



Proactive measures proposed

Concerned parents address Pateros School student security

By MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

PATEROS – More than half a dozen citizens spoke during the first meeting of the Pateros School District Board of Directors last Thursday, Dec. 16, held since a firearms threat directed at the school earlier this month put all concerned on a high alert for the future security of students.

The threat was reported from a social media exchange that mentioned a firearm and threat of violence at the school. The subsequent investigation by school staff and law enforcement left many parents confused as to what transpired and who was involved.

Board chairman Chad Miller introduced those on the roster who signed up to deliver prepared remarks and invited others both in the audience and online to share their thoughts.

Rogan Mitchell who has three children in the Pateros schools delivered a prepared statement including several proposals she recommended to better safeguard students. In her opening remarks Mitchell recited some unsettling



Photos by Mike Maltais/QCH
Pateros School District Board members Diane Hull, Marc Armstrong, Grace Larsen, Chad Miller and superintendent Greg Goodnight listen to speakers at last Thursday's meeting.

statistics compiled from the FBI Uniform Crimes Report showing the steady rise in violent crimes - homicides, rape, robbery, aggravated assault - in Washington State elementary and secondary schools in the past decade:

- 2010 - 4
2011 - 17

- 2012 - 38
2013 - 43
2014 - 59
2015 - 102
2016 - 105
2017 - 171
2018 - 145
2019 - 206

Mitchell pointed out that while the state mandates

annual fire, earthquake, and modified lockdown drills, greater emphasis should be directed at the latter crisis.

"Given the fact about injuries and deaths in schools I believe there needs to be an overwhelming interest in drills that prepare for violence versus drills that prepare for

fires or earthquakes," said Mitchell. "When there is a lockdown drill it should be utilized to gain the most training value for both students and staff."

- 1. All students and staff should be on the same page sharing information.
Students should be aware

there is a zero-tolerance policy for drugs or violence and should be emboldened to come forward with information they might acquire regarding violation of that policy, said Mitchell, a "see-something, say-something" curriculum reinforced through classes and assemblies as a proactive preventive strategy.

"We as parents know that there is a lot more information shared among peers than what is brought forward to parents or staff," said Mitchell. I think we can all agree that safety

2. A comprehensive plan should be established with specific learning goals gained from safety drills.

This plan would include a after-drill debrief to review what was learned and how better to improve the next one.

3. Concealed carry staffing.
After all else fails "the best way to stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun that has more training," said Mitchell. She added that the estimated five-minute response time for the nearest law enforcement from Brewster.

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Rooty-toot-toots and rummy tum-tums



Photos by Mike Maltais/QCH

The Pateros school music department held its annual Winter Concert at 7 p.m. last Thursday, Dec. 16, before a crowd of Christmas music lovers in the school gym. Band director Jimmie Rogers led the concert band, choir, and symphonic band through a variety of selections including Up on a Housetop, Calico Cat, and Winter Wonderland. Senior Seth Russell performed pre-concert music.

Members take oath

Bridgeport previews planning commission 2022 to-do list

By MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT – Four of the five members of the city council reelected to their positions in the Nov. 2 general election took their oath of office during the regular monthly meeting of the council on Dec. 15. City clerk/treasurer Judy Brown administered the oath of office to Matthew Schuh, Jackie Hentges, Zeke Martinez, and Mike Bjornstad who all ran unopposed on the November ballot. Schuh serves as mayor

pro tem in the absence of Mayor Janet Conklin, a role he performed at this month's meeting.

City contract planner Kurt Danison of Highland Associates was the guest speaker and updated the council regarding issues the city planning commission is working on for the year ahead.

"We need to update our park and recreation plan and have that in place by March 1, in order to be eligible for RCO

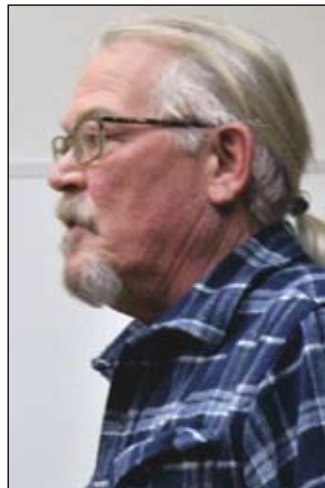
(Recreation and Conservation Office) funding during 2022," said Danison. "We are only able to apply every other year."

