

# Church's alternative prom seeks a higher standard

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
Of the Keizertimes

Kylee Longaker had her work cut out for her when she was invited to an alternative Prom at the Keizer Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Saturday, April 13.

"Finding a dress was almost impossible. I ended up borrowing a bridesmaids dress after we went to several stores," Longaker said.

Longaker and a group of friends led by Rachel Larsen attended the dance last weekend, which is not the typical prom gala. Attendees had to commit to a fairly strict set of attire guidelines when they purchased their tickets. For the females, that meant no plunging necklines, bare midriffs, sheer fabrics or open backs. In an era when less is traditionally viewed as more on the retail floor, finding a look that adhered to the rules was more of a challenge than Longaker expected.

Youth leaders from the Keizer Stake and others in the surrounding area helped decorate the gym the night before the dance and many hands made light work of turning the space into a night under the stars.

The dress code might be



Submitted

Attendees at the Keizer Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints strike a pose.

stricter, but it goes hand-in-hand with an expected code of conduct, said Larsen, and she was okay with that.

"I like that it's less awkward. You don't have to worry about someone coming up and grinding on you. That's weird and it happens a lot at our school dances," she said.

The music selection was also more constrained than what some might find at a public gathering, but that was

fine with Victor Pettijohn.

"I prefer the church dances because there is a whole lot more slow songs. A lot of school dances have more pop

music and you hardly get any slow dances with the person you paid to go there with. I prefer the slow dances," he said.

## grads & grades

The following Keizer students were recently added to the President's List (for achieving GPAs of 3.7 or higher) at Oregon Institute of Technology:

Thomas Bridges, electrical engineering; Olivia Burger, dental hygiene; Katelyn Mitchell, business small bus mgmt option; Kieu Van Moisan, dental hygiene; Sally Sutton, pre-nursing; Danielle

Wiles, dental hygiene; Devin Sheehan, operations management; David Harryman, business marketing option; Madelyn Kephart, dental hygiene.

The following Keizer students were recently added to the Dean's List (for achieving GPAs of 3.30 to 3.69) at Oregon Institute of Technology: Jessica Wiggins, dental hygiene; Christopher Love, electrical engineering.

# Road closure sign will stay put, include additional messaging

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The Keizer City Council reached a decision regarding the closure of Cherry Avenue Northeast during KeizerFEST in May, but it's not one likely to satisfy the parties raising concern.

The council revisited the issue, which arose at its April 2 meeting, during its April 16 meeting. On April 2, Keven Cutter, owner of The Grass Hut II, requested that the council direct city staff to move a barrier redirecting traffic about one block further north on Cherry Avenue during KeizerFEST May 17-20. Cutter said his business lost about \$4,000 in revenue when the road closed in 2017. The annual Iris Festival is reverting to an older name, KeizerFEST, this year.

Cutter said he raised the issue at a weekly meeting of the KeizerFEST Committee in March, but left the meeting dismayed.

"I wanted the sign moved and I was told I had no option," Cutter said.

Cutter turned down offers by the Keizer Chamber of Commerce, the organization behind the festival, to print flyers or signs for Cutter to hang in his windows prior to the festival.

Chief John Teague, of the Keizer Police Department, said moving the sign north would

create safety issues as vehicles turned onto Cherry Avenue and then turned around in the middle of the street when they discovered access to Manbrin Avenue North was blocked.

"We need to make sure we take care of pedestrian safety," Teague said.

Councilor Marlene Parsons asked Cutter whether including the names of open businesses on the road closure sign would be an amenable solution and Cutter said it was the best one he'd been offered.

However, when it came time to issue temporary sign permits for the festival at the meeting Monday, councilors were told that adding the names of all the affected businesses to the electronic road closure sign was unworkable.

"We can't put all the info on there listing (14 affected) businesses," said Danielle Bethell, executive director of the Keizer Chamber of Commerce. Not all of the affected business maintain hours during the times of the festival. "We have taken out an ad in the KeizerFEST Guide stating that businesses will be open and we will talk about the businesses being open on social media."

Bethell said a banner listing the open businesses was also an option.

"My concern is putting up a banner in an area that is already congested," Bethell said.

City manager Chris Eppley added that businesses could also put up an A-frame sign letting potential customers know their locations are open.

The final direction from the council was that the electronic closure sign should alternate between the message Keizer Police Department wanted to use indicating the road closure and "businesses open."

**MAN CODE** LESSON 4: DON'T FORGET

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