

County officers arrest trio on B&E, larceny counts

Steven William Bolen, 24, 1200 Capps Road, Bessemer City, Roger Dale Bowen, 37, 314 2nd Street, Stanley, and Eric Raines, 23, 2810 Sunset Drive, Gastonia, have been charged with conspiracy to commit breaking and entering, breaking and entering, and larceny and possession of stolen property and were jailed under \$10,000 bonds at

the Cleveland County Detention Center, according to the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department.

Captain Joel Shores said that on Sept. 11 Patrol Deputy Steve Bonino was working patrol and spotted a suspicious vehicle towing a four-wheeler and pulled the vehicle over. Officers discovered the four-wheeler had been stolen from a Cleveland

County resident. Further investigation by the Criminal Investigations Division implicated the suspects in alleged break-ins in the Fallston and Moss Lake areas over a seven day period and the recovery of \$40,000 in stolen property.

The investigation is continuing and more charges are pending.

'Women's Wisdom Walk-About

'Women's Wisdom Walk-About,' a program for and about women, will be presented by Business Networking of Kings Mountain Oct. 23 and 24 in an event that not only outlines how downtown Kings Mountain can supply many of the things women like before driving out-of-town but a weekend chock full of a variety of activities.

Space is limited to 50 participants, so donation tickets are now available for \$25. at Gentle Moon Cafe, Chloe's Boutique, and Bellus T. Spa, 130 West Gold in the former location of Graapes In A Glass.

The event will begin on October 23 at 7 p.m. with wine tasting with hors d'oeuvres at Gentle Moon Cafe where participants will receive a schedule of events on Saturday, Oct. 24 and a goodie bag.

Saturday events begin at 7 a.m. with a light breakfast at Gentle Moon Cafe downtown.

There's also an all-day scavenger hunt led by Barbara Justice and representatives of businesses downtown will conduct demonstrations and tips on healthy living, Gentle Moon Cafe; dress for success, Chloe's Boutique;

yoga at the Yoga Room; cooking demonstration with Martin and Stormy at The Inn of the Patriots; financial strategies with a financial advisor; marketing strategies by Southern Bell Marketing; taking a walk on the wild side at Gateway Trail; tools every women should have, Bridges Hardware; self defense and Tai Chi at Kong Hoi King Fu; skin care at Bellus Tu Spa; and a data center tour led by Barbara Justice. The evening event at 6:30 p.m. at Gentle Moon Cafe will include dinner, a fashion show, a photo booth and door prizes.

SPECIAL BONDS

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let them know that attention is required. That signal prompts the diabetic to check their blood sugar and, if appropriate, to eat or drink something that can help blood sugar levels stabilize.

"They are remarkable animals," said Brianna's father Jim Rochford, who, along with his wife Jacque, is a retired NYPD officer.

Those with type I diabetes, which is caused by a genetic disorder, typically begin showing signs of the disease at an early age. Brianna, 14, and Tyler, 15, were both diagnosed in 2007. Tyler's family acquired Bingo in April 2012. Claddagh came into the Rochford family in February 2013. (Claddagh, which is pronounced clad-uh, is a Gaelic word that means loyalty and friendship).

When the students were younger, their service dogs accompanied them to school nearly every day. Now, as Tyler and Brianna have gotten older and better at managing the disease, they rarely bring the helpful canines to campus.

"Bingo is a godsend, but it can lead to a lot of distractions at school," said Tyler's mother Shanna at a coffee shop in downtown Kings Mountain Friday afternoon, where she was joined by the two students, Brianna's parents and of course Claddagh and Bingo. "Plus, (Tyler) likes to be below the radar and having a dog with him at school brings attention."

"People will sometimes bark at the dog," Brianna said, referring to classmates who may not completely understand why Claddagh accompanies her.

Service dogs, when outside the home, wear red vests to signify the important role

they play for their owners.

