



Ned Hickson

Warning to Watsonville: Next week, I'll be eating all your fruit

Over the years, I've been offered chances to go to many places. Usually by someone with a raised voice. And often to a destination that is physically impossible for anyone who isn't a skilled contortionist.

However, this Thursday, June 23, there's a good chance you'll find me face-down in a row of strawberries somewhere in Watsonville, Calif.

Did I mention I love fruit? The trip came about with

the help of a sister newspaper, the Register-Pajaronian, which also runs my column.

(And yes, when the Watsonville police pull you over, they make you say "Register-Pajaronian" three times to prove you haven't been drinking.)

When our editor found out it meant me being gone for a week, he did something he's never done before.

He gave me the "thumbs up" to visit Watsonville. Naturally, this was exciting news! At least once I got over the creepiness of him actually giving me a "thumbs up" sign.

I did a little research and

know there's more to Watsonville than farming. With a population of more than 51,000 people, along with nine TV and radio stations, 28 parks, the Santa Cruz Fair Grounds and Ocean Speedway, there are plenty of ways for me to get into trouble that don't involve being run over by someone riding a tractor.

Unless it's during a tractor race on the speedway.

And hey, any town that can claim being home to "Killer Clowns from Outer Space" is my kind of place.

For some reason, the fact that the cult classic was filmed almost entirely in

Watsonville isn't something they included on their brochure.

Something else that makes Watsonville my kind of place is that it's a community that helps its hungry. As Chris Ryan at Second Harvest Food Bank pointed out to me, the only time "humor" and "hunger" are close together is in the dictionary.

I couldn't agree more.

However, on June 23, I'll be using humor to help the hungry by donating a third of my book sales to Second Harvest while I'm at the Register-Pajaronian from 10 a.m. to noon.

I have no staff or overhead.

Heck, I barely have a desk. So you can trust me when I say the full \$5 from each book will go to Chris and the folks at the food bank.

More than anything, I'm looking forward to the chance to meet as many Watsonville residents as I can and get to know them beyond the newspaper page. If they decide to buy a book or just make a donation to Second Harvest, all the better.

I want to thank managing

editor Erik Chalhoub and everyone at the Pajaronian for having me. It's a real privilege to be a part of their community through its local newspaper.

But seriously... I'd hide the fruit while I'm there.

Ned is a syndicated columnist with News Media Corporation. His book, "Humor at the Speed of Life," is available online at Port Hole Publications, Amazon Books and Barnes & Noble. Write to him at nedhickson@icloud.com

Senior Center offering July 16 garage sale spaces

The Florence Senior Center will be holding a "garage sale" July 16, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Indoor spaces will rent for \$20, which includes a table, or outdoor spaces in the parking lot for \$15. Tables may be set

up between 2 and 5 p.m. on Friday, July 15.

Call Ron Borge at 541-991-7977 by July 11 to reserve a space.

Anyone who would like to donate items (no clothing) can bring them to the center on

Friday, July 15, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., or contact Borge for pick up.

All proceeds from this event will support the Senior Center's expansion project.

Comedy Thursdays at Three Rivers Casino Resort

Three Rivers Casino Resort's Comedy Thursdays continues through the summer in Blue Bills (located inside Three Rivers) from 7 to 8 p.m.

On June 23, the headliner will be Sean McBride.

McBride is one of the fastest-rising comics to come out of Southern California. A well traveled man indeed, but it's certainly helped him relate to people no matter where he's performing.

After appearing numerous times on the NFL Network, McBride hit the road as the opening act for legendary comedian Vic Dunlop ("The



COURTESY PHOTO

Sean McBride

Richard Pryor Show").

He's been making crowds laugh ever since.

The opener for McBride is comedian Chase Brockert.

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OPEN HOUSE
Sat, June 25th 1:00-3:00 pm
2193 11th St
2 houses on 1 lot
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba, 1893 sq ft AND
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba, 984 sq ft
\$349,000 BH7213 ML#16457309

NEW LISTING
This stunning home has it all! 100' Ocean frontage w/spectacular views. Built by Carter Brothers in 2002
3 Bdrm, 2 1/2 Ba 2842 sq ft
\$885,000 BH7272 ML#16552228

NEW LISTING
Woahink lakefront contemporary home. 89.54' of frontage w/dock, boathouse & lift. All new hardiplank siding, new granite counters
3 Bdrm, 2 Ba 2283 sq ft
\$599,900 BH7274 ML#16579718

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NEW LISTING
Riverfront Old Town Bay Bridge Condo end unit. Panoramic River & Sand dune views. Beautifully remodeled approx. 5 years ago
2 bdrm, 2 bath 1463 sq ft
\$259,000 BH7275 ML#16613887

NEW LISTING
Recently updated custom built 3 bedroom, 2 1/4 bath, plus den home. Recently painted inside & out. 3 car garage
3 Bdrm + den, 2 1/4 Ba 2123 sq ft
\$399,900 BH7276 ML#16641530

NEW LISTING
Large corner lot in beach area. One block to North Jetty Rd for beach access
3 bdrm, 2 Ba 1296 sq ft
\$189,900 BH7279 ML#16306266

PRICE REDUCTION
Don't miss this Beautiful Riverfront Victorian Beauty
2 Bdrm, 3 Ba, 2850 sq ft
\$595,000 BH7116 ML#15002330

FEATURED LISTING
Very motivated seller. Ready to wheel & deal! Bring me an offer or trade & let's negotiate. Adjacent lots also available
5 Bdrm, 5 Ba, 8607 sq ft
\$1,395,000 BH6998 ML#15509352

PRICE REDUCTION
Spacious 3 bdrm with 2 extra rooms for office, crafts or more. Storage, 2 car garage, RV parking. Beautiful landscaped front & back
3 bdrm, 2 3/4 bath 1756 sq ft
\$204,900 BH7197 ML#16567076

Florence Branch | 1875 Hwy 101 | Florence, OR | (541)997-6000 | www.RealEstateFlorence.com

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