

Large crowd gathers for 'Rachel's Challenge'



By Submitted

More than 500 people attended the special presentation called "Rachel's Challenge" held Wednesday night at Moberly Area Community College Auditorium. This event was sponsored by Northeast R-IV School at Cairo and was held at the MACC auditorium. "Friends of Rachel" featured the friends and family of Rachel Joy Scott, a 17-year-old victim of the Columbine High School shooting in Colorado on April 20, 1999. Northeast R-4 faculty member Shelley Devenport coordinated the event and says, "the inspirational and heart-wrenching story of a young girl who believed her life would impact the world" was told.

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By Shelley Davenport/Special to the Index
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Moberly, Mo. -

More than 500 people filled the Moberly Area Community College Auditorium to hear Nichole Nowlan from the "Friends of Rachel." The event was hosted by Northeast R-IV School/Cairo. Ms Nowlan told a very moving story of Rachel Joy Scott's life and death as the first victim of Columbine High School shooting in Littleton, Colorado on April 20, 1999. She told of Rachel's premonition of her early death. Rachel knew she would die at an early age and wrote in her journals about how she would die young and touch millions of people's lives. Ms Nowlan went on to tell how a business man in Ohio, Frank

Amedia, had seen Rachel's funeral on CNN News and afterward had dreamed a very vivid dream of Rachel's eyes flowing tears and watering something that he said he couldn't quite make out. The business man called Rachel's Father and told him of his dream, adamant about the eyes and wanted to know if that meant anything to Rachel's Father (Mr. Scott). Weeks later Mr. Scott would learn that in Rachel's backpack, being held at the Littleton Police Station, was a picture that had been working on only minutes before her death. This picture showed Rachel's eyes and flowing from her eyes, watering a Columbine flower. Ironically, there were 13 victims killed that day. Nicole Nowlen told her own harrowing story of how she hid underneath the table in the library on that day. She held hands with a young man who was shot and killed by the two gunmen. Ms Nowlen challenged the crowd to take Rachel's challenge of kindness and compassion. Rachel wrote that "compassion is the greatest form of love humans have to offer." She went on to say that, "If one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go."



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