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# SACRAMENTO Business Journal

## OTHER FEATURES

From the September 28, 2001 print edition

### Whispers

## Autovia files Chapter 7, leaving \$2 million unpaid

[Autovia Inc.](#), a dot-com that closed earlier this year, filed to liquidate under Chapter 7 of the bankruptcy code on Monday. The company listed no assets and \$2.14 million in unsecured claims.

At one point Autovia employed 100 in Sacramento. It had a system to link garages to auto parts distributors via the Internet. Local shops that had used it loved it. But Autovia closed in February, laying everyone off and hunting for a buyer.

Autovia had raised \$32 million in the two years since it started but needed another round of cash just as dot-coms imploded.

There are nearly 100 creditors, including phone companies, law firms, accounting firms, and media and PR companies. Only about a dozen are local, including Special Order Systems Inc. in Rocklin (owed \$64,330); Admail West, Sacramento (\$21,275); the Spector Agency, Fair Oaks (\$10,232); Manpower Sacramento (\$17,194); Enterprise Printing, Sacramento (\$9,700); Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Elk Grove (\$4,567); Infinite Solutions, Sacramento (\$4,285); Burkett's Office Furnishings, Sacramento (\$3,600); and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (\$3,876).

While creditors aren't likely to be paid, the stock is worthless too. The largest investor was Crosspoint Ventures, followed by Hearst Business Publishing Inc., Internet Capital Group Inc., and Hallador Venture Partners. Silicon Valley Bank had stock warrants.

### Former Ocean Power exec sues

A former vice president of Ocean Power Corp. in El Dorado Hills has sued the company, alleging it owes him \$63,400 in wages and legal fees.

Dan McHargue claims he was hired on Sept. 1, 2000 as a vice president of product management. The company is developing water desalination and electricity generation technologies but hasn't brought any products to market yet. His annual salary was about \$182,000.

He was fired May 1, court records say, and threatened to sue to collect his wages. On July 23, Ocean Power's chief operating officer, Michael Hopper, signed an agreement to pay McHargue \$58,400 in wages and \$5,000 in legal fees. When the check didn't arrive, McHargue sued on Sept. 17.

"They say they just don't have it," said Paul Cass, McHargue's attorney. The second payment was due today.

Did Folsom do survey or not?

Activists in Folsom say a recent survey done for the city found that most residents don't approve of annexation and development south of Highway 50.

But Folsom Mayor Steve Miklos says the city didn't do any such survey.

Earlier this year, the city was given the go-ahead by the Local Agency Formation Commission to extend its sphere of influence over thousands of acres south of 50.

Chuck Ritchie, head of the Alliance of Folsom Residents, says he's sure the city surveyed residents about the land south of 50. When he asked the city to release the info, Ritchie says, officials refused, claiming it would "degrade the city's ability to make appropriate decisions." Then, he says, when he filed a request under the Freedom of Information Act three weeks ago, the city said there was no survey.

#### Chamber boss leaves for L.A.


Rusty Hammer, president of the Sac Metro Chamber of Commerce, is leaving to take the same job with the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 5.

Hammer, 48, has run the chamber here since 1994. It was in trouble when he came; now it's the state's second largest. Its operating budget tripled.

"He has become an integral part of the fabric of our region's leadership," says Diane Miller, chamber chairman.

"To lead the chamber in the nation's second-largest city is an honor and a challenge," Hammer says.

Hammer previously worked 17 years in corporate management. Before that, he became the nation's youngest elected official at the age of 18 in Campbell, and the nation's youngest mayor at the age of 21.

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