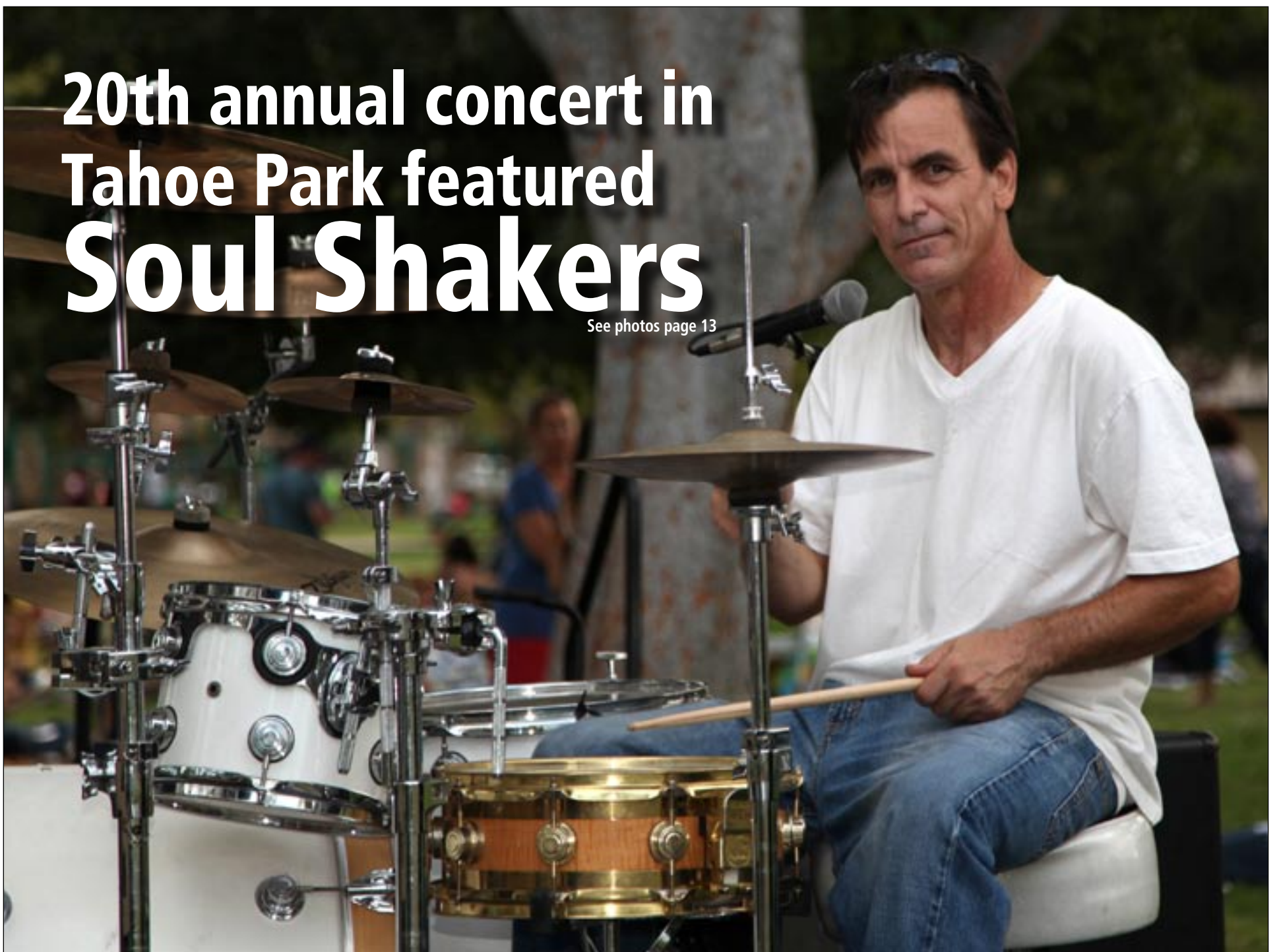


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Going door-to-door with your neighbor, Pat

■ Meet Pat on page 8



Happy 100th Birthday Pete Rossi!

■ See page 18



(see ad on pg. 3)

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Vol. XXIV • No. 17

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Janey Way Memories:

A Good Baseball Town



By **MARTY RELLES**
marty@valcomnews.com

A guy once told me that Sacramento is "a good baseball town." His reasoning went like this:

The weather here is pleasant in the spring. It's hot in the summer, but it cools off at night.

The fall weather is perfect for baseball. One night a few weeks ago, I tested this theory. That night I attended a Sacramento River Cat's baseball game with my colleagues from Valley Community Newspapers. My editor Monica Stark was there along with fellow writers Lance Armstrong and Matías Bombal.

Before the game began, we all clustered inside our enclosed box, but we ultimately moved out the door to the plastic seats assigned to our group.

It was great. The temperature hovered around 90 degrees, but a gentle breeze made it feel much cooler. We took in the ambiance of Raley Field and watched the River Cats play a great baseball game.

They started fast, scoring their first run in the third inning. After that, they piled up runs, so that by the eighth inning they led 10 to 0.

Then, with the game well in hand, I headed for home.

As I walked out to my car, I stopped to look back at the ballpark. Its lights shined down brightly on the field, and I thought "what a great venue this is: Just the right size, friendly staff, and a clean and welcoming place to go." Then, I thought back to the days of old Edmonds Field where my boyhood heroes, the Sacramento Solons, played AAA baseball. Unlike Raley Field, it was old and a little weather-worn. But I loved that team that featured players like Al Heist, Nippy Jones, Cuno Barragan and Elmer Singleton.

All of them had spent time in the major leagues before landing in Sacramento. Nippy Jones was even featured in a memorable World Series play. In the end, they came here to our town and played hard every day like it really meant something, and we loved them for it.

Soon my mind drifted back to the present and I thought out loud that Sacramento really is a good baseball town, and now that we have the River Cats, it will stay that way for a long time.

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Neighbors, community members and business chime in on minimum wage discussion

As discussions have been heating up and a decision will soon be formed regarding the possibility of raising Sacramento's minimum wage, Valley Community Newspapers reached out to neighbors, the business community, labor, and restaurants to see where they stand on the issue. Between business and labor everyone seems to agree that if an increase passes that it keep up with inflation to help business and its workers' budgets. But, what does that really mean in terms of dollar amounts?

This publication also spoke with Jovan Agee, community relations director for the office of Mayor Kevin Johnson, to hear about what's been going on at the closed-door Income Inequality Task Force meetings. (The task force will submit a final report to the mayor and city council that recommends a specific plan on whether to increase the local minimum wage and by what amount at a meeting later this month.)

