

PREJUDICE: Young woman sparks forum on race in Mora

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worthy,” she said. It was a negative experience she hopes to diminish for others as statewide, national and global conversations continue about issues of race.

“My experience has been hurtful, but it has been filled with hope,” she said.

UNCOMFORTABLE & INCONVENIENT

Tanisha knew this conversation and those following would be uncomfortable. “(These narratives) aren’t meant to be convenient. They are not meant to excuse people who don’t care enough to be a part of them.”

During Saturday’s event, over a dozen people of different races took turns at the microphone, including teachers, students, counselors, school administrators, city council members and others.

Among them there were tears, laughter, expressions of fear, love, anger, encouragement and questions about what to do.

Tanisha said, “We are all human. We are a part of the human race and in our work on Earth we are meant to love each other, we are meant to embrace each other, we are meant to understand and take the time for each other so we can all come to a greater under-

standing of what we want and need in our communities.”

PEACEFUL INTENT

In a statement to Mora residents and businesses leading up to the event, Kanabec County Sheriff Brian Smith wrote, “I have talked to the organizers and have been ensured that their intent is to peacefully voice their concerns ...

“The Sheriff’s Office will be actively involved in protecting their right to free speech and also preventing any damage to local properties ... I am asking you to stay out of the area if your intent is to disrupt the demonstration or create an unsafe environment.

“I know that the Mora community can be an example to all of those around us on how to properly interact and allow for voices to be heard. Thank you for your support and cooperation.”

In response to threats made leading up to the event, a section of East Maple Avenue adjacent to the school was barricaded. Smith said this was done as a way to subdue potential disruptions.

To see more photos and video of some of the speeches made during the event, visit the Kanabec County Times website at www.MoraMinn.com



Kizzy Venhuizen supports her daughter Maggie as she shares about her experiences growing up in a bi-racial family.



KIRSTEN FAURIE | TIMES

Kent Lilyerd shared his experiences with prejudice while traveling the U.S. and the need for cooperation between those with different viewpoints.



KIRSTEN FAURIE | TIMES

A Native American student, Donovan Muse, expressed being tired of laughing off comments about casinos and blankets.

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