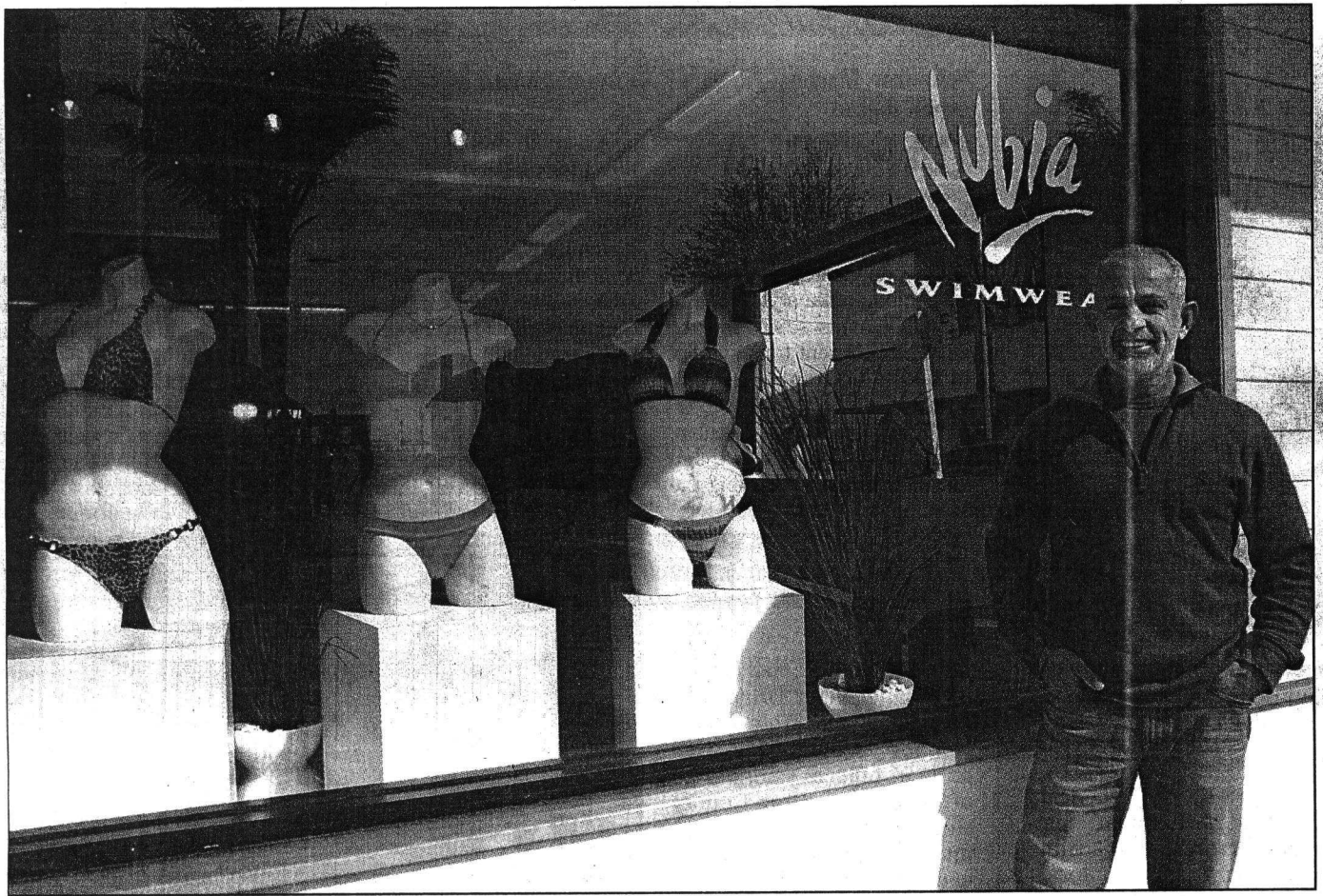


# Capitola rebounds from floods



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Yokanaan Martins reopened his 24-year-old women's swimwear business two weeks ago in Capitola after floods shut it down almost a year ago. *Capitola. 2011* *RP 2-28-12*

