style shopping centers. Beware that some of Bell's videos are not suitable for

younger viewers. Watch Bell's videos on his channel, "This is Dan Bell."

- Learn about the depths of the ocean

"EVNautilus" is a YouTube channel that will eat up all of your attention. Watch as a deep sea exploration vessel traverses the bottom of the ocean conducting research for the Ocean Exploration Trust. The channel showcases amazing clips as researchers use the exploration vessel to explore the undersea, meet amazing ocean creatures and better understand our blue planet. From the cutest looking cuttlefish to the freakiest sharks, this channel provides entertainment that's both educational and captivating.

- Learn how to build and survive in the wild

If you're an outdoorsy person that every now and again briefly considers wandering into the wilderness and building a hut out of mud and sticks to leave modern society behind, then "Primitive Technology" is the YouTube channel for you. Created by Australian John Plant, the immensely popular series teaches you how to build everything from scratch with no tools or modern conveniences. Plant will teach you how to grind snail shells into a primitive limestone, hunt with a spear and, yes, even build an entire home out of mud and sticks.

There's millions and millions of YouTube videos to discover, with endless opportunities to learn something new. The platform also has a kids app that helps filter age-appropriate clips for younger children. I hope you enjoy falling down the YouTube rabbit hole. I'm going to go build a house out of dirt for fun.

ALEXA MASSEY is a staff reporter for *The Farmville Herald* and Farmville Newsmedia LLC. Her email address is Alexa.Massey@FarmvilleHerald.com.

| YOUR VIEWS |

Fresh Boyz Club did great work

Dear Editor:

Farmville and the surrounding areas are caring communities. This is evidenced by the recent efforts and actions to help the families of this community.

The effort I wish to highlight is the caring response by the Fresh Boyz Club. This organization of young men, led by Louis Gould, III, stepped forward in the early days of the shutdown due to the virus threat in our community and worked tirelessly during the first five to eight days of the COVID19 outbreak and Stay-At-Home orders for Virginians. They did an amazing job.

With the help of community partners such as the Holiday Inn, they were blessed to be able to exceed their goal for the number of families they set out to serve.

The club provided breakfast and lunch on March 16-17 prior to the beginning of delivery of meals by Prince Edward County Public Schools to local families with young people under the age of 18 on March 18.

The Fresh Boyz Club also sponsored and delivered groceries to families that are some of the most vulnerable in our area - those with children, those with limited or no transportation, and those experiencing extreme financial hardship. The groceries were enough to sustain each family for at least two weeks.

I want to personally say, thank you and a job well done.

I hope you will be looking for pictures of these young men on Facebook, in the newspaper, and also see them involved in one of their many other projects during the next few months. If you know one of these young men or their family members, say thank you.

A thank you by phone call, in a letter to the editor of a newspaper, or a card sent to their leader, Louis Gould, III, will go a long way in showing appreciation for the efforts of these young men.

Patsy G. Watson
Farmville

To submit a letter to the editor please email Editor@FarmvilleHerald.com



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Urge county to recycle with STEPS

In the face of COVID-19 uncertainty, STEPS temporarily shut down recycling operations in March. It was a tough decision but one we had to make to assure the safety of our six workers with disabilities.

During our operational hiatus, Prince Edward County has been using an alternate recycling vendor. We understand this. The paper and plastic flow doesn't stop, even for pandemics. We restarted operations June 1, but the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to decide at its June 9 meeting whether to end a decades-old relationship with STEPS.

We pray they will not choose to do so.

What will the loss of the partnership mean for STEPS? Simply, a lower recyclable volume would translate into a permanent loss of jobs for some of our employees with disabilities. These are jobs that mean the world to them.

Prince Edward County, the Town of Farmville, Hampden-Sydney College and others have long worked with STEPS to keep the recycling operation going while aiding our mission to "Move Lives Forward."

STEPS has partnered with Prince Edward County for approximately 21 years. We have done our best to keep costs down for those we serve. Processing fees have not increased since 2012.

Money is always part of the equation,

but there is a human element that is more challenging to quantify. Is it valuable to employ workers with disabilities? We believe so. Value comes in the smiles on their faces, the joy they get earning and spending their own money and witnessing their sense of purpose and self-fulfillment.

Plus, they are doing their part to save the environment in the community they live. They are productive, contributing members of this community. This is inclusion in its most elementary form.

We want to stress that we are part of the Farmville/Prince Edward community. Our corporate headquarters are located here. Our recycling operation is here. Our program services are centered here. We are part of you. You are part of STEPS.

