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BERTIE ELLIOTT GIVES \$2.3M TO PACREP

By MARY SCHLEY

A DECADES-LONG effort to raise the \$2.7 million needed to overhaul the Golden Bough Theater got a gargantuan boost this week, when Bertie Elliott — a Carmel resident whose generosity and philanthropy have significantly impacted many Monterey Peninsula organizations and efforts over the years — donated \$2.3 million to Pacific Repertory Theatre. The gift will help pay for new seating, sound and light booths, heating and air conditioning, soundproofing, concessions area, lobby and other public spaces at the 300-seat theater on Monte Verde Street, according to PacRep executive director Stephen Moorer.

Elliott is not only a regular supporter of PacRep, she has known Moorer since he was a teenager. “I’ve known Stephen since he was at Carmel High, because he was in the same class as one of my daughters, and one of my stepdaughters, as well,” she told The Pine Cone Tuesday.

“Bertie and I have crossed paths now for 40 years,” Moorer agreed.

Throughout the years, Elliott has followed Moorer’s career

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PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

Bertie Elliott gave PacRep executive director Stephen Moorer’s dreams for a revamped Golden Bough a big boost when she decided to donate \$2.3M.

Hyatt takes helm at Carmel Valley Ranch, Ventana

By CHRIS COUNTS

IN A deal that is truly a family affair, Hyatt Hotels Corporation will take over the management of two of Monterey County’s most prestigious resorts, Carmel Valley Ranch and Ventana Big Sur.

The transfer is part of a deal involving management of 85 hotels in eight countries. The contracts to run those hotels are being sold to Hyatt by private equity firm Geolo Capital.

The sale price is \$480 million, with the potential to increase to \$600 million if certain milestones are achieved.

In a curious twist, the founder and director of Geolo Capital is John Pritzker, while the founder of Hyatt Hotels was his late father, Jay Pritzker. A publicist confirmed the family connection but told The Pine Cone it had nothing to do with the sale.

While Hyatt is taking over the day-to-day operations of Carmel Valley Ranch and Ventana, Geolo Capital will continue to own the properties. The company is the largest owner of Hyatt hotels.

As a result of the deal, hotel brands that were operated by

Mozingo letters, honors and photos released

By MARY SCHLEY

AFTER BEING ordered by Monterey County Superior Court Judge Robert O’Farrell to release documents about his education, achievements and honors, city attorney Glen Mozingo posted 76 items on a website, glenmazingocarmelcityattorney.com, Thursday.

The release followed a dispute between the city council and a former editor of the Monterey County Herald over whether they were public records. Former editor Royal Calkins sued the city after it refused to release the records, which were examined by the city council during a closed-session discussion of Mozingo’s background in June. The city’s lawyers argued the items were protected because they were a “personnel matter” and contained private information, but following a September hearing, O’Farrell disagreed, ruling that they had to be disclosed under the Brown Act, which protects the public’s right

to know what its government is up to, except under certain circumstances.

The order commanded the city to make the records available and to pay attorney Neil Shapiro’s fees. The city is also required to file a document verifying it has complied with the order within seven days.

Last week, the council voted not to appeal O’Farrell’s ruling and said it would produce the documents within 15 days. Shapiro said that wasn’t soon enough, and the documents were made public Oct. 11.

What’s online

The contents of the website include:

- photos of plaques naming Mozingo among the top lawyers in California;

- a 2002 invitation to the gold medal presentation by the National Republican Congressional Committee in Washington;

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Among the more than 70 documents and photos city attorney Glen Mozingo put online Thursday was an image of the Congressional Medal of Distinction he mentioned on his resume.

MoCo residents among 24K ineligible voters

By KELLY NIX

THE CALIFORNIA Department of Motor Vehicles wrongly registered dozens of Monterey and Santa Cruz county residents to vote under the new Motor Voter program, officials told The Pine Cone this week.

The people who were erroneously registered to vote could include non-citizens, felons on parole, minors and other DMV customers who were ineligible.

On Monday, DMV director Jean Shiimoto informed Secretary of State Alex Padilla that in addition to the roughly 23,000 Californians the DMV incorrectly registered to vote between late April and August — an error announced in September — the agency uncovered 1,500 more Californians last week who were also incorrectly registered.

Of the 24,500 who were registered throughout the state, 28 of them were Monterey County residents, including 15 in the first incident and 13 in the most recent, registrar Claudio Valenzuela told The Pine Cone.

“We followed instructions provided by the secretary of state to cancel those registration records,” Valenzuela said this week.

The 15 county residents registered incorrectly in the first

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DEPUTIES ON HUNT FOR WOULD-BE ATM THIEVES

By MARY SCHLEY

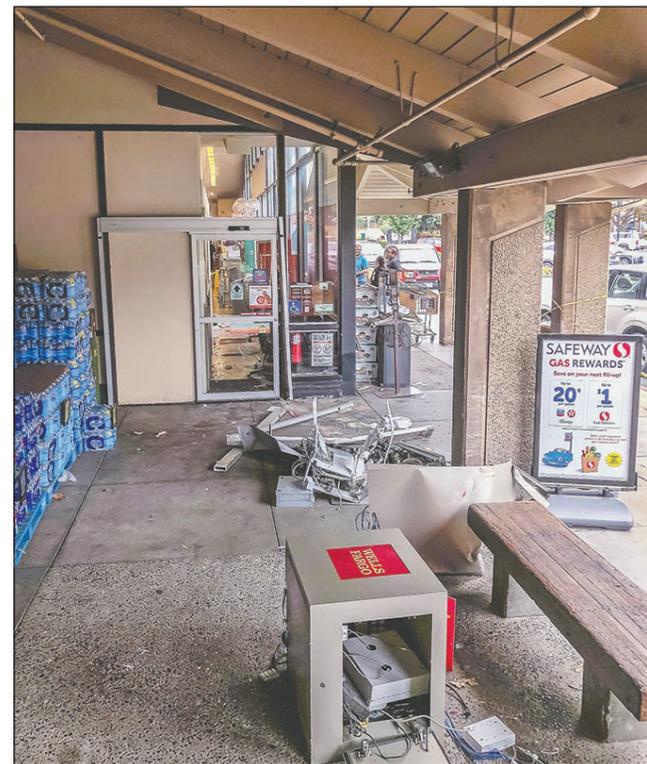
SHORTLY BEFORE 6 a.m. Oct. 10, thieves backed a stolen pickup truck up to the Safeway at Mid Valley Center, attached a cable to the Wells Fargo ATM inside, and ripped out the machine, Monterey County Sheriff’s Cmdr. John Thornburg told The Pine Cone Thursday.

The brazen crime resulted in considerable damage, but Thornburg said he doesn’t know if the criminals actually got any money.

A manager on duty at the 24-hour store confronted the them. “He saw the truck backing up and thought it looked weird, so he yelled at them,” Thornburg said. “They still hooked up the ATM and tried to drag it out of there.”

The result was a big mess, with a broken window and parts of the machine and its housing strewn about — along with

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PHOTO/MOSSMEDIACARMEL

ATM parts and other debris covered the ground outside Mid Valley Safeway Wednesday after someone attached a cable to it and ripped it out of the store with a stolen pickup truck.