

Olympian 7/15/93

Washington state | C3

reworks on the reservation

loff: The Quinault tribal it is arrested after ignoring barricade and talking his n into surrendering.

ed Press — The head of the Quinault In- was arrested after bursting through e and entering a home where his andson was holed up with an assault rifles said. aCruz, 56, tribal president since 1972, ed several hours after his arrest. Sal- his daughter and 16-year-old grand- ed in custody, tribal and Grays Har- law enforcement officials said. ot immediately clear whether the a custody was mother of the grand-

lice Chief Robbin Rhoades said only ear-old grandson of a "tribal official" ed for investigation of a machete at- loclips man. varus Morrisette confirmed that the i DeLaCruz, who was arrested for n of obstructing a police officer and dangerment. esed were DeLaCruz's 52-year-old ur-old brother, 33-year-old daughter yfriend, officials said. All except the eyemnt from tribal prosecution ha-

cause he is not an Indian, were under investiga- tion for the same offenses as DeLaCruz, offi- cials said.

DeLaCruz refused to comment Saturday when contacted by the Aberdeen Daily World and did not return calls Sunday from The Asso- ciated Press.

Last year he was accused of interfering with police in an incident involving his grandson and cited for abuse of office, but the charge was dismissed.

Rhoades, a former Aberdeen and Seattle city police officer, was defended by DeLaCruz after the police chief shot one man to death and wounded another in a Fourth of July attack in 1990.

Teen-agers and young adults on the reserva- tion marched in protest and circulated a peti- tion against Rhoades, who was cleared in an investigation by the U.S. attorney's office in Seattle.

Rhoades gave the following account of the latest incident:

About 3 a.m. Saturday, Adam Wichman of Meclips drove tribal police in his car to help them catch teen-age curfew violators who were causing a disturbance.

The youngsters ran away when the officers got out of the car. As officers looked for them Wichman returned to his car and was con- fronted by two of the teens, one of whom went for his head with a machete.

Wichman blocked the blow with his hand and

and flagged down another tribal officer. He was treated later at Grays Harbor Community Hos- pital and released.

The machete-wielder was tracked to his par- ents' home with the aid of a sheriff's police dog but held officers at bay with a semi-automatic assault rifle.

Sheriff's deputies joined tribal police in estab- lishing a cordon, and officers were calling a negotiation officer "when a tribal official arrived with members of his family . . . ignored warn- ings from police officers, crossed the line and entered anyway," Rhoades said.

Morrisette said his deputies left the scene at that point but confirmed that the group entering the house was led by DeLaCruz, "disregarding our deputies."

About five minutes after his group entered the house, the teen-ager who was being sought surrendered to police and was arrested along with all of those who had crossed the cordon, Rhoades said.

The arrests were made at about 8 a.m. and most members of the family were released about 1:30 p.m. pending further investigation, Rhoades said.

The teen-ager remained in custody for inves- tigation of simple assault and assault and bat- tery, and the 33-year-old daughter was held for investigation of possession of cocaine, with bail on her set at \$5,000.

Rhoades said he had discussed the case with the Director of Indian Affairs.

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DELaCRUZ has been tribal chairman since the early 1970s and is a prominent Native American leader nationwide.

DeLaCruz refused an interview with *The Daily World* last night, saying the newspaper would "twist" the story and rely on hearsay.

"I'm not making one comment, not to your newspaper," he said when reached by telephone at his home.

"I'll write my own side of the story. ... I'll drop leaflets if I have to," he said, declining an invitation to share his version of events.

Last year, DeLaCruz was cited for abuse of office after allegedly interfering with police in another incident involving his grandson. That charge was dismissed.

THE MOST recent incident began at about 3 a.m. Saturday when Adam Wichman of Moclips assisted tribal police in finding a group of teenagers who had gathered in violation of the tribal curfew and were creating some disturbance, Rhoades said.

Wichman volunteered to drive the officers in his car so the youths would not be alarmed by an approaching police vehicle.

"When the officers got out, the kids took off running and fled," Rhoades said. But they were "identified so they could be issued citations for curfew violation and whatever other violations occurred at that

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chairman arrested

By Cheryl Reid
Daily World writer

TAHOLAH — Quinault Indian Nation Chairman Joe DeLaCruz was arrested Saturday morning after ignoring police orders and entering a home where his grandson was holed up with an assault rifle, according to law enforcement officials.

The 16-year-old grandson was holding police at bay after having attacked a Moclips man with a machete, according to Taholah Police Chief Robbin Rhoades.



DeLaCruz

Rhoades would say only that the boy was the grandson of a "tribal official" who had himself been arrested for obstructing a police officer and reckless endangerment after crossing police lines and entering the home.

