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**Weather**

Mid-80s to low-90s through the week in the Gorge. Sunny and pleasant weather.



**Maupin to receive new state-of-the-art athletic track— A12**

**Former DA files lawsuit against county — A8**

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**Former police officer to sue city — A9**

# Columbia Gorge News

HOOD RIVER | THE DALLES | WHITE SALMON

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 Volume 2, Issue 16

\$1.00

## Granddaughter of Hood River residents named to U.S. Olympic Swim Team

### Bella Sims qualifies for Team USA Swimming

By Noah Noteboom  
Columbia Gorge News

Watching from their home in Odell, James and Dodie Sims saw their 16-year-old granddaughter, Arabella Sims — who also goes by Bella — qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as a member of Team U.S.A. Swimming.

Training and competing at the Sandpiper Swim Club in Henderson, Nev., Bella qualified to race in 11 different events at the U.S. Olympic Trials.

"I like to think of her as an all-around swimmer," said her grandfather, James. "She does the races most people don't want to swim."

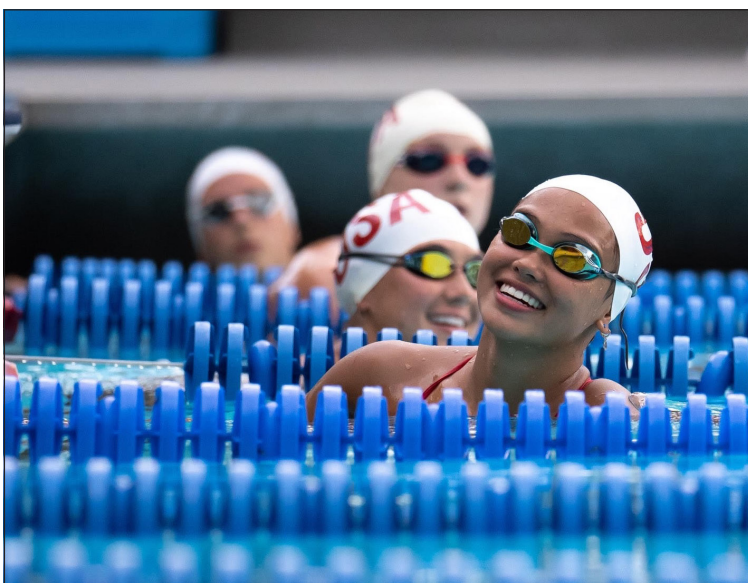
Dodie and James live in Odell outside of the winter months, then migrate to Henderson, Nev., to see family and enjoy the warm weather. Dodie has lived in the upper valley most of her life. She graduated from Hood River Valley High School in 1976 and worked in the area until her retirement in 2017. Also a

former school district administrator, James retired in 2005. He now spends most of his days hunting and watching golf.

Bella holds numerous club and Southern California Swimming (SCS) records in both short and long distance races. She currently holds the SCS records for the 500 meter and 200 meter freestyle for girls aged 15-16, which is impressive considering she started swimming six years ago.

During the preliminary races Bella placed second in the 800 meter freestyle, right behind arguably the best female swimmer of all-time, Katie Ledecky. In the final heat of the 200 meter freestyle race that would determine spots on the U.S.A. roster, Sims set a new personal-record, placing fifth. She missed qualification for the solo event by less than half of a second. Fortunately, her time of 1:57.53 was fast enough to claim a spot on the 4x200 meter relay team.

That race, which will send her to the Olympics, placed Bella as the third best of all-time in the 200 meter freestyle behind Missy Franklin



**Bella Sims looks up at the scoreboard to check times after a Team U.S.A. qualifying race. An all-around swimmer, Sims qualified for 11 events at the Team U.S.A. Olympic Trials.**  
Contributed Photo from Dodie Sims

and Ledecky.

Now, she will share a locker room and compete with some of the best swimmers from around the world.

The women's 4x200 meter freestyle relay races are scheduled to begin on July 28 and the finals will take place the following day, July 29.



**An officer sets a spike strip in hopes of disabling a vehicle fleeing westbound on Interstate 84 in Hood River. The vehicle instead fled into Washington.**

Jody Thompson photo

## Two men indicted following pursuit

### Suspects held on kidnapping, forgery following fraud check scam in The Dalles

By Jacob Bertram  
Columbia Gorge News

Agents from Skamania County Sheriff's Office arrested two men in connection with a kidnapping and forgery case that arose out of The Dalles last week.

Following a grand jury investigation, Wasco County District Attorney Matthew Ellis said the suspects, 20-year-old Jalyn Brown and 21-year-old Sincere Nasir Demarja Mullins, were indicted on multiple charges, including first-degree forgery, second-degree kidnapping, identity theft, and attempted theft, while one received additional charges on attempt to elude police and reckless driving. The suspects are being held at Northern Oregon Regional

See **PURSUIT**, page 5

## Suspect charged in July 4 Fire

By Jacob Bertram  
Columbia Gorge News

LYLE — An 18-year-old man received a criminal citation for using illegal fireworks near the Lyle sandbar, which investigators are pointing to as the cause of the fire that sparked on the west side of town on Independence Day.

Multiple witnesses saw the fireworks discharge and caught the act on video, Klickitat County Undersheriff Tim Neher said, which helped sheriff's

See **FIRE**, page 5

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## Eyes to the Fallen

### Hood River filmmakers tell story of Anthony Marquez and his effort to remember fallen comrades

By Noah Noteboom  
Columbia Gorge News

Hood River filmmakers Manny Marquez and Jesse Larvick are on a mission. Armed with lights and cameras, the duo is setting out on a five week tour of America, to tell the stories of 17 families who have lost loved ones in the line of active duty. July 12, 2011, is a day that Anthony Marquez, Manny's younger brother, will never forget. In the desert of Sangin, Afghanistan, one of Anthony's best friends in the 1st Battalion 5th infantry unit, Robert Greniger, was killed in action. Anthony watched as the helicopter transporting Greniger flew over the horizon. The next time he would reunite with his brother in arms, was in Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minnesota.

By the time Anthony's tour had come to an end, more than 190 Marines were wounded and another 17 — including Greniger — had lost their lives. Battlefield crosses are common among the military to pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives while serving their country. Using the Marine's boots, helmet and rifle a memorial is constructed by hanging the helmet on the rifle that is configured between his boots forming a makeshift cross. Anthony decided in order to honor his fallen comrades he will carve a battlefield cross out of wood for each of the 17 members lost during his tour in Afghanistan. Of course, there was the challenge of learning how to carve with a chainsaw. Learning the craft from renowned Oklahoma artist, Clayton Coss, Anthony quickly mastered the art of chainsaw carving. He completed all 17 statues and delivered them to each of the



**Manny Marquez, above, sits behind his desk pondering the next move in filming his second feature length film: "XVII Carvings." His first feature film was called "Psychopath" that featured a man who setup a haunted house theme park in Oklahoma. At right, Jesse Larvick will be co-directing his first feature film. Larvick will also be utilizing his talents as a professional photographer to create a book.**  
Noah Noteboom photos

families who had lost their son.

Since 2016, Anthony has created — from scratch — nearly 70 battlefield cross carvings. Most honor fallen Marines and oftentimes his carvings will generate thousands of dollars. His works have been sold for \$25,000, with proceeds going to veteran charities and organizations.

Larvick and Manny, Anthony's brother, are going to be joining Anthony for a road trip around the country visiting the families while producing a full length documentary titled "XVII Carvings." As a co-director and cinematographer, Manny has produced other films such as "Operation Allie" which depicts



See **FILM**, page 5