

REGION

TUESDAY
October 16, 2007



THE SAN DIEGO
UNION-TRIBUNE

EAST COUNTY COURTS

Molester, 81, sentenced

Ramona man will likely spend the rest of his life in prison for molesting children as young as 3. **B3**

SOLANA BEACH

Car pool project under way

Gov. Schwarzenegger and other elected officials mark the start of a \$168 million project to extend the car pool lanes on Interstates 5 and 805. **B3**

ROAD CLOSURES

Construction delays on county highways. **B2**

DEATHS

Obituaries for residents of the county. **B4, B5**



called nation's largest

sters, hens and chicks were found. years this particular site has been a bird — raising and training hundreds of roosters gal cockfighting,” Dumanis said yesterday. of the birds had been maimed and tortured in ie of sport.”

e arrested were charged with misdemeanors eased. They face up to one year in jail and a ine. About five of those arrested are members U.S. military, Dumanis said. An additional 50 were being sought.

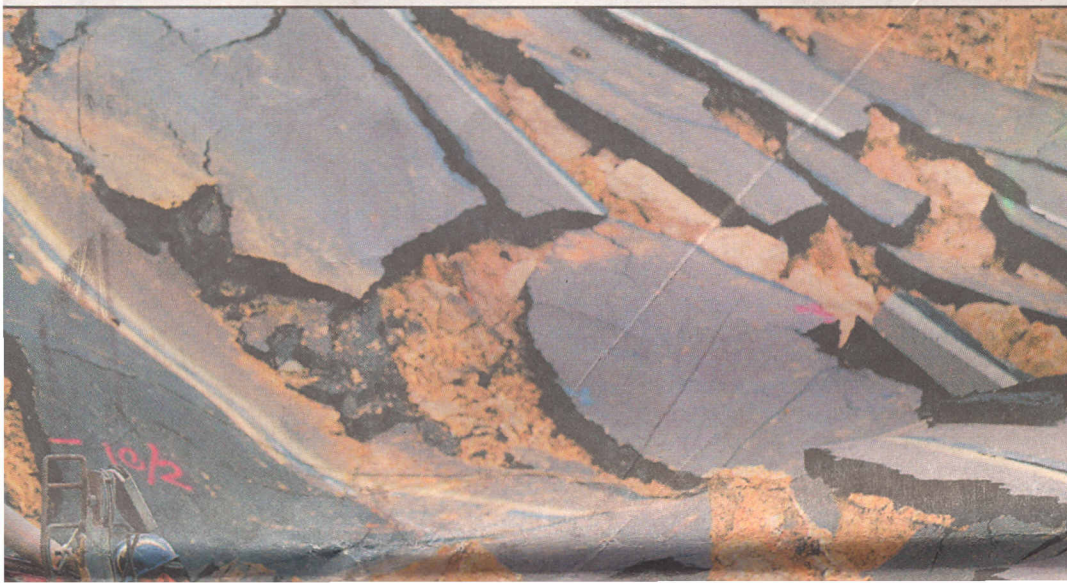
t 75 percent to 80 percent of the birds were shed by their owners and euthanized on site, rran Noon, a spokeswoman for the San Diego e Society.



Eric Sakach of the Humane Society of the United States held a slasher device yesterday seized in a cockfighting raid. *Nancee E. Lewis / Union-Tribune*

SEE **Raid, B8**

UES ON MOUNT SOLEDAD



Brom asks Catholics to help pay settlement

DIOCESE IN TURMOIL


By **Sandi Dolbee**
STAFF WRITER

The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego hopes to raise \$25 million in donations to help pay its portion of a \$198.1 million settlement reached last month with childhood sexual abuse victims.

“I need your help to cover the expense we incurred recently through compassionate outreach to our brothers and sisters who suffered sexual abuse within the family of the church,” Bishop Robert Brom wrote in a letter to be sent to parishioners in San Diego and Imperial counties.

If the “Embracing Our Mission” campaign is not successful, Brom said the diocese has only two other properties that could be sold — its headquarters in Bay Park and St. Francis

SEE **Diocese, B4**

 **Online:** To read Bishop Robert Brom's letter and for more information on how the diocese plans to pay the sexual abuse victims, go to uniontrib.com/more/diocese

► **DIocese**
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1
**Property sales
could raise
\$40 million**

Seminary in Linda Vista.

Brom's letter, dated yesterday, is part of an every-member mailing that will include a letter from the local priest and a return envelope. The packets are to be sent out by Oct. 26.