Danison said a survey of residents produced significant feedback and the commission should have a draft of the updated plan ready for council review by the end of January. An update of the city's subdivision code to bring it in line with several changes to state statutes over the past decade. One of those includes

increasing a short plat from four lots to eight lots. Another is lengthening the time to complete requirements for a long plat from two years, not including extensions, to nine years.

"We need to continue to look at parking and the number of vehicles that can be on property," said Danison. "We want to make sure that the changes we make are enforce-

SEE TO-DO LIST ON PAGE A2



Bridgeport city planner Kurt Danison updated the council on what the city Planning Commission will be working on for the coming year.



City clerk/treasurer Judy Brown, left, administers the oath of office to city council members Zeke Martinez, Jackie Hentges, and Matthew Schuh following their reelection to council positions in the Nov. 2 general election. A fourth council member, Mike Bjornstad, took his oath virtually via online attendance.

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With the COVID-19 restrictions relaxed, take time to visit our local businesses for Shopping, Dining and Events



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QUAD CITY HERALD

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Christmas Joy



Photo by Mike Maltais/QCH

The spotlight is on Christmas joy outside this Pateros home.

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Mike Maltais
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SECURITY

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“Five minutes can be devastating for an active shooter,” said Mitchell. “Having some well-trained volunteer concealed-carry staff members would knock down the response time to a fraction of current five-minute response time.”

State RCW requires law enforcement level training and renewed annual certification. Mitchell equated concealed-carry staff with the common-sense fire suppression measures like sprinklers and fire extinguishers found in every school.

4. Locked front entry doors with a buzz-in system.

“Currently anyone can enter any time through the main front door,” said Mitchell. “An unwelcome guest could be anywhere in the building.”

Secure door entry has been added to both the Brewster and Bridgeport school buildings.

Mitchell also read a letter from Erica Scroggie supporting Mitchell’s concealed-carry and drill debriefing suggestions.

Jackie Slater, who has three boys attending Pateros school, recommended mindfulness over some of the more intimidating measures to prevent violence. Slater said some of the elements of mindfulness help manage stress and anxiety, strengthen cognitive health and attention, model



Chad Miller

compassion and kindness, foster empathy and connection, among other benefits.

“I don’t believe armed guards or metal detectors is going to contribute to a positive environment,” said Slater. “It’s just going to add fear and I think that is the wrong way to go.”

Brianna Brenner whose family is new to Pateros from Winthrop said she is “blown away” by the lack of communication in the district and finds the website hard to navigate and in need of an upgrade. She contrasted Pateros with the Methow Valley School District that she described as more proactive with its security and daily parent notifications.

“Safety seemed to be a much bigger priority there,” Brenner said.

Adding to Mitchell’s recommendations Brenner suggested adding a school resource officer as an option to armed staff.

Janet Ward, another mother



Brianna Brenner

of a Pateros student said she is not a Facebook fan and finds the district’s communication platform “really rough” and confusing. She said she supports the idea of door security and believes the privacy of minors should be protected.

Several speakers found navigating the district’s websites difficult to navigate and in need of attention. One person said Facebook is a social platform and should not represent our school. Another rural Methow resident brought up the lack of Wi-Fi access is another communications barrier.

The speakers left the board with much to ponder, and Miller explained the board will take all the testimony under advisement.

“A lot of these things that you brought up are things that we will not make a decision on right now,” said Miller. “It’ll probably be January or February meeting.”

The board engaged in a



Photo by Mike Maltais/QCH

Jackie Slater

lengthy discussion over FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and the balance between protecting the privacy of students involved in a shooting threat and the public/parent demands for more information. Members were debating requested support for a change in FERPA restrictions.

Following the shooting threat on Dec. 1, school superintendent Greg Goodnight posted letters on the school’s website (pateros.org) he sent to senators Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, and Congressman Dan Newhouse calling for changes to current FERPA restrictions. The board voted to table consideration of its support to a later meeting.

TO-DO LIST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Consistency between the city’s comprehensive plan and revitalization plan is another

commission action item, Danison said.

Annexation and city water
In her absence Mayor Conk-

lin wrote a letter to council members voicing her opposition to the further use of city water for property outside the city limits without annexation of that property to the city. The property under consideration is the Morris Family Development, about half a dozen lots along the south side of SR 173 at the southeast corner of the city.

Dezellem reported on his discussion with the Morris family and that “the family is willing to do what is necessary to develop the property.”