Agee said the vibe at a previous meeting was one with task members rolling up their sleeves, trying to figure out what is an adequate amount that will not adversely affect business. In the closed-door setting, Agee said members were able to discuss the issue without being in the public

eye and turning it into a political issue. While they did not come up with a number yet, labor has maintained that an adequate number is \$13.50 to start immediately with increases over time, meanwhile business he said is saying \$11. "The goal is to come to a tangible proposal that has been vetted by business, and citizens and that has been politically pressure tested. There is a desire for people to get on the same side to get on the same page... I am confident that it will be something that Sacramento will be proud of," Agee said.

Metro Chamber

In a joint effort, the Metro Chamber of Commerce's Colleen Spitz, Chris Worden and Elizabeth Overton provided VCN with responses to the following questions:

VCN: What do you think about the possibility of raising the minimum wage?

Metro Chamber: The Metro Chamber is currently serving on the Mayor's Income Inequality Task Force, whose goal is to make a recommendation to the city council on whether a minimum wage increase makes sense for the city and if so, how it should be implemented. We continue to advocate on behalf of our 1,700 Metro

Chamber businesses and our 21-organization coalition, Keep Sacramento Working, to ensure that if an increase is adopted, we don't undercut the economic recovery taking place downtown and throughout the region.

VCN: Do you support it? Why or why not?

Metro Chamber: Many of the Metro Chamber's members have expressed serious reservations about an increase until we can see what impact the state increase to \$10/hour will have on our regional economy. Right now, our job growth in Sacramento is happening largely in restaurants and hospitality, and a city-only increase puts us at a competitive disadvantage that could stifle that growth.

VCN: Do you think that it would be beneficial to the city as a whole? Why or why not?

Metro Chamber: A city-specific increase is counterproductive to building a strong regional economy. At a time when we are trying to create economic momentum by bringing in new businesses and helping business expansion throughout the six-county capital region, we are at risk of creating a situation where a company can move across the street or across

the river (out of the city) and have a competitive advantage over every business that remains in City lines. We have to bear in mind that residents don't shop and eat based on city or county lines. But they may have to select restaurants or retail outlets based on location if commodities become more expensive in one location over another to offset the increase to minimum wage.

If you do think a minimum wage raise is needed, how do you think it should be implemented? (Should it be gradual to \$15 an hour?)

Metro Chamber: If a minimum wage increase must be adopted, it has to be phased in very gradually to ensure businesses can adapt and consumers will not disappear, which would hurt our job creation. Also, we need to ensure that all income an employee makes, including tips and commissions, can be counted. If we are going to drive up costs on items like groceries for all consumers, including seniors on fixed incomes, we should limit those increases by ensuring raises go to those with actual need. Additionally, we should also look at exemptions for non-profits (who can't pass on cost increases) and a youth wage to ensure young people

can get the skills they need to improve their lifetime earning capability.

Neighborhood comments:

East Sacramento Preservation's Ellen Cochrane facilitated a poll on NextDoor with a 50 percent voting in favor of raising the raise to \$15, be it over time or immediately. Here are some of the comments from your neighbors:

Kenton Bruno from Boulevard Park said, "Short answer is no. Prices of everyday items would go up drastically."

Steve Thomas from Elmhurst said, "\$15 for a burger flipper is outrageous. Go get an education or a skill if you want to earn more. Leave the minimum wage jobs for kids or adults seeking extra money. Minimum wage should not be considered a career!"

Marina Teixeira from East Sac said, "That is too big of a jump that will kill small business. People's hours will be cut and business will need to charge more to their customers to afford to pay their employees. It needs to raise gradually over the next 10 or so years."

Meredith Harvan from East Sac said, "A \$15 per hour min-

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Wage:

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imum wage will be counterproductive. It will price low/no skilled workers out of the market, encourage the use of automation or raise the price of goods and services to the point where \$15 per hour is no longer a 'living wage' and we will be back where we started only at an artificially higher cost."

Joseph Boniwell from Med Center said, "Many of the people working in those minimum wage jobs have college degrees. 'Get an education' isn't the cure all it used to be."

Paul Douglas from Elmhurst said, "Paying a high school kid \$15 for their first job at _ Fill In The Blank Fast Food_ I don't support. If you have someone who is trying to support them selves (and their family), I can see raising their base salary. \$15 for 'Do you want fries with that,' No."

The following are some comments taken from local business owners and nonprofit directors.

Burnie Lenau— President, Lawnman, Inc. and Carmichael Café & Deli

"I have a few minutes in between lunch and dinner hour to hopefully work through some thoughts I have on this issue from my

perspective as a small business owner in the landscape industry and food service.

"I believe raising the minimum wage much higher if at all would be a mistake from a number of different angles. I don't believe it will solve the problem they hope to address which is to bring people who are on the low end of the pay scale to the middle class or even lower middle class. It will cause unintended consequences to low income people and restrict the ability for employers to employ young adults which is why minimum wage was put in place from the start, thus causing more teenagers to be unemployed and likely raising crime amongst that age group. Prices would more than likely increase across the board for goods and services which then again leaves the lowest paid among us having trouble to pay their way. It would also knock out a number of people who presently qualify for some types of public assistance as many of the programs are based solely on your dollar earnings. Another thing that is already occurring in the fast food and the food service industry is automation thus completely eliminating entry level jobs, which will increase unemployment and cost thousands if not millions of dollars in job loss.

"It would cost the city millions of dollars in wages and salaries if they raised the minimum wage and thus they would need to raise taxes again or cut services and employees. It would also increase the pay of most other city employees who are presently at or near the low end of the pay scale along with most others salaries/wages. It would also put the city at a competitive disadvantage with the surrounding cities and counties that have other wage structures. How would a business handle his/her business if they work daily in more than just the city boundaries? For these and other reasons, I would be against the raising of the minimum wage not only in the city but the state as well. Other cities who have done this are seeing businesses leave or close as well as layoffs due to the difficulty of making ends meet for the small business owners. The wage issue is much deeper and more difficult than just throwing money at it."

Karen McClaffin — California Automobile Museum

"As a nonprofit museum open seven days per week, we have several employees who are classified exempt employees, working their own schedules to make sure all our open hours are covered and tasks are completed. An increase in the minimum wage, while potentially beneficial for lower income workers, would handicap us and force us to make all employees hourly employees, likely earning less than they are now since we could not afford to increase their salaries to twice the minimum wage level. This is an issue I have not seen addressed yet, but it's very impactful for us."

