

ay group mounting a challenge for the King of the Mountain title Tuesday as the Amgen Tour
Livermore on Patterson Pass Road. The third stage of the race began in San Jose and finished
der, from left, Brian Vandborg and Bauke Mollema, who arrived at the summit about five min-
CostaTimes.com for a slide show of the race. For Stage 3 results, see Page B2.

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ED ANDRIESKI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

“We have begun the essential work of keeping the American dream alive in our time.”

— President Barack Obama

Forget old-school ways — parents, teachers blogging

■ Mt. Diablo district community sounds off online about management, elections

By Theresa Harrington
STAFF WRITER

CONCORD — The online frontier has given tech-savvy parents, teachers, Mt. Diablo school board members and others a virtual town hall where they spout opinions, rile up opposition and share ideas.

“I love the MDUSD blog,” said campus supervisor Annie Nolen. “I read them all because I am interested in what’s going on.”

Although the district has a Web site, it does not offer the kind of immediate, free-flowing, interactive communication that today’s BlackBerry,

iPhone and laptop-carrying consumers crave.

During the past couple of years, blogs, issue-oriented Web sites and e-mail communication networks have sprung up to keep pace with the demand for information and to target specific interest groups.

A district blog established by board President Gary Eberhart and Vice President Paul Strange about a year ago gave the two elected leaders a virtual soap box for promoting their campaign to create a new majority on the district’s board of trustees.

“How people acquire their news and information is changing and evolving,” Eberhart said. “It’s free for us and it allows us to get information out and answer questions.”

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■ **IT’S NICE BEING CHIEF:** Walnut Creek native, with 30 years in law enforcement, takes helm in Dublin. **Page 3**

■ **TALIBAN’S TOLL:** U.N. report says militants in Afghanistan responsible for more than half of civilian deaths. **Page 14**

