

# Kids of all ages learn about murals from renowned artist



Daisy Chavez/South County Newspapers

## Yermo Aranda teaches the kids at Art Boot Camp about murals.

**BY DAISY CHAVEZ**  
**GREENFIELD** – The free art classes offered at the old Greenfield City Hall have offered the opportunity for students to work with professional muralist Yermo Aranda.

Originally from San Diego, Aranda has painted murals all over the state and shares his gift of art to communities. In this case, children at Greenfields' Art Boot Camp.

With over ten kids present, each of them puts their own touches to a collective mural they are designing together and individual works they have.

One of the participants, Monica Pacheco heard of the opportunity for free art classes in church.

"Everyone is working on their own painting," said Pacheco. "It's cool to see everyone doing something different." The most important thing she learned, said Pacheco, "There's no mistake in drawing."

The art classes are brought forth by First Night Monterey and are free to the students though funding from grants and some operating money from First Night.

First Night Monterey

Executive Director Ellen Martin said that the motivation for bringing free art classes was to provide another resource.

"At first, we heard there would be no summer school and programs for kids and we felt we needed to provide and activity," said Martin. "We decided to provide a positive creative activity for kids from the elementary, middle school and beginning high school."

She added, "We wanted to keep the kids out of trouble and reinforce the idea that there is opportunity and choice."

First Night works with Greenfield for the Harvest

Festival, the Viva Music Festival and hopes to bring the Junkman to Greenfield again.

"Every year we've grown our activities and outreach," said Martin. "We brought Yermo here because he is used to working with kids. He's a great artist and we are lucky to have him as part of our outreach. He is a nationally recognized artist and brings in good positive energy."

The ideas behind each mural come from the art students themselves.

Martin said, "He (Yermo)

(ARTIST, page A4)

## ARTIST

(Continued from page 1)

talked to the kids about different cultures that make subcultures in South County. They looked at different depictions of cultures, faces and landscapes and drew their art on a grid and some got transferred on to canvas."

Yermo is hoping to finish a large work with the students at the boot camp but would also like to restore the mural near the corner of Palm and El Camino Real on the clothing store.

"He wants to restore the mural on the side of clothing store and we were going to do that, but the cost of supplies is over \$1,000. We didn't know how many kids would show up to the camp, but he really wanted to do that."

So far, Yermo and his assistant wife have gone around to speak to business about getting the mural restored.

"What we would be willing to do is match the donations," said Martin. "I love his group. We would love to do a big mural."