Dogs like Claddagh and Bingo, which cost about \$25,000 and whose cost are not covered by insurance plans, are becoming increasingly common for those with type I diabetes. But Tyler and Brianna, as well as their parents, say they are just one tool in helping patients manage diabetes, which is caused when the body's endocrine system fails to regulate glucose levels in the blood.

Tyler wears an insulin pump, while Brianna uses a pen-like device to manually administer insulin to herself.

Studies have shown that implanted glucose monitoring systems can be 20-30 minutes behind a fully trained alert dog. The electronic systems measure parts per million. In research laboratories, dogs have been shown to pick up on parts per trillion with their sensitive noses. Also, diabetics may sleep right through a monitor's alarm, whereas a trained diabetic alert dog is persistent to the point it will go get another member of the household if the person isn't responding.

"It's a big responsibility," said Shanna Withers, who works for an insurance company. "For a teenager, it's a lot for them. But we'll do everything in our power to make sure he's healthy. The dog has saved my kid's life."

Jacque Rochford agrees, explaining that Claddagh and Bingo have become so tuned in to the children's statuses that they are able to alert to a low blood sugar or a high blood sugar even when they are many miles away. The Rochfords and Withers explain that the service dogs have tasted blood samples from both students and that plus their training and near-constant companionship

mean the animals have forged extraordinary bonds with the two sophomores.

At Brianna's house, Claddagh joins a host of other beloved family pets. The Rochfords also have a Chihuahua, three cats and six fish. At Tyler's house, Bingo shares attention with a Jack Russell terrier.

The alert dogs respond acutely to simple commands. Their owners can place tasty treats on top of their paws and say "leave it." The dogs won't touch the food. When they say the word "free," the dogs quickly and calmly gobble up the kibble.

Having diabetes hasn't kept Brianna or Tyler from leading active and productive young lives. Tyler is a great student whose favorite subject is math, as well as being an ace golfer who plays on the KMHS team. Brianna, a cheerleader whose favorite subject is honors biology, is also a competitive Irish step dancer who has her sights on becoming a veterinarian after college. Last month she was a keynote speaker at an American Diabetes Association event. On Nov. 7, she'll speak at the national organization's Step Out event in Charlotte.

So what has been the long-term results of employing service dogs in their lives? According to their parents, the periodic tests that reveal blood sugar levels over long periods of time have shown that both Brianna and Tyler have shown improvement in keeping blood glucose levels within healthier ranges than before Claddagh and Bingo came into the picture.

Both students say they plan on keeping a service dog into adulthood.

"I feel safer," Brianna said over a coffee drink.

8th grade Patriot project in full swing at KMMS

Project Patriot is the theme of the 8th grade Social Studies class – the Voyagers, Rockets and Super Novas – which got underway this month and last week the students made a trip to the Kings Mountain National Park, walked the trail to Ferguson's grave, and learned a history lesson.

Caleb Sigmon, who directed the highly successful summer productions of "Liberty Mountain," kicked off the project at an assembly program at Kings Mountain Middle School and it will run from the beginning of the year starting in classrooms and end with students showcasing their projects for the city-wide Gateway Festival on Oct. 10.

Projects will be based on categories created by Caleb and his wife, Katy, and they will include Visual Arts (music, drama, dance), weaponry, clothing, genealogy/gravestones, journal writing, interviews, graphs, medicine, crafts/trade. Visits to the Battleground will be aimed to help give students a better understanding of these categories. Students will receive assistance in complet-

ing projects from guidance in Language Arts and Social Studies. Assistance will be available through the media center and Mauney Library as well.

A research paper or essay will accompany the project and will be a required portion of the project. Student rewards will also be featured. One student from each category will be chosen for a limo lunch with the mayor. The top three winners will be selected for cash prizes. Projects and students will also be recognized at a Kings Mountain city council meeting.

Student projects will be displayed in windows of downtown businesses and also at the Gateway Festival.

Mauney Library, a partner in the project along with the City of Kings Mountain, will sponsor an event led by the Sigmons and the Gateway Trail will host a Haunted Trail in October where the characters along the trail are those involved in the Battle of Kings Mountain. The trail will be similar to a story walk telling about the battle and the people involved.

