

Crossroads Chronicle

“Serving Cashiers, Glenville, Tuckasee and Sapphire, N.C.”



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Local rescue squad competing for donation funds

By David Joy
Staff Writer

With money already tight, a recent letter from an outside entity has emergency volunteer organizations on the plateau up in arms. Over the past few weeks residents throughout the Cashiers-Glenville area have received a letter requesting donations for the Jackson County Rescue Squad. However, this is not the rescue squad that provides service for these residents.

Cashiers-Glenville Volunteer Fire Department (CGVFD) Fire Chief Randy Dillard says that there is a clear dividing line be-

tween the service areas of the Jackson County Rescue Squad and the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad (GCRS).

“Their district is everything in the county up to the powerhouse (on Highway 107 in Tuckasee),” Dillard said. “There are only two rescue squads in the whole county. Glenville-Cashiers does southern and they do the northern. They have intentionally sent a letter



Stewart

all over the county.”

Traditionally there have only been two letter drives to residents up the mountain: the CGVFD letter drive in the spring and the GCRS letter drive in the fall. This scheduling has always been a mutual agreement between the two local emergency volunteer services so that neither drive interferes with the other. However, this is the first time that the Jackson County Rescue Squad has ever sent a letter to the southern end of the county, and GCRS Supervisor Brenda Stewart says that it

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Photo by Kelly Donaldson/Staff

Annual events like the CGVFD fireman’s breakfast, (above) and the Glenville-Cashiers Rescue Squad’s spaghetti dinner directly benefit our local emergency workers.



Photo by David Joy/Staff

Holy Week begins in Cashiers

Holy Week has brought together Christians of all denominations in Cashiers to worship in a series of services throughout the week. The first service took place at the Church of the Good Shepherd on Monday with a sermon by Virginia Monroe. The rest of the week’s services can be found on 2B.

Letter inspires two donors

By David Joy
Staff Writer

For anyone doubting the power of the written word, a letter to the editor published in the Nov. 1, 2006 edition of the Crossroads Chronicle has now saved four lives. The letter written by Rhonnie Leder, a part time resident of Cashiers, pleaded for someone to give a kidney to her husband Sam. Someone, unknown by the Leders at the time, responded and the story began.

“I read the letter and before long I was crying about it and praying about it,” Mollie Kinsey, a resident of Glenville, said. “I knew in my heart that the letter was meant for me. After a few days I had decided that I was supposed to do this and so I called them.

I started going through the testing and I prayed about it.”

Kinsey said that as she went through the process all signs told her that she was making the right decision, and that she was told before surgery that her willingness would ultimately save more than Sam.

“When I prayed about this every sign that could happen was there,” Kinsey said. “When I went to give my kidney I had the greatest peace of mind even up until the time that I went under. The day before I gave my kidney they sat me down and asked if I realized that I was not only saving one person but that I was actually saving two. They said because you give a kidney to Sam

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Photo submitted

From left, Rhonnie Leder stands by her kidney recipient, Les Loffman, after a successful transplant April 9.

Area chef nominated for culinary award

By Kelly Donaldson
Editor

John Flear, chef at Lonesome Valley’s Canyon Kitchen, has recently been nominated for the James Beard Foundation Restaurant and Chef Awards, for the category of “Best Chef in the Southeast.”

The awards will be given on May 6. Flear is up against competition from Hugh Acheson of

the restaurant Five and Ten in Athens, Ga.; Craig Deihl of Cypress in Charleston, S.C.; Linton Hopkins of Restaurant Eugene in Atlanta, Ga.; and Edward Lee of 610 Magnolia in Louisville, Ky.; and Andrea Reusing of Lantern in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Flear said he has no idea how he was nominated, but reflected on what the nomina-

tion represents.

“The nomination is a general recognition of your work,” Flear said. “In so many ways, it is also a recognition of your restaurant. Contrary to what folks see on reality TV shows, the Beard Awards recognize the efforts of a team of people over an extended time, not the best tasting dish in a ‘quick fire challenge.’ Although the chef’s

name is attached to the award, it is generally accepted as a recognition for the restaurant.”

Flear said people in the culinary industry consider the Beard Awards among the top awards a chef can obtain.

“They don’t call them the Oscars of the food world for nothing,” he said. “It is by far



John Flear, chef at Lonesome Valley’s Canyon Kitchen, has recently been nominated for a very prestigious award.

