



Colorado starter Elmer Dessens hurt, but Padres lose again, 10-4.

See Sports, Page C-1

AN EDITION OF THE NORTH COUNTY TIMES

35 CENTS TAX INCLUDED

fourth star, new job

E: Mattis, whose present job is commander of Marine Corps Forces Central Command and head of Camp Pendleton's I Marine Expeditionary will become head of the Joint Command and Supreme Al-

mmander, Transformation. Multiple sources within the military and in Washington, D.C., confirmed that Mattis, who has overseen Marine Corps forces in the Middle East for the last 15 months and is regarded as a "warrior monk" for his intellectual acumen and war-fighting skills, will be nominated for a fourth star by

► **MATTIS, A-4**

COUNTY PREP FOOTBALL



JAMIE SCOTT LYTLE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

olls over La Costa Canyon

wide receiver Billy Chandler stretches for the end zone but is stopped by one Lockett during Friday's Oceanside win. See Sports, Page C-1.

...23	Vista Murrieta	37	El Camino	68
...21	San Pasqual	27	Sweetwater	14
...31	Ramona	49	Oceanside	27
...14	El Capitan	21	La Costa Canyon	20
...7	Vista	21	Mira Mesa	37
...6	Rancho Bernardo	13	Escondido	14
...38	University City	49	Rancho Buena Vista	48
...10	San Marcos	20	Temecula Chaparral	21

Diocese to settle suits for \$198M

San Diego priest abuse payout 2nd largest in nationwide scandal

ALLISON HOFFMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO — The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego agreed Friday to pay \$198 million to 144 victims of clergy sexual abuse, the second-largest payment since the scandal erupted in 2002.

The agreement capped more than four years of negotiations in state and federal courts and came six months after the diocese filed for bankruptcy protection just hours before the first of 42 lawsuits was scheduled for trial.

Victims expressed relief that a settlement was reached, but they were angry it took so long.

"They knew all along that I'd been molested, so to put me through this is unconscionable," said Michael Bang of Atlanta.

The diocese had sought to protect its assets in bankruptcy court, but quickly found it a rough venue before a judge who criticized the church for bookkeeping practices, undervaluing real estate holdings and failing to disclose facts.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Louise DeCarl Adler recently threatened to dismiss the case if an agreement with sex abuse plaintiffs was not struck by Tuesday in a last-ditch round of talks before a federal magistrate judge. Several victims also participated in the negotiations.

The settlement was more than twice the \$95 million the church offered to pay to settle the claims as part of its

► **DIocese, A-6**

Report puts county's

knowledge it's not a good idea to use one-time funds for ongoing expenses, but it's the best they can do this year.

"To achieve savings in the millions of dollars, which is what we would be talking about, would require significant impacts on riders and jobs on the region," Hannasch said.

Supervisor Ron Roberts, whose district includes much of the city of San Diego, said he agreed with other committee members on pressing the state for more money. He also wants to look at how the San Diego Association of Governments can cut costs, he said.

"It's easy to criticize the state," Roberts said. "The state is upside down financially, and that's the root of the problem. They are going to continue to rob Peter to pay Paul. I would think we've got to do some soul-searching and cleanup work to do with respect to how we're spending money."

Horn and other officials said the transit money from the gasoline tax belongs to the local governments and they should decide what to do with it, not the state.

"They need to leave that money alone," Horn said. "They should send us that money, period. It's our decision, not theirs."

Contact staff writer Edward Sifuentes at (760) 740-3511 or esifuentes@nctimes.com. Comment at nctimes.com.

send them regular birthday cards.

He said that more than 40 percent of the 11 million kids who skateboard are between six and 11, and thus are likely to shop with their parents.

"Are you capturing the interest of the parents who come in your store?" he asked the group of about 30.

Ponzi said the fear over the last few years that Internet retail would sweep through the surf/skate industry was unfounded. Only about 10 percent of surf/skate wear is bought online, he said.

"The death of brick and mortar has not happened," he said. "For your customers, it's still about the experience of coming to a gathering place."