Alan Irvine — Scott's on the River

"We were able to absorb one increase, but with additional workers' comp fees, absence of payroll credit, increased seafood, beef and dairy prices, we are under attack!!"

Joe Genshlea — Revolution Wines

"An increase in the minimum wage above \$12 per hour would be devastating to our business. It would increase our labor costs to an extent that we would not be able to make payroll and would be forced to either cease operations or relocate."

Roy Alexander — Sacramento Children's Home

"My programs are government funded, the rate of reimbursement will not cover an employee making \$15 per hour and there is no governmental interest in raising our funding. Our reimbursement rate is far too low, and there is a big impact on exempt positions that must be paid double the minimum wage."

Scott Michael Vogelsang — AVIA MOBILITY

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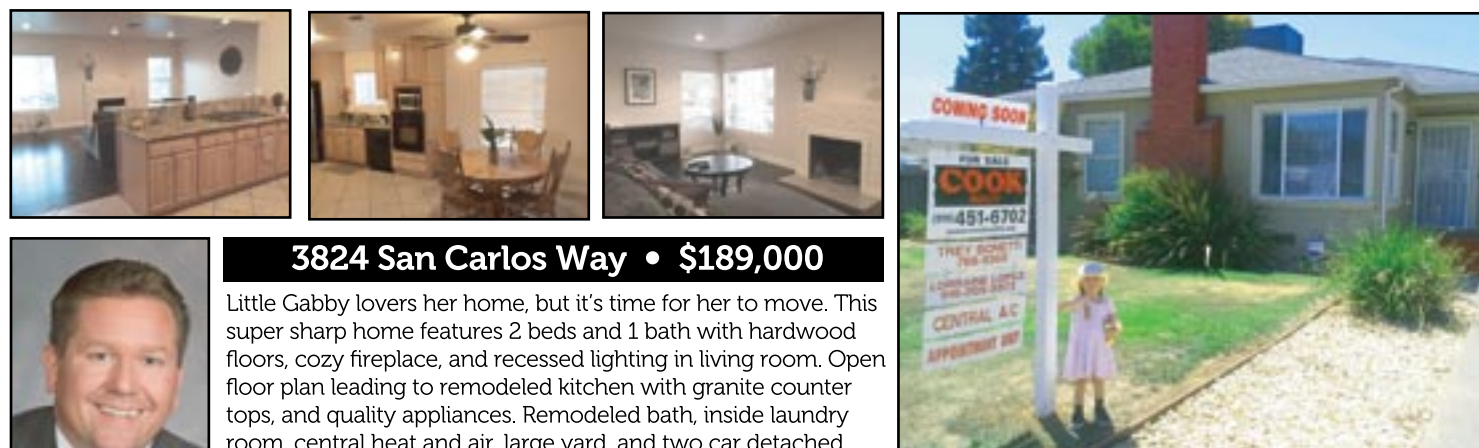
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Income:

Continued from page 5

and the costs associated with keeping people employed... As minimum wages are increased, the required minimum skill set of the employee is also increased...Minimum wage increases systematically bar lower skilled workers from the work force...Minimum wage increases are bad for the economy. Just ask Seattle and San Jose restaurants and bookstores who closed as their wage increases were phased in."

Chuck Benson — Elliott Benson Research

"Elliott Benson is a national market research company located on H Street, downtown Sacramento. We were recently impacted by the new sick paid leave law and now talk of a minimum wage hike is concerning. From a small business owners' perspective, does anyone have any understanding of what it takes

to start and run a business? Clearly not. When people talk about what they are planning for weekends and vacation, I say I'm going to work. That is our life. We respect our employees and pay them based upon merit and budget. All non-employers should make an effort to better understand what it takes to run a business and make payroll...Please, learn more about the challenges of ownership and show respect for the people creating jobs."

Rich Johnson — Lunch Box Express

"We are a catering business, and with the general economy at the time, (we) did not have the price elasticity to increase pricing. We increased our staff wages proportionally, and it has been absorbed in our margins for now... Increasing minimum wages for our industry severely hampers our ability to hire first time employees into the workforce. We can often hire

experienced and trained staff for very little more."

Shane Crimmins — Gamma Glo Lighting

"When you're a small business every penny counts. We increased some of our prices on items that are usually incidental. But now that our overhead has gone up with payroll, we had to start charging for things we would normally include. Delivery charges have increased as well...Hours will be cut back a little. Prices will go up again. They can't think that businesses will just absorb the increase. We will be putting off hiring new employees until we can adjust to the higher increase in overhead. As a business owner, I would rather locate my business outside the city limits in order to avoid this increase."

Doug Link — Esquire IMAX Theatre

"A wage increase of this magnitude would result directly in an increase in my ticket prices."

Asked the following questions to Raise the Wage Sacramento, Sacramentans responded as follows:

Jane Ama Mantey, Ph.D.

1. It shouldn't be a possibility. It should be a given linked to some economic metric like the cost of living adjustment.
2. I support a \$15 minimum wage because our current minimum wage definitely isn't enough to afford Sacramento. I can barely afford it as a young professional with advanced degrees, who is also underpaid. For a one-bedroom apartment, the average rent in the city proper is \$1100. To afford rent and not exceed a third of your income, residents need AT LEAST \$3300 a month or \$20 per hour, so \$15 per hour is beyond reasonable. As a consumer, I also support a \$15 minimum wage even if it may... MAY...raise prices by 1-2 percent. If that means thousands of people can keep a roof over their head, their lights on, and food on their table, I support that and don't mind paying more so businesses can sustain themselves.
3. Back in the day, after the Great Depression, small, local businesses paid living

wages. The minimum wage, at its prime, was around half of the median income. (That would be about \$37,000 today for Sacramento or \$19.25 per hour.) However, with the dawn of "Walmartization" of industry, major corporations have simultaneously reduced worker income and killed "mom and pop" shops by paying their employees poverty wages that stifle competition, make neighborhoods poor, and increase the tax burden on working class families to support other poor families. These major industries claim the low wages keep product/service cost low, but really the low wages keep executive salaries and bonuses high and share prices growing. We have to stop this cycle.

A \$15 minimum wage in Sacramento may bring short-term pains, but long-term I believe a higher minimum wage would remove the artificial advantage that major corporations/franchises have over the small businesses in the community. With time, "mom and pop" shops would be able to competitively provide a living wage again, more money would circulate in local economies, employees would be happier at their job and there will be less worker turnover, employees won't have to work two to three part-time jobs and therefore free up positions for the unemployed, employees, who are also consumers, would be able to spend more and create more demand which creates more businesses, and employees would be able to save up money to buy a home or start their own business venture.

