

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Photo Ohlen Alexander

Walking and Running on Sunshine

By Cathy Tyson

Under sparkling blue skies, the 20th annual Reservoir Run was a “pinch me” morning. Really does it get any better than happy children, balloons, the smell of sausage in the air, fabulous fall colors, and a jogging Gumby? With all the hallmarks of a great day, along with the Giants just hours away from winning the World Series, Lamorinda residents had to

wonder how we got so lucky to live in our little slice of paradise. Not only did the weather cooperate as it usually does, but everyone breathed a bit easier after the alleged long-time Reservoir mystery was solved.

Some 25 years ago, according to legend, visitors spotted an alligator in the Lafayette Reservoir. Is it perhaps our very own version of the Loch Ness Monster – or just

an urban myth? After two days of searching back in the day, the elusive beast was never seen again – maybe scared off by the hoopla – until the reptile was magically transformed into a 7-year-old charming mascot, Hunter Koch, whose little brother Cody wanted to come along as a gator hunter.

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Quote of the Week:

“Turning away is no different than endorsing discrimination by silence; a free and unafraid press should know better than that.”
Read Letters to the Editor, page A8

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Ryan Andresen: A Message of Hope

By Lee Borrowman



Ryan Andresen's Eagle project was a Tolerance Wall at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. In September, students and school staff participated voluntarily to create tiles that reflect kindness, tolerance, and respect for all differences.

Photo provided

Andy Warhol once said, "In the future, everyone will be world-famous for fifteen minutes." From his mother's petition on Change.org to appearances on national television with Ellen DeGeneres and Anderson Cooper, Moraga's Ryan Andresen has had more than his 15 minutes of fame. The former Boy Scout was denied his Eagle award because he is gay, sparking another volley in the battle to persuade Boy Scouts of America to change its policy barring openly gay boys from membership.

That's the national angle. What's happening here at home? "In less than three weeks, Ryan's entire life changed," says his father, Eric Andresen.

Andresen describes a younger Ryan as "a shy kid who didn't know his purpose in life. In middle school, he felt that he was different. He was the boy who sat in the back of the class and kept his head down." And that made him a prime target for bullies. Ryan couldn't escape them – they were at school, at church, and in his Boy Scout troop.

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Tonight's a big night for local teams. Marissa Harnett reports. Page C1



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Cynthia Brian introduces you to...dirt. Page D1

