

# Prom dresses learn a new dance at Troy High School

*Troy High School hosts first ever prom gown exchange*

**Bill McKee/Moscow-Pullman Daily News**

Weight bars and exercise equipment provided hanging space for dozens of dresses Saturday, while mirrors gave girls a chance to see how they fit in the weight room of Troy High School on Saturday.

It was a strange juxtaposition, but one that seemed to work for the school's inaugural prom dress exchange.

"A lot of the dresses came from past students who went to school here, and there are some from students currently in school," said Troy High School senior Ashley Bull, who organized the event for her senior project with her mentor, Rhonda Case.

Bull said Case, who has bought more prom dresses than she likes to think about, helped her come up with the idea.

"I don't even know how much money I've spent on dresses in the course of the years with my four girls," Case said. "I know there are all these beautiful prom dresses that just sit in people's closets. So, I knew if someone could organize this, it would be a great project."

Of the more than 70 dresses donated, almost all were either free or less than \$100 dollars. While some of the money went back to the people who donated the dresses, many donated their proceeds to the local food bank.

"It's just not really a reasonable expense for a dress you only wear one time," Bull said of new dresses, which often sell for \$250 or more. "But you still need a prom dress."

Bull's mother, Shelley, said from a mother's standpoint, the event was very appealing.

"It's something that they only wear once, and it's something that's very special to a lot of girls' hearts," she said. "But, they're not all are able to afford new dress every year."

In their community, she said a lot of the older students are involved in the lives of those in classes below them. The opportunity provided younger girls a chance to get a dress that originally belonged to someone they look up to, she said.

Kiana Hoskins and Jordyne Fredrickson won't be going to prom anytime soon, but said they were thinking about getting dresses for some of their junior high school dances.

"We wanted to support our friend (Ashley), and it might be a little cheaper to get them here," said Hoskins.

With girls coming from not just Troy, but several surrounding communities, Bull said she thought the first-time event was a success.

Case agreed, and said she hopes to be able to organize the event next year, expanding and inviting other local schools to participate.

"I really think it's something that could grow from year to year," she said. "We were really just in the learning curve this year, but if we got some other schools in our area to join. If we could get coordinated, I think it could be really successful."

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