

Capitola auto dealer vanishes, leaving trail of debts behind

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Robert De Jarnett, owner of Capitola's "Big-Hearted Bob Dee" auto dealership, has disappeared, leaving behind a big debt — more than \$2.7 million according to court documents — and employees waiting for their paychecks.

Pacific Western Bank, which financed the Oldsmobile/Jeep-Eagle dealership with a "flooring agreement," went to Santa Cruz County Superior Court Monday for possession of collateral. The bank said that De Jarnett has sold his house and left town with his wife, daughter and son-in-law, and that he left owing them \$2,709,902.62 in principal and interest, as well as \$52,000 in back rent to the owner of the dealer-

ship's property.

The judge Monday ordered the dealership's inventory, about six dozen vehicles, furniture, fixtures, accounts receivable and a second bank account, be given to Pacific Western.

Meanwhile, the dealership closed yesterday, and employees are waiting for a new owner to take over, said an employee who answered the dealership's phone and did not want to be identified. She said she was "not at liberty" to say where the new owner would come from or who it would be.

She said employees have not been paid since July 14. They should have received a paycheck yesterday, she said, but Pacific Western has frozen the dealer-

ship's account.

"This is just a temporary shutdown," the employee said. "Everything will be much better with the new ownership."

Employees have filed a complaint with the state Labor Commissioner's Office in Salinas.

An Oldsmobile representative in the General Motors Corp.'s Fremont zone office declined to comment on the situation and a spokesman in the Michigan office was unavailable for comment.

De Jarnett had previous dealerships in Illinois and Missouri before he opened the Capitola business in December 1987. The dealership was known for its ads that featured "Big-Hearted Bob Dee" flying through the air in a Superman outfit.