David Wong, an instructional aide at Luther Burbank High School

1. I believe that there are people who support the idea of raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.
2. I support the idea of raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. I work as an instructional aide for the Sacramento Unified School District. I earn \$12 an hour, and I earn less than \$2,000 after tax. I earn a poverty wage. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour would improve my financial situation.
- Other school district employees earning less than \$15 an hour are cafeteria workers, some of the clerks, and campus monitor. I do not have children; however, some of my coworkers do have children. They are supporting their families on poverty wage!
3. I have no idea how anyone making \$9 or \$10 an hour can survive in Sacramento without public assistance.

And I'm tired of subsidizing businesses, who should be paying a true minimum wage that their workers... including tipped workers... can survive on, instead of putting their responsibility on the public. Also, let's reduce this overreliance on tip culture. The minimum wage should be \$15 per hour for tipped workers and non-tipped workers alike. Tipping signifies you did a good job, not decide whether you make rent or not. It shouldn't be used to balance the budget for unscrupulous and cheap restaurant owners.

Phillip Kim

As a former restaurant server for eight years, I think a minimum wage increase to \$15 per hour would allow both local businesses and workers to prosper. To fully achieve its goal, it's important that tipped workers are included any new law. Tipped workers like servers and bartenders have to deal with the higher costs of living, including rent and health insurance, just like all other workers. By giving all workers more disposable income, there will be more customers for local businesses, especially restaurants. Nobody likes to patronize restaurants and bars more than the workers in the industry.

Money:

Continued from page 6

3. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour would be beneficial to the city. When the workers' incomes are increased, they will have money to spend which would help generate sale tax for the city. When the workers' incomes are increased, they will have an opportunity to save some of their money for the future. They will be able to provide for their families and rely less on government welfare programs.
4. Raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour is necessary. The change should be gradual so that the employers will have a chance to adjust to the change.
5. Workers earning less than \$15 an hour are earning poverty wage. They are doing the work; however, they are not sharing the wealth. If poverty wage continues to exist, the next generation will also be earning poverty wage!

Darrow Sprague

1. We need to give more people (sometimes referred to as consumers) the ability to participate in our economy.
2. I support a local ordinance that would provide a path to \$15/ hour, with no exemptions (carve-outs), with future increases tied to the CPI, and Enforcement.
3. Nobody that is working full time should be living in poverty, particularly single parents that often have to juggle several part time jobs and are barely getting by.
4. It will have a ripple effect that will go beyond the city of Sacramento. It would be an immediate boon to any local business that caters to the working class, like many of these coffee houses, restaurants and breweries that I've been known to spend my money at. I am a consumer and by choosing where to spend my money, I am also the job creator.
5. I love Sacramento and I want to see our local economy thrive and I want more of my friends to be able to do better. It bothers me when I visit a local brewery and the owner brags to me about how

well they are doing, but then I end up having to buy one of his employees and a couple of his performers a beer because they aren't really being compensated enough to afford the beer at this establishment, and then to later hear this same owner at the city task force meeting try to paint this picture of how forcing him to pay a little more per hour is going to drive him out of business. I'll take my business elsewhere first.

6. (Should it be gradual to \$15 an hour?) I would support a higher minimum wage, but I've seen survey results that show that 70 percent of Sacramento voters would support an immediate boost to \$13.50 an hour and 58 percent support a path-way to \$15 an hour, so I'll side with the majority on this one. All we ask for is a path to \$15 per hour; no exemptions; chained to the CPI; An enforcement mechanism. An economy that denies a majority of the population the ability to participate is never going to be healthy. Smart business people with a long term vision will see the value and be ahead of the curve and be prepared to accept the increase in

revenue. When people who are barely getting by, make more, they spend more and that's where jobs are created.

Colin Meinrath

1. I think it is inevitable
2. I do, because all people need to make a dignified living.
3. People said it would hurt the economy in other cities and those people were wrong
4. It should increase by 75 cents each month until it's at \$20 per hour. It must also be pegged to increase with inflation.
5. America is under economic and racial apartheid. The rich greatly underestimate the amount of poverty, and the poor greatly underestimate the vast wealth of the ruling class.

Walt Rhoads

Seattle's recent adoption of a higher minimum wage shows that it's a realistic action. I support it for two reasons: one, the existing wage is too low to live on; and two, higher wages provide a stimulus for the whole economy through a ripple effect from the bottom. At the low end of the wage scale, most of the money earned is

See Raise, page 15

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Door to Door: The Week of Sighs

By PAT LYNCH

When we were kids an East Sacramento summer was a spree of freedom, even when it was blistering hot. I remember doing the famous fried egg experiment on the sidewalk, but fled the worst afternoons to climb to the top bunk with a book in our cool house on 42nd Street. I had turned the bedroom calendar to the wall. These days were transcendent. There could be no reminders of time.

In the evenings we tumbled out of doors again to ride our bikes, skate, build forts in the vacant lot, have fascinating encounters with strange kids who sometimes



wandered over from across D Street. But mostly the lot was ours; we called it our "territory" and made paths through it, played that we were Robin Hood's merry outlaws, and told knock-knock jokes in British accents. The world seemed to stay endlessly lit.

We played on even when dusk deepened, and mothers began to call us home. Finally, my father, who could whistle without moving his lips, an impressive skill we could not acquire, let out a shrill blast that forced us to scamper to our houses.

I wanted this life to last forever. It was rich and giddy. The days stretched on and each morning smelled so fresh and sweet it almost gave you a pang. It was all ours.

The first bad sign came with the Sacramento Bee. A page fell out: Back to School sales. They featured joyfully smiling girls standing around clutching binders and gazing at the sparkle from one another's new shoes. The boys were depicted in a similar fantasy—they grinned at book-bags, at one another, at a football nestled under the arm of another grinning boy, and all wore slacks more creased than the grins.

"Oh no. Look," I said to my mother. She was a kindly woman who had obliged me by moving the kitchen calendar to the inside of a cupboard so I wouldn't have to see it.

"There's still the State Fair," she said, folding up the ad page. "You always like that."

True enough. The Fair was a reliable feast of astonishments, particularly the chunky, snorting animals and the lurid signs above the freak shows we were not allowed to attend. But the fair was essentially an interruption in the gloom that had begun its descent.