Danison agreed that annexation is recommended if the city is going to provide services.

In other business the city:

- Set a Jan. 19 public hearing to allow the city to apply for USDA Rural Development funding for the city’s second reservoir.
- Voted to pre-approve Brown to fast-track a \$9,000-plus payment to Central Washington Asphalt for work done on the Foster Avenue overlay once the state Dept. of Revenue releases those funds.
- Approved Schuh as mayor pro tem for the coming year.

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Obituaries/Deaths 4 p.m., Friday

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The Quad City Herald welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be accompanied by the author’s name, a home address and a daytime phone number (for verification purposes only). Letters may be edited for length, clarity, accuracy and fairness. No letter will be published without the author’s name. Thank you letters will only be printed from non-profit organizations and events. We will not publish lists of businesses, or lists of individual names. Email your letters to: publisher@leavenworthecho.com

News Tips

Have an idea for a story?
Call Quad City Herald at 689-2507

Corrections

Quad City Herald regrets any errors. If you see an error, please call (509) 689-2507. We will publish a correction on this page in the next issue.

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OKANOGAN & DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF, BREWSTER POLICE DEPT

Douglas County Sheriff

December 10
Animal Problem at the 1900 block of Foster Creek Ave., Bridgeport.
Animal Problem at the 2400 block of Tacoma Ave., Bridgeport.
911 Call at the 700 block of Fairview Ave., Bridgeport.

December 11
Assist Agency at the 400 block of 16th St., Bridgeport.
Alarm at the 1100 block of Columbia Ave., Bridgeport.

December 12
No Report.

December 13
Non-Injury Accident at Rd. O N.W. & Rd. 7 N.W., Waterville.
Harassment/Threat at the 100 block of Pine St., Bridgeport.
Assist Agency, SR 173 MP 4, Bridgeport.
Injury Accident at 31 Claphan Rd., Orondo.
Hazard, McNeil Canyon Rd. MP 6, Orondo.
Civil at the 800 block of E. Locust St., Waterville.
Harassment/Threat at the 800 block of LE. Locust St., Waterville.

December 14
Assist Public at the 800 block of E. Locust St., Waterville.

Sex Offense at the 200 block of Brays Landing Rd., Orondo.
Assist Public at the 200 block of N. Baker St., Waterville.
911 Call at the 300 block of Rd. B S.W., Waterville.

December 15
Assault at the 100 block of Orondo School Rd., Orondo.
Assist Agency, 594 SR 173, Bridgeport.
Welfare Check, 307 E. Railroad Ave., Mansfield.
Assist Public, 505 16th St., Bridgeport.

December 16
Assist Agency at the 100 block of W. Poplar St., Waterville.

Okanogan County Sheriff

December 10
Hit & Run Accident at Middle Ln.
Arrest Warrant at S. 3rd Ave.
Trespassing at Kruse St.
Threatening at N. 5th Ave.
Malicious Mischief at S. 2nd Ave.

December 11
Structure Fire at Osprey Dr.
Unattended Death at Duck Lake Rd.
Suspicious Activity at Daniel Dr.
Domestic Dispute at Hwy. 20.
Attempt to Locate at Omak.
Fatal Accident at Hwy. 97.
Suspicious at Scenic Dr.
Juvenile Problem at S. 2nd Ave.

Robbery at N. Main St.
Vehicle Prowl at Garfield St.
Domestic Dispute at N. 3rd Ave.

December 12
Hit & Run Accident at North Star Rd.
Fraud at Lost Creek Way.
Threatening at N. 1st Ave. & Pine St.
Suspicious Activity at Spring Coulee Rd.

December 13
Animal Problem at Morning Star Way.
Unknown Injury Accident at Hwy. 97 & Hwy. 17.
Harassment at Beach St., Pateros.
Non-Injury Accident at N. 6th Ave.
Unknown Injury Accident at Hwy. 20.
Non-Injury Accident at Ironwood St. & Shumway Rd.
Domestic Dispute at Apple Way Rd.
Trespassing at Elmway.

December 14
Sex Offense at Apple Ln., Omak.
Domestic Dispute at S. 5th Ave.
Burglary at S. 3rd Ave.
Assault at Hwy. 20.
Disorderly at N. 2nd Ave.

December 15
Suspicious Activity at Copple Rd.
Harassment at Kermel Rd.
Domestic Dispute at S. 5th Ave.

