

#### SHORT SALE MADE EASY FOR HOME OWNERS

There are Better Solutions to Just Walking Away

... continued from page A1 Both were front and center at the start

 Are you Having Financial Hardship in Making your House Payments? \*

 Would you Like to Sell Your Home and Not go through Foreclosure? \*

For All your Real Estate Needs & Short Sale Information Call 925-366-8077 or email me at RodneyLal@Yahoo.com

Short Sale → A home that is listed for sale at a price lower than the amount owed on the mortgage \*If Answer to both is YES, then We can HELP you Package your Short Sale and Negotiate with your Lender and get your Home Sold in a Short Time.



**Rodney Lal** DRE Lic# 01038287 **Broker/Realtor** Residing in Orinda

\*Sellers are advised to first consult with legal and tax counsel regarding the decisions to seek a Short sale. An independently owned and operated member of BRER Affiliates, Inc. Not affiliated with Prudential. Prudential marks used under license.

Walking and Running on Sunshine

## of the 8 a.m. two mile run, along with mom, Nicole Koch and Grandma Cabinet Modifications

With over 25 years fulfilling custom needs, we can alter or modify most cabinetry, while still utilizing your existing cabinetry for:

- Large TVs/ Refrigerators and appliances
- Recycle Bins and shelf pullouts

• Cabinet alterations/repairs Thinking about home, office, entertainment, custom cabinetry, shelving,

925.827.1093

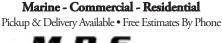
Paul Kephart Master Craftsman www.TheCabinetMd.com

#### Koch, who explained that they just participated in the Waterhope Walk, raising money to bring clean water to those without it.

crown mouldings, baseboards, new doors or mantels? We can help there, too! for water bottle distribution, pancakes and for security that lined the route that takes over Mount Diablo Boule-

### **UPHOLSTERY SPECIALIST** REFINISHING AND RESTORATION

- Slipcovers Pillows Window Cushions
- Custom Upholstery Design Consulting Marine - Commercial - Residential





3418 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette







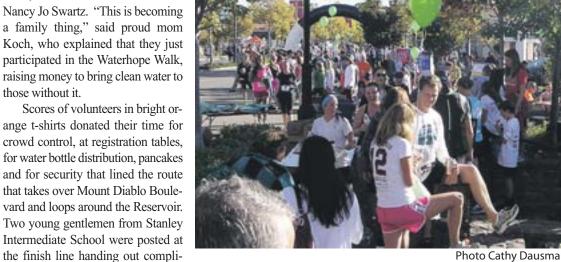


Photo Cathy Dausman

School Band were providing music and the gentlemen of the Rotary Club were busy flipping pancakes most of the morning.

Perhaps Mascot Hunter waived his magic tail to make sure this year's stationed at a new location. Bob Res Run was ground zero for com-

Athayde and the Stanley Intermediate munity togetherness. Or maybe Lamorinda residents simply like to see the friends and family who show up year after year at this fun family event, appreciate a good walk or run – and the color-coordinated orange porta-pot-

# Ryan Andresen: A Message of Hope

#### ... continued from page A1

mentary waters; nearby, a group of

slightly more mature moms from the

National Charity League (NCL)

joked that they were "making the

rounds" having started out with the

Lafayette Juniors at this event and

moved over to the NCL table – now

"I decided to get more involved in scouting because of the bullying Ryan endured at a Boy Scout summer camp," Andresen recalls. "(The scoutmaster) and I took over Troop 212 together seven years ago. I started a mentoring program in response to the hazing that was occurring. We conferred almost daily." When the scoutmaster asked to meet with him last month, Andresen thought it was business as usual. "I was shocked when he told me he was not going to signoff on Ryan's Eagle application."

"There are a dozen Councils around the country, representing 200,000 Scouts, who oppose the BSA

policy," says Andresen who believes that if enough Councils object, BSA will eventually be forced to change. He is cautiously optimistic that the local Mt. Diablo Silverado Council will decide to formally reject the pol-

Caroline McCormick's two sons are in scouting. "It's a great institution," she says. "But recent actions of BSA aren't in line with today's society."

