



MICHAEL VERBRUGGE
CONSTRUCTION INC.
General Contractor

925.631.1055 www.MVCRemodeling.com

Specializing in kitchens & bathrooms.
All forms residential remodel/repair.



"A little bit of myself goes into every job."
Michael Verbrugge,
Owner,
Moraga Resident



Clean | Courteous | Conscientious
On-time | Trustworthy | Local References
Full design team resources available

SHORT SALE MADE EASY FOR HOME OWNERS

There are Better Solutions to Just Walking Away



- 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."

*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.

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

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

Licensed Cabinet & Millwork Contractor #598395

Thinking about home, office, entertainment, custom cabinetry, shelving, crown mouldings, baseboards, new doors or mantels? We can help there, too!

925.827.1093 Paul Kephart Master Craftsman
www.TheCabinetMd.com

UPHOLSTERY SPECIALIST

REFINISHING AND RESTORATION

- Slipcovers • Pillows • Window Cushions
- Custom Upholstery • Design Consulting

Marine - Commercial - Residential
Pickup & Delivery Available • Free Estimates By Phone



M.R.S.
Fine Old World Craftsmanship
Family Owned And Operated For Over 55 yrs.
3418 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette



Mon.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-2
(925) 962-0579



CABINETMAKER

We custom build to your design
Built-in storage and furniture

Any material you choose!
510.535.1222
Charles Ferguson

www.everwoodcabinets.com

Lic. 446488 C-6

Walking and Running on Sunshine

... continued from page A1

Both were front and center at the start of the 8 a.m. two mile run, along with mom, Nicole Koch and Grandma Nancy Jo Swartz. "This is becoming a family thing," said proud mom Koch, who explained that they just participated in the Waterhope Walk, raising money to bring clean water to those without it.

Scores of volunteers in bright orange t-shirts donated their time for crowd control, at registration tables, for water bottle distribution, pancakes and for security that lined the route that takes over Mount Diablo Boulevard and loops around the Reservoir. Two young gentlemen from Stanley Intermediate School were posted at the finish line handing out complimentary 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 stationed at a new location. Bob



Photo Cathy Dausman

Athayde and the Stanley Intermediate 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 Res Run was ground zero for com-

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

Ryan Andresen: A Message of Hope

... continued from page A1

"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 sign-off 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 policy.

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 be denied because of who they are." McCormick says she personally sent 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 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 troubled 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 him for standing up for what is right."

Eric Andresen says they've received 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 home.

"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 families.

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 message."

At the invitation of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School principal Joan Danilson, Ryan will be a guest speaker at one of the school's anti-bullying 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."



GREEN AIR
"YOUR ENERGY SOLUTIONS COMPANY."
(925) 28-GREEN
www.gogreenair.net

\$29 for a 27 point air conditioning inspection!!!

Go Solar and Save!!!

- \$0 DOWN
- GUARANTEED SAVINGS
- GUARANTEED UTILITY RATE
- NO ANNUAL RATE INCREASE; GUARANTEED FOR 20 YEARS!
- NO OBLIGATION
- NO RISK
- Comerford Solar WILL PAY YOU **\$1000** to go solar!!!

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



SOLAR
COMERFORD
"YOUR ENERGY SOLUTIONS COMPANY."
(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