He would not comment on reports that it was DeLaCruz who was involved.

However Grays Harbor Sheriff Dennis Morrisette confirmed that DeLaCruz was indeed the person who ignored deputies' instructions.

Also arrested for crossing the police line were DeLaCruz's wife, brother, daughter and her boyfriend, according to law enforcement officials.

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Quinault chairman arrested —

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time."

As officers looked for the juveniles, Wichman walked back toward his car and was confronted by two of the teen-agers, one of whom was hiding an object, Rhoades said.

One of the teens, apparently the grandson of DeLaCruz, allegedly assaulted Wichman with a machete, the police chief said. "He attempted to hit him in the head, but he (Wichman) blocked the blow with his hand."

Wichman, who was later treated and released from Grays Harbor Community Hospital, fled the scene and flagged down a tribal officer, according to Rhoades.

At that point, the Sheriff's Canine Unit was called in and helped track the assault suspect to his parent's home.

Officers told the youth to come out, but he threatened to "blow the cops away," Rhoades said. The teen-ager was armed with a semi-automatic assault rifle, according to Rhoades.

Officers, including county deputies, retreated and set up a perimeter "when the scene became a barricaded person scene," the police chief said.

Police were "in the process of calling in a negotiation officer ... when a tribal official arrived with members of his family," Rhoades said.

Officers told the family to stay behind police lines, but "the tribal official ignored warnings from police officers, crossed the line and entered anyway," according to Rhoades.

"He just barged in the old crime scene," Rhoades said, describing county deputies as "flabbergasted."

Morrisette said his deputies left the scene at that point, so he was unaware that the family had been arrested.

"When we found out how this was occurring, our people left."

About five minutes after his grandfather entered the house, the juvenile suspect surrendered to police and was arrested, along with the family members who crossed the police lines, Rhoades said.

The police chief declined to identify the suspects "since they haven't been charged. They've been cited and released. They were booked initially so that we could continue our investigation into the assault."

The arrests were made at about 8 a.m. and most members of the family were released at about 1:30 p.m., Rhoades said.

Still held in the Taholah Jail yesterday afternoon were the 18-year-old boy, who is facing charges of assault and assault and battery, and a 33-year-old woman — identified as the daughter of the "tribal official" — who is suspected of possessing cocaine. Bail was set at \$5,000 for her.

Rhoades said he has discussed the case with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and hopes to have the federal government file charges, perhaps of attempted homicide, against the youth.

"I think it justifies federal charges, but the assistant U.S. attorney will have to make that decision," Rhoades said.

Arrested on misdemeanor charges of obstructing a police officer and reckless endangerment were DeLaCruz, his 52-year-old wife, his daughter, and his 44-year-old brother.

The penalties on both charges are three months in jail and/or a \$300 fine, Rhoades said.

Another man, described as the boyfriend of the 33-year-old woman, couldn't be cited by tribal police because he is not Indian, Rhoades said.

Of the original group of teen-agers, Rhoades said the remaining three have turned themselves in.

In addition to the curfew vio-



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DeLaCruz steps aside until case is resolved

By Cheryl Reid
Daily World writer

TAHOLAH -- Joe DeLaCruz has stepped down as Quinault tribal chairman, at least temporarily, after his arrest Saturday for breaching through a police line to enter a home where his grandson had barricaded himself with an assault rifle.

In a press release faxed by the Quinault Indian Nation this morning, DeLaCruz said he has decided to step aside "until this

situation is resolved."

DeLaCruz told tribal officials that "people do not understand his need to be a father and a grandfather," according to the press release.

DeLaCruz's secretary said he and his family would issue their own press release this afternoon.

The vice president of the Tribal Council, Pearl Capoeman-Baller, will be acting tribal chairman and president of the business council.

Capoeman-Baller said the council probably will let the situation run its course through the legal system without taking independent action. She said DeLaCruz has the authority to reinstate himself as tribal chairman.

Formal charges on allegations of reckless endangerment and obstructing a police officer have not yet been filed against DeLaCruz in Tribal Court.

The annual meeting of the Quinault General Council is set

for March 27.

This marks the second time DeLaCruz has withdrawn from office temporarily. He resigned in 1988 following a critical federal audit of tribal operations but rescinded the resignation within weeks.

Taholah Police Chief Robbin Rhodes said Saturday's incident began after DeLaCruz's 16-year-old grandson attacked a Moclips man with a machete.

The victim, Adam Wichman, See DELACRUZ, A-12

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DeLaCruz steps aside temporarily —

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had assisted police in locating a group of teens who were violating the tribal curfew.

