

Iron Horse Times

April 15, 2009



Special News Alert: Alien Invasion!!!!



There have been numerous Alien sightings in San Ramon. Aliens have been blowing up Toys "R" Us' because they are making fun of them with their new alien toys. The Men in Black are currently working on this case. They have bought out "the big guns". So far they have killed 999,999,999,900,999 aliens. If you see any aliens please call 911 or the Men in Black. To contact the MIB call 1-235-456-7890

Story by AK, JK, & KC

Time For High Speed



In 2008 when we voted and elected Barack Obama President we also voted that we wanted to put aside 8 billion dollars to build a high speed train in CA. The train is supposed to help cut down on traffic, cut down on pollution, keep the freeways

safer, make transportation cheaper and speed up travel times. The locations that the train will go through cities between Sacramento and Irvine and also the cities between San Francisco and San Diego.. A one way trip from San Francisco to Los Angeles

would take about 2hours and 40 minutes, and cost around \$55. For flying to Los Angeles it would cost over twice that much. The trains, if we can get started working on them fast enough, could supply jobs to those who got let out of work.
By KL

The Economy a Broken Mirror?

The economy took a big hit in 2008 by the high price of gas. This was just the start. Later the value of houses went down, and trying to sell a house was difficult because banks would not loan any money to people because they had troubles with previous people. These people would take a loan out of a bank but could not pay the bank back due to increasing adjustable rates, the result of this made it harder for people to buy

houses. This increased the count of people losing their homes. This was just the beginning, more and more people were being laid off at work. When there's a job opening hundreds of people are waiting for the job. Then the governor of California signed a bill that stated all state employees had to take the first and third Friday off without pay. Can President Obama's stimulus plan help us rebuild or destroy the economy in the next seven

years? This is a chart of the home values, the values decrease each week.

Writer: KA
Editor: DG

**Iron Horse
Middle
School
San Ramon
CA 94583**

Reviews

Hunger Games

In a future world, North America as we know it has been destroyed and the continent is now divided into 12 regions. Katniss lives in District 12, the last district, the Appalachian Mountains. District 12 mines coal and they are exceedingly poor. Starvation is life. Ever since Katniss' father died, she has been in charge, caring for her mother and 12 year old sister, Prim. Katniss must risk her life in the Hunger Games to ensure the survival of her family. Coupled with her talent for "illegal" hunting, they survive somewhat comfortably. The capital is bent on reminding the districts who is boss. Their trump card is the Hunger Games, which are to ensure that no district makes an attempt at a rebellion or uprising. The Hunger Games are a combination of American Idol and Survivor, with Roman gladiator games tossed into the mix. Five stars for suspense.

by JC

THE PINK PANTHER 2

The sequel to the popular movie, "The Pink Panther", truly lives up to the same style, although as sequels often are, this one is not quite as spectacular as the first. There remains some of Steve Martin's great humor, but not quite as funny as the first. The plot is also

rather predictable for a detective movie that is meant to surprise the audience. However, the film was quite enjoyable to watch, and more family-oriented than the original. Fans of the original should find themselves in for a real treat.
by C.A-H

Wicked:

The Untold Story of the Witches of Oz

Wicked, the hit Broadway musical has finally come back to its birth place, San Francisco. Wicked is currently in the Orpheum Theater. This hit musical shows everything from friendship, to treachery, to equal rights. The hit musical talks about the story of how the Wicked Witch of the West, Elphaba, crosses paths with the Good Witch of the North, Galinda, and together

become the witches they are. With amazing lighting, costumes, sets, hydraulic lifts and crazy characters, Wicked satisfies the needs of The Wizards of Oz fans and puts them into the 21st century. -JA



Starring: Kendra Kassebaum, Teal Wicks, Carol Kane, David Garrison, Nicolas Dromard, Tom Flynn, Deedee Magno Hall, Eddy Rioseco, Everth Lopez and Tim Talman
Directed by: Joe Mantello
Musical Director: Bryan Perri
Based on the Book by: Winnie Holzman
Music and Lyrics: Stephen Schwartz



Left: The Orpheum Theater: San Francisco

Twilight, An Addicting Read

The book *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer starring young, 17 year-old Bella Swan, was definitely one of the better reads. Young Bella Swan moves in with her dad Charlie, a police chief, in the small city Forks, Washington. Bella transfers into a Forks high school and then the story unfolds.

