

MOUNTAINS

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Police: Man wrecked, slugged nurse

ASHEVILLE — A Candler man is facing a felony assault charge and other charges after police say he punched a female nurse after he was involved in a traffic accident.

Anthony Charles Gardner, 24, of Dogwood Road, was charged Tuesday with assault on emergency personnel, driving while impaired and reckless driving to endanger, according to warrants at the Buncombe County Magistrate's Office.

Local chefs snag nominations

Beard foundation awards are high culinary honor

by Mackensy Lunsford
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ASHEVILLE — Katie Button, of Curate, and Elliott Moss, of The Admiral, are among nominees for the James Beard Foundation's 2013 Restaurant and Chef Awards.

Based in New York City, the James Beard Foundation serves as a center for the United States' culinary community — its

awards are much like the Oscars of the food world. Semifinalists are chosen from more than 44,000 entries submitted through an online poll.

This year marks the second time in her career Button, chef and co-owner of downtown Asheville's Curate for just two years, has been nominated for the Rising Star Chef Award. "Last year, when I got listed, I was really surprised and think-

ing it was a fluke," she said. "Like, that was some strange mistake. Then to be put back on that list this year ... I feel like I'm getting a lot of affirmation for what I'm doing."

So twice is no fluke? "It seems that way to me," she said. "I'm starting to believe it myself."

Button found out about the nomination through social media just moments after the



Katie Button

list of semifinalists was released. "I honestly didn't know they were announced until Twitter started going," she said. The announcement came the same day as news that GQ's Alan Richman, who has 14 James Beard Awards for food journalism, included Curate in an

article called "The Perfect Night Out: The 12 Most Out-

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to network around ideas. It's a good place to test an idea, to get on stage, and

"The challenge is to cut your idea down to the most pertinent point with-

connecting those valuable dots to grow our social capital."

CHEFS: Button, Moss share excitement

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standing Restaurants of 2013."

"Cúrate is a prototype of how genuine tapas — the kind from Spain — might flourish throughout America," Richman wrote.

It was a big day for a chef who just turned 30 last week. "I'm so excited about it and happy for Elliott, too," Button said.

Moss, 33, was nominated for Best Chef in the Southeast, which he learned through a congratulatory text message. "I said, 'For what?' And then I looked it up," he said.

If Moss makes it to the semifinals, he'll be representing a restaurant where he no longer works. Next week, the self-taught chef will pass the reigns of The Admiral's kitchen to new chef Ivan Candido. Moss needs time to focus on Buxton Hill, the restau-

rant he's opening this year with partners Jonathan Robinson and Lane Reid. But he's happy to represent The Admiral. "I couldn't be here without them, that's for sure," he said.

Moss' nomination pits him against a number of award-winning chefs, including Ashley Christensen, of Poole's Diner in Raleigh, and Jeremiah Bacon, of The Macintosh in Charleston, S.C.

"It's an honor to be mentioned with the restaurants and chefs that are up for the award," Moss said. "I don't expect much. If it happens, that's great. It's just an honor to be mentioned with the people who are up for the award. I'm happy either way."

Button also feels honored to be nominated and isn't thinking too far ahead.

"I would be thrilled beyond belief to make it to the finals, but I'm not hold-

"It's an honor to be mentioned with the restaurants and chefs that are up for the award."

ELLIOTT MOSS, NOMINATED FOR BEARD AWARD

JAMES BEARD AWARDS

Finalists for the James Beard Foundation's 2013 Restaurant and Chef Awards will be announced March 18. Winners will be revealed May 6 at the James Beard Foundation Awards Gala and Ceremony at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City.

ing out any expectations," she said. "I'm just really excited to even make it to the semifinalists long list. This reaffirms I'm meant to be there."