

# Watsonville Hospital's CEO resigns

Barry Schneider says  
he 'needs a breather'

REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF REPORT

Barry Schneider, CEO of Watsonville Community Hospital, announced his resignation to hospital staff today.

According to his letter of resignation, which was provided to the Register-Pajaronian, Schneider is resigning to pursue a new career path. After a quarter of a century in hospital administration and three years at the helm in Watsonville, Schneider's letter sounds as if he's looking for a change of pace.

"I believe it is in the best interest of the organization to have someone new with fresh enthusiasm, ideas and energy who might be more successful than I in leading the organization at this time. After more than 25 years in hospital administration, I have



Schneider

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## CEO

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reached a point in my life where I need a breather and I want to pursue another career opportunity in the field of personal financial planning and financial services," his resignation letter stated.

Schneider said he is planning to work with transition efforts through Nov. 17, and thereafter will be available on a consultative basis until a new CEO is in place.

The letter states that the hospital's ownership, Community Health Systems, has already started searching for a new CEO and will soon name an interim officer, reportedly from within the corporation, to the position.

Schneider did not specify what prompted his decision, and was unavailable for comment before press

time this morning.

His resignation letter acknowledged the struggles of making the transition at the hospital from non-profit to corporate ownership. Although he catalogued recent accomplishments and upcoming expansion projects, Schneider also made repeated reference to "challenging times," "changes" and "difficult times."

"I want to personally express my gratitude and appreciation to all of you for the tremendous amount of support and resiliency you have shown," he stated near the letter's conclusion, "as we have gone through many changes, accomplishments, and some difficult times over the past three years."

The letter, dated Monday, was presented to the hospital's board of trustees Tuesday night. Schneider's resignation was announced to employees this morning.