On her first day Bella is like the "shiny new toy" and makes friends easily. Although her friends have different things to offer 5 perfect, pale students sit in the corner with a plate of untouched food. Those five people were the Cullens. As Bella gets to know one of the Cullens, Edward, after a rough start, Bella starts to put together some of his unusual qualities. Edward was in fact, a vampire. And after falling in love, Bella cannot stay away and neither can Edward. So



this "new couple" of the century breaks all the rules and lines between fantasy and reality. The love between Edward and Bella create a new definition to the word average.

This book is a "bookworm's addicting chocolate." As you read *Twilight* you will want more and more to do with this young vampire love. We definitely consider *Twilight* a great book to read, one that is most out of this world.

AP & AF

Letters to the Editor

IN RESPONSE TO THE ARTICLE IN UPFRONT MAGAZINE ON THE FUTURE OF NEWSPAPERS

Dear Editor;
In the past year, our economy has worsened causing a dramatic drop in newspaper sales. Still, I believe that people should buy and read newspapers, even in an economic downfall. After all, newspapers serve to inform, educate, and empower the reader. According to a recent

article in Upfront Magazine, newspapers have more readers than ever before and many of them are young. Furthermore, statistics show that about 69 million people choose to read the newspaper online. News will always be important: the issue at hand is how to deliver

survive in these difficult times, it is important for them to charge a monthly fee for their online services.
Sincerely,
J. A.

Dear Editor;
I do not think that newspapers are important. Newspaper

businesses that sell on the street are suffering in this economic crisis: people are not spending money to buy a paper. Furthermore, the use of raw materials it takes to produce newspapers is destroying our environment. More importantly, no one wants to buy a

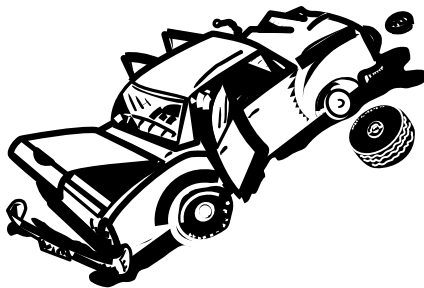
newspaper when they can get the same information online for free. While historically newspapers were once the primary source of news and the only way to communicate to the public, times have changed. Today, we receive information faster

than ever before due to newer technologies which allow us to be seconds away from instant updates. The newspaper is an outdated form of communication and it should be put to rest.
Sincerely,
H.H.

On March 10, 2009, a drunken teenager caused the death of a young Illinois local. Brent Bishop, 16, explained he was trying to commit suicide; he ended up killing Lea Zamora, 18. His alcohol level was .11 and the police confiscated his license.

"I only wanted to hurt myself. Not her. She had no reason to die," Bishop confessed. After his trial, Bishop met with the victim's mother. When they met, Mrs. Zamora reasoned, "Lea is gone. I thought I had nothing I could ask you that would help. This is my only request. That

A Death, Teenage Drinking



you make four whirligigs and put them in the four corners of the United States. That's what I ask."

This is only one drunk driving incident. In 2003, 60 percent of teenage deaths were a result of driving under the influence and 17,013 deaths of all ages were caused by alcohol. However, these numbers are improving. In 2007, the total deaths caused by alcohol dropped 10 percent. Teen drinking has influenced thousands and drunk driving has ruined many people.

by HH & MK

Announcements

Come to the Study Hall starting at 7:40 and ending at 8:10 every day but friday.

Need a quiet place to do homework after school come to the after School Study club on tuesdays and thursdays

Come support our school on Tuesday, May 19 in battle of the books at the Cal High Library

Wanted

Ponyboy and Johnny for murder.

Johnny: Black hair, black eyes, tan skin, age 16

Ponyboy: Light brown hair, greenish grey eyes, light skin, age 14

Yesterday at 2:30 in the morning park a young boy, named Bob, was murrderd by two boys by the name of Johnny and Ponyboy Curtis. The boys had earlier been with bobs girlfriend.

The event was caused when David (one of Bobs good friends) tried to drown Ponyboy in the fountain When his friend Johnny saw what was happening to Ponyboy he had to save him and killed bob to scare the other boys of.