The diocese's portion of the settlement is \$183 million, with about half coming from religious orders and insurance, according to a financial breakdown accompanying Brom's letter. The San Bernardino diocese, which used to be part of the San Diego diocese, will pay the remaining \$15 million.

The San Diego diocese hopes to use \$40 million from selling some property, including the former University of San Diego High School in Linda Vista, the former Marian Catholic High School in South Bay and a parcel in Oceanside purchased for a school that was never built.

"Embracing Our Mission" was launched two weeks ago,

when Brom sent a letter to priests asking that they donate one month's salary — \$1,535 — to help set an example for the 1 million Catholics in San Diego and Imperial counties.

The idea for the paycheck donation came from clergy.

"This was not a directive from the bishop, but the initiative of the priests themselves, working in solidarity with the bishop, in genuine concern for the welfare of those abused," explained Monsignor Dennis Mikulanic, pastor of San Rafael Catholic Church in Rancho Bernardo and dean of the Escondido region of churches.

The Rev. Charles Fuld, pastor of Ascension Church in San Diego, said he wrote a "very enthusiastic" letter urging people to contribute. He also preached about it Sunday.

After referring to Scripture readings about miraculous healings, Fuld turned to the financial campaign. "At the end of the homily, I said: 'Our bishop is asking for a miracle now, too. He'd like to save these final remaining properties because they are so vital for doing the work of the diocese.'"

Fuld added: "My point is, of course, we are all one church.

**REACHING
\$198.1 MILLION**

Catholic Mutual insurance:
\$75.7 million

Religious orders (anticipated):
\$17 million

Unrestricted assets: \$20 million

Sale of properties: \$45 million*

Diocese of San Bernardino:
\$15.1 million

Total: \$172.8 million

Needed to be raised: \$25.3 million

*Included will be some proceeds from selling the former Marian and University of San Diego high school sites; however \$50 million from the sale will be given to Cathedral and Mater Dei high schools as previously pledged to them.

Source: Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego

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We need to be there for each other. We need to help each other, in good times and bad."

Brom and the diocese have been heavily criticized for declaring bankruptcy in late February, shortly before the first lawsuits were due to go to court. The diocese said it was seeking a uniform resolution to the 144 cases of men and women who allege they were sexually abused by priests and

church workers years ago when they were minors. Victims and their lawyers called the bankruptcy filing a stall tactic.

On Sept. 7, with a federal judge threatening to dismiss the bankruptcy case, the diocese settled for an average of about \$1.3 million per case.

Lou Cumming, a parishioner at All Hallows in La Jolla, said he has several questions before he would donate money, such as where the funds are coming from to pay the legal costs for the bankruptcy case. "I think he (Brom) is going to have a very difficult time raising that kind of money considering the way he conducted himself in the bankruptcy," Cumming said.

Frank Brophy, who attends Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside, said at first he was not going to contribute "because the authorities in the diocese sort of got us into this and now they were asking the laity to bail us out." But Brophy said he has since changed his mind and will donate. "It's for the long-term good of the church."

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SAN DIEGO

Council decision on winter shelter expected today

By Maureen Magee
STAFF WRITER

With little more than two weeks before San Diego's winter homeless shelter is set to open, the City Council is scheduled today to decide where to put the tent structure that is unwanted in many neighborhoods.

Council members put off a decision last month after a coalition from Barrio Logan urged a neighborhood reprieve from hosting the homeless.

The shelter has operated there since 1999.

The city is considering more

sites than the three recommended in September. In addition to Barrio Logan, the Midway neighborhood and a parking lot at the former Navy hospital in Balboa Park, the council will consider Tailgate Park, near K Street and 12th Avenue, and at a vacant city lot bounded by G Street, Market Street, 11th Avenue and Park Boulevard.

Criteria for a location include being within walking distance of public transit, access to utilities and proximity to downtown. City guidelines also state building the shelter should cause "minimal disruption to

the surrounding area."

Run by the nonprofit Alpha Project for the Homeless, the shelter provides beds, food and medical services nightly for more than 200 men and women from Nov. 1 through April 2. The city would also pay for a 150-bed shelter for homeless veterans at the Midway site, and beds for families — about 50 people — at the San Diego Rescue Mission in Bankers Hill.

Shelters would be funded with \$344,200 from the San Diego Housing Commission, a \$201,676 federal grant and \$129,800 donation from the

DETAILS

Homeless shelter debate

What: The San Diego City Council today is scheduled to decide where to put the winter homeless shelter.

When: The meeting starts at 10 a.m. Shelter discussion may begin the morning session if time permits. The afternoon session begins at 2 p.m.

Where: 12th floor of City Hall, 202 C St., San Diego

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United Way of San Diego.

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