



FOOD & WINE

Finger-licking Super Bowl meal

— Page 6A



SPORTS

Djokovic wins major

— Page 1B

Daily Briefing

Passenger killed, driver injured in Fairfield crash

A 21-year-old Fairfield man died early Sunday morning and another was seriously injured in a car crash that police say may have been alcohol related.

Steve Mann was a passenger in a 1988 Chevy Celebrity, when the driver, an unidentified 22-year-old also of Fairfield, hit a tree in the 700 block of Cement Hill Road in Fairfield at about 4 a.m., Fairfield police said.

Passersby called 911 and when police officers arrived, the car was in the westbound lane of the roadway, fully engulfed in flames, authorities said. Bystanders had managed to pull both of the vehicle's occupants out when the car started to burn, police said.

According to authorities, Mann was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver was taken by ambulance to University of California, Davis, Medical Center in Sacramento with major injuries, but police said that, as of late Sunday morning, he was expected to live.

Authorities said the cause of the crash is still under investigation but they suspect the driver may have been under the influence of alcohol at the time of the collision.

Anyone who may have witnessed this incident is asked to contact the Fairfield Police Department's Traffic Unit at 428-7524

Today's forecast

Patchy fog early
High 56° | Low 40°

Index

Ask Amy	5B
Bridge/Crossword	5B
Classified	6B-9B
Comics	4B-5B
Horoscope	5B
Lottery	10A
Movies	4A
Obituaries	4A
Opinion	8B
Scoreboard	2B
Sideways TV	9A
Sudoku	6B



A heartfelt note to troops



Joel Rosenbaum/JRosenbaum@TheReporter.com

Guadalupe Arreola, 10, of Fairfield, looks for a sticker to put on a handmade Valentine's Day card that she was making for members of the armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Kids make valentines to send overseas

By Ryan Chalk

RChalk@TheReporter.com

At The Leaven's Phoenix Drive after-school tutoring and mentoring center they have a saying, "Love is kind," and the children there hope to spread that message to troops serving overseas this Valentine's Day.

On Friday, service members from Travis Air Force Base joined more than a dozen children at the center to make Valentine's Day cards for troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Joining them were Councilman Rick Vaccaro from Fairfield and Vacaville Councilwoman Dilenna Harris as well as Fairfield Mayor Harry Price and Vice Mayor Chuck Timm.

"This is yet another great example of the community around Travis Air Force Base coming together to support our airmen," said 615th Contingency Response Wing Commander, Col. Gary Gottschall.

Gottschall told the children that what they were doing meant a lot to the servicemen and women serving abroad.

"We look forward to the finished product of your work here today," he said.



Benjamin Alvarez, 6, of Fairfield, works on his handmade Valentines Day card at the Leaven's new after-school center on Phoenix Drive in Fairfield.

It was a touching moment for those who have served overseas and found joy in receiving a care package or letters from a loved one.

"Probably the number one thing with being deployed is we are separated from our families. You miss them," said Master Sgt. Matt Moore, a first sergeant with the

■ See Kids, Page 10A

District to discuss closures

By Reporter Staff

Trustees in the Vacaville Unified School District are expected to decide whether they will close any elementary schools next year during a meeting Thursday.

By a 5-1 vote, the Governing Board chose not to close any schools during its Feb. 13 meeting, instead opting to delay the matter until more information was available related to Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed state budget and its impact on K-12 education. In that time, staff has

had the opportunity to attend a workshop held by School Services of California, Inc., that has changed the district's budget assumptions for 2011-12.

According to Assistant Superintendent of Business and Administrative Services, John Niederkorn, the district needs to prepare to cut \$4.8 million to \$8.5 million from its budget. How much the district will need to cut depends on the fate of a tax extension package to go before voters in June as proposed by the gov-

ernor to help balance the state budget.

According to staff, the need for school closures stem from declining enrollment. The district is operating with about 440 fewer elementary students since this time last year and elementary enrollment has dropped by about 700 since the last time the district closed a school.

Niederkorn has said that the district will face a loss of about \$2.2 million in Average Daily Attendance funding

■ See District, Page 10A

Father, son share war's aftermath

By Julie Watson

Associated Press

MOORPARK — The crisply ironed uniforms of the father and son hang side by side in what they have dubbed the "Marine Corps closet," a dark space filled with vestiges of their tours of duty.

Two Purple Hearts. A backpack full of medical records.

The father is David R. Franco; the son is David W. Franco. From the name, they share so much: proud service in Iraq, and a haunting, painful aftermath.

Both survived blasts by impro-

vised explosive devices, and both have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder. They fight pain daily. They are jittery in crowds at the mall. They have memory lapses. The father has struggled to spell "the" or "to," while his son searches for words in a conversation.