Domestic Dispute at S. 2nd Ave.
Suspicious Activity at Sand Flat Rd.

Juvenile Problem at S. 5th Ave.
Trespassing at Dalton Rd.
Malicious Mischief at N. 2nd Ave.
Suspicious Activity at S. 5th Ave.

December 16
Agency Assist at Hwy. 20.
Unattended Death at N. 4th Ave.

Brewster Police Department

December 10
Welfare Check at Hwy. 97.

December 11
No Report.

December 12
Domestic Dispute at W. Cliff Ave.

December 13
Unknown Injury Accident at Hwy. 97.

December 14
Suspicious Activity at S. 5th St.

December 15
Hit & Run Accident at Hwy. 97.
Burglary at Hwy. 97.

December 16
Suspicious Activity at the 100 block of Hwy. 97.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Okanogan County Transportation & Nutrition meal delivery

BREWSTER – Brewster Senior Center on Bridge Street is serving hot meals via Home Delivery on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please reserve your meal by calling 509-689-2815. Suggested donation for those over age 60 is \$8.50. For those 60 and under the cost is \$10. For more information about senior meal programs: Okanogan County Transportation & Nutrition at 509-826-7979 or Aging & Adult Care of Central Washington at 800-572-4459.

Dec. 22-24 Senior Center Thrift Store

BREWSTER – The Brewster-Pateros-Bridgeport Senior Center Thrift Store is open Wednesday through Saturday, (except this Saturday, Dec. 25), 10 a.m.-2 p.m. There is a great selection of children's and adult clothing. Donations accepted when they are open. Check out their Christmas section.

Dec. 27 Okanogan County PUD meeting

OKANOGAN – The next meeting of the Okanogan County PUD Board of Commissioners will be held Monday, Dec. 27, at 3 p.m. For more information okanoganpud.org

Jan. 10, 2022 Douglas County PUD meeting

EAST WENATCHEE – The next meeting of the Douglas County PUD Commission is Jan.

10 p.m. at the District's East Wenatchee office.

Jan. 10, 2022 Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee

OKANOGAN – The Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee meets the second Monday of the month and is always looking for volunteers. The meetings are open to the public and begin at 6 p.m. in the Okanogan County Commissioners' hearing room, 123 N. Fifth Ave., Okanogan.

Jan 12, 2022 Brewster Chamber to meet

BREWSTER – The next general meeting of the Brewster Chamber of Commerce will be held Wednesday, Jan. 12, 6 p.m. at the Senior Center, 109 Bridge Street. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information brewsterwachamber@gmail.com or Mike Mauk at 509-449-0605.

Jan. 14, 21, 2022 Brewster bus trips

BREWSTER – OCTN takes Brewster area residents to Wenatchee, second Friday of the month. Next trip is Jan. 14. The bus starts picking folks up at their homes at 7:30 a.m. Riders may request destination(s); medical appointments etc. On the third Friday of each month, Jan. 21, riders will be taken to Omak for the day. Riders request their destination(s). Wenatchee: \$12/boarding for General Public, \$6 suggested donation/day for Seniors (60 plus). Omak: \$5.50/General Public, \$2.75 suggested donation Seniors (60 plus). (509) 826-4391 to reserve your seat.

NCW Libraries' annual Winter Reading Program now underway

SUBMITTED BY MICHELLE McMNIEL, NCW LIBRARIES

NCW - The district that operates 30 libraries and two bookmobiles across North Central Washington has set a community goal of reading 300 books by Jan. 13. Register at www.ncwlibraries.org and

log the number of books read to get into a drawing for prizes.

- The prize packages are:
- Kids: Two Family Movie Night sets (popcorn, candy and a DVD set)
 - Teens: Two Cozy Reading sets (mug, hot cocoa, blanket, and book)
 - Adults: Winter Thriller set (two books,

a mug, and a tote), Cozy Winter Reading set (two books, winter socks, and a mug), and a Winter Puzzle set (a puzzle, short story collection, and mug).

Paper reading logs are also available in every library location. Kids who return their reading logs to the library will earn a prize of a rubber ducky.

DEATH NOTICES

Gloria Dobson

Gloria Dobson, 78, of Brewster, Washington, passed away on Dec. 2, 2021. Services will be held in the spring. Please leave any thoughts and memories for the family at www.barneschapel.com. Services are under the direction of Barnes Chapel of Brewster.