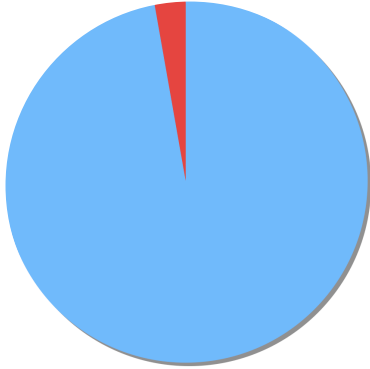


We found out from his former girl friend that she had been hanging out with Johnny and Ponyboy earlier that night, they also found out that Bob had been drunk at the time he died and just wanted to pick a fight. This tragic event truly hurts our community and we would like to give our support to Bob's friends and family. Please help us find the two killers.

In The Know: Music & Sports

by MS & JL

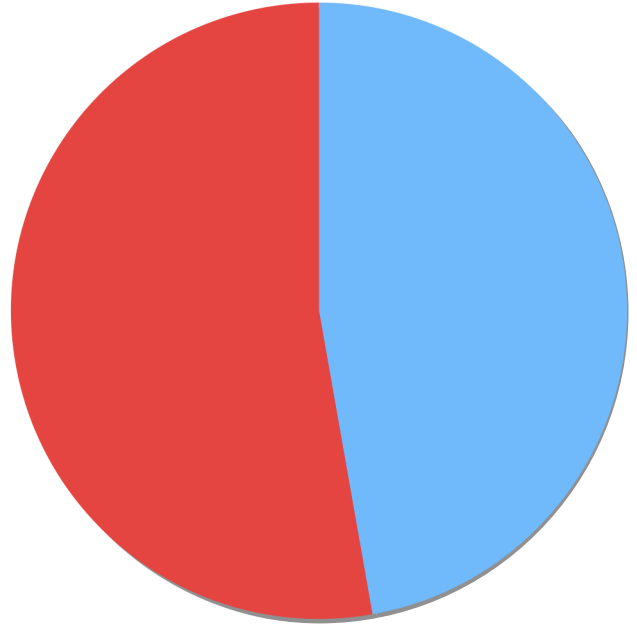
One question lies at hand: does music have a positive effect on your life? The poll went around to a few classes here at Iron Horse and the viewpoints seem clear. 144 of the 148



students who took the poll all agree that yes, music does have a positive effect on their life, stating that it “helps get you through life” and “calms you down”. Those who disagreed believe that “not all songs are good” and it makes them feel

Another poll went around Iron Horse asking if sports had a positive effect on schoolwork. 62 out of the 139 students who vote all thought that sports had a positive effect, simply saying it is “a great motivation” and “it releases stress”. The 77-student majority who disagreed said that “sports makes your priorities all mixed up” and “you lose your focus”.

Columnist and big sports-supporter Jacob Lundahl disagrees in an interview stating that, “Sports changed my life, I love it. I focus better knowing I did a good job in a game.” Perhaps the majority of people who voted do not play sports, and don’t know what they’re missing out on; as JL would like to believe.



Brodeur Rewrites History

The Southeast Division leaders, the New Jersey Devils have one name that everybody in the National Hockey League (NHL) will never forget: Martin Brodeur. On March 17, 2009, Brodeur surpassed the record for the most career wins with 552. The title originally belonged to former Colorado Avalanche and Montréal Canadien, the great Patrick Roy. As well as breaking the record for most wins, Brodeur is also

vying to be the goaltender with the most career shutouts; he stands with 101 shutouts. Terry Sawchuk currently holds the top spot in the category with 103. With only six games left, Brodeur hopes to get those three shutouts to break yet another record. With the regular season winding down, everyone will be on the edge of their seats to see if Brodeur can make NHL history.

by CC & S

KL: Time for High Speed
Wanted

AK: Special News Alert

JK: Special News Alert

Letter to the Editor

KC: Special News Alert

KA: The Economy a Broken Mirror?

JC: Hunger Games

CA-H : The Pink Panther

JA: Wicked

AP: Twilight

AF: Twilight

HH: Flower Poem

Letter to Editor

Teen Drinking

SK: Bird Poem

SvB: Ipod Poem

MS: Duck Poem

Polls

DF: Horoscopes

MK: Teen Drinking

JL: Polls

CC: Brodeur Rewrites History

HELP WANTED

Help take gum off
our campus. For more
information call
1-800-524-4467.

The Wiz

Come see the production
of "The Wiz" put on by
the advance drama class.
For more information go to
www.showtimes.irms.com/thewiz



Come make
cookies and
do homework.
If your interested
see Ms. Hill in
Room 201.

Golf Club

Come join the
Boy & Girls
Golf Team.

For more information
see Mr. Armstrong.

