

Teens rescue woman from car

By Michael French

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KENNESAW - If the police and paramedics have not arrived yet, don't worry because Kennesaw Mountain High School students might be in the area.

Sophomore Justin Boswell was driving to school Thursday morning with friend, junior Carl Cramer, riding shotgun.

They were on their way to a local gas station to fill up around 6:50 a.m. when Boswell turned his truck onto Mars Hill Road and heard a loud bang come from the left side of the road.

Boswell said he looked to the left and saw smoke.

"We were just coming from the road where it forked," Cramer said. "A car hit the telephone pole and caught on fire."

"Carl started yelling, 'Go! Go! Go!'" Boswell said.

The 16-year-old whipped his truck into a driveway across the street.

"Justin burned rubber to it," said Cramer, who jumped out and started running across the street before the truck had stopped moving.

"It happened so quick," Boswell said.

The teens ran to the vehicle and found a woman inside yelling for help as flames engulfed the passenger side of the Buick Century.

"When we opened the door, the fire was so close," Boswell said. "I thought I was going to get caught on fire."

Cramer described the engine fire as a small bang with multiple "pops."

"It wasn't like Hollywood," he said.

The teens untangled the woman from her seatbelt before the flames reached the driver's side of the car.

"She couldn't move at all," Boswell said. "She wasn't moving."

He said she remained conscious throughout the ordeal.

Cobb County Police Officer Todd Desrosiers was the first officer on the scene.

"It was a good little crash," he said. "The lady drove off the roadway."

He said the woman reported feeling dizzy and may have passed out behind the wheel.

"The car was fully involved in fire," he said. "That's a bad intersection there during rush hour."

As a medical helicopter was flown in, authorities shut the road down.

Desrosiers said Cramer and Boswell stayed on the scene to help the lone officer direct traffic.

"They were really polite kids," he said. "They asked me for a note so they wouldn't get in trouble for being late to school."

Cramer said the scene when they arrived at school was "hectic" because the news had traveled faster than they did.

"It was a complete rush of adrenaline," Cramer said.

Boswell said for two hours after the accident, he couldn't sit still.

"If we would have been there 30 seconds before or after, she might have died," he said. "I thank God we were there at that time."

Boswell said the experience reminded him that car accidents can happen in an instant.

"I remember (Thursday) I was driving down the road and paid more attention to how fast I was going," he said. "It could happen to anyone."

Cramer said he and Boswell did what most people would do in that situation.

"We're not heroes," the 17-year-old said. "I've never been a safe driver. You've never really seen anything like that happen. You never think it's going to happen."

Desrosiers said after the fire was extinguished, the car was so badly burned he couldn't find the woman's purse.

"The best thing to do when someone's hurt in an accident is to keep them in place," he said. "In the case of a fire, that's an extenuating circumstance."

He said the two teens did the right thing in pulling her from the car.

"It helps us a lot when people that witness accidents stick around to help out," he said. "Sometimes you can't figure it out unless you have some help on the scene."

Boswell said after the accident he called his father, who told him he still had to go to school.

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