Melissa Ann Casarez

Melissa Ann Casarez, 33, of Bridgeport, Washington, passed away on Dec. 11, 2021.

Please leave any thoughts and memories for the family at www.barneschapel.com. Services are under the direction of Barnes Chapel of Brewster.

Jerry D. Jordan

Jerry D. Jordan, 76, of Brewster, Washington, passed away on Dec. 15, 2021. Please leave any thoughts and memories for the family at www.barneschapel.com. Services are under the direction of Barnes Chapel of Brewster.

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Bible Study & Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
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~ Matthew 19:26

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from STCU.



stcu.org/holiday



From Coffee to Gasoline, Inflation Surges Everywhere in 2021

Oil tankers drop off crude oil to be refined into gas at the Marathon Oil Refinery in Salt Lake City on Oct. 29, 2021.

ANDREW MORAN

The U.S. annual inflation rate has surged to its highest level since 1982, coming in at 6.8 percent in November.

The main expenditure categories highlighted notable year-over-year growth across the board. The food index climbed 6.1 percent, and the energy index soared 33.3 percent. The indexes for shelter rose 3.8 percent, while apparel advanced 5 percent. New vehicles and used cars and trucks increased 11.1 percent and 31.4 percent, respectively.

Items within these indexes suggest that shoppers are facing an inflation tax for just about everything they buy.

At the dinner table, U.S. households are grappling with increasing costs for meat, vegetables, and fruit.

Fresh biscuits, rolls, and muffins jumped 6.6 percent in the 12 months ending November. Flour and prepared flour mixes rose 6.2 percent. Breakfast cereal increased 5.7 percent.

But the proteins may be hitting consumers' wallets most.

The broad meats, poultry, fish, and eggs category surged 12.8 percent. Each meat product cost significantly more compared to the same time last year.

Beef and veal spiked 20.9 percent, pork 16.8 percent, ham 10.7 percent, chicken 9.2 percent, and fish and seafood 8 percent.

A dozen eggs rose 8 percent.

Fruits and vegetables climbed 4 percent in November. This includes increases of 7.4 percent for apples, 3.7 percent for bananas, 3.2 percent for lettuce, and 3 percent for tomatoes.

Individuals who need a cup of java in the morning should expect to pay more, with coffee prices surging 7.5 percent. Roasted coffee increased by 7.6 percent, while instant coffee went up 6.8 percent.

Ingredients necessary to cook din-

ner and bake desserts were more expensive last month. Butter added 2.4 percent, spices and seasonings rose 5.9 percent, and sauces and gravies edged up 3.3 percent.

A new vehicle cost motorists 10.9 percent more in November than the same period in 2020, while tires rose 11.1 percent. In addition, motor vehicle maintenance and repair added 4.9 percent, car insurance 5.7 percent, and parking fees and tolls increased 4 percent.

Not only are automobiles pricier, but it's also costlier to power them. Last month, fuel oil skyrocketed 48.3 percent, gasoline 58 percent, and electricity 6.5 percent.

In the broader marketplace, shoppers paid more for a wide variety of goods and services.

Window coverings rose 10.7 percent, men's suits increased 14.1 percent, tools and hardware jumped 6 percent, and televisions gained 7.9 percent. The only noticeable declines in prices were for dishes and flatware (-3.9 percent), audio equipment (-5 percent), sewing machines (-4.8 percent), and airline fares (-3.7 percent).

Is This the 'Peak' of Inflation?

Following the release of the Bureau of Labor Statistics data, President Joe Biden said he thinks the United States has reached "peak" inflation, citing his administration's multitrillion-dollar Build Back Better agenda.

"I think it's the peak of the crisis," Biden told reporters on Dec. 10. "It's a real bump in the road. It does affect families when you walk into a grocery store and you're paying more for whatever you're purchasing—it matters. It matters to people when you're paying more for gas, although in some states, we've got the price down below three bucks a gallon. But the point is, it's not gone down quickly enough. But I think it will."

In a separate statement, the White House said inflation figures "show

GEORGE FREY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



that price and cost increases are slowing, although not as quickly as we'd like."

The White House has been adamant about employing a positive public relations campaign on the president's handling of the economy amid weakening poll numbers.