Their injuries came three years apart. The elder Franco was still struggling to come to grips with his own suffering when he learned that his son had been injured in the same way.

■ See Share, Page 10A



Associated Press

Marines David W. Franco, 28, nicknamed "Junior," (left) has a beer with his father, David R. Franco, in Moorpark. Both Marines, the two Francos were injured during separate deployments to Iraq and have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries, a mental wound afflicting an estimated 10 percent of troops returning from today's wars. Both also have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Advocate calls for Mubarak to resign

By Hamza Hendawi and Maggie Michael

Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt's most prominent democracy advocate took up a bullhorn Sunday and called for President Hosni Mubarak to resign, speaking to thousands of protesters who defied a curfew for a third night. Fighter jets streaked low overhead and police returned to the capital's streets — high-profile displays of authority over a situation spiraling out of control.

Nobel Peace laureate Mohamed ElBaradei's appearance in Tahrir, or Liberation, Square underscored the jockeying for leadership of the mass protest movement that erupted seemingly out of nowhere in the past week to shake the Arab world's most populous nation.

Now in their sixth day, the protests have come to be centered in the square, where demonstrators have camped since Friday. Up to 10,000 protesters gathered there Sunday, and even after the 4 p.m. curfew, they numbered in the thousands, including families with young children, addressing Mubarak with their chants of "Leave, leave, leave."

"You are the owners of this revolution. You are the future," ElBaradei told the crowd after nightfall. "Our essential demand

■ See Mubarak, Page 10A

American factories keep edge

By Paul Wiseman

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — U.S. factories are closing. American manufacturing jobs are reappearing overseas. China's industrial might is growing each year.

And it might seem as if the United States doesn't make world-class goods as well as some other nations.

"There's no reason Europe or China should have the fastest trains, or the new factories that manufacture clean energy products," President Barack Obama said in his State of the Union address last week.

Yet America remains by far the No. 1 manufacturing country. It out-produces No. 2 China by more than 40 percent. U.S. manufacturers cranked out nearly \$1.7 tril-

■ See Edge, Page 10A

Share ...

■ Continued from Page 1A

"My heart dropped," said the father. "As a parent you want your kids to be safe. You don't want them to go through the same things you've been through."

The military was in the elder Franco's blood — his father, uncles and other relatives joined different branches — and he was a career man in the Marine Corps. He thrived as a leatherneck.

Franco went to Iraq at age 43, hand-picked by Gen. James Amos, now the top leader of the Marine Corps.

Franco was the only enlisted man on the Amos-selected team, a so-called Red Cell group that studied enemy tactics and made threat assessments to U.S. bases. The concept was so successful, Amos is considering using Red Cell groups in Afghanistan and the Marine Corps plans to start teaching the strategy at its professional military schools this year.

The general's spokesman called Franco's leadership and perspective

"invaluable."

He was on his team's second deployment to Iraq when he felt a premonition the morning of Nov. 4, 2005 that something was going to go wrong. He prayed and then called his wife, Adriana. Like always, he refrained from saying goodbye. Instead he told her, "I'll talk to you when I talk to you."

Franco turned on "Los Lonely Boys," a Tex-Mex rock band, to calm his mind and then he and the other Marines headed out in a Humvee from Fallujah. As they drove underneath a bridge, Franco saw a tire covered with a burlap sack along the road and instantaneously thought it was a bomb.

Then he was unconscious. When he came to, blood was streaming from his ears. Nearby, his colonel was slumped over; Franco grabbed him and checked his pulse. The colonel slowly opened his eyes and gestured that he was OK. Franco couldn't hear and was dazed, but he refused help for nine hours while he aided the other wounded Marines. All survived.

When he returned home a month later, Franco says he knew something was wrong. He had lower back, neck

and leg pains. His left eye kept fluttering. He had headaches, felt nauseous and would sometimes forget where he was going while driving.

Five months after the accident, he was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury. He scoured the Internet to learn everything he could.

All the while, he worried about his son in Iraq.

The path of "Junior" to the Marines was far different. For a long time, he resisted his family's military tradition.

As a teenager, Junior ripped up Marine Corps posters in his bedroom when he became angry; and Franco said he never pushed him to join. But then came the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and the younger Franco signed up immediately; joining the Marines, he felt, was the best way to set the world aright.

When Junior, who resembles his father, showed him the black recruiting book of the Marine Corps, the barrel-chested man with Marine tattoos, was torn with feelings of pride and worry.

As the military plane carrying his son to Iraq took off from March Air

Reserve Base in Riverside County, the decorated combat veteran stood on a nearby road and sobbed.

"I remember telling the gunnery sergeant, watch my boy, make sure he comes home," he said.

