

2021 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

Serving up cheer at The Rusty Cup

Cross treats customers like family

BY M.J. CODY

Kristy Cross has done it again. When asked how she manages to consistently rank as the North Coast's Best Barista year after year in Coast Weekend's Readers' Choice Awards, she laughs. "Oh, my gosh, I don't know. It's so exciting," Cross said.

But her customers do know. Cross, who owns The Rusty Cup on 12th and Commercial St., treats customers like family, whether they're regular locals or new visitors. Cross' cheerful demeanor is irresistible.

"I just love my job" Cross said. "My customers are like having a really big family that you get to hang out with every day. It's so nice that they appreciate me. Every year, it's been seven or eight in a row now, I think I can't possibly win again. There are so many talented baristas in town. I can't believe it," Cross said.

Cross bought the Rusty Cup in 2004 after graduating from the University of Washington in Seattle. Looking for a change of scenery, she headed to Long Beach Peninsula, where her parents had a summer place.

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Cross has won Best Barista in the Readers' Choice Awards for a number of years.

Lissa Brewer



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