National Economic Council Director Brian Deese presented charts during a White House press briefing in an attempt to show that prices are coming down. White House chief of staff Ron Klain released a video last week that claimed to spotlight "an economy that's humming."

An ABC News-Ipsos survey published on Dec. 12 found that 69 percent of Americans disapprove of how Biden has managed inflation.

According to the poll, 57 percent disapprove of the president's performance in overall economic recovery. So, are consumer prices beginning

to come down on a month-over-month basis?

Some food products are easing, while others are continuing to rise each month. For example, rice prices increased 0.5 percent in September, remained unchanged in October, and rose 1.5 percent in November.

In another instance, the price for oranges jumped 1.2 percent in September, fell 1.3 percent in October, and climbed 2.4 percent in November.

Meanwhile, gasoline of all types also has failed to come down. Gas prices ticked up 1.2 percent in September, 6.1 percent in October, and another 6.1 percent in November.

"In summary, the fact that the U.S. CPI figure didn't exceed the 7 percent mark has been good news,"

Ipek Ozkardeska, senior analyst at Swissquote, wrote in a note. "Less encouraging was the rise in rents and healthcare costs, which came as a con-

firmation that inflation is no longer seen as 'transitory' in the U.S."

Many market analysts anticipate one of the most important Federal Open Market Committee policy meetings this week as the Federal Reserve deliberates its move on interest rates to fight inflation.

According to the CME Group Fed-Watch Tool, it's widely expected that the central bank will leave the current target rate unchanged.

Allianz Chief Economic Advisor Mohamed El-Erian said in an interview with CBS on Dec. 12 that the Fed describing inflation as transitory was "the worst inflation call in the history" of the century-old institution. This, he noted, resulted "in a high probability of a policy mistake."

"So, the Fed must quickly, starting this week, regain control of the inflation narrative and regain its own credibility," he said.

Indoor Illegal Marijuana Grows in Oregon Tied to Chinese Organized Crime

SCOTTIE BARNES

A Nov. 29 search warrant in the small town of Philomath, Oregon, led to the discovery of 4,000 marijuana plants growing in a warehouse and the arrest of five suspects allegedly connected with a Chinese organized crime group headquartered in New York, according to Philomath Chief of Police Ken Rueben.

During the raid, police arrested Jianhua Chen, Yushen Chen, Shuiqing Hu, Zining Huang, and Weiming Wu at the site. All face felony charges related to possession, delivery, and unlawful manufacturing of marijuana.

Police in Oregon are prohibited by law from asking about nationality or immigration status. The suspects communicated through an interpreter.

This is the second major operation we've been a part of that involved Chinese operators.

Capt. Brad Liles, Albany Police

"This is the second major operation we've been a part of that involved Chinese operators," Albany Police Capt. Brad Liles told The Epoch Times. The earlier operation resulted in 12 arrests, with charges that included racketeering, money laundering, criminal conspiracy, unlawful manufacturing of marijuana, and identity theft.

Both investigations involved officers from multiple police departments, two county sheriff's offices, Oregon State Police, the FBI, members of the special Linn Interagency Narcotics Enforcement team, and more.

Illegal marijuana operations have overwhelmed law enforcement officers as well as county and state officials.

"Drug traffickers have flocked here from every state in the nation and



A room full of black market marijuana plants, seized by the Drug Enforcement Administration in Colorado, in this file photo.

nearly a dozen countries," including China, Russia, Bulgaria, and Argentina, Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel told The Epoch Times.

"In the past year and a half, we've made the largest marijuana seizures we've ever been involved with," he said. "We're seeing operations with as many as 10,000 plants. And the amount of money is just ridiculous."

His department recently participated in the seizure of 1,400 pounds from one U-Haul truck traveling south on Interstate 5.

In southern Oregon, most growing takes place outdoors because of the mild climate. Liles described the sophisticated indoor growing operations recently associated with Chinese operators farther north.

"Growers convert a house, barn, or large outbuilding and retrofit it with lighting, ballasts, and hydroponics that operate on timers," he said. Automation means these operations require less manpower during cultivation.

The Philomath operation was in a two-story warehouse structure with 11 rooms and 5,000 square feet, Chief Rueben said. It contained plants in varying stages—from "starts" to fully-grown plants ready to harvest. The

facility used generators, air filtration devices, and electronically controlled temperature and humidity based on the age of the plants.

