

## KOHO, continued from Page A1

This sort of health issue I've been facing makes you evaluate what are the most important things."

Koho, who was at Monday's council meeting, doesn't like leaving commitments early, but also didn't want to risk things too much.

"Every time I'm in the council bay, I don't know if I'm going to come back or not," said Koho, who has had irregular attendance since coming back to council meetings on March 21 and missed both budget committee meetings earlier this month. "I'm not inclined to leave early when I do things, but I kind of have to in this case. This is one of those

life or death sorts of things."

In addition to leaving early, another disappointment for Koho will be leaving this particular group of councilors.

"It has been a lot of fun to work with a council that works well together," he said. "In previous councils I've been on, there was a lot of sniping going on. I've got my four votes' and that was all that was looked at sometimes. I was as guilty as any other member on those councils. This is a much more collaborative council."

Koho, who rejoined the council following an uncontested 2012 race, also joked about now meeting in the Keizer Civic Center, which opened in 2009 and is a vast improvement over the previous city hall.

"The facilities are far better," he said with a laugh.

Koho knows he'll miss the

decision-making process.

"What I'll miss the most is helping to make decisions that affect people," he said. "There are still some big decisions to be made about parks and funding. I'd still like to see a cow park. I was willing to step up and help if we needed to do something. Not being able to be a part of that decision and work to implement that decision is disappointing."

One of the main points of discussion during this month's budget meetings was a desire to add an officer position to the Keizer Police Department. Police Chief John Teague has emphasized the need, while also stressing he understands time could be needed to add officers.

"I think the chief has presented a pretty good plan for how we add officers and when we add them," Koho

said. "I support the plan. It's slower than a lot of people might like and I recognize that. We just don't have a lot of resources. His was a good plan, one that recognizes the reality of where we're at. I'm sure I would have enjoyed that discussion."

Mayor Cathy Clark called for town hall meetings during budget time to discuss funding options, which Koho also supports.

"I think she's right on that," Koho said. "What I hope we don't do is have a town hall meeting, then focus it all on funding for police. That drives people away. It needs to be about funding in general."

As of the morning of May 13, a Keizertimes online poll at keizertimes.com asking readers what should be done in terms of adding either a police or parks employee was

being led by the choice of no more taxes, with the city living within its current means.

By Monday morning, that option was still the leader, with 43 percent of the vote, with the number up to 46 percent on Wednesday morning.

"I'm not surprised to see living within the means be on top," Koho said. "I hear that a lot from voters."

Koho brought up his resignation during the council liaison reports late in Monday's meeting.

"As you know, I've been not able to attend a lot of meetings due to health issues," Koho said. "So I have made the decision to resign, effective July 1. I submitted that today. It's been fun - usually."

"Yeah, it has," Clark said. "You've been part of that fun. You continue to give. You have given tremendously to the

community. We all owe you so much, such a debt of gratitude for your service. With a truly grateful heart, thank you very much."

Councilor Amy Ryan noted it wasn't fair to be the next one following Koho to give her reports, since she was fearful.

"You have been a wealth of knowledge, Dennis. Thank you," Ryan said.

Bruce Anderson, who joined the council this spring after the resignation of Brandon Smith, gave props to Koho as well.

"Mr. Koho, I greatly appreciate your service to this community, as mayor and councilor and in other aspects," Anderson said. "We'll definitely miss your voice here. But I work with your wife; it's a good idea to do what she says."

## SQUARE, continued from Page A1

Medford-based the Human Bean is coming to the building.

Also coming is Jersey Mike's Subs, one of the fastest-growing restaurant chains in the country.

Bloch had said previously he wanted to be able to retain Starbucks, but the Seattle-based coffee company had committed to leaving shortly before he took over Schoolhouse Square. The existing strip mall next to Nancy's Burgers and Fries is being demolished and replaced by a new Starbucks, expected to open later this year. Since that news first broke, there have been plenty of questions how it will work having two coffee stands so close to each other, especially for traffic trying to turn left onto River

Road.

With a third coffee location in a short distance along that side of the road to be open down the road, Bloch points out a key advantage.

"I like our location," he said. "I believe it is superior location to the other two. I like our signaled intersection, since it's closer to where you'd want to be."

County records show a permit was applied for May 3 at 5005 River Road North, for a new commercial shell valued at \$780,273 and sized at 8,008 square feet.

According to the Human Bean website, the company opened its first location in Ashland in 1998 and currently has 61 locations in eight states.

Lauren Karcher confirmed to the Keizertimes last week she'll be the franchise operator.

"I am very excited to be opening the Human Bean in Schoolhouse Square," she said.

"We have two other locations. We have the one in Salem and we just opened the one in Eugene."

Lauren said she didn't have a timeline for when the Keizer location would open, but is optimistic about being able to succeed in spite of very nearby competition, citing having four coffee stands within a mile in Eugene.

"Most Human Beans are like a Dutch Bros., with the double sided drive-through," she said. "The difference is you can order at the drive-through, since we will have headsets. You can also sit inside this location. The only other Human Bean with inside seating is in Hillsboro. It's a new thing we're trying."

Lauren noted her dad, Joe Karcher, looks at potential new sites for businesses while she does the operating. She feels once people try Human Bean coffee, they'll come back.

"Dutch Bros. has a following, but Human Bean does also," she said. "It's very high quality coffee. It's a different culture than Dutch Bros. There's a market for that. We're not big and corporate like Starbucks. When people try our coffee, even ones that are fans of another chain, they really love it. There is room for everyone. That's a lot (of coffee stands) in one space, but after opening the one in Eugene I'm convinced there is room for everyone."

Joe Karcher liked what he saw when he looked at Schoolhouse Square.

"Keizer is a good place to be," he said. "This came about not long ago. When something is available, I look at it. This was presented to me. I looked at it and felt it was a good opportunity."

While another coffee stand in the area will create some buzz, having Jersey Mike's at

Schoolhouse Square will be notable since the shopping center recently lost Big Town Hero when Scott White closed his retail space in late March.

"I have an employee that helps with the Jersey Mike's stores," Joe Karcher said. "We operate most of the Carl Jr.'s in the state. This will be our fourth Jersey Mike's, including one in Salem. It is one of the fastest growing restaurant concepts. It's a very popular brand that is doing quite well. I try to align myself with brands that are of good quality and Jersey Mike's really pushes its quality. They also do a lot to give back to the community. That's been one of my mantras over the years, giving back to the local communities."

Bloch said it's not known yet when either business will open.

"It really depends on when we get our permits," Bloch said. "If everything goes

according to plan, probably the first quarter of next year is realistic."

Kyle Potvin, principal of Splash Communications, confirmed Jersey Mike's is coming.

"We are looking forward to joining the Keizer community," Potvin said. "We don't have an exact opening date yet, but we should have it fairly soon."

Jersey Mike's is a sub shop started in New Jersey in 1956 by Mike Geissler. The company has been tabbed as the fastest growing chain the last two years, opening 197 new locations in 2015. The company's website has a list of scheduled opening dates for 2016, with the Keizer location at 5013 River Road N scheduled to open Aug. 3.

Peter Cancro bought the business as a 17-year-old high school senior in 1975 and began franchising in 1987.

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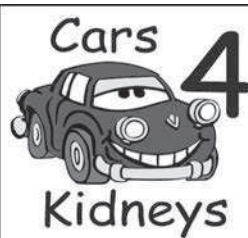
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