We didn't have to shop for clothes because we went to Sacred Heart and wore uni-

forms: blue, pleated skirts, white middie blouses and red ties. It was grieved to see my mother hang these items in a row in our closet. "Aren't you sad we have to go back?" I said to my sister, Kathleen. But she said she was happy because she'd get to see her friend, Amelia, again, and she was excited to find out who her teacher would be: Sister Jerome or Sister Andrew. I said she was a traitor, but she made a face at me, which is what traitors do. I asked my friend Mark, who went to public school, and whose mother had already bought him new clothes. "I hate school," Mark said. "I wish I could squish it." He stomped his foot. Mark and I both did well enough in school when we got there, but it was the going that offended us.

When you go to school you can't stay up late reading entrancing novels because you're going to have to get up early to go read about the national exports of Paraguay or some other dreary place identical to the other dreary places. You can't read about the man imprisoned in an iron mask because you're going to be imprisoned yourself in an iron routine of classes, prayers, skimpy recesses, nuns, strictness, and long, suffocating afternoons taking quizzes about Paraguay.

I hated school because I loved freedom. I loved choosing my own books from McKinley Library, loved lolling through afternoons reading them. Once, during the despondent preschool week before the fifth grade, I brought a paper around and asked kids to write what they thought about school starting up. I remember that most wrote

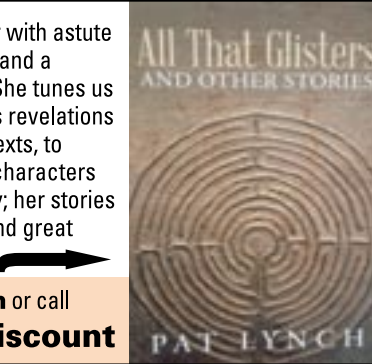
"hate," one wrote that school is stupid, one wrote, "Ug." A smart girl named Susan who wore glasses wrote "Yay." My father thought it interesting that I solicited opinions and predicted that I might be a reporter one day.

But you have to go to school to be a reporter. You have to go to school to be anything. That last week of freedom—the Week of Sighs—was hard. Our mother, to her everlasting credit, showed no unseemly happiness; peace was soon to come to her, but she kept a sober mien and let us have Coca Cola on the final Saturday.

I saw the ads on TV the other night. I know somewhere near there are kids in mournful preparation. But I know something now I would never have suspected then. There are other mourners—teachers. I revived the fifth grade survey, queried a few of them. Four said: "Oh God no—it's too soon," one said, "I hope I don't have to check for head lice this year," two said they needed raises, and when the others heard about the raises, they said, "Make that unanimous." All are taking on-line or night classes along with working full time.

Now I listen more closely. I can still hear the Week of Sighs. But it has twice the volume I heard as a child.

Pat Lynch is a Sacramento writer with astute social consciousness and a reporter's sharp eye. She tunes us in: to language with its revelations and betrayals, to subtexts, to nuance, to irony. Her characters engage us emotionally; her stories peel away the layers with humor and great humanity. Purchase her book, "All That Glisters And Other Stories", at Lulu.com or call 916-457-2725 for a 20 percent discount.



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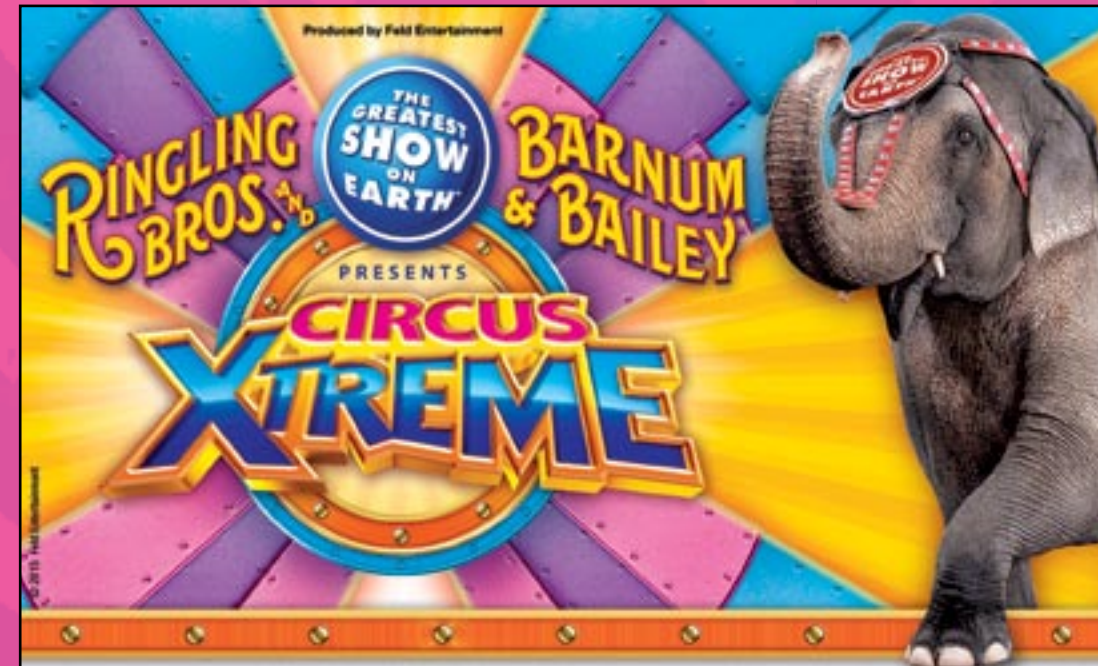
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Raise:

Continued from page 7

spent rather than saved, and this immediate recirculation of the money provides the stimulus.

I think it would be beneficial to the city as a whole in the long run, although the additional overhead might be onerous for some businesses in the short run. For this reason I think it should be implemented gradually, to mitigate the short-term impact.

Raising the minimum wage to the level proposed is simply a restoration of societal and business norms that once were an accepted condition, before the ratio between the cost of living and the minimum wage became grossly disproportionate. It is not a radical proposal.

Janeth Serrano

1. I think it provides us a great opportunity to raise the standards of living for

many Sacramentans. We know that the cost of living hasn't stayed as stagnant as wages have, and as a result many families are living paycheck to paycheck, hoping that they won't have an emergency that will send them over the edge financial or cause them to become homeless.

2. Yes, I support raising the wage. I support it because it will elevate the standard of living for not just the people who are making the higher wage but because it will also feed into the local economy.

3. Yes, I think the whole city could benefit. Because when workers are making a more livable wage they will be able to afford the extras that they can't right now and as a result they will be able to use their expendable income to go out for dinner, and other activities that will have them be part of the local economy.

