

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

Ned Hickson

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 contortion-

However, this Thursday, June 23, there's a good chance you'll find me facedown 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

Indoor spaces will rent for \$20, which includes a table, or outdoor spaces in the parking

Friday, July 15.

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

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

The Florence Senior Center up between 2 and 5 p.m. 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.

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

lot for \$15. Tables may be set

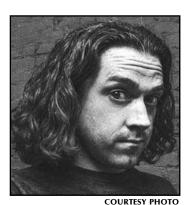
Comedy Thursdays at Three Rivers Casino Resort

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



Sean McBride

Richard Pryor Show").

He's been making crowds laugh ever since.

The opener for McBride is comedian Chase Brocket.

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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



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



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



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



Large corner lot in beach area. One

block to North Jetty Rd for beach

\$189,900 BH7279 ML#16306266

3 bdrm, 2 Ba 1296 sq ft

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