

CALENDARS

- Community Calendar
- Business Calendar
- Entertainment
- Support Group

Aerials Gymnastics focuses on kids

By Ian Thompson

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- Announcements
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- Business Opportunities
- Commercial Property
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- Garage Sales
- Merchandise
- Pets, Farm, Etc
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- Real Estate
- RV's
- Rentals
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Five-year-old Kylie Pero works out on the uneven bars at the newly-opened Aerial Gymnastics in Vacaville. (Photo by Gary Goldsmith/Daily Republic)

VACAVILLE - Vacaville's young gymnast population will be growing now that the **Aerials** Gymnastic Center has opened its door with a host of programs for adults, teens and children.

Creating **Aerials Gymnastics** Center had been in owner Tanya Durant's plans for some time. Durant had been involved with gymnastics since college and coached in the military before creating **Aerials**.

She ran **Aerials** as a competition team for more than two years in rented locations such as the Vacaville Skate Center before getting the idea to create her own gymnastics center.

The toughest part was finding a space large enough to house the state-of-the-art equipment and wide range of programs before they settled on 3777 Vaca Valley Parkway in northeast Vacaville.

Located next to a south soccer center, **Aerials Gymnastics** Business Director Annie Baker describes the location as a an informal sports complex for Vacaville area residents.

The business has 25 employees, mostly coaches, and the closest comparable facility is in Concord.

Aerials Gymnastics opened its doors on Aug. 1, 2005, to offer a wide slate of gymnastics, fitness and cheerleading programs for age groups ranging from young children to senior citizens. The business concentrates much of its efforts on youth, "teaching them about life skills such as motivation and leadership as well as gymnastics," Baker said.

One member of the **Aerials** team has already gone onto college-level gymnastics at San Jose State University and "we look forward to sending a lot more," Baker said.

Children as young as age 1 can take part in classes which start with a movement development class which involves the youngest children and their parents.

The movement development classes are offered to children up to age 3. **Gymnastics** classes are open to youth and adults. **Aerials** also has a junior Olympic competition girls' team and a junior Olympic competition boys team. Private lessons are also offered.

Cheerleading classes which teach how to jump, tumble and do stunts is offered and there are plans to put together all-star cheerleading squads in February for national competitions.

"We offer a full-fitness center for anyone over 12-years-old," Baker said. "The adults can train while their kids are in the classes."

Baker said business is doing well "and it is picking up pretty fast."

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- Local News Stories
- Obituaries
- Police Logs
- Columnists
- Corrections

BUSINESS

- Business News
- Matter of Business
- Open for Business
- Real Estate Listings
- Columnists

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- Sports Stories
- Local Report
- Athlete of the Week
- Prep Notebook
- College Notebook
- Hometown Sports
- Fishing Report
- Sign Ups
- Columnists

OPINION

- Letters to the Editor
- Our View
- Other Voices

Columnists

FEATURES

Features Stories
Eye
Milestones
Milestones Forms
Religious News
Columnists

Durant plans to continue expanding the business and get a new larger facility as **Aerials** outgrows its present one, according to Baker.

There are also plans to work on cementing in a college-bound program that will also involve assisting promising students with scholarships.

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Aerials Gymnastics Center

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