If you reside in Prince Edward County, please consider reaching out to your elected representative and request that STEPS be retained as the recycling processor.

This is quite an emotional topic for STEPS because we are passionate about the right of citizens with disabilities to work. Some of our employees with disabilities have been with STEPS for more than 30 years.

Please, let's keep them working.



YOUR TURN
SHARON HARRUP

SHARON HARRUP is the president & CEO of STEPS Inc. STEPS' corporate offices are located at 225 Industrial Park Road in Farmville. STEPS' footprint spans an 11-county area in Virginia. For more information on any program, call (434) 315-5909.

YOUR VIEWS

Prisoners deserve better

Dear Editor:

The Herald consistently refers to those who have died of the coronavirus in our local prisons merely as "offenders" or "inmates," without any further detail. This is dehumanizing. Because they were unfortunate enough to be actually locked up during the pandemic, rather than merely locked down, their prison sentences wound up being life sentences, and death sentences.

es. Whether they were in for bad checks or something worse, they deserved better.

Instead of defining them namelessly based solely on their worst moments, you might tell us something about them as human beings. Because that's what they were. Lest we forget, they were human beings.

Marcus Pendergrass
Farmville

Gov. should stop pipeline compressor station

Dear Editor:

Gov. Northam made a special address to Virginians on June 2.

He took some action to ease some of the restraints that were in place to control the COVID-19 pandemic. His task was complicated by the social upheaval regarding racial injustice in Virginia, the U.S. and the world. His remarks were the predictable blend of political balm and his hope for calm and unity in Virginia's future and vague hopes to assuage the status of Americans of color. The events that followed the murder of George Floyd were lamented as tragic and in need of major corrections.

If the governor is really sincere in his desire for real justice, then he needs to withdraw his support for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the compressor station in the

Union Hill community. The proper review was quashed by Northam's manipulation of the boards that evaluate such undertakings. The courts found many flaws with the Dominion plan, yet he continues to support this unjust and unneeded project.

There is a long, long history in the U.S. of the poor and people of color being taken advantage of. I believe we can have justice for all in Virginia and the U.S. by putting the welfare of people before that of big corporations and the rich by looking for alternative paths. The country would be stronger by looking after everyone. The purpose of government, I believe, is to foster sensible avenues for society.

Marie Flowers
Buckingham County

Rigglesman thanked for Alzheimer's legislation

Dear Editor:

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the lives of all Americans right now, especially those with underlying chronic conditions.

This includes people living with dementia.

Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month is a critical time to address dementia-related diseases and their impact on families across America. As caregivers, we understand firsthand the impact of dementia. We advocate for those living with dementia because we recognize issues will not be solved unless voices are heard.

Bringing forward our stories and challenges to our legislators helps to create awareness and to establish policies for those who are vulnerable.

Fortunately, Congressman Denver Rigglesman has been a champion in the fight to end Alzheimer's and all dementia, including

co-sponsoring the Improving HOPE for Alzheimer's Act (HR1873-116) to improve care planning for those diagnosed with dementia.

Early diagnosis provides individuals opportunities to maximize time spent engaging in meaningful activities, to interact with important people in their lives, and to allow individuals more time to plan while they are cognitively able to make important legal, financial and end-of-life decisions. It is only through increased awareness and research funding that we will discover new ways to treat Alzheimer's and other dementia.

Please join us in thanking Representative Rigglesman's commitment in the fight to end all dementia.

Lisa Fournier
Ambassador for the Alzheimer's Association, 5th District

EDITORIAL

A new day has come in Farmville

It was encouraging to see area law enforcement officials standing on the Prince Edward County Courthouse steps Monday, June 1, declaring their shock and expressing outrage at the murder of George Floyd during a Monday, May 25, police encounter in Minneapolis.

The words from the group and the emotion from Prince Edward Commonwealth's Attorney Megan Clark, as she proclaimed that this violence against black Americans by law enforcement officials has to stop, were much different than the scene on those same steps almost 57 years earlier.

On Sunday, July 28, 1963, instead of Farmville's police chief standing up and talking about carrying out his duties with respect and integrity for all individuals, the then-chief of police manhandled and dragged young black demonstrators from the steps of Farmville Baptist Church, across the courthouse lawn, and up those same courthouse steps. The crime of the young black people: attempting to attend worship services in Farmville's white churches.