4. I think a gradual increase in the wage is manageable – each year increasing it until it reaches \$15 an hour.

Eric Sunderland

1. I think it is high-time that we raise the minimum wage in Sacramento to meet and keep up with the rising cost of living in our community. The minimum wage is too slow to be raised, and too many years go by before the minimum wage is adjusted to keep up with rising cost of goods and services. Since the State of CA, and the Federal Government aren't moving fast enough to adjust the minimum wage, then we as a city should do so.

2. I support Sacramento finding its path to a \$15 minimum wage- staged in over a period of years, just as other cities up and down the State of California and across the country have done. I support it because raising the wage will boost the local

economy by infusing dollars into local businesses. Right now, minimum wage working families don't have money to buy even basic necessities, and they have to depend on social services and public programs, (that we all pay for with our taxes,) to get through the week. If we raise the minimum wage, low-wage earners will have what they need to buy basic necessities, and may even be able to buy an extra item or too once in awhile.

3. I KNOW it would be beneficial to the city of Sacramento as a whole, because stagnated wages don't do anything to help our economy, and a raise to the minimum wage will not only infuse the economy with dollars that would otherwise not be spent here by the huge corporations that mostly own the low-wage paying businesses, but a raise would also help get working families off of public assistance programs.

4. I honestly believe a minimum wage increase is needed, and well over-due. We have some catching up to do! BUT, we must do it at a pace that will allow local businesses to be able to absorb and to adjust their business models.

5. I believe we should raise the minimum wage to \$13.50 in 2017. This would give businesses time to absorb the 2016 raise to \$10.00 per hour, and I also feel that once it is set at \$13.50 per hour, that the minimum wage should be set to automatically rise with the cost of goods and services, by tying our minimum wage to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) like a lot of the other CA cities have done. That way we will not have to revisit the issue in the future, and we won't fall so far behind that it takes large increases to catch up with the cost of living.

6. I believe Sacramento working families deserve to be paid a livable wage!

Fabrizio Sasso

1. I think it's a good idea. Prices of goods have gone up but working people's wages have remained stagnant.

2. Yes, it would give more working families an opportunity to sustain themselves. Most minimum wage workers don't make enough to cover their basic needs. Additionally, businesses can afford it.

3. Yes, it would be beneficial. More money in the pockets of people who will spend it will stimulate the economy. People will be less dependent on public assistance and the city will bring in more tax revenues for much needed services.

4. I think there should be gradual increases to \$15 an hour and tied to the consumer price index so as the cost of living increases, so do workers' wages.

5. Raise the Wage now!

Valdez Anderson

It is very much needed with the price of rent rising this year in Sacramento by 15.7 percent. Two-bedroom apartments are \$800. Persons working fast food would have to work two and half jobs to survive especially with corporations cutting work time in order to compensate for not having to pay into healthcare, overtime, and full time! Asked if he thought an increase be gradual to \$15 an hour?, he said, "No! It should be implemented immediately!"

"Raising wage minimum would only help keep strip malls in local communities thriving, fast food would see a big increase in (what's been) missing over the years (by) customers who felt the break of the economic fall in '08 (and who) would have a chance to come back and dine-in!"



Faces and Places:

20th annual concert in Tahoe Park

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

The Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association put on one fun party at the park on Friday, Aug. 28. Neighbors enjoyed music, food and fun at the 20th annual concert in the park, which featured music by Soul Shakers. Don't miss the upcoming Tahoe Park Starlight Movie Series on Sept. 12 at the park. It's a family friendly event and goes from 6 to 10 p.m. Movie to be determined. In other neighborhood news, neighborhood activist Isaac Gonzalez posted on Facebook about Cafe Lumiere's owners in need of financial support due to personal health issues and funds to repair their ovens. You can read more about the ongoing outpouring of generosity from friends and neighbors at the GoFundMe page, <http://www.gofundme.com/jb3vh5fc>.



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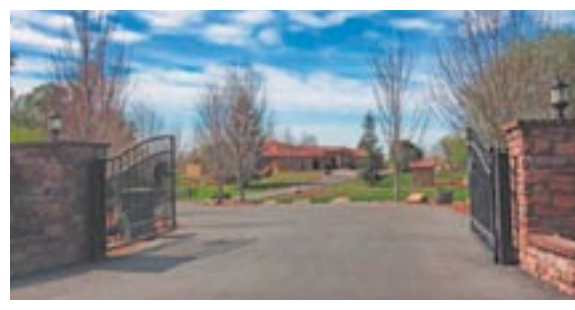
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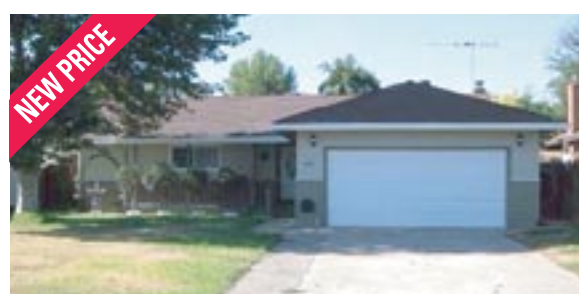
5552 V Street - \$459,950



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Railroad Museum calls out for volunteers -- Special drop-in volunteer open house

Sept. 12: Fascinated by railroading history? Interested in working on a train? California State Parks, the California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park (SHP) are recruiting adults (18 or older) interested in volunteering to help communicate the West's fascinating heritage of railroading and the California Gold Rush. For those interested, a special, drop-in Volunteer Open House is scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2015 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Stanford Gallery at 111 I Street in Old Sacramento. Volunteer applications are being accepted through September 15, which will be followed by an interview process.

Each year, approximately 600 men and women volunteer for the California State Railroad Museum's programs -- including weekend excursion train operations, track construction, restoration and maintenance, even clerical work. A background in history is not required to become a volunteer. In fact, most of the volunteers in the popular program began with little knowledge of railroads or the Gold Rush. As individuals become more familiar with the Museum's varied and frequent programs, many volunteers take on additional responsibilities, such as conducting research or giving talks to community organizations. New docents can choose to work in the Museum interacting with visitors from around the world, working in the railroad restoration shops on rare and unique railroad equipment, work on the Sacramento Southern Railroad, or other jobs in this dynamic and fun environment. Volunteering represents a serious commitment of at least 84 volunteer hours annually, but the hours are flexible and the rewards can be tremendous. Docents receive perks such as a discount at the Museum Store, preferential and/or early access to selected special events, and the pride of working at North America's finest and most visited railroad museum. Volunteer applications can be downloaded at http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25583 and completed forms can be emailed to allaboard.csrmm@parks.ca.gov or mailed/delivered to the Volunteer Coordinator, California State Railroad Museum, 111 I St., Sacramento, CA 95814. For more information, please call 916-323-9280 or 916-445-0269.

