



WAITER

Kelvin Perez

There are tips and tricks of the trade for being a good restaurant server. While an experienced employee knows all of them, beginners take every guest as a new opportunity to learn.

Fiesta Ranchero waiter Kelvin Perez has risen to the top quickly. He has been named Best of the Best waiter by *Southern Standard* readers after only a few months on the job.

"I always like to see familiar faces," said Perez. "I know my regular customers. However, I treat everyone the same. I always make sure they walk out with smiles on their faces and have satisfied bellies with that ahhh sound."

He uses his friendliness and outgoing personality to make customers feel at home and keep them coming back into the restaurant.

Making the job even that much more enjoyable, says Perez, are the friendly



co-workers who give an air of family to the job.

"I enjoy working at Fiesta Ranchero because everyone treats each other like family. It feels like family here. I love my job."

Along with remembering faces, other tricks of the trade include staying positive, smiling, offering menu recommendations, remembering names of regulars, serving at the customers' pace, listening to customers, greeting customers as they enter, providing constant service throughout the meal, not leaving place settings that aren't

being used, trying not to interrupt conversations, and writing "thank you" on guests' checks.

But for all those tips, nothing beats fast service with a smile.

Coming in second place is Kayla Hale, waitress at Collins River Barbeque, with third place going to Macy Harrell, waitress at Gondola.



VETERINARIAN

Michele Moore

Best of the Best veterinarian recognition goes to Dr. Michele Moore with Sparta Road Veterinary Clinic. She is a native of Cannon County, but is happy to call McMinnville her home, following her marriage to Benji Moore.

The animal lover attended Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine on St. Kitts West Indies, and finished her clinical year at Auburn University School of Veterinary. She completed her internship with Drs. Sam and Linda Young at Sparta Road Veterinary Clinic and obtained employment with them. That venture has been a success for all, and she has been there approximately four years.

"We are happy to have her with us," said receptionist Kathy Clendenon. "She is such a people person, but she loves all animals and enjoys caring for them. She is amazing, and all the animals love her in return."

Her nature is to be a caregiver and it shows in her practice, offering kindness and words of wisdom in each situation.



Moore's kindness is extended to her own household, as she has adopted both a blind cat and dog. The dog was diabetic, and no one wanted her. The cat developed a serious disease that affected her eyesight.

"I just had to rescue them," said Moore. "They needed me and they have made wonderful pets."

Moore can be found at the clinic Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sparta Road Veterinary Clinic is located at 4021 Sparta Highway. Its

number is 668-2393.

Moore's response to the award includes shock and humbleness.

"I am surprised and humbled," said Moore. "The Youngs are like family to me and the community has embraced me with open arms. I can't think of a better place to call home."

Best of the Best veterinarian second-place honors go to Dr. Gene Maxwell, with third place awarded to Dr. Amy Everett.



Left to Right: Scott Elkins, Tim McPeak & Max Slatton



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