Rueben said a high electricity bill and a vehicle registration led to the Philomath search warrant. Law enforcement tracked a vehicle that had been making drug deliveries in Portland back to the property. A check of the power bill showed that consumption at the site was unusually high.

"An indoor grow house typically uses as much energy as 10 homes," Rick Fromme of Apex Data Consulting told The Epoch Times. "Where a typical house may have a bill of less than \$200, a grow house will be in the thousands."

While indoor operations differ from the outdoor growing that's typical of southern Oregon, they share the common trait of hiding in plain sight, Liles said.

Growers use legal hemp farming operations as cover for illegal marijuana operations. Registered farms aren't required to allow inspectors in.

"When an operation is surrounded by four walls and a roof, it's even more difficult to know if they're really growing hemp," Liles said.

Experts Refute Claims Linking Deadly Tornadoes to Climate Change

NATHAN WORCESTER

Experts have pushed back against claims that this weekend's tragic tornadoes in Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, and Tennessee can be clearly linked to manmade climate change.

In an exclusive interview with The Epoch Times, professor and climate economist Richard S.J. Tol of the University of Sussex explained why it is so difficult to connect weather events on the scale of a tornado to shifts in the Earth's climate.

"Tornadoes are small, rarely more than 3 kilometers in diameter. The most advanced climate models, however, cannot see things that are smaller than 9 by 9 km. Climate models can therefore tell us very little about tornadoes," he told The Epoch Times via email.

"Data are not great, but suggest that there is no upward or downward trend in tornado frequency or severity," he added.

Over the weekend, President Biden speculated that climate change had "some impact" on the massive storms, which have claimed at least 74 lives so far.

"All I know is that the intensity of the weather across the board has some impacts as a consequence of the warming of the planet and climate change," Biden said, according to reporting from Fox News. "The specific impact on these specific storms, I can't say at this point."

"The fact is that we all know everything is more intense when the climate is warming. Everything. And obviously it has some impact here, but I can't give you a quantitative read on that," he later added.

"The rush to attribute the... tornadoes to climate change illustrates perfectly the political distortion of the topic," climate economist and University of Guelph professor Ross McKittrick told The Epoch Times via email in another exclusive interview.

"The IPCC AR6 (Sct 11.7.3) makes no attribution claims between greenhouse gases and tornadoes,

and the long term data show no increasing trend in numbers or severity (indeed there is a slight decrease in numbers)," he added, referring to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on the physical science basis for climate change. "Yet the public has been so primed by politicians and activists to blame extreme weather on greenhouse gases they hardly blink when someone like President Biden just makes up the connection."

A Dec. 13 article from The Washington Post claimed that tornadoes have become more frequent in recent decades, citing data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that they said illustrated tornadoes in the United States are becoming more frequent.

Responding to that article on Twitter, University of Colorado environmental science professor Roger Pielke Jr. described a figure from the article as "incredibly misleading," pointed out that the rollout of Doppler radar systems increased reporting of very weak tornadoes in more recent years.

Like McKittrick, he noted that the IPCC has not found that tornadoes are clearly linked to climate change.

McKittrick, who recently questioned a key statistical approach used to link greenhouse gases to climate change, wonders why some researchers only ever look at potential downsides of any changes to the Earth's climate.

"Now the alarmists are shifting to a claim that while the events are natural, greenhouse gases [make] them worse than they otherwise would be," he told The Epoch Times. "Aside from the questionable statistical analysis behind such arguments, the big problem is that it's ambulance chasing. The fact that they only ever associate greenhouse gases with bad weather outcomes is meaningless since they only ever look at bad weather events. They never study whether a stretch of mild weather could be attributed to greenhouse gases."

ALL PHOTOS BY CARA DING/THE EPOCH TIMES



A police officer stands outside the school board meeting of Community High School District 99, in Downers Grove, Ill., on Dec. 13, 2021.

Illinois Parents Fight to Ban Sexually Explicit Book From Schools

CARA DING

DOWNERS GROVE, Ill.—Terry Newsome, a father of two high school freshmen in a Democratic-leaning Chicago suburb, was never into local school board meetings. That was until five months ago.

Newsome was busy working as an associate vice president at a global information services provider. He was also fighting two cancers, one being stage-four prostate cancer.

After he survived that one, his Italian mother, a devout Catholic, said to him, “Well, son, you must be kept on this earth for something.”

About seven months ago, his then eighth-grader son came home from school and told Newsome: “Dad, my teacher just told us there is no American dream. It is not there for everybody, so it is not real.”