Other seminar topics this weekend include:

- how to push for a public skatepark in your community;
- how the aging of Genera-

► DIOCESE

Continued from A-1

bankruptcy reorganization plan and closer to the \$200 million sought by victims.

Bishop Robert Brom said in a news release that the church had wanted to settle the lawsuits fairly while also maintaining church programs and services.

"We pray that this settlement will bring some closure and healing to the years of suffering experienced by these victims," Brom said.

The diocese will withdraw its bankruptcy filing as part of the agreement, Brom said.

The bishop apologized to victims at a news conference.

"I'm very, very sorry for the suffering we have caused them and I pray they will walk with God for a renewed life," he said.

The San Diego diocese will pay \$153 million to settle 111 cases involving its own clergy and \$30 million for 22 cases involving members of Catholic orders, church officials said. Insurance will pay about \$75 million, and the rest will be raised through land sales and loans.

The Diocese of San Bernardino, a defendant in some of the cases, will pay \$15 million to settle the other 11 claims, all for abuse that occurred after 1978, when San Bernardino split from the San Diego diocese.

"We hope the resolution of these cases will bring a measure of peace and, we hope, a degree of healing and closure for the victims," said the Rev. Howard Lincoln, spokesman for the San Bernardino diocese.

The settlement averages about \$1.4 million per claimant, which is slightly higher than what plaintiffs received in other California settlements. The first payments are due in January.

"We shouldn't have had to go through all this," said Betty Schneider, 62, of Temecula, who claimed she was molested when she was a 10-year-old and a member of her church choir.

'I'm very, very sorry for the suffering we have caused them and I pray they will walk with God for a renewed life.'

— ROBERT BROM
Bishop of the San Diego
Roman Catholic Diocese

"I have grandkids the same age I was and I hope all this helps kids to be protected better than we were protected."

Documents proving the abuse and the extent of church officials' knowledge that it was happening will be publicly released as part of the agreement, both sides said.

The Los Angeles Archdiocese settled 508 cases for \$660 million in July, two days before jury selection was scheduled to begin in the first of 15 trials involving 172 abuse claimants.

The Diocese of Orange agreed to settle 90 claims for \$100 million in 2004 after a judge promised to set trial dates and begin the discovery process if settlement talks collapsed. Bishop Tod D. Brown later said he couldn't risk a trial in a state where a jury once awarded \$30 million to two people who claimed they were sexually abused by clergy.

With nearly 1 million Catholics and holdings throughout San Diego County, the diocese is by far the biggest and wealthiest of the five U.S. dioceses that filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection under the shadow of civil claims over sexual abuse.

Dioceses in Spokane, Wash., Portland, Ore., and Tucson, Ariz., have already emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The Davenport, Iowa, diocese, which faces claims from more than 150 people, is still in proceedings.

THE MONETARY COST OF THE SCANDAL

Sex abuse by Roman Catholic priests has cost the U.S. church at least \$2.3 billion since 1950. Here are some of the largest known payouts to victims since the crisis erupted in 2002 in the Archdiocese of Boston:

- Archdiocese of Los Angeles, 2007, agrees to pay \$660 million to about 500 people.
- Diocese of San Diego, Friday, agrees to pay \$198 million to 144 people.
- Diocese of Orange, Calif., 2004, \$100 million for 90 abuse claims.
- Diocese of Covington, Ky., 2006, up to \$84 million for more than 350 people.
- Archdiocese of Boston, 2003, \$84 million for 552 claims.
- Diocese of Oakland, Calif., 2005, \$56 million to 56 people.
- Archdiocese of Portland, Ore., 2007, agrees to pay about \$52 million to 175 victims to emerge from bankruptcy protection. Sets aside another \$20 million for any future claims.
- Diocese of Spokane, Wash., 2007, agrees to pay \$48 million for about 150 claims to emerge from bankruptcy protection.
- Diocese of Sacramento, Calif., 2005, pays \$35 million to 33 people.
- Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky., 2003, \$25.7 million to 243 victims.
- Diocese of Tucson, Ariz., 2005, agrees to fund a settlement trust worth about \$22 million for more than 50 victims to emerge from bankruptcy protection.

— The Associated Press

