

## Earthquake

## Pajaro Valley schools open

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STAFF WRITER

Pajaro Valley schools reopened this morning, with about 70 percent of their students in attendance, at least at the two high schools, school officials said.

Perched casually on a front porch at Watsonville High this morning, 10th-grader Eric Silva, 15, said, "It's just like normal again."

Much of the plaster is missing from the second floor of the main building, but school officials repeatedly emphasized the damage is only cosmetic, and the building is safe.

"We have been assured by state structural engineers that it's safe," said Principal Tony Calvo.

He said most of the plaster now missing had cracked, but not fallen, during the quake. It was removed to keep it from falling later as part of a \$50,000 emergency repair and cleanup operation undertaken by the district in the wake of the earthquake.

When new plastering will be done Calvo doesn't know, because the district will have to cough up more money for the repairs.

Pajaro Valley school board trustee Manuel Osorio, who was touring the high school this morning, noted that it and Aptos High had both lost a lot of science lab equipment that broke when it was tossed to the floor by the quake.

In the unscathed career center on the first floor of the main building, school officials have established a "crisis center," where both students and parents can go



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Veronica Aguilar, left, a student at Watsonville High School, talks things over with counselor Pete Galvan and other students and staff at a crisis center.

to vent their emotions about the earthquake. This morning at about 8:30, the center's first clients appeared, a girl weeping helplessly and a boy who sat right down to talk with a circle of counselors. The girl, after being greeted with a hug, was escorted to a small office for a private one-on-one session with a counselor.

Superintendent Jim Baker said things seemed to be going smoothly throughout the district.

Despite bus reroutings and heavy traffic due to road closures, most school buses were arriving at schools on time, Baker said.

Baker said the district was sending out migrant-student liaisons to the shelters scattered around the city "to determine how to serve them with transportation."

At Aptos High School there is still a problem with a water tank that shifted during the earth-

quake, Baker said. All the schools toilets and showers are working, but drinking water is being trucked in, he said.

Baker said Starlight School, which is under construction at Pennsylvania and Hammer drives in Watsonville, had borne up admirably as the earth rolled and shook.

"We couldn't even find a crack in the concrete," he said.



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## Work in Pajaro

Some Pajaro residents were still without water yesterday, as this Monterey County crew worked to restore service on Cayetano Street.