The father got the call on the way home from a doctor's appointment.

"Don't tell me you got hit by an IED," Franco said he told his son. "Yeah, I did," Junior responded.

"They aren't going to let me go anywhere for a full 30 days."

It happened on April 24, 2008. Junior was en route to the village of Haditha on the last mission of his seven-month deployment. He had just asked the gunner to keep an eye out for anything suspicious.

"He tapped me on the leg. I said 'What?' and that's when it blew. I came to, at the bottom of my tank. I couldn't hear. I couldn't move my leg," Junior said.

Franco, 50, has retired from the military. He spends his day either getting help for himself or helping his son.

For more, go online to www.thereporter.com.



Associated Press

Egyptian Nobel Peace laureate and democracy advocate Mohamed ElBaradei addresses thou-

sands of protesters Sunday at Tahrir Square in Cairo.

Mubarak ...

■ Continued from Page 1A

is the departure of the regime and the beginning of a new Egypt in which every Egyptian lives in virtue, freedom and dignity."

In a further sign of Mubarak's teetering position after three decades in power, his top ally — the United States — called for an "orderly transition to democracy."

Asked if Washington supports Mubarak as Egypt's leader, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton avoided a direct answer, telling Fox News: "We have been very clear that we want to see a transition to democracy, and we want to see the kind of steps taken that will bring that about."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged the Egyptian government to implement democratic reforms and stop violence against protesters.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his Cabinet that he was "anxiously following" the crisis, saying Israel's three-decade-old peace agreement with Egypt must be preserved.

Protesters have shrugged off Mubarak's gestures of reform, including the sacking of his Cabinet and the appointment of a vice president and a new prime minister — both seen as figures from the heart of his regime.

ElBaradei, the former head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, has gained a following among young secular democracy activists with his grassroots organizing. But some demonstrators dismiss him as an expatriate long removed from Egypt's problems.

"Many people feel he loves prizes and traveling abroad," said Muhammad Munir, 27. "He's not really one of the people."

The outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, which wants to establish an Islamist state in Egypt, has made some statements that it was willing to let ElBaradei act as point man for the movement. But it also appeared to be moving for a more prominent role after lying low when the protests first erupted.

On Sunday evening, the presence of overtly pious Muslims in the square was conspicuous, suggesting a significant Brotherhood representation. Hundreds performed the sunset prayers. Veiled women prayed separately.

A senior Brotherhood leader, Essam el-

Erian, said he was heading to Tahrir Square to meet with other opposition leaders. El-Erian told an Egyptian TV station that the Brotherhood is ready to contact the army for a dialogue, calling the military "the protector of the nation."

Clinton suggested there were U.S. concerns over the possibility of the Brotherhood seizing direction of the movement. She warned against a takeover resembling the one in Iran, with a "small group that doesn't represent the full diversity of Egyptian society" seizing control and imposing its ideological beliefs.

The military was taking the lead in restoring order after police virtually vanished from the streets Friday without explanation after initially clashing with protesters. The disappearance of the police opened the door for a wave of looting, armed robberies and arson in cities around the country.

The anarchy was further fueled when gangs of armed men attacked at least four jails across Egypt before dawn, freeing hundreds of criminals and Muslim militants. Gangs of young men with guns and large sticks smashed cars and robbed people in Cairo.

The official death toll from the crisis stood at 97, with thousands injured, but reports from witnesses across the country indicated the actual toll was far higher.

The military, which enjoys far greater support among the public than the police, fanned out in tanks and armored vehicles around Cairo. At Tahrir Square, they appeared to cooperate with protesters in keeping order, and there were many scenes of affection between soldiers and demonstrators, who allowed troops to use their mobile phones to call home or offered them cigarettes.

"I am glad they are continuing to protest. God willing, he (Mubarak) will go," said one air force captain in uniform who drove by the edge of the square.

One banner held by protesters summed up the military's dilemma: "The army must chose between Egypt and Mubarak."

Minutes before the start of the curfew, at least two jets roared over the Nile, making several passes over the square, dropping lower every time and setting off alarms in parked cars. Some protesters clapped and waved to them while others jeered.

For more, go online to www.thereporter.com.

Edge ...

■ Continued from Page 1A

lion in goods in 2009, according to the United Nations.

The story of American factories essentially boils down to this: They've managed to make more goods with fewer workers.

The United States has lost nearly 8 million factory jobs since manufacturing employment peaked at 19.6 million in mid-1979. U.S. manufacturers have ranked near the top of world rankings in productivity gains over the past three decades.

That higher productivity has meant a leaner manufacturing force that's capitalized on efficiency.