He was treated at Grays Harbor Community Hospital.

After the machete attack, the County Sheriff's Canine Unit was called in and tracked DeLaCruz's grandson to his parent's residence, according to Rhoades.

The boy threatened to shoot police officers surrounding the home, the chief said.

DeLaCruz, his wife Dorothy, a brother, a DeLaCruz daughter and her boyfriend arrived on the scene, according to Rhoades. Against the orders of tribal police and sheriff's deputies, they all entered the home, the chief added.

The teen-ager surrendered peacefully about five minutes later, according to police.

He and another teen allegedly involved in the machete attack remain in the tribal jail pending

an appearance before a judge today, according to Rhoades.

DeLaCruz and the three family members were arrested on charges of reckless endangerment and obstructing a police officer. The daughter's boyfriend was not cited because it was determined he is not an Indian and therefore not under tribal jurisdiction.

The 23-year-old daughter was held for a time Saturday on suspicion of cocaine possession, the police chief said, but she was released on \$3,000 bail later in the afternoon. Chairman DeLaCruz and the other two family members were released earlier.

Rhoades would not release the 38-year-old woman's name because she has not yet been formally charged. However he did say she is an employee of the tribal fish house. Charges probably will be filed by the end of the week, Rhoades said, but a backlog in the Tribal Prosecu-

tor's Office could delay that.

Rhoades said the suspect had approximately one gram of a substance that "field-tested positive for cocaine" in her possession when she was arrested for crossing the police line.

The substance will be sent to the State Patrol crime lab in Tacoma for a definitive test, Rhoades said. He said a gram of cocaine would be worth about \$200.

Meantime, Chief Rhoades said he is sending a letter to the Sheriff's Office, "thanking them for their support and apologizing for the actions of a tribal official that jeopardized their lives and the lives of our officers."

Rhoades, expressing chagrin

over having a government official burst through police lines, said "I doubt (it) would have happened in another jurisdiction."

Rhoades said he is investigating rumors that the machete attack was premeditated and aimed at a specific police officer who has arrested several juveniles.

The rumor goes that the attack was intended as retaliation, Rhoades said.

If that rumor pans out, it could impact Rhoades' attempts to get the U.S. attorney's office to prosecute the teen in federal courts on attempted murder.

The boy is currently charged under tribal law with assault and assault and battery, according to Rhoades.

backlog in the Tribal Prosecu-

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OUR VIEW**All grandfathers deserve empathy,
but no grandfather is above the law**

YOU'VE no doubt heard that Joe DeLaCruz, longtime chairman of the Quinault Indian Nation, was arrested Saturday. Police say he ignored their orders not to enter a house where his 16-year-old grandson was holed up with an assault rifle.

Tribal officials issued a press release Monday morning saying the chairman was stepping aside "on his own volition" until the controversy is resolved.

They added that DeLaCruz believes "people do not understand his need to be a father and a grandfather."

Well, we do.

THE grandson, who is accused of attacking a Moclips man with a machete, reportedly had threatened to shoot police officers surrounding the home. But he surrendered about five minutes after DeLaCruz entered the house.

A letter that follows this editorial calls the chairman's actions "an act of heroism."

Rash as it was, perhaps he did help avert a tragedy. He also could have made things worse, especially since it wasn't only Grandpa who intervened. Joe's wife, a daughter and her boyfriend came trooping in too. Any professional cop will tell you that a crowd of emotional people confronting an emotional kid with a gun is a prescription for disaster.

If another grandfather had disobeyed police orders and the boy ended up killing himself -- maybe gramps as well -- half the town would be demanding the police chief's head on a platter: "Why didn't you stop that guy?!"

WHEN they see their flesh and blood in trouble, grandfathers deserve empathy. But no grandfather is above the law, especially one with the added responsibility of being a role model for his people, young and old and in between.

Joe DeLaCruz is not just the chairman of the Quinault Nation. He has a

have any room to talk, especially when it comes to problems with kids.

DELACRUZ, who can play big league political hardball and be charming at the same time, lately has acquired an unbecoming habit that belies all that moxie:

He wants it both ways.

In his view, the good news is always good and everybody ought to know about it, but bad news is always bad and best confined to internal consumption, lest it get "twisted" by naive outsiders who don't understand his enemies' agenda.

Whenever someone runs against him, alleging that he is out of touch and enamored with the perks of power, DeLaCruz always takes the high road, saying it's an Indian issue, and he will take his case before his people, trusting in their wise judgment. Reporters, of course, are barred from covering these meetings.

On Saturday, DeLaCruz had practically carte blanche to tell his side of a volatile story. Instead, he excoriated the *Daily World* reporter who was merely trying to do her job and did not return calls from the *Associated Press* and *Seattle Times*.