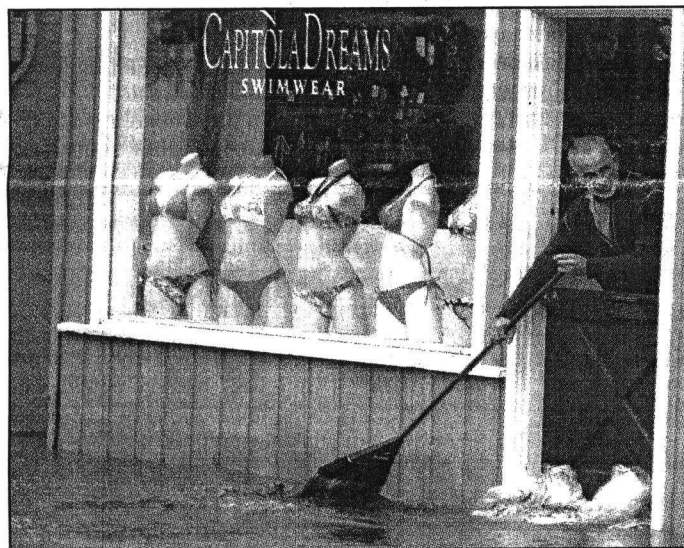
## Shop opens nearly a year after flood destroyed dozens of businesses

By TARMO HANNULA  
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

Nearly a year after raging floodwaters tore through Capitola Village and destroyed dozens of businesses, the police department and a fire station, shop owner Yokanaan Martins is back in business.

Ten days ago Martins swung the door open to his 24-year-old women's swimwear business, Nubia, after having been closed for 11 months. The new location, just across Capitola Avenue from its previous location, boasts even more showroom space, ample natural light that spills in through several large windows and a clean, new look. Martins even renamed his business from Capitola Dreams to Nubia Swimwear.

"It feels really good, and it's a big relief," Martins said. "I cannot tell you how happy I am to be open again. I'm really



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian file

**Martins struggles to channel rising floodwaters away from the front door of his business in Capitola in March 2011.**

glad to have this new space. Everybody who comes in feels the energy — it's very positive."

Martins said he can now house an inventory of more than 3,000 bikinis. His shop also

carries some accessories.

"I was crowded in the last place," he said. "The new location is spacious."

In March 2011 a series of heavy winter storms unleashed so much rain in such a short period that a massive storm drain in the Pacific Cove Mobile Home Park gave way, triggering a flood that swept through much of Capitola Village, catching everyone off guard. Martins' shop, though barricaded with sandbags, sustained major flooding. That brought about structural damage, destroyed carpets and mildew-covered walls.

Martins, who was born near Rio De Janeiro, said much of his swimwear design comes from his homeland. The shop also features Martins' own line of contemporary bikinis, Yoko Swimwear, which he said pioneered





Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

**Yokanaan Martins shows a new mural he had installed in his new shop to add a dramatic ocean theme.**

## CAPITOLA

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the mix-and-match concept.

"I change the styles all the time," Martins said. "I work with six different tops and six different bottom styles. My suits are all made in Brazil.

"When I started this business, in the beginning, it was tough getting going and learning the

language," Martins said. "But I've been in this line so long I feel very comfortable now. So many people know me — I have many regular customers. There have been many women that bring their daughters in because they were so happy with the swimsuits they purchased here."

Martins said he also takes custom orders.

"Sometimes a woman may bring in a bikini she likes but wants it in a different color or the style changed a bit," Martins

said. "This I can do as well."

Martins said he is hopeful that business will get into full swing soon as the weather warms up and summer approaches.

People around town also know Martins as the Capitola Juggler, for his skill with a soccer ball and Frisbees.

For more information and photos, visit [capitoladreamsswimwear.com](http://capitoladreamsswimwear.com) or [nubiaswimwear.com](http://nubiaswimwear.com) or call 476-2027. The store is located at 112 Capitola Ave.