Free movie showing! Take Back Your Power: A critical investigation of the smart grid & smart meters

Sept. 13: 1 p.m. Josh del Sol's award winning documentary investigates so-called "smart" utility meters, uncovering shocking evidence of in-home privacy invasions, increased utility bills, health & environmental harm, fires and unprecedented hacking vulnerability... and lights the path toward solutions. Eric Windheim, EMRS Certified Electromagnetic Radiation Specialist and founder of Sacramento Smart Meter Awareness will host Q & A after the film. The event will be held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 6151 H St.; <http://www.eventbrite.com>, call 395-7336
Visit: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/take-back-your-power-a-critical-investigation-of-the-smart-grid-smart-meters-tickets-17875455970?aff=ehomesaved>

Railroad Museum to Highlight Important Role of Chinese Workers in Building the Transcontinental Railroad During Special Author Presentation

Sept. 16: California State Parks and the California State Railroad Museum are proud to present a special author presentation and book signing opportunity by Robert S. Wells, author of *Voices from the Bottom of the South China Sea*, on Wednesday afternoon. The compelling and illustrated non-fiction book by Wells highlights the largely untold story of a tragic shipwreck in 1874 off Southern China that killed hundreds of Chinese who were just hours away from reuniting with their families after years of helping to build the Transcontinental Railroad. Based on lost records that were recently discovered and pieced together by the author, the historical book captures the lives of the Chinese passengers when they spent years laboring in California building the railroad, mining silver, growing food, and seeking their fortune. In fact, many Chinese workers during this time played critical roles in building the Transcontinental Railroad. While many Chinese workers were already in California as part of the Gold Rush, many more came to California as a result of an ambitious recruitment effort directed by five influential Sacramento businessmen and political figures -- Leland Stanford, Collis P. Huntington, Mark Hopkins, E.B. Crocker and Charles Crocker. Their goal was to find an inexpensive labor force to build the Central Pacific railroad eastward to connect with the Union Pacific. Included as a matter of course were hazardous working conditions such as blasting and cutting through hard granite, blizzards and extreme cold, and the high altitudes of the Sierra. The special presentation will begin at 2 p.m. in the Museum's East Theater and is included with Museum admission: \$10 for adults, \$5 for youths (ages 6-17), and children ages five and under are free. The book *Voices from the Bottom of the South China Sea* will be available for purchase in the Museum store. For more information, please call 916-323-9280 or visit www.csrmm.org. Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at SaveOurWater.com.

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Free! Riverside Concert Series at Camp Pollock
Oct. 1: Come Relax at Camp Pollock! Concert will feature a relaxing musical experience on Sacramento's American River Parkway. Concerts start at 6 and continue until 8 p.m. Bring your own picnic basket and blanket. Bring your leashed dog. Enjoy S'mores compliments of Sierra Service Project! The events are hosted by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. For more information, contact sacramentovalleyconservancy.org or call 731-8798. Camp Pollock is located at 1501 Northgate Blvd.

Fire Station 43 Open House
Sept. 19: Fire Station 43, located at 4201 El Centro Road, will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

Lupus awareness and fundraising event
Sept. 26: The Alliance for Lupus Research is holding a Move to Cure Lupus Awareness and Fundraising event at Granite Regional Park. ALR is a national nonprofit with a mission to find better treatments and ultimately prevent and cure Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, a debilitating autoimmune disease by supporting medical research. Because the ALR's Board of Directors funds all fundraising and administrative costs, 100 percent of all donations goes to support lupus research programs. To date, ALR has committed over \$100 million to lupus research. ALR holds lupus awareness events all over the country but this is the first time they will hold an event in Sacramento. Participants can choose from a 5Kwalk, soul line dancing and yoga. Visit walk.lupusresearch.org/Sacramento today to register to participate. Lupus is an autoimmune disease in which a person's immune system mistakenly attacks the body's own tissue and organs. The exact cause of lupus is not known.

OCTOBER
Free! Riverside Concert Series at Camp Pollock
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Sacramentan Pete Rossi celebrates 100th birthday

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part series about Sacramento's newest centenarian, Pete Rossi.

One can obtain a lot of friends during a lifetime – especially a lifetime of 100 years. And Sacramentan Pete Rossi certainly knows a lot about that latter point.

After all, more than 200 of Pete's friends and family gathered together with him at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 67 Hall at 2784 Stockton Blvd. last Sunday, Aug. 23 to celebrate his 100th birthday.

The event was a surprise party, which had been in the works since the early part of the year.

Pete's son-in-law, Mike Zwack, mentioned that many people had been asking whether there would be a party for Pete, who is best known for his many years as a local bar owner.

"A lot of people had been asking (about a possible party), so there was a lot of participation from the bar owners," Mike said. "There was

Clair Brown from Brownie's (at 5858 South Land Park Drive), (Melvin) 'Bull' Ah-Yun, (Jr.) from the Swiss Buda (at 2342 Fruitridge Road), John McGraw from the Pocket Club (at 5043 Freepoint Blvd.), Joanne Martin from the Flame Club (at 2130 16th St.) and Steve Pate from Gorman's (at 7123 Franklin Blvd.). So, all those bars were involved in this planning."

The main planners of the event were Pete's daughter, Patti, and Robin Reynolds, a very close friend of Pete's family.

As is typical for a surprise party, the guests of the gathering arrived a substantial amount of time prior to when Pete entered the building.

Those guests observed the eventual arrival of Pete, who was led by a bagpiper from the back of the hall to the front of the hall.

Pete enjoyed the moment as he gave kisses to ladies and shook hands with men while holding hands with Patti, as they progressed along the south side of the room.

After completing that entrance, Pete smiled for cameras in front of a red, white and blue

sign, which featured the words: "Happy 100th birthday, Pete." The crowd then – although somewhat sporadically – sang, "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

Only a short amount of time passed before Mayor Kevin Johnson made an appearance.

Johnson was joined on stage by Robbie Waters, former councilmember and sheriff.

After Johnson and Waters shared a few words about Pete, they exited the stage and met with Pete at the head table.

It was there that Johnson, who was joined by Waters, presented Pete with a key to the city.

The program also included appetizers, a buffet dinner, dancing, a speech by Dennis Reynolds, who Mike described as being "like Pete's adopted son," birthday toasts by Brown and former bar owner Art Rinetti, the lighting of candles on two birthday cakes and the singing of the song, "Happy Birthday."

