

One Stop channels fed money into jobs

[By Nancy Pasternack/Appeal-Democrat](#)

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It's after 1 p.m. and the heat is making everyone around him punchy.

But Lari Emanuel, 18, takes a few minutes before clean-up to work a bit of rust-brown paint into the glove of a larger than life outfielder. It's a small detail in what promises to become a very big and eye-catching mural on the outside of All Seasons RV Stadium, the Marysville park where the Gold Sox baseball team plays.

Before he could begin his role in this project, Emanuel, a student from Albert Powell continuation school, had to learn how to create the impression of shade in a drawing or painting.

But there was little real shade outside the stadium's dark green fence on Monday.

Local mural artist and youth project task-master Louie Lethridge put in his last 2 cents of the day.

"If you're not getting the color you want, you gotta stop," Lethridge instructed. "Wait till it dries first."

The community art project is being funded through a federal stimulus program that employs youth in low-income areas for the summer.

Funds are funneled through Sutter and Yuba County One Stop, and youth — in this case, ages 14-18 — are from both counties.

Lethridge's concept for the work will depict several baseball players in the action of play — bodies posed in motion.

The player this art team has been working on is in a horizontal mid-air pose, glove outstretched.

Emanuel was enrolled in work readiness classes at Sutter County One Stop when the mural gig came up.

He had never been much of an artist, "but it was either this, or work as a janitor," he says.

He thinks he made the right choice.

On a mural the group completed last week, Emanuel did a bit of research and decided his contribution to the sea-themed painting would be a coral reef.

Project Supervisor Gary Criddle says the kids have been working hard.

"The biggest challenge for us," he says, "is the heat."

The crew of 11 kids hail from seven area schools. They, along with Criddle and Lethridge, began at around 7 a.m. on this, their second day of painting.

"But when the sun gets up there, the energy level just stops," says Criddle. So plans for today involve a pre-dawn setup.

Elijah Jefferson, 14, and a student at River Valley High School, says he is having a great time and learning a lot, despite the heat.

"This takes imagination," he says of the mural-making process. "It looks like you're messing up, but then you go across the street and it looks totally different. You go, 'Whoa! I did that!'"

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