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Photo submitted

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INSIDE



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The Blue Ridge Early College softball team has three wins this season.
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Crossroads Idol?
Young adults gather to see who has talent in Cashiers.
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WEATHER

CASHIERS WEATHER FORECAST

Courtesy of Justin Caudell and Cashiers Weather Service
For up-to-date and historical weather, visit www.cashiersforecast.com

Last week's rainfall: 5.80 inches Year-to-date rainfall: 28.54 inches

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Scattered thunderstorms during the day and night. Highs around 74 and lows around 54.	Scattered thunderstorms during the day and night. Highs around 71 and lows around 53.	A chance of showers during the day and night. Highs around 67 and lows around 53.	Partly cloudy skies during the day and night. Highs around 74 and lows around 53.
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	
Partly cloudy skies during the day and night. Highs around 75 and lows around 54.	Partly cloudy skies during the day and night. Highs around 75 and lows around 51.	Partly cloudy skies during the day and night. Highs around 72 and lows around 54.	

Last Week's Weather

Observed at Cashiers Area Weather Center – 3,486 feet

Date	High	Low	Precipitation
April 12	65°F	44°F	0.29"
April 13	70°F	42°F	0.00"
April 14	67°F	38°F	0.00"
April 15	58°F	47°F	2.74"
April 16	60°F	42°F	2.77"
April 17	66°F	37°F	0.00"
April 18	73°F	42°F	0.00"

HUDGINS: Bipolar good news, bad news

from Page 4A

the kitchen, where she reigned with confidence. But in her late 40s, bipolar disorder got its foot inside the kitchen door.

Our mother wasn't crazy, the word that comes to mind when "mental illness" is mentioned. She had a dis-

ease that was treatable.

Catherine Zeta-Jones isn't crazy. She has a disease that is treatable. The good thing is that she is famous, and other sufferers surely will notice.

And if they haven't already done so, let's hope

they'll follow the lead of this lovely actress: Let's hope they'll seek help.

(Phil Hudgins is senior editor (consultant) for Community Newspapers Inc., which owns the Crossroads Chronicle.)

LETTERS: Community voices opinion

from Page 4A

I would have to) and borrow the money? Or is all this about getting from the public treasury while the getting is good?

Soon, the state of North Carolina is going to put a lot of financial burdens onto the counties that haven't been there before. Jackson County has a small cushion of savings (somewhat more than most other N.C. counties). It is highly likely that we are going to need that cushion when the state transfers many responsibilities to the counties. It's not a pleasant prospect.

Reportedly the GSMR made an 18-percent profit last year. Instead of hijacking us, the responsible thing for them to do is to re-invest their own money back into their own business otherwise it is not a free market. Is Al Harper serious? This is all a joke right?

Carl Iobst
Cullowhee, N.C.

Johnny and J.C. Norris
The Lucy Norris Family
Cashiers & Cullowhee Mountain, N.C.

Thanks from Norris family

Dear Editor,

During the loss of a loved one, it is a wonderful feeling to have family and friends who surround you with love and support. We would like to thank everyone who called, visited, provided food, and bought flowers.

Also we express heartfelt gratitude to the ones who participated in the service and the churches who provided the wonderful meals.

We appreciate the staff of the Fidelia Eckerd Living Center for providing such excellent care for our Mom.

May God truly keep and bless each of you.

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DONORS: Letter to editor inspires two kidney donors

from Page 1A

that removes him from the list and allows someone else to move up on the list."

Describing the process, Rhonnie said that Kinsey's gift came at a time that has made it memorable for many reasons.

"We had about an eight month process that she went through," Rhonnie said. "My husband received his kidney from Molly for Father's Day, June 13, 2007. His Father's Day gift was the gift that keeps on giving."

Sam has been alive ever since as a result of Kinsey's gift. Yet, the story does not end there. Rhonnie actually decided that she would like to give her kidney to someone as well, after the positive experience that she experienced with Kinsey and Sam.

"Basically what happened with me is that from the time my husband entered this world of transplant, I've met some of the most amazing people," Rhonnie said. "I've become active in what is called the Miami Transplant Institute. What happened was I went to my first Miami Transplant Institute meeting in November and I was excited because there was another family that was a kidney recipient, while most of the families were liver recipients.

