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# The Press Democrat

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## Diocese facing more lawsuits

*New law exposes many institutions to damages for past child sex abuse*

By **MARY CALLAHAN**  
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

The Santa Rosa Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church is facing a fresh onslaught of lawsuits for its alleged role in enabling and, in some cases, concealing child sex abuse as far back as the 1960s involving four former North Coast priests — three of them now deceased.

The five lawsuits announced Monday by two law firms specializing in childhood abuse are among the first of what

are expected to be hundreds, if not thousands, of cases filed throughout California under a new state law allowing survivors of childhood sexual assault to recover damages long after incidents of alleged sexual misconduct occurred. Although many of the suits are likely to involve the Catholic Church, the law applies to any childhood survivor.

The priests involved in the newly filed cases are all well-known among the ranks of local clergy accused of using their position of trust and spiritual authority to exploit children.

They include the late Rev. Patrick M. Gleeson and defrocked priests Gary Timmons, Xavier

Ochoa and Don Kimball. All have been the subjects of past legal settlements between civil plaintiffs and the diocese, as well as in most cases criminal investigations. Only Timmons, who served four years in state prison for molesting youngsters, is still living. Now 79, he resides in Sacramento and has to report in each year as a registered sex offender.

But Timmons is not a named defendant in the cases involving him, both filed Monday in Sonoma County Superior Court.

Instead, the lawsuits target the Santa Rosa Diocese and Camp St. Michael, where much



**Jeff Anderson of Jeff Anderson & Associates holds a news conference Monday in Santa Rosa to launch a new round of lawsuits against the Santa Rosa Diocese stemming from past clergy abuse.**

TURN TO LAWSUITS » PAGE A2

**NORTH COAST »** DISAPPOINTMENT FOR FISHERMEN

## Crab harvest is not only late, but light

*Most Dungeness in local waters already caught*

By **TYLER SILVY**  
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

The rush to renew a North Coast New Year's tradition — feasting on freshly caught Dungeness crab — may help ease the pinch of a late start to the season for fishermen and retailers, but mediocre early returns have so far added a little lemon juice to the cut endured this year by the fleet.

"I won't say it's poor," said Bodega Bay fisherman Dick Ogg, before offering a laugh. "I'll say it's less than good. It's not exactly what we had expected. Our original anticipation was that there were a fair quantity of crabs in the area. Unfortunately, that is not the case."

The prediction of a mountain of Dungeness crab lying in wait at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean prompted a number of fishing boats from outside the area to descend this month on Bodega Bay.

They had time, as the season was delayed a month until Dec. 15 to allow endangered humpback whales time to clear the area and head south to their winter home off the coast of Mexico.

Ogg, the vice president of Bodega Bay Fisherman's Marketing Association, said the added pressure didn't help matters, but it ultimately comes down to this: There just aren't as many crabs as predicted. And at this point, Ogg said, "the majority have been caught."

The news comes as the industry — from fishermen and processors to wholesalers and retailers — which missed out on



**Tim Bentley, top, and Martin Blaney offload Dungeness crab on Monday from the hold of the Seastar at Spud Point Marina in Bodega Bay.**

TURN TO CRAB » PAGE A7

*"I'll say it's less than good. It's not exactly what we had expected. Our original anticipation was that there were a fair quantity of crabs in the area. Unfortunately, that is not the case."*

**DICK OGG**, vice president of Bodega Bay Fisherman's Marketing Association on this season's crab haul

## Iraqis protest US after air raid

*Attack shifts focus of public hostility from Tehran to Washington*

BY **ALISSA J. RUBIN**  
**AND BEN HUBBARD**  
NEW YORK TIMES

Iraq has been caught for years in a tug of war between its two most powerful patrons, the United States and Iran. In recent months, public opinion began to tilt against Iran, with street protests demanding an end to Tehran's pervasive influence.

But U.S. airstrikes that killed two dozen members of an Iranian-backed militia over the weekend have now made Washington the focus of public hostility, reducing the heat on Tehran and its proxies.

Iraqi leaders accused the United States on Monday of violating Iraq's sovereignty and expressed fear that increasing tensions between the U.S. and Iran could escalate into a proxy war on Iraqi soil.

Even the tenor of the street protests has shifted, as anti-Iranian slogans have given way to anti-American ones. Demonstrators and others attacked what they deemed to be the United States' disproportionate response in killing 24 militiamen in retaliation for the death of one U.S. contractor.

By day's end there were calls to end the "American occupation" and demands for the U.S. military to leave Iraq.

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