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Tribe wishes to kill gray whales

NEAH BAY, Wash. (AP) — Members of the Washington Coast's Makah Tribe want to revive their ancestral heritage to counteract the modern problems affecting the tribe and its young people.

One way to do that is to resume the killing of gray whales for food and ceremonial purposes.

"Re-establishing a ceremonial and subsistence whale hunt would be a catalyst which would allow us to instill in our young people the traditional values which have held our people together over the centuries," wrote tribe Chairman Hubert Markishtum in a recent letter to federal officials.

In that letter, the tribe said it wants to kill up to five gray whales a year.

The Makah maintain they have the right to hunt whales commercially, though their proposed hunt would be for food and ceremonial purposes.

Though the Washington coast tribe disputes the need for official approval, the tribal chairman said members will ask the International Whaling Commission to endorse their plan in time for a 1996 hunt.

The tribe has asked the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service for help in developing hunting guidelines. The tribe plans to use explosive harpoons.

The Makah are the only tribe whose right to hunt whales is spelled out in treaties with the U.S. government, he wrote.

Once nearly extinct, the gray whale population has recovered and the animals were taken off the federal endangered species list last year.

Commercial harvests, however, are another story, said Olympia whale expert John Calambokidis.

"The thing that scares me about commercial use is that it creates an incentive and reward for expanding (the harvest) over time to levels that might cause problems," he said.

Officials wonder what caused slide

WENATCHEE, Wash. (AP) — Federal safety investigators are searching for the cause of a huge rock slide that buried a gravel quarry and a lane of a busy highway, killing two people.

Five officials from the Mine Safety and Health Administration's field offices in Bellevue and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, were on the scene today at the quarry north of Wenatchee along U.S. 97A, said Garry Day, the agency's assistant district manager in Vacaville, Calif.

It was not immediately known how extensive an investigation would be required to determine the cause of Friday's slide, which swept an estimated 1.5 million cubic yards of rocks over the quarry and a 200-foot stretch of the highway's southbound lanes.

But Day said the cause "might be readily apparent" after a basic geologic assessment of the slope.

The district office also had ordered copies of past inspection reports on the quarry, but those were not immediately available this morning, Day said.

The body of quarry foreman Tim Grace, 27, was recovered Sunday in the smashed remains of the control tower of a rock-crushing machine, and the body of 5-year-old Tory Davis, son of a quarry worker, was removed Saturday from a flattened bus on

the site.

"The cab was totally squished around (Grace)," said Don Senn, district administrator for the state Department of Transportation. "It's pretty evident that he was killed instantly."

The bus holding the boy's body was crushed to just 2 feet in height.

The slide created an estimated 100,000 to 150,000 dump-truck loads of debris. Cleanup was continuing today, said Stan Evenhus, general manager of the quarry's owner, Morrill Asphalt of Wenatchee.

The two-lane highway was closed until Sunday for nearly 30 miles.

Tory Davis had accompanied his mother, Diana Davis of Rosalia, Whitman County, to the quarry, and was last seen in a converted school bus used as a lab and office. His mother saw the slide, but wasn't hurt.

Grace, of Spokane, was daytime foreman for Lloyd Logging of Twisp, which had been doing rock crushing at the site.

He was the father of a 3-year-old girl and he and his wife, Nadine, had custody of her 5-year-old daughter from a previous marriage. The family lives in Spokane.

Neighbor charged for boy's death

VANCOUVER (AP) — A 16-year-old high school dropout was charged Monday with first-degree murder in the death of an 11-year-old neighbor.

Bail was set at \$500,000 for Travis Richards, being held in Clark County Jail in the death of Joshua Allen Nelson.

Superior Court before Judge James Ladley appointed Vancouver attorney Paul Bruce to represent Richards, who was expected to enter a plea Friday to the charge.

Though Richards is a juvenile, a law passed last year requires him to be tried as an adult due to the seriousness of the crime.

He was arrested Sunday after authorities found Nelson's body in a crawl space under the floor of Richards' home. Police had to

cut out a portion of the floor to remove the body.

An autopsy showed that Nelson died of "blunt force trauma" to the head. Police would not say whether a weapon had been recovered.

Nelson had been missing since Wednesday.

The motive for the killing was unknown, Clark County Deputy Prosecutor Jeannie Bryant told Ladley on Monday.

"The suspect won't talk to us," said police Capt. Bob Kanekoa.

Richards helped post fliers during the search for Nelson and even asked for extra copies, neighbors said.

"(Travis) was right alongside of me during the search," said neighbor Robert Grendahl, 17.

"He kept saying, 'I hope we find him. I hope he's OK.'"

Neighborhood youngsters said it was not uncommon for Richards and Joshua Nelson to fight with each other. The two families had lived next to each other for more than two years, and friends and neighbors said the two boys often played basketball at the hoop their rental homes shared.

Richards had pleaded guilty in Clark County Juvenile Court to two incidents over the past couple of years. In 1993 he admitted stealing a couple of guns from his stepfather and shooting out the window on a pickup. In 1994, he pleaded guilty to harassment for passing a bomb threat to staff members at a Hazel Dell group home where he was staying.

Drug smuggler sentenced to life

SEATTLE (AP) — A Korean citizen has been sentenced to life imprisonment and fined \$4 million for money laundering and conspiracy to traffic in illegal drugs, prosecutors said Monday.

Jae Shik Cha, 63, was convicted by a U.S. District Court jury in February of conspiracy to distribute "ice," a highly refined, crystallized form of methamphetamine, and four counts of money laundering, said a news release from the U.S. attorney's office here.

According to evidence at trial, Cha was the head of a criminal organization from 1984 until 1989 that imported 800 kilograms — more than 1,700 pounds — of ice from Korea and smuggled it to distributors in Seattle by commercial vessel, or into Los Angeles by air freight.

The distributors would transport the ice to Hawaii, primary U.S. market for the drug introduced to Korea by the Japanese during World War II.

Cha, a resident alien of the United States who

lived in Tacoma and Los Angeles, was associated with a family import-export business in Tacoma.

He was sentenced Friday by Judge Barbara Rothstein. Cha's jury also found that \$4.5 million in drug proceeds and a shopping center owned by Cha in Garden Grove, Calif., were forfeitable to the U.S. government.

Prosecutors estimate that Cha made over \$8 million dollars through the sale of ice between 1985 and 1989, \$4.5 million of which he laundered through a Hong Kong bank.

Cha, arrested in Los Angeles in February 1994, invested a large portion of the proceeds in U.S. residential and commercial properties, the release said.

Two other members of the 20-member organization, Dae Sung Lee and Chung Won So, both in their 50s or 60s, have been indicted but remain at large, Assistant U.S. Attorney James Lord said Monday.

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