"There was a man who was discussing how nice it was to have found a donor and he said that he wished he could find a kidney for his friend Les (Loffman)," Rhonnie continued. "I was alone in my room and I was looking in the mirror and I just thought, why not me? I'm 63-years-old and I'm a grandmother of eight but

I'm healthy and fit. When I went to my husband's doctor appointment I asked if he would consider me as an organ donor and he said sure."

Rhonnie said that where Loffman lived in New York, he would have had to wait between nine and 11 years to receive a kidney from the donor list. However, with Rhonnie's donation, she too has now managed to save two lives. Furthermore, Rhonnie said that since the transplant she has been able to get right back to her normal routine.

"I'm back from the hospital since Saturday with no pain medication," Rhonnie said. "I've had friends of mine who have called and asked whether I would have to take pills the rest of my life, and I tell them no. My life goes on just the way it was when I had two kidneys. For some reason, if I had any injury to my remaining kidney I would go directly to the top of the UNO list to receive a kidney. I went into this with no fear."

Describing life since Kinsey's donation, Rhonnie said that Kinsey has now become a part of the Leder family.

"I love being able to call Mollie and ask her if she's having a nice day," Rhonnie said. "She's part of our family now and forever. Mollie is our angel. She is truly an angel and a hero because she didn't know anything about this world of transplants."

Kinsey said that she was very surprised to find out that she had inspired Rhonnie to give her kidney as well. Sharing the same

sentiment as Rhonnie, Kinsey said that though she did not know the Leders initially that now they are just as much family as anyone else.

"When Rhonnie decided to donate her kidney it shocked me because when I donated mine I never thought that it would impact a family member to do something like that," Kinsey said. "We've now helped four people.

"I didn't know (the Leders) when I decided to donate," Kinsey continued. "When I met them at the airport they held up a sign.

Now, we talk two to three times per week. They are now my extended family. They are a part of my family just like anyone else. They are great and wonderful people."

From a simple heartfelt letter to the editor by Rhonnie, an ongoing spirit of love and generosity for humanity has now saved four lives. In some pay-it-forward chain that exemplifies the human spirit, the decisions by both Kinsey and Rhonnie will be, as Rhonnie put it, the "gift that keeps on giving."

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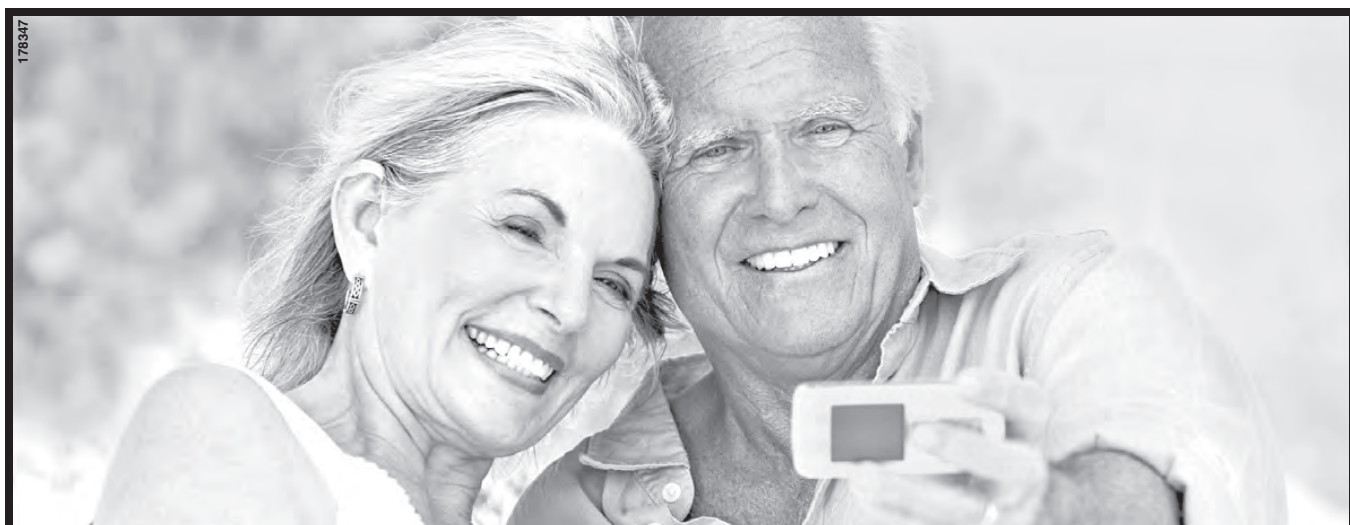
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