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Cartoonist takes bittersweet look at life
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DEALING WITH THE STIGMA

A COMMUNITY BUT NOT A HOME

Former wildlands firefighter lives on front line of homelessness in Santa Cruz



DAN COYRO — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Long-time homeless man Dexter Fallen is the direct services coordinator at Homeless Services Center, but still lives in a tent and continues to look for housing.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story is one in an occasional series about the many faces of Santa Cruz County's homeless population.

By Jessica A. York
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SANTA CRUZ » They show up in a continuous trickle of "strong personalities," dozens of people every hour, many brightly doe-eyed and utterly vulnerable or cold and sour. They have no home and no idea what to do next.

And sometimes they need to be carried up the stairs to the "loft," intoxicated and unable to stand on their own two feet.

Dexter Fallen, who has observed these traits and more in the past several months, is one of the first people these often newly homeless meet when they come to Santa Cruz and find their way to the Homeless Services Center's Paul Lee Loft on Coral Street.

Fallen, 33, has himself been homeless on and off since running away from home in Reno, Nevada, at age 16. He began working for the agency — first as a custodian at the family shelter, later at the day center and emergency shelter — some seven months ago.

"A great deal of people out here wouldn't be able to survive without this

STIGMA » PAGE 4



DAN COYRO — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Dexter Fallen, at right, is direct services coordinator at the Homeless Services Center. He still lives in a tent but looks for housing.

"Dexter is so meticulous and thoughtful. He really cares for the people."

— Chris Monteith

SANTA BARBARA RAMPAGE

Attack tests threat laws

California has authority to confine unstable people

By Michael R. Blood
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES » Elliot Rodger's murderous rampage near Santa Barbara has tragically exposed the limitations of involuntary-commitment laws that allow authorities to temporarily confine people who are deemed a danger to themselves or others.

Three weeks before he stabbed and shot six people to death and then apparently took his own life, the 22-year-old sometime college student was questioned by sheriff's deputies outside his apartment and was able to convince them he was calm, courteous and no threat to anyone. The officers had been sent by local health officials after Rodger's family expressed concern about him.

"He just didn't meet the criteria for any further intervention," Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said on CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday. "He was able to make a very convincing story that there was no problem, that he wasn't going to hurt himself or anyone else."

HEALTH » PAGE 4

BEACH ACCESS

Legislature cracks open gate at Martins Beach

By Jason Hoppin
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SACRAMENTO » A billionaire's bankroll couldn't keep access to Martins Beach from narrowly moving forward Wednesday in the state Legislature.

A bill by Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, to assure the public's right to visit the popular San Mateo County coastal destination cleared a major hurdle when it was approved by the state Senate, 21-11. It was the minimum votes need to move the bill onward for debate in the state Assembly.

"If a constituent in your district visits California beaches, you should care about this bill," Hill said, addressing his fellow lawmakers. "It has to do with whether a billionaire can block public access to beach adjacent to their property."

BEACH » PAGE 4

SECESSION

Voters contemplate forming new state

By Juliet Williams
The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO » Residents of California's largely rural, agrarian and politically conservative far northern coun-

ties long ago got used to feeling ignored in the state Capitol and out of sync with major urban areas.

The idea of forming their own state has been a topic among local secession dream-

ers for more than a century. Residents in two counties will have a chance to voice that sentiment next week.

Voters in Del Norte and Tehama, with a combined population of about 91,000,

will decide June 3 on an advisory measure that asks each county's board of supervisors to join a wider effort to form a 51st state named Jefferson.

Elected officials in Glenn, JEFFERSON » PAGE 4

1928-2014

Author, activist Maya Angelou dies at 86

Maya Angelou died Wednesday but leaves behind a legacy of strength and wisdom. PAGE C4



EDUCATION

UC Santa Cruz pioneers virtual UC classroom

Each week, the 30 students watch live lecture videos and type questions into a chat. PAGE C1

BUSINESS

- ▼ Dow Jones Industrial 16,633.18 (-42.32)
- ▼ Standard & Poor's 1,909.78 (-2.13)
- ▼ Nasdaq 4,225.07 (-12.00)

SOCIAL MEDIA

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