"I have gay friends and family members," McCormick continues. "They shouldn't be discriminated against. I wouldn't want to watch them spend 12 years in scouting, work hard for their Eagles, and then him for standing up for what is right." be denied because of who they are." the Change.org petition to 600 people. "I hope parents will think about the question, 'If it's my child, how would I feel then?"

Wendell Baker, Scoutmaster of Moraga Troop 234, agrees. "Personally, I think we need to do everything we can to change this policy at the council and national levels. Other councils have adopted non-discrimination policies and ours should too." Baker stresses that he speaks only for himself, not for his troop, the local council, or BSA.

"Within our Troop we do not discriminate based on sexual orientation or religion, and we do not ask Scouts about either issue. It wouldn't affect my willingness to sign off on an Eagle application, but the ultimate decision on Eagle awards belongs to National," Baker explains, adding, "I'd like to think that the scouts know I would consider it a non-issue; that I wouldn't care one way or the other."

Baker recently spoke to his troop about bullying: "A scout is brave," he reminded them. "Some of you probably think bravery is running into a burning building and saving a life, something you'll get an award for. It's not. Real bravery is something you can do every day." According to Baker real bravery is standing up to a bully knowing that you're making yourself a target, even if it's your friends who are the bullies, or helping out the kid who you may not even like. Real bravery is also making sure bullying is reported to an adult. "Real bravery is doing what you know is right; always."

Troop 234 presented Ryan with a letter of support.

One of Ryan's strongest and most

vocal supporters is his mother, Karen Andresen, who admits that it was not easy for her to accept what was happening with her son. "I had my eyes shut," she confesses. But she came face to face with Ryan's pain—after years of being bullied and trying to come to terms with his sexual orientation in a social environment that was not ready to embrace a gay youth, Ryan entered high school a very trou-

bled and unhappy young man. The Andresens sought help. Ryan is now thriving in the inclusive environment of Maybeck High School in Berkeley, and his parents say they "couldn't be more proud of

Eric Andresen says they've re McCormick says she personally sent ceived messages from all over the world and about 90 percent have been in support of Ryan; but he adds that it's been a little difficult close to

> "It's hard (for a child) to be gay here," says Karen. "People don't like to talk about these issues. They are shocked at how much I'm talking about it, but I'm going to support my child and stick up for him. It's really hard for the kids who come out." She wants to reach out to other gay kids who may not have the support of their

After his whirlwind press tour, Ryan's taking a little time off from the campaign and trying to get his life back to normal. "He couldn't wait to go back to school and get caught up on his work," says Andresen, "but he's very aware that he's been given an opportunity to make a difference and could help thousands of kids, particularly scouts. New doors are opening up for him. He has always been a mentor, a good big brother, and he wants to focus on an anti-bullying

At the invitation of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School principal Joan Danilson, Ryan will be a guest speaker at one of the school's antibullying programs, Respect All Differences (RAD) Week, at the end of January. Danilson shared an excerpt from an email that she received from Ryan regarding what he would like to say to the students: "An important message I have been sharing to middle school students is about hope; that things get better. I would share what I overcame and how despite my hopelessness back then, I became a very happy high school senior and am currently loving life."

## CABINETMAKER We custom build to your design

Built-in storage and furniture

Any material you choose! 510.535.1222 Charles Ferguson

www.everwoodcabinets.com





-\$0 DOWN -GUARANTEED SAVINGS -GUARANTEED UTILITY RATE

-NO ANNUAL RATE INCREASE;

**GUARANTEED FOR 20 YEARS!** -NO OBLIGATION

-NO RISK

-Comerford Solar WILL PAY YOU

to go solar!!!

IF WE CANNOT SAVE YOU MONEY, WE WILL NOT DO THE JOB!!! Powered By:



(925) 62-SOLAR

www.comerfordsolar.com

2281 Via De Mercados, Suite B | Concord, CA 94520 | (925) 284-7336 "Comerford Solar" is a subsidiary company of Green Air Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc. | CA Lic. # 916517