

THE ENVELOPE, PLEASE

Scar Best Picture finalists: "Brokeback Mountain" ♦ "Capote"
"Good Night, and Good Luck" ♦ "Crash" ♦ "Munich"

ENTERTAINMENT, D7



Seahawks' Trufant
lives player's dream
at Super Bowl

SPORTS

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

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Diocese offers \$45.7 million

DEAL MAY SETTLE 70 VICTIMS' SEX ABUSE CLAIMS

BY JOHN STUCKE
AND VIRGINIA DE LEON

Staff writers

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Spokane has offered \$45.7 million to settle sex abuse claims that ultimately drove the church into bankruptcy 14 months ago.

A press conference will be called today, said James Stang, an attorney representing alleged victims. A settlement would be a

major development in a case widely criticized for its slow pace and high fees. Attorneys and a small group of alleged victims involved in the bankruptcy are recommending approval of the deal following a meeting at the Davenport Hotel on Tuesday night.

Church officials including Bishop William Skylstad were unavailable for comment Tuesday. Diocese attorneys Shaun Cross and Michael Paukert declined to comment on the settlement.

Secretive terms of the deal were confirmed by several people familiar with the settlement. About \$2 million will be made available to victims in September, and about \$8 million more will be ready for disbursement by the end of the year.

The remainder will be paid within three years of the close of the bankruptcy case, sources said.

See **DIOCESE, A12**

By the numbers

\$2 million: Available to 70 alleged sex abuse victims in September.

\$8 million: Ready for disbursement by the end of the year.

\$10 million: In undisputed cash and property the diocese can use to cover the initial payments.

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LUSTERY

High 46
Low 31

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THURSDAY

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