"I remember, I got dragged on my back," Tina Harris vividly recalled of that morning when, as a 13-year-old African American girl, she accessorized her finest beige-and-blue dress with a hat and gloves. Her story is from a publication of the Moton Museum and Longwood University students called, "All Eyes on Prince Edward County." The story was written by Amanda Holmes.

Farmville was on the wrong side of history during the Civil Rights era. It is still known as the place that closed its public schools for five years to keep from desegregating them. Our Moton Museum painstakingly chronicles the sad tale of the county's failures during that chapter of history.

This newspaper was also on the wrong side of history back then, along with town and county leaders, promoting the policies of Massive Resistance and segregation.

Fortunately for all of us, a new day has come. A day when law enforcement officials speak strongly against the inherent racism in our society and this newspaper works to fairly represent every segment of Farmville's community.

Those courthouse steps where the officials stood Monday have seen much progress.

The people who stood there Monday were a diverse group of men and women appalled at what they had seen in other areas of our nation, while ironically standing in the same place where similar events happened only a few decades before.

Their words are evidence that we have changed. Those people speaking to us Monday were not the same as those who dragged black demonstrators into the courthouse for attempting to attend a worship service.

Change has come to Farmville and many other places in America, but there is still so much more change that needs to come.

When our sisters and brothers flinch and fear for their lives when they see blue lights behind them, change needs to come. When our jails are disproportionately filled with black men and women, change needs to come. When a lack of access to health care means a larger percentage of African Americans die from coronavirus than any other demographic, change needs to come.

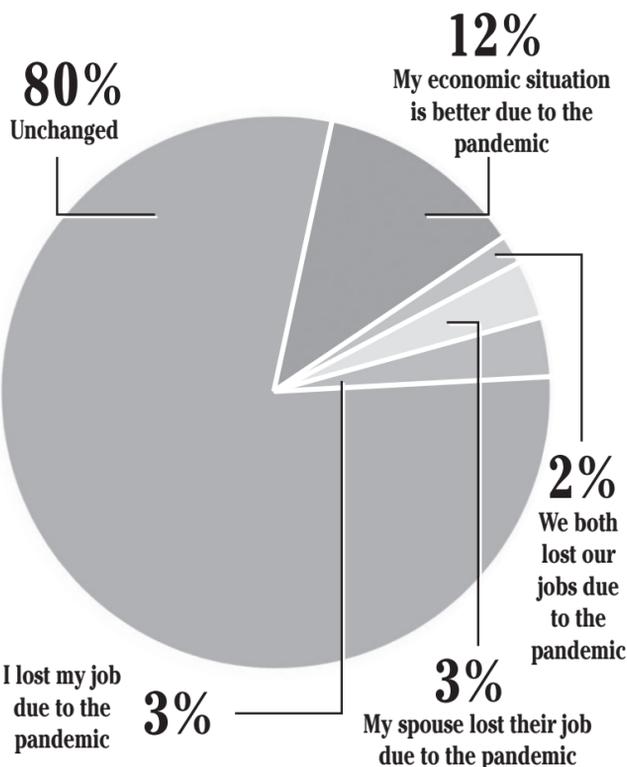
More change is needed. But law enforcement officials standing on the courthouse steps in Farmville, in solidarity with their African American neighbors, is a living testament that change can happen, progress can be made and we can heal our nation together.

(The views in this editorial are of The Farmville Herald editorial staff. This editorial was written by Editor Roger Watson. He can be reached at Editor@FarmvilleHerald.com or (434) 808-0622.)

YOUR PULSE

THE QUESTION:

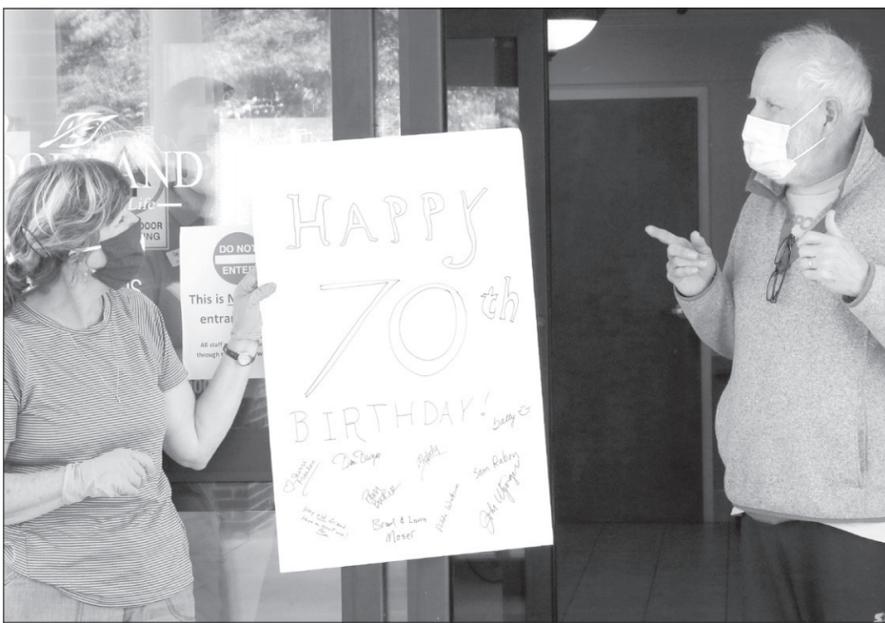
My economic situation since the pandemic is...



