

Vernon Art Promoting Multicultural Ties

Four Vernon Sun school children and a handful of dedicated local artists spent two days earlier this month brightening up a drab corner of the school's playground.

Students, with some help from local artists Addie Boswell, Emily Tarleton, and Karlene Lusby, wrapped up a mural depicting a white child and an African American child holding a globe against the backdrop of an American flag.

The project began as spring painting day last spring, where students from 25 classrooms depicted flags of other nations along the school's surrounding wall.

The concept behind the mural was formed by Addie Boswell, who is also a children's book writer and illustrator.

"I have great faith in the imagination of children and the importance of creativity," she said.

The painting projects are in line with the school's International Baccalaureate Program, which incorporates children's social, physical, emotional, and cultural needs into an academic program.

"Watching our school community come together to complete this project has been extremely rewarding. I am grateful to be a part of such an amazing school and community. The best is yet to come," added Tina Acker, the school's principal.



Vernon Sun School children and local artists create a mural on the northeast Portland campus.

Managing Your Money BY RICK L. LEE Save Now or Save Later?

Most people have good intentions about saving for retirement. But few know when they should start and how much they should save.

Sometimes it might seem that the expenses of today make it too difficult to start saving for tomorrow. It's easy to think that you will begin to save for retirement when you reach a more comfortable income level, but the longer you put it off, the harder it will be to accumulate the amount you need.

The rewards of starting to save early for retirement far outweigh the cost of waiting. By contributing even small amounts each month, you may be able to amass a great deal over the long term. One helpful method is to allocate a specific dollar amount or percentage of your salary every month and to pay yourself as though saving for retirement were a required ex-

pense.

Here's a hypothetical example of the cost of waiting. Two friends, Chris and Leslie, want to start saving for retirement. Chris starts saving \$275 a month right away and continues to do so for 10 years, after which he stops but lets his funds continue to accumulate. Leslie waits 10 years before starting to save, then starts saving the same amount on a monthly basis. Both their accounts earn a consistent 8 percent rate of return. After 20 years, each would have contributed a total of \$33,000 for retirement. However, Leslie, the procrastinator, would have accumulated a total of \$50,646, less than half of what Chris, the early starter, would have accumulated at \$112,415.

This example makes a strong case for an early start so that you can take advantage of the

power of compounding. Your contributions have the potential to earn interest, and so does your reinvested interest. This is a good example of letting your money work for you.

If you have trouble saving money on a regular basis, you might try savings strategies that take money directly from your paycheck on a pre-tax or after-tax basis, such as employer-sponsored retirement plans and other direct-payroll deductions.

Regardless of the method you choose, it's extremely important to start saving now, rather than later. Even small amounts can help you greatly in the future. You could also try to increase your contribution level by 1 percent or more each year as your salary grows.

Financial Advisor Rick L. Lee, CRPC, can be reached at 503-539-8994 or pro_wealthmgt@wvi.com.



Peninsula Little League Coach and Portland Observer Public Relations Manager Mark Washington (left) was honored as Coach of the Year by the Portland Beavers and the group Friends of Baseball during a recent Beavers game at PGE Park. Also pictured (from left) Beaver mascot 'Lucky,' and Keenan Longcor and Ben Longcor of Friends of Baseball.

Coach of the Year

Portland Observer Public Relations Manager Mark Washington was honored recently by the Portland Beavers and Friends of Baseball with their annual "Coach of the Year" award for his tireless work as a coach with Peninsula Little League.

Mary Dunn, Peninsula president, said that Washington consistently goes the extra mile

to make sure the league is a success.

"He's constantly promoting the baseball in his community, getting new kids signed up, and roping in sponsors," she said. "He really puts everything into it."

Washington said he hopes that baseball will help steer them on the right path and keep them out of trouble.

"I just want to help kids," he said.

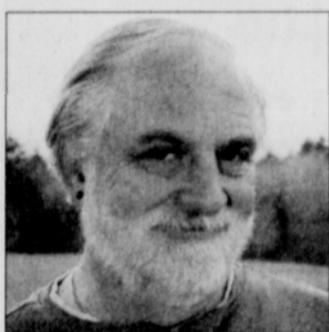
Scholar to Teach in India

Promoting cultural exchanges

Portland Community College professor Michael Sonnleitner has been chosen for a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship - the only community college instructor in the nation to be picked.

Sonnleitner, a scholar of Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi, will join 25 other lecturing Fulbright fellows going to India for the 2009-10 school year. He will spend about six months teaching at St. Thomas College, which is in the southern state of Kerala, bordering the Arabian Sea.

Sonnleitner said he is looking forward to the opportunity to build institutional ties between PCC and St. Thomas College, which he hopes might someday lead to further cultural exchanges between



Michael Sonnleitner the two schools. Once he returns, he intends to use his experience to contribute to PCC's effort to internationalize its curricula across the aca-

demical disciplines, particularly with regard to an increased focus on India and other South Asian nations.

"I would like to see PCC enrich its curricula relating to South Asia," he said. "We are strong on China, but India will soon have more people than China. I expect to infuse more South Asian studies content into my political science courses, and, perhaps, even create a new political science course focused on South Asia."

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