Loretta Cozart, from

the local DAR chapter, says a marker for the African American Patriots who fought in the battle, will be presented on Oct. 7 and this event will also tie-in with the student project.

A committee began work on the project this summer and this group included Christy Conner, Windy Bagwell, Julia Clore-Laurich, David Smith, Andrew Ruppe, Caleb and Katy Sigmon, Leah Taber, and Katherine Lynn.

Windy Bagwell's young son, Adam, a 4th grader, was among the cast of "Liberty Mountain" and Bagwell, Middle School faculty member, and Christy Conner of Mauney Library became excited about the project when Bagwell said that the 8th grade curriculum included the Revolutionary War in the Social Studies Program. What a neat idea to work up a project that would culminate with the October celebration of the 1780 Battle of Kings Mountain, they said.

The idea caught on with the Sigmons and the committee has grown this month to include other community members.

LOCAL GOP: not sold on Trump

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"We're going to get behind whoever is nominated 100 percent, but now it's just too soon to say who that will be," Whetstone said. "We feel that our worst candidate is better than their worst."

Whetstone, who is a general contractor and a longtime Republican, said that those who watched the debate with him last week observed that Trump, a real estate developer, television personality and author, appeared to get less talking time than in an earlier debate in August.

Still, he thinks he understands Trump's appeal.

"The everyday working person is tired of politics as usual," Whetstone said. "They're looking for someone to say what is right even if it's politically correct."

As far as candidate Trump's assertion that his administration would have Mexico finance a wall to keep its would-be migrants off of U.S. soil, Whetstone concedes that "some of that is overkill."

"All 16 of them had some good points," Whetstone said of last week's GOP debate, who added that the debates are

helping the candidates shape their respective messages over time.

Trump, who is thought to have a net worth of about \$7 billion, formally announced his candidacy for president in June and his early campaigning drew intense media coverage. His support in polls soon rose to high levels. Since late July 2015, he has consistently been the front-runner in public opinion polls for the Republican Party nomination.

Despite Trump's rise in the polls, some don't think he's a genuine contender for the nomination or the presidency.

"I don't know why anyone is talking about Trump," said Stuart Brock, a Kings Mountain landscaper who identifies himself as a libertarian. "He's just media fodder."

New Hampshire is the site of the first presidential primary in February.

For those local observers who are aligned with the other major political party in the United States, Trump's performance in last week's panel was more just more of the same empty sloganeering they say they've seen from the famous real estate developer over the

summer.

"Donald Trump is certainly the entertainer of the bunch," said Betsy Wells, who is chair of N.C.'s 10th District Democrats. "I don't think he'll make it though."

"I think even Republicans are surprised by his dominance in the polls," she said. "We're talking about the leader of the free world here."

Wells said her thoughts after watching the GOP debate was that Fiorina was the most poised of the GOP hopefuls.

"I think she probably did the best, in terms of standing out among the others in that particular debate. At this stage of the game we'll just wait and see how it plays out," said Wells, a Hillary Clinton supporter who believes the former First Lady and Secretary of State will get the Democratic nomination.

Nevertheless, she said there's no denying the groundswell of support that Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has been getting.

"I've always liked Bernie," she said. "He'll make the (primary) race exciting."



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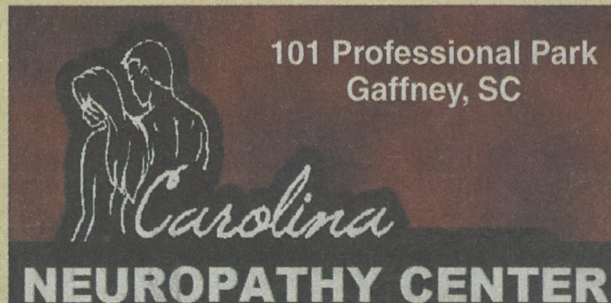
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