Check www.FarmvilleHerald.com for our latest question.

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| WAY TO GO! |



Drive-thru surprise 70th birthday party

Retired Farmville chiropractor Dr. Ed DeRegibus was surprised with a drive-thru birthday party for his 70th birthday Tuesday, June 2. DeRegibus, who served the area for 35 years in his practice, has been a resident at The Woodland in Brookview assisted living since February. According to his wife, Missy, DeRegibus has a degenerative neurological condition that requires getting some extra help in life. "He was completely surprised by his drive-thru birthday party," Missy said. "It was attended by about 10-12 cars full of friends and well-wishers, who brought balloons, banners, and cards. He was very happy to see everyone. Participants were offered cupcakes as they drove through, and at one point, everyone stood in front of their cars and sang happy birthday, led by Jon and Sherri Marken. (Send "Way to Go!" photos with a description and names to WayToGo@FarmvilleHerald.com.)

| YOUR VIEWS |

Farmville must remove Confederate soldier monument

Dear Editor:

We unequivocally need to remove the Confederate soldier monument in Farmville.

The statue was erected in 1900, while Jim Crow was in full swing. These monuments were erected during this time explicitly to intimidate black people as a symbol of social dominance.

Another symbol of white southern pride, the Confederate battle flag, was rarely seen during the Civil War; these flags only became prevalent during the 1950s specifically as a political symbol of the Dixiecrats (Southern Democrats who were anti-Civil Rights). After World War II, Germans removed their monuments to the Nazi party. They have not forgotten the dark parts of their history, but they do not honor them.

Many southern people actually rebelled against fighting in the Confederacy, as it

was seen as a rich man's war for keeping their slaves, while poor men were the soldiers sent to die in the trenches. Did your ancestors really fight for the South, or would they be embarrassed by the way we cling to these symbols of white supremacy? I highly recommend reading the pamphlets on this subject written by a North Carolina group called Rural Organizing and Resilience.

Across the South, cities and states are now removing their monuments to the Confederacy, under pressure from protestors in the wake of George Floyd's murder by the Minneapolis Police.

Farmville must do the same. Black lives matter.

Allie Dudley
Farmville

Let's open our souls to transform our nation

Dear Editor:

About three weeks ago, a friend and I were biking on the High Bridge Trail. We stopped to drink from our water bottles and began talking to a couple who had also stopped.

The man was the father of two boys I had helped years ago—I am now retired as a school counselor from Prince Edward County Schools. He recognized me, and I remembered him and his boys fondly. When I noticed that he was armed, I asked why he would need a firearm on the trail. He replied that a few weeks earlier he had been accosted by some "tough white guys" who pushed him around while he was out walking alone.

Nodding, I said, "I understand what you're saying, and I'm sorry." Having worked for 30 years in the Prince Edward County School System, I had heard many stories from my African-American colleagues and friends of how their husbands, brothers, sons, and other male family members have been insulted, harassed, and sometimes roughed up by white policemen.

My husband, a professor at Hampden-Sydney College, has known African-American students who while driving to campus were repeatedly pulled over and hectorated by police officers.

Now we are in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd. And some white folks still do not understand the frustration, humiliation, and cruelty that African-Americans regularly confront because of the color of their skin. Perhaps white folk do not understand

the abuse that African-Americans suffer because they don't experience it themselves and because they lack the empathy they might have gained if their schools had taught them systematically what their ancestors perpetrated on their fellow human beings.

