



Students at the Timberlane High School senior makeup prom take a break from dancing to watch a surprise fireworks display.

Photo by Dean Zanello

Makeup prom a big hit

By Adam Leech

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PLAISTOW - The only explosives found at the Timberlane senior makeup prom last Friday were those in the sky as a special fireworks display gave prom-goers a chance to rest their dancing shoes, which were busy all night.

Timberlane students started dancing as soon as the prom began at about 6 p.m. and didn't stop - except to watch the fireworks display - until midnight. The prom was the second for Timberlane this year because the first, held on May 21, ended prematurely owing to bomb threats at the Castleton Banquet Hall in Salem, where festivities were being held.

"It was amazing," said Dianne Nye, a member of the athletic staff at the high school and one of the prom organizers. "It's just amazing how much everyone paid attention to detail in such a short amount of time. ... It was so beautiful."

At the first prom, students had little time to dance because bomb threats were received shortly after the dinner was served. Peter Disalvo, a senior from Sandown, said he and the other prom-goers got to make up for the time they missed at the first prom.

"Everyone was just really happy they were able to have another prom," he said. "And it was great the way we got donations from the community. ... I was surprised how quickly we were able to raise that much money."

The tables, chairs, fireworks and everything else came at no cost to students or the school because of an approximate \$13,000 in cash and at least \$7,000 more in equipment and services donated from businesses and individuals throughout the Seacoast region. Nye said proms typically cost about \$20,000.

Nye said the students started dancing when they walked into the 600-person tent set up at high school* and didn't stop until Principal (Chuck) Coker pulled the plug.

"We should have gotten less tables and chairs because no one was sitting," Nye said.

The fireworks were a surprise to most of the students, who were a little timid about being told to leave the tent halfway through the prom, according to Nye, but were pleasantly surprised by the 15-minute show that was choreographed to music provided by the disc jockey.

Nye said the turnout of the makeup prom was as big as the almost 400 that attended the first prom.

Parents of the prom-goers got the unique opportunity to watch their children in action at the prom, as some gathered around the perimeter of the tent without protest from their kids. In fact, some of the students took the opportunity to share a dance their parents.

"I think it was great parents were able to participate and none of (the students) seemed to mind them being there," said Nye. "It was just a great night."