

# The Island

WEDNESDAY

September 17, 2003

timesstar.com

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## Alameda woman pushes girls to excel

**P**AM WILLIAMS enjoys the knowledge that she shares the same last name with Robin Williams, an actor she very much admires. But Pam is also a performer in her own right, though in a different discipline. Athlete, child-care director and role model for a multitude of young people, Pam shares a special bond with children who have taken part in the programs at Girls, Inc. of the City Island for the years.

"The organization's philosophy is

fairly simple," said Pam. "We attempt to encourage and support children's growth and assist families to meet economic needs and family goals. We are all family and the children and parents benefit from that philosophy."

"I'm going on my fifteenth year at Girls, Inc.," she said. "It has been a wonderful experience for me, working with our children."

Pam has charmed youngsters with programs and special activities. She attended Edison school in kindergarten,

St. Philip Neri Parochial School and later graduated from Alameda High where she excelled in her studies and participated in the high school's swimming program. She attended Cal State Hayward, receiving her degree in Recreation Programs.

When she graduated from college, she did her internship at Paden School, and later, when the school was shut down, went in a different direction.

"I needed a job so I went to work in property management. I had no business

or office skills but I was willing to learn. I worked in this field for about six years," she explained.

A swimmer herself, Pam coached the Alligator Swimming team at Alameda High School for about seven years.

Her modesty is refreshing, and if I hadn't urged her to share some of her achievements, I would not have known that she holds an unbroken swimming record in the breaststroke from Alameda High.



**Mark  
CHANDLER**

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See **CHANDLER**, Local 8

## Woman says working with kids 'a learning experience in itself'

▶ **CHANDLER**, from Local 1

In 1998, Pam was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at Cal State Hayward. She was the first female swimmer at Cal State Hayward to be inducted. "I had been out of college for seventeen years and I wasn't sure they remembered me or not, she said modestly.

"Working with the children is a whole learning experience in itself," she said. "Sometimes they have their own ideas, and they can make it more exciting with their fresh viewpoint," she explained. "That's why I like being around children."

Daily activities in the seven child-care centers include organized games and sports, cooking experience, arts and crafts. The ratio

is about 14 children to 1 teacher. "The younger kids are with us a little longer during the day but the majority of the kids come after school," she said.

"Someday I might want to write a book about fun things, field trips and something to do with swimming and water — graphics and palm trees. I enjoy the ocean and of course swimming. I've always been very confident with older people. I'd also like to work with Meals-On-Wheels. I think it is a wonderful program."

Pam has also volunteered with Special Olympics. "I was delighted to have worked with the wonderful Jack Capon some years ago. It was a very eye-opening experience working with Jack."