I remember when as a high school junior in Tyler, Texas, in a class on the Civil War, my history teacher expanded on states' rights and on the war's major battles. The issue of slavery was either downplayed or omitted altogether. My point is that I did not learn in any meaningful way in high school about slavery in North America, or how our country's founding fathers, by writing slavery into the U.S. Constitution, committed what has justly been called America's "original sin."

Because as a nation we have not committed ourselves to atoning for this sin, we have allowed racism to carry on. Until our country unites behind a systematic reparative penance similar to those penances Germany and South Africa have tried, and until we support fairness towards African-Americans in all respects and with our full hearts—in housing, healthcare, education, employment opportunities, wages, and friendship—we shall never have a flourishing, peaceful society.

It is my hope that we can open up our souls to transform our nation.

Barbara A. Arieti
Hampden-Sydney

| EDITORIAL |

Farmville needs a statue for Johns

After Gov. Ralph Northam announced in a Thursday, June 4, press conference that the Robert E. Lee Statue in Richmond would be removed, but the pedestal of the monument would remain, rumors begin to swirl as to who may take Lee's place on Monument Avenue.

Farmville Civil Rights pioneer Barbara Johns was a name that was on almost everyone's short list of those worthy to take Lee's place.

So, why is there not a statue of Johns in our town?

Johns led her classmates on a strike in April of 1951 to protest the substandard educational conditions and opportunities at Robert Russa Moton High School. Her case was one of five that became *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* which led to the U.S. Supreme Court declaring the segregation of public schools unconstitutional.

The actions of Johns helped change our nation for the better. By shining a light on the inadequacies and failures of segregated educational systems, Johns made the lives of countless minorities better all across our land.

A plaque on the grounds of the Virginia Capitol commemorates the boldness of Johns to work to integrate Virginia's schools. In 2017, Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe renamed a state office building on 9th Street in Richmond in honor of Johns. Also in 2017, the Town of Farmville named the community library after the late Johns, who worked most of her life as a librarian.

That's just not enough.

Now is the time for the town to plan a statue to Johns in Farmville as a permanent tribute to the trailblazing civil rights leader who shined a light on the fact that separate but equal was anything but equal.

This is not a suggestion that a Johns statue should replace the Confederate Heroes monument on High Street. That situation will be resolved in due time.

A Barbara Johns statue should not replace anything. She deserves her own place of honor unencumbered by memories of what used to be there. That would be the problem with placing her likeness atop Lee's pedestal in Richmond. That place will always be the place where Lee was. Whatever is placed there will have that as a footnote of their place of honor.

Farmville's statue of Johns should be in its own place of honor where the community can regularly pass and remember the fire that burned down centuries of inequity and began as a spark in a 16-year-old student right here in our small town.

(The views in this editorial are of The Farmville Herald editorial staff. This editorial was written by Editor Roger Watson. He can be reached at Editor@FarmvilleHerald.com or (434) 808-0622.)

| YOUR VIEWS |

This is America?

Dear Editor:

As a minor in America, I can't see why people can't just love each other.

People risk their lives fighting for rights for future generations, but where has it all gone? We shouldn't be treated like this, we are all people and we all bleed the same color so why does someone's last words have to be "I can't breathe?" Why can't women wear what they want to wear without being criticized? Why do people judge others because of appearances? Why worried that they may be held at gunpoint?

There are children in America who get taken away from their families because, "they're not the same race" and there are children who are ashamed of who they are and what their ethnicity is.

Children are out there keeping heavy burdens on their shoulders because other people can't accept their race or gender or even having a disability.

People put themselves out there just to be ridiculed about stuff that they cannot change. Like African Americans get called the n-word but people think it's "just a word," but it's not, it's a word with meaning, meaning that goes way back to

when my ancestors fought for their lives to help future generations get the rights that they didn't have and to be treated fairly so that all races could get along.

Then women get told that they wear too much makeup or they're wearing too little, their clothes are too short or too long, or that they're eating too much or not enough.

Appearances don't matter but apparently it's too hard for some people to see that, but what hurts the most is watching the news with my family then seeing something about an African American getting killed and over time I came to realize it's because of their skin tone.

So with your help I know we can't make America perfect but hopefully we can make it better than it is now because it's sad seeing something about a woman being assaulted, a person of color being killed, or a school shooting is such a terrible thing to hear but the worst of all is that future generations will look back at what is happening today and think of these three words, "This is America?"

Layla Tyree Edmonds
13 years old
Rising ninth grader
Prince Edward

To submit a letter to the editor
please email
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