"You can add more capability, but it doesn't mean you necessarily have to hire hundreds of people," says James Vitak, a spokesman for specialty chemical maker Ashland Inc.

The industry's fortunes are brightening enough that U.S. factories are finally adding jobs after years of shrinking their payrolls. Not a lot. But even a slight increase shows manufacturers are growing more confident. They added 136,000 workers last year — the first net increase since 1997.

What's changed is that U.S. manufacturers have abandoned products with thin profit margins, like consumer electronics, toys and shoes. They've ceded that sector to China, Indonesia and other emerging nations with low labor costs.

Instead, American factories have seized upon complex and expensive goods requiring specialized labor: industrial lathes, computer chips, fighter jets, health care products.

Consider Greatbatch Inc.,

which makes orthopedics and other medical goods. The company is expanding its manufacturing operations near Fort Wayne, Ind. Greatbatch wanted to take advantage of a specialized work force in northeastern Indiana, a hub of medical research and manufacturing.

"When you're talking about medical devices, failure is not an option," CEO Thomas Hook says. "It's a zero-mistake environment. These products are customized and high-tech. They go into patients to keep them alive."

Hook says the United States offers advantages over poorer, low-wage countries: reliable supplies of electricity and water, decent roads. And some localities support businesses by providing infrastructure and vocational training for potential hires.

Centerline Machining & Grinding in Hobart, Wis., which makes custom parts for manufacturers in the paper industry, plans to add to its staff of 26. But it's struggling to find the skilled tradesmen it needs for jobs paying \$18 to \$25 an hour.

CEO Sara Dietzen laments that local vocational schools cut back training courses in recent years, having concluded that the future for manufacturing was dim. Not from her view it isn't. For her company, output is all about speed.

"Our average customer wants a turnaround in less than three weeks," Dietzen says. "You're not going to get that in China."

Still, economist Cliff Waldman of the industry research group Manufacturers Alliance/MAPI doubts that U.S. factories will continue to expand their payrolls in the long run. Manufacturing, he says, is "not a job creator for the U.S., basically."

Kids ...

■ Continued from Page 1A

60th Air Mobility Wing. Moore talked a little bit about being deployed in Afghanistan and the impact of receiving cards such as the ones the kids are making.

"It was like a piece of home. It was almost like getting a card from our own kids," he said.

"It's really nice when the kids do these sorts of things," he added.

One such card, made by Guadalupe Arreola, 10, opened up to a glittery sticker of a dog on one page. On the other, it read, "You guys are beautiful. Keep up the good work. Happy Valentines Day."

Guadalupe said she hopes whoever opens the card receives her message of love.

"It makes me feel happy because when they open them they'll be surprised that they

have Valentines," she said.

For Executive Director Mark Lillis, this is just one way the children of The Leaven's three tutoring and mentoring centers give back throughout the year.

The Leaven, a nonprofit partnership between the Parkway Community Church, the city of Fairfield and Solano County, has worked since 2005 to improve the quality of life in some of Fairfield's most underprivileged neighborhoods.

Recently, children at The Leaven's Groves Center on Tabor Avenue collected spare change to help the children of The Lamb Center in Haiti, located near the epicenter of last year's catastrophic earthquake. Much of their orphanage was destroyed.

"For as much as has been given, comes a big responsibility and the kids have been given a lot. They're honored to be able to give back," he said.

District ...

■ Continued from Page 1A next year due to the enrollment decline; an amount that is factored into the district's proposed budget reduction figures.

Officials say there are enough "mothballed" classrooms spread across the district to constitute closing up to two elementary schools. A school closure comes with an estimated \$350,000 savings.

If the plan is to close one

or two elementary schools, trustees will have to decide which of the district's 11 elementary schools to shutter.

A 29-member School Closure Committee formed late in 2009 spent a series of long and intense meetings inside the Vaca Peña Middle School gymnasium establishing criteria and ranking the district's elementary schools in the order in which they should be closed.

The process found that Orchard, Hemlock, and Sierra Vista elementary schools

should be closed, in that order.

Trustees accepted the committee's report last February as information to be used — along with additional data — in the event a decision on school closures needed to be made.

Late last year, staff made its recommendation to the board to close both Hemlock and Sierra Vista elementary schools.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. inside the Educational Services Center, 401 Nut Tree Road, Vacaville.

Statement on Corrections

The Reporter is dedicated to the pursuit of clear and accurate reporting. Confirmed errors will be corrected in this space. If you have concerns about a story or this policy, call 448-2200 during weekday business hours.

CALIFORNIA LOTTERY

FANTASY 5

2, 7, 13, 35, 37

DAILY 3

EVENING DRAW

2, 0, 4

AFTERNOON DRAW

6, 5, 1

DAILY 4

6, 4, 4, 2