

More to Showbiz than pizza pie

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Beckie Thibodeau may be learning one job while going "sother."
Employed as a "team leader" at Showbiz Pizza Place on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills, Thibodeau, a 17-year-old senior at North Farmington High School, occupied her off hours by painting a large mural in the establishment's popular game room.
The floor-to-ceiling mural is located in Billy Bob's Barnyard, a room which contains electronic games and rides for youngsters. The mural depicts child-oriented nature scenes with an elephant stepping on a snake. A frog is perched on the elephant's back, and a money hangs from the top of the scene.
Thibodeau also painted a smaller mural showing a merry-go-round pony in a hallway connecting the "barnyard" to the restaurant.
The artist added high-gloss paint to the laytex "to make it shiny," she said. "Some parts are shiny and some are flat."
Thibodeau said she was paid her regular hourly wage to do the mural. The

talk around Showbiz, a popular hangout for North Farmington students, is that she should have been paid more.
"I don't care, though," she said. "I enjoyed doing it. I would have done it for nothing."
A woman noticed Thibodeau's handiwork and wanted her to paint a mural on her garage door.

"THE LADY wanted me to paint a mural of a sunset on her garage door, but I don't know if I'm going to do it," Thibodeau said. "I don't know... I didn't feel sure of myself on the one I did. We have another artist here, and I referred the woman to her."
Thibodeau said she would like to pursue a career in art — possibly designing greeting cards — after she graduates from North Farmington High.
"I enjoy art," she said. "It's nice. I especially like art for kids."
Thibodeau said she'd taken no art classes in school since the fourth grade. "I didn't do too well in that one," she said.
Thibodeau described her duties as a "team leader" at Showbiz.

Horsing around

Beckie Thibodeau, 17, a senior at North Farmington High School, finds time to use all of her talents while working as a team leader at Showbiz Pizza on Orchard Lake Road. The horse is just one of the murals she has painted.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

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