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## Investor Bolze misses his day in court; officers can't find him to serve warrant

By **DEREK HODGES**  
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**GATLINBURG** It seems the life of Dennis Bolze who made millions in the stock market, was once convicted of tax evasion, was rumored to have won millions in the lottery (he hadn't) and built a local reputation as a philanthropist has taken another peculiar twist.

Officers attempting to find Bolze to serve a criminal summons on him have been unable to do so since the warrant was filed Dec. 19. Further, Bolze did not show up for a Monday morning hearing on the matter.

The summons alleges Bolze has not paid for services provided by Thompson Brothers Construction in the amount of \$10,700 plus costs. A new hearing has been slated for Jan. 26.

When the number provided for Bolze was tried Monday, a recorded message stated his phone messaging system is full and cannot accept new communications.

Bulah Thompson, whose husband owns the construction company named in the complaint, said she has been told Bolze may no longer be in the county.

"We found out he has skipped town and may have left the country," Thompson said. "We've been told he started moving some of his furniture out of his house and the banks are going to foreclose on it. I know for a fact there are three other contractors who haven't been paid and they're going to file complaints, too. We heard he's gone to Pennsylvania I believe he's from there but we don't know much for sure."

The warrant that has already been filed relates to paving work done at The Summit on Bluff Mountain.

"Every time we would call, he would give us some other excuse why he couldn't pay us yet, then he just stopped answering the phone," Thompson said. "It's pretty aggravating. We're stuck holding a \$10,700 bill and there's not a whole lot we can do."

Thompson is hopeful the lawsuit will yield some results, though she's not optimistic. If nothing else, she said there may be a chance the contractors will be repaid if Bolze's homes on Campbell Lead Road are foreclosed on.

"We have liens on his property, so those will have to be settled before it's sold," she said. "When you do an honest job for someone and they do they do this, that's sad. I feel sorry for him."

Bolze's personal history recounts the building of a fortune in the stock market. He has continued his day-trading activities from an office in the massive 15,612-square-foot home he built in Gatlinburg. Additionally, in recent years he has led seminars, inviting others who pay a hefty fee to learn his tricks for investing.

He also subject of an rumor that credits him with winning \$100 million in lottery winnings.

He has gained quite a reputation for contributing to local nonprofits, handing over the funds from one of his seminars each year to groups like Mountain Hope Good Shepherd Clinic and the Sevier County Animal Shelter, and hosting an annual Oktoberfest fundraiser for United Way of Sevier County. He received an award earlier last year recognizing his contributions to the Cherish the Child Foundation, which supports Smoky Mountain Children's Home.

That generosity has helped rebuild a reputation scared by a previous criminal conviction. In 2001, Bolze pleaded guilty to 16 counts of failure to file sales tax returns after he did not report \$731,455 of taxable sales for two Gatlinburg businesses he operated. Between April 1997 and July 1998, he apparently failed to pay \$62,194 in sales tax, saying at the time it was the result of "business failures more than personal habits."

Bolze spent six years on probation and paid a \$1,000 fine plus court costs as a result of that guilty plea.

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Submitted by **jrjenkitmp** on 01/06/2009 @ 08:47 AM

I always liked Dennis, he seemed like a nice guy, friendly. All he was doing was what Obama says he is going to do and that is redistribute the wealth. Dennis was giving to local charities instead of to those people to whom he owed the money contractors and Uncle Sam. The truly rich do not look rich. Remember George Vanderbilt and Biltmore? Well his wife was just about out of money when she died. It seems her husband spent it all on a house. When Dennis built that montrosity I felt sorry for him,even when it burned. Exhibiting such wealth made him and his family targets. Having people believe you have millions laying around is not a good or safe idea. Warren Buffet lives in the same house for 30 plus years. Sam Walton drove a used truck. I wish Dennis well but I think is reputation as a philanthropist has taken a major hit. Keep an eye on his friends to see how long they claim to be close friends..At least we know where he got the "grub stake" to play the market. He used money that he owed other people but isn't that THE rule of investing, use other people's money now your own? I wish his family well in this terrible time, for them.

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### What utter rubbish

Submitted by **JimboBama** on 01/06/2009 @ 04:48 PM

I don't know if the previous poster's tongue was planted so firmly in his cheek I couldn't detect it, or if he was serious in his defense of this crook. The "developer" parasites who insist on pillaging the land and people of Sevier County for personal gain and leave nothing but destruction in their wake are the worst curse this area has ever suffered. I hope they find this hypocrite wherever he is hiding out and drag his sorry carcass back to open court to face the music. If there is a more loathsome cesspool of degenerate frauds on the face of the earth than Sevier County developers and their sycophants, I hope I don't find it.

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### Factual error

Submitted by **papanugget** on 01/07/2009 @ 05:46 PM

Dennis never charged for his trading seminars. Your payment (of which amount you chose yourself) went into an envelope and directly to the hands of a representative of one of three local charities for which you received a receipt in the mail afterwards.

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### ginia

Submitted by **ginia** on 01/08/2009 @ 10:32 AM

I, and other pensioners living on the financial edge here in Europe, were charged 15% initially, then down-sized to a fixed dividend. I am now left with two-thirds of a tiny nest-egg, for which I worked up to 13hrs a day and paid the HIGH taxes, providing a supplement to my one-third minute state pension. Where is the morality in all of this? I can only pray that the relevant off-shore accounts can be traced and frozen until what's left of investors' - and creditors' debts are repaid. I don't HAVE a house to sell - only a 23yr old car...

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### oilgasa

Submitted by **oilgas** on 01/08/2009 @ 10:37 AM

You must be a relative, defending this hillbilly Madoff. He donated only a few of his many seminar profits. This guy is a grade A sheister, and if you can not acknowledge that you must be a relative or totally in the dark. Hey, the guy took a hike, what do you think that tells you. He was mortgaged to the hilt, and led a grandiose lifestyle to impress his investors. The decline in the stock market caused his ponsi scheme to collapse, just as it did for Madoff.

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### Thank you Mr. Bolze

Submitted by **elkmontcruiser** on 01/09/2009 @ 12:20 PM

I write that with a sense of humor. Yes, he stuck me with an unpaid invoice for goods delivered. I have written off the amount as a bad debt and taken it in stride. He's fooled many people including his church family and those of you who still believe he has some good in him. If he would have only paid those of us small business people what he owes.... Tough luck I guess. The karma train is coming Dennis. I've already reserved a seat up front for you.

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My opinion of new Tennessee football coach Lane Kiffin is:

- Love him
- Great choice
- Jury's still out
- Got a ways to go
- Just what team needed

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