Mike said that Pete's family was well represented at the event.

"Just about all of Pete's family is attending (the birthday gathering)," Mike said. "So, we have

people who came from Texas, Arizona, Alaska, Napa. Probably, at least 20 (of Pete's out-of-state relatives were present at the event)."

In commenting about what it means to him to have Pete celebrated as Sacramento's newest centenarian, Mike said, "I have chills going up and down my spine right now. I do, because there are all these folks that Pete has known for so many years, and that they're able to attend, number one, and that they're taking the time to (attend). So, it's remarkable that so many people are showing up (for the event)."

And in sharing his personal feelings about Pete and his 100th birthday celebration, Mike said, "It is truly amazing. I feel more than blessed. He's such a good guy. I am the luckiest son-in-law that a man can imagine. Shortly after I met him, it wasn't son-in-law and father-in-law. It was son and dad, and he was super. He treated me to fishing trips and hunting trips, and it is very, very amazing."

Jo Laverde, former owner of the Idle Hour bar at 6816 Fruitridge Road, also shared a few words about Pete, as she said, "I wrote in (the event's

guest book) that I was really so happy that I could celebrate (Pete's) 100th birthday. He's a great guy and full of heart. He's a very interesting man. He played golf with my husband. They would go down to Dry Creek with about four groups just about every Saturday."

Swiss Buda bartender Eric Cameron, who Pete hired to work at the Swiss Buda, when he owned the place, fondly recalled his former boss.

"I believe I was (Pete's) last hire (at the Swiss Buda)," Cameron said. "For a bar owner to put his faith into a fresh 23-year-old to handle the door on Friday and Saturday nights showed a lot of insight. He has done nothing but surround himself with good people, and he certainly has an eye for that. He has a heart of gold and a memory that is as sharp as a tack. He'll never forget you. He'll remember you. He's the sweetest man you'll ever meet."

Waters also spoke highly about Pete, saying, "He was a supporter of mine way back in 1982, when I ran for sheriff, and then when I ran for city council. I went over to his (business) a few times. He's really a great guy, and he looks great for 100."



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SoCap Walk



It is all happening Downtown Sacramento and you are within close proximity to the amazing rebirth of the city core. Be a part of the excitement and get in on the act before it's too late. Just blocks to the soon to open Golden I Center, R Street Historic District, The Ice Blocks, Crocker Art Museum, Raley Field, and the iconic year round Sunday Farmer's Market and Southside Park. Enjoy easy access to all freeways, SMC, Sacramento Valley Station, Amtrak Capital Corridor Trains, & Old Sacramento \$455,000



WONDERFUL RIVER PARK

Desirable 3 bedrooms, remodeled bath, hardwood floors and more. The updated kitchen is complete with granite counters, gas cooktop, stainless steel appliances and soft closure cabinets. The large backyard has great shade trees and is very private. The beautiful swimming pool Too! \$429,000

CHRISTINE BALESTERI 966-2244



FABULOUS MCKINLEY PARK

4 bedrooms 2½ baths; spacious floor plan for entertaining. Beautiful hardwood floors with walnut inlay, updated kitchen, and partial basement with wine storage. Master suite sitting area with a very large master bath and walk-in closet. \$835,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048
PAM VANDERFORD 799-7234



PENDING

REMODELED MEDITERRANEAN

3 bedrooms 2 baths with Old World charm. Spacious living room with beamed ceilings and surround sound. Hardwood floors. Updated kitchen with stainless appliances and Aga stove. High quality bathrooms remodeled down to studs. Jetted tub. Outdoor kitchen, 2 fountains. \$799,000

COLLEEN WIFVAT 719-2324



PENDING

FABULOUS EAST SACRAMENTO

This 45th Street home has been meticulously renovated ... incorporating vintage charm with modern convenience. 3 bedrooms 2 baths, a master ensuite with 2 walk-in closets! New kitchen features shaker cabinets, quartz counters and upgraded appliances. Large corner lot could be RV storage or fabulous garden! \$724,900

JAMIE RICH 612-4000



PENDING

BEAUTIFULLY REDONE

Remodeled 2 years ago with open floor plan. 3 bedrooms 2 baths, refinished wood floors, spectacular kitchen with built-in stainless steel appliances, new bathrooms. Lots of natural light, and plantation shutters. Large basement for storage. Low maintenance yard. 2-car detached garage. \$610,000

COLLEEN WIFVAT 719-2324



BRIDGEWAY TOWER PENTHOUSE

Enjoy the best of downtown living! Completely remodeled with stunning kitchen and baths. 3rd bedroom now a formal dining room. Living, dining and bedrooms access the full length balcony, walls of glass for amazing southern views off the 15th floor. Walk to Kings Arena, restaurants, Capitol. \$719,000

NATHAN SHERMAN 969-7379

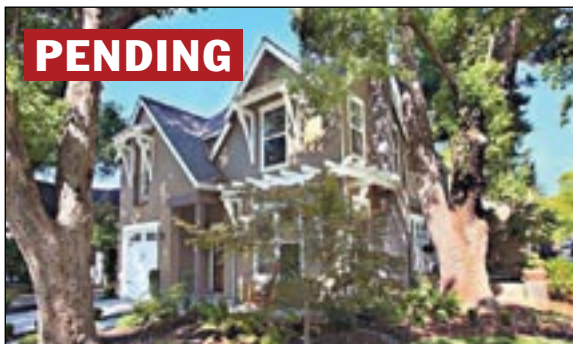


PENDING

CLASSIC EAST SACRAMENTO

East Sac charmer with vaulted ceilings and exposed beams in the living room, great hardwood floors with inlays and leaded glass throughout this amazing home. Updated kitchen, walk in closet. Converted garage a charming 225 square foot guest cottage/home office with full bathroom. \$449,000

NATHAN SHERMAN 969-7379



PENDING

CUSTOM BUILT HOME

Unique Mike Paris built Home in East Sacramento built in 2012. All the modern day amenities with a blend of old world charm. 4 bedroom 3 bath home includes high ceilings, formal dining room with french doors leading to a side patio, open floor plan, spacious family room opening to outside patio. \$875,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



PENDING

MIDTOWN VICTORIAN

Beautiful Victorian home with a dream kitchen, renovated with subway tile, granite counters, high end cabinets and stainless steel appliances. Tankless water heater, new roof and fresh paint make this house shine. It even has a full basement. Easy walk to retail, restaurants and all midtown has to offer! \$355,000

ALEXIS JONES 715-0237

for current home listings, please visit:

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