

Theron Nelson, 90, shows off 61 of the more than 600 birthday cards he received for his birthday

# Card Bonanza for WWII Vet's 90th Birthday

By Cathy Tyson

the concept went viral. For his 90th birthday, Theron Nelson insisted he had enough stuff, so suggested no gifts. A simple card would be fine. His son Chris and daughter Debbie called that an "invitation to mischief."

The pair along with six grandchildren, friends and acquaintances spread the word, resulting in well-wishers from far and wide responding to their requests. With the help of

o gifts, cards okay. Seemed simple enough – until Facebook, the Internet, and an outpouring of support from received 628 cards from 13 countries from across the globe inrandom folks – restaurant servers, barbers, bank tellers – an avalanche of cards found their way to the wry nonagenarian on Sweet Drive in Lafayette.

> On his actual birthday, May 8, Nelson received 100 cards in the mail. Three days later his running total was 562 cards, and nearly a week later he had a total of 602 cards: post cards, birthday cards, and hand painted artwork. To date, Nelson has

cluding Bahrain, Finland, Germany, South Korea, Slovenia, France - even as far as Antarctica. Thirty-eight states plus the District of Columbia were represented, including one over-sized finger painting from a creative toddler.

Nelson also received a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol on his birthday (arranged by Senator Barbara Boxer).

... continued on page A12

## **Quote of the Week:**

"Dependency is unhealthy—whether it is drugs, alcohol or money from Sacramento."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A9

Advertising

## STOP BY & VISIT US AND WE'LL GIVE YOU A FREE "GREEN" TOTE BAG

WITH OUR "Thanks"...PLUS OUR "20 TIPS" TO GET ORGANIZED THIS SPRING - FOR A STRESS-FREE SUMMER!

Let us know how we're doing! Go to our web site at warm Shapach.com and click on Facebook, Twitter and our Blog. We'd love to hear from you!

**Town News** Letters to the Editor Α9 Life in Lamorinda B1 - B12 **HOW TO CONTACT US B4 B8 Business** Service Directory В9 Food **B9** Not to be Missed B10-B11 Shop Moraga B12 Sports C1 - C3 Classified C2 **Our Homes** D1 - D12 This Week Read About: A2

"Terraces" EIR Uilkema Era Ends А3 Dog Days Over A4 Orinda Fee Hikes А6 Goats at Res? B1 Ride-along with OPD **B3** GoLafayette! New Swim Club Summer Camp Recap



iramonte sophomore Dylan Watson put recent CPR skills learned in his PE class to work Thursday, May 10 when he came upon a fallen man on the walking trail at the Lafayette Reservoir. Orinda resident Maria Rowland and her husband, Dennis, rushed to the side of an elderly man after he fell off a bench, landing facedown.

Watson ran up moments later, helped turn the man should know CPR and emphasized the importance over, and after making an assessment immediately began chest compressions as Rowland called 911.

Miramonte Student Comes to the Rescue

"I was so wowed by Dylan's presence," said Maria Rowland. "It was truly an emergency situation and he was present, attentive and conscientious. He was truly like a hero."

Rowland said the high school student performed CPR on the gentleman for approximately seven minutes until the Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) arrived. Paramedics shocked the man's heart three times and administered medication to get the heart beating again.

Miramonte High School PE teacher Christi Costa was glad the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department came to the school for two days this semester to talk to students and to help teach CPR. "We had every student perform CPR on the dolls," she said. "I made it especially serious in my class since I had heart failure after having my baby not too long ago (at 39 years old). I told my students that everyone

on saving lives."

Contra Costa County Fire District Captain Paramedic Gil Caravantes said Watson did a phenomenal job. "Very few people step up when they see someone has fallen; they just keep walking," he said. "It's wonderful to see this young man stop and go the extra mile. Thanks to Dylan, we were able to get pulses back and he had spontaneous respirations when we arrived at the hospital." The gentleman was taken to Kaiser Permanente in Walnut Creek and was still in the hospital as of last

"Dylan was so shaken up afterward," said Watson's mother, Karen. "But at the time it happened, a calm just came over him and he knew what to do."

"I'm so proud of him," Caraventes said. "I'd love to have a son like him."

For information about CPR classes offered in the area, you can visit www.mofd.org/services/cprfirstaid. J. Wake

**Life in Lamorinda** 

**May 30** 

Lou

B2

Fancher

previews

**B1-B12** 

**Sports** 



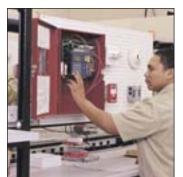
Mats Win!

**C1-C3** 

Miramonte boys' tennis wins NCS; Simon Tryzna reports. C1

## **Our Homes**

**D1-D12** 



## Staying Safe

Cathy Dausman offers up a primer on home security systems. Page D10

the season.

Cal Shakes Returns