

## Divisions summarize 2008 accomplishments

**A** long and impressive list of 2008 accomplishments was shared with a group of senior managers who convened in the Daiss Boardroom at Hilltop on December 4 to hear details of key 2009 operating plans.

Presenting were **Kirsten Weisser**, Executive Vice President, Wealth Management; **Cort O'Haver**, Executive Vice President, Corporate Banking; and **Rauly Butler**,

Senior Vice President, Retail Banking.

Presenting for selected support functions were **Rich Lewis**, Senior Vice President, Information Technology; **Patty Reikowsky**, Senior Vice President, Centralized Operations; and **Pat Hudson**, Senior Vice President, Marketing and Product Management.

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## ROCKIN' THE NIGHT AWAY

**GINGER HOHM** (center), with accompaniment from her husband, Pastor Tim Hohm (far left in hat), and a three-piece group, entertained packed audiences on December 19 and 20 in Pinole with traditional Christmas tunes and her own compositions. See story on page 10.

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Mechanics Bank's re-designed website is scheduled to go online January 29.



### Bank hosts holiday parties Page 9

We have photos from two of the Bank's numerous holiday events.



Mike Popovich

## Business Development Forum

The Bank's annual Business Development Forum will be held March 5 at the Contra Costa Country Club, in Pleasant Hill.

Mike Popovich, Senior Vice President/CB Senior Manager, will be the featured speaker. His presentation will highlight the work of the Business Development Leadership Team, which is charged with developing a unified business development process.

# Ginger Hohm brings Christmas joy to Pinole

The Bank has a major musical talent masquerading as a staff auditor.

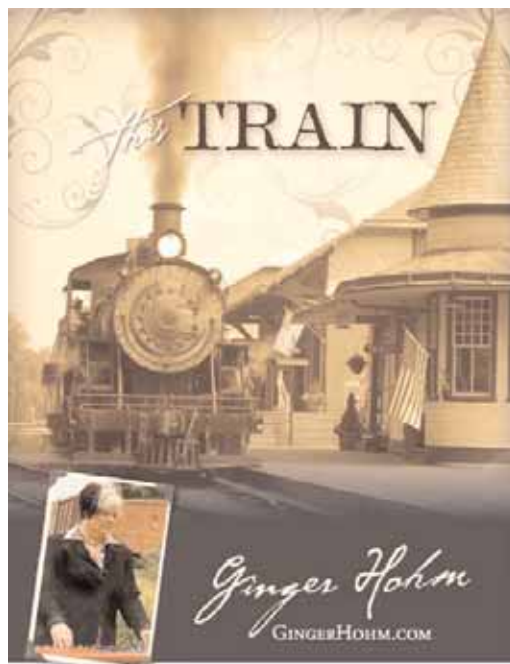
Ginger Hohm rocked and wailed in a dynamic two-night series of free "Christmas on the Avenue" concerts in Pinole on December 19 and 20, in preparation for the release of her first CD, "This Train," on January 10.

The CD will debut at a party at Central Assembly Church in El Sobrante, where her husband, Tim, is the senior pastor.

The CD, "Kind of a soulful/jazz/Christian album," according to Ginger, features original songs about events in her life.

Ginger and fellow musicians Martin Cantu and Evie Haskell sang traditional Christmas carols and their original works at the Christmas concerts.

Ginger and Tim live in Pinole. She's noticed all of the empty storefronts downtown because of the economy. One in particular, at 2300 San Pablo, has been vacant for several years while the city of Pinole seeks an upscale restaurant for that space.



Ginger Hohm belts out a song at her Christmas concert.

"Being a musician and a songwriter, I thought it would be nice to give back to the community during the holidays," Ginger says. "I pass this storefront every morning and there's a big sign in the window that it's for lease. So I called the city and asked if they would be willing to donate the use of the space for a Christmas concert. They were very receptive to the idea.

"We created an event for people to come in and hit the pause button during the holiday season. With so many demands on people right now with the economy and people's time, they were just two evenings where people could come in and relax and enjoy some really good music and not worry about these demands for a while. That's what we tried to do."

Bear Claw Bakery and Taqueria Sanchez in Old Town Pinole, and Kinder's in Hercules, donated pastries, sandwiches, and warm beverages.

Ginger and Tim perform a Good Friday concert for the community in Fernandez Park every year. Ginger has been singing and playing music her whole life, singing in different bands since she was about 13. She specializes in singing religious music.

"I would love the Christmas concerts to become an annual event, maybe a benefit concert where we would do a blanket drive, a food drive, or a toy drive to help out some non-profits," Ginger says.