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Miramonte High School students pet Therapy dog Tova, a golden retriever. A group of therapy dogs were made available to the school for stress-relief during finals week. Photo Cathy Dausman

Paws a Bit to Relieve Finals Stress

By Cathy Dausman

Miramonte High School quite literally went to the dogs June 7 and 9 thanks to a student suggestion and the follow through of administrative assistant Betsy Canty.

Therapy dogs — golden retrievers, a shepherd, a terrier and shih tzu mix — were swarmed by student admirers taking a break from finals and lapping up the proffered four-footed love.

Junior Zach Cohn was one of the first to greet Angus, a dark coated shepherd. Fresh off his AP US History exam, Cohn enjoyed his Angus encounter, saying he has a dog and cat at home.

Angus, Champ, George, and Tova were members of the Animal Rescue Foundation therapy animal team Pet Hug Pack; Benny, who arrived sporting a Golden State Warriors tee shirt, is registered with American Therapy Dogs Inc.

"It really was a hit," said Canty, who contacted providers only the previous week. Luckily, it all worked out. Just ask the study-stressed students who crowded the quad and cooed over dogs large and small. It undoubtedly relieved a lot of the finals, pre-graduation stress.

Speaking of graduation, see our list of senior award winners page A12, and photos of local graduations. Congratulations to the class of 2016!

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The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lafayette invite you to Lafayette Plaza Park!

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MAKE MUSIC

LAFAYETTE

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

6:00pm-8:30pm

SMC Basketball's Randy Bennett: 'The Longer I Stay, the More I Want to Stay'

By Nick Marnell



Head basketball coach Randy Bennett has built a winning attitude at Saint Mary's College. Photo Tod Fierner

When Saint Mary's College head basketball coach Randy Bennett arrived at the school in 2001, he figured he had four years to prove he could do the job. Fifteen years later, after 333 victories, 10 post-season appearances, three West Coast Conference Coach of the Year awards and two players delivered to the National Basketball

Association, he has not only proven he can do the job, he stands atop the school record books.

With so many coaches parlaying success at mid-major schools like Saint Mary's into multi-million dollar coaching positions at large universities, why does Bennett eschew such opportunities? What keeps him in the bucolic town of Moraga, a place as unchanging as the recent run of 20-win seasons for the Gaels?

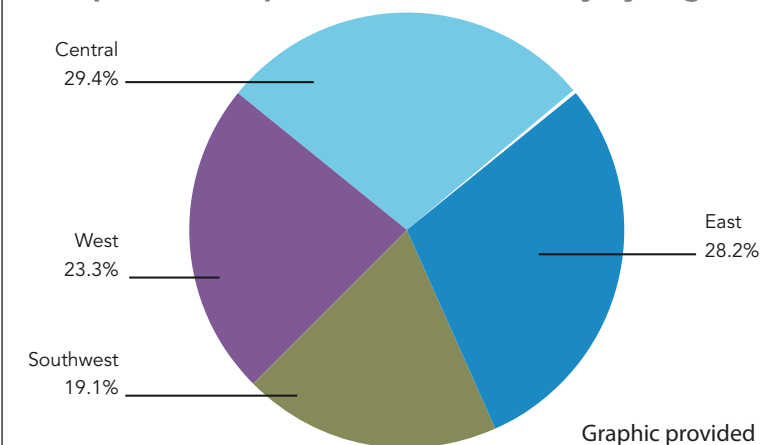
As a kid, Bennett wanted to be a pro athlete. That dream disappeared in high school. He had seen how happy his dad was coaching, and in college, Bennett realized that was the route for him. "My dad was having a positive influence on his kids," Bennett said.

... continued on page A11

Orinda Leads the Way Backing County Transportation Tax

By Sora O'Doherty

Transportation Expenditure Plan Summary by Region



Orinda City Council became the first Contra Costa County municipality to give the county's half-cent sales tax proposal the thumbs up. In order to make it onto the November election ballot, the measure must secure the approval of a majority of the municipalities representing a majority of the population of the county.

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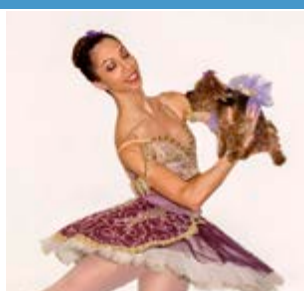
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Orindans say "yes" to better roads. — page A6

Fire Districts A8

Meet the unsung heroes of public safety. — page A8

Dancing and dogs star at Paws de Tutu event at the Lafayette Reservoir. — page B1.



Acalanes baseball caps stellar season, wins NCS crown. — page C1.



Let your garden get in the summer spirit. — page D1.