SAY it isn't so, Joe.

That's amateur hour stuff.

That's not the Joe DeLaCruz we used to know.

We'll cut you some slack for being upset over the incident involving your grandson. You deserve that. Family problems are heartbreaking enough when they're played out in private. In public, it must be 10 times worse. But these bizarre run-ins with the police, the allegations of favoritism and patronage and the schism over what's best for Quinault youth are creating a climate of rumormongering that hurts the whole tribe.

This is a time for cool heads, common sense and real leadership.

TO: Rudy R.

From: Dorothy DeLaCruz

Call me at 206-276-4529
if these did not turn out.



9 pages + cover = 10

Daily World 3/15/93
Boys released to parents' custody

TAHOLAH — The two juveniles allegedly involved in a machete attack on a Moclips man Saturday have been released to the custody of their parents, according to Quinault Reservation attorney Eric Nielsen.

One of the youths, the 16-year-old grandson of tribal leader Joe DeLaCruz, had barricaded himself in his parents' home with a semi-automatic assault

rifle after the machete incident.

DeLaCruz has temporarily resigned his post as chairman of the Quinault Indian Nation in the wake of the incident.

The chairman was arrested for allegedly ignoring police orders and going into the residence where the boy was holed up. The boy surrendered peacefully shortly after his grandfather and other relatives went inside the home.

Also arrested for obstructing a police officer and reckless endangerment were DeLaCruz's wife, Dorothy, his brother, his daughter and her boyfriend.

The boyfriend, who is not an Indian, cannot be charged by the tribe. The daughter may face additional charges of possession of cocaine, according to police.

Nielsen said the two juveniles probably will be formally arraigned on assault charges later this week.

Meantime, a press release expected from the DeLaCruz family Monday afternoon has not materialized.

Acting Quinault Chairman Pearl Capoeman-Baller said this morning that she had not seen any such release.

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LETTERS

'He should be applauded instead of arrested'

Editor, The Daily World -

REGARDING the story about Joe DeLaCruz on the front page of the March 14 edition, DeLaCruz does not have to send out leaflets to tell his side of the story. It is obvious that he prevented another very tragic police incident.

From talking to some of the mothers of teens on the reservation, we have learned that there is a fear of the tribal police by both parents and youth.

We do not contend that everyone should disobey orders from the police, but when it is obvious something disastrous is about to happen you should not stand by and let the prob-

lem worsen.

Would it have been better to let the incidence erupt into a police standoff such as the one last summer in Idaho, or presently happening in Texas?

This was obviously an emotional situation that DeLaCruz felt he would better handle than letting the police antagonize the youth into doing something he could be paying for the rest of his life.

The actions of Joe DeLaCruz by crossing police lines to save his grandson amounted to an act of heroism and leadership. He should be applauded instead of arrested.

KATHERYN & GARY BEAVER
Cookeville

July World
2/16/93

Eye - 2m Seattle PI 3/18

Quinault leader, family arrested

by Richard Seven
Times staff reporter

Quinault Indian Nation leader Joe De La Cruz and members of his family were arrested yesterday for allegedly ignoring a barricade and entering the home of his grandson, who was armed with a rifle and engaged in a standoff with tribal police.

The 16-year-old grandson, who gave himself up shortly after the family spoke to him, is being held on assault charges.

Police say the teenager attacked another reservation resident with a machete. The assault seemed to be in retaliation for the victim's cooperation with police, said Sheriff Robin Rhoades.

Four family members and a fifth man were booked on suspicion of reckless endangerment and obstructing justice and then were released, police said.

De La Cruz, the Quinault tribal chair, has also served as president of the Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest. He did not return phone calls last night.

Rhoades wouldn't identify the tribal official arrested as De La Cruz, but other tribal sources said.

"Everything turned out all

right, but the ends don't justify the means," said Rhoades. "Officers were forced to expose themselves (to danger) when this happened."

The teenager's alleged victim received 20 to 30 stitches on his hand for wounds suffered in warding off the machete. Rhoades said he will ask the Bureau of Indian Affairs to consider forwarding at-

tempted-murder charges to the U.S. attorney.

A K-9 unit tracked the suspect to his home and tribal police set up a loose perimeter after learning he was armed with a rifle.



Joe De La Cruz

Rhoades said the reservation, in Grays Harbor County, is being

plagued with gang-like problems.

About 15 teenagers and young adults have banded together and are accounting for about 35 to 40 percent of the reservation's crimes, he says.

"Kids are running with colors, committing burglaries, assaults, drinking and smoking pot," Rhoades said.

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ice have leads and
up he add.

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