Newsome, a descendant of European immigrants who had lived the American dream, was shocked to hear that.

He called the principal and reached out to parents, which opened his eyes to what is going on at public schools.

“I’m like, ‘Oh my god, I already heard what happened in eighth grade, but it is going to get worse in high school.’”

If everybody in America says, ‘Why me?’ we are not going to have an America anymore..

Terry Newsome, father

In July, Newsome attended his first school board meeting at Downers Grove’s Community High School (District 99).

He voiced his opinions on hot issues, such as critical race theory and mask mandates. Soon, he emerged as an unofficial spokesperson for a concerned group of mostly mothers.

“The moms are so happy to have an aggressive, type-A-personality father to join them. They had mostly fought this battle alone, against the giant system of public schools,” Newsome told The Epoch Times.

Weeks ago, Newsome and his group found themselves in a nationwide fight to ban from schools a comic book with graphic sex scenes.

‘Gender Queer’ and Cultural War

The book, authored by Maia Kobabe, is called “Gender Queer: A Memoir,” which chronicles Kobabe’s journey growing up as a nonbinary, asexual person. On several pages, Kobabe drew graphic sex scenes between two people. Some captions also contain sexual messages.

Kobabe was often asked during book tours about the recommended ages of readers, and the answer was almost always, “High school and above.”

That is an opinion supported by School Library Journal, a premier national publication for librarians working with children and teens.

The publication puts out more than 6,000 reviews every year, and its 2019 review of Kobabe’s book reads, “A book to be savored rather than devoured, this memoir will resonate with teens.”

As more and more school libraries across the country opened doors to Kobabe’s books, a growing group of parents, concerned with sexual content, took on a fight to ban them from their children’s places of learning.

Challenging voices can be heard in New Jersey, Texas, and Ohio. Several school districts in Florida, Pennsylvania, and Alaska, have banned the books at schools.

At Fairfax County in Northern Virginia, the epicenter for LGBTQ students’ issues, Kobabe’s books were pulled from, but soon returned, to school libraries.

At District 99, Kobabe’s books have also pushed more parents to step from the sidelines and join the fight, according to Christine Martin.

Martin’s son was a student at Downers Grove North High School.

For years, Martin showed up at one school board meeting after another, questioning changes she didn’t like.

“Parents are finally stepping up to the podium and to tell school boards, school administration, teachers, that what you are teaching within the school is not acceptable,” Martin told The Epoch Times.

“It is growing bigger and bigger. It is very grassroots,” she said.

Antifa and Threat

On Nov. 15, at District 99’s monthly meeting, the new school auditorium was packed with about 200 attendees, many parents holding up signs that read “No Porn.”



Due to the 20-people limit, several people were blocked from joining the December school board meeting of Community High School District 99, in Downers Grove, Ill., on Dec. 13, 2021.



Terry Newsome, dressed in a Downers Grove South High School spirit wear, sits in the school auditorium where he spoke up about Gender Queer last month, on December 13, 2021.

Newsome and several parents voiced their concerns about Kobabe’s books.

Both Proud Boys and Antifa members were there as well, according to parents present at the meeting. Antifa is a far-left, anarcho-communist network of people that has a history of violence.

Antifa members took pictures of parents speaking out and posted them on their social media account.

One father, Jim DeVitt, received a threatening phone call from an unknown person days after.

That made Newsome’s wife very worried. She asked Newsome: “Why do you have to do this? You are putting us at risk.”

Newsome said, “I really feel that we are in a war for the future of our children in our country.”

She then asked, “Why you?” Newsome said, “If everybody in

America says, ‘Why me?’ we are not going to have an America anymore.”

“Think about those 18-year-olds that joined the military and fought for America. They came back in a wheelchair with no arms and legs, or they died. Well, why them?” he added.

A week after the board meeting, Newsome and another parent sat down with school librarians and principals to discuss Kobabe’s books.

A Sit Down with Principals

According to the school board policy, any student, parent, or community member could request a reconsideration of instructional materials used in District 99.

On Newsome’s request form, in the section of reasons for objection, he wrote: “The book is child pornography. See photos. If any child sees this book, the result would be giving them access to child pornography.”

That was exactly what Newsome told library administrators and principals at the meeting.

Newsome said he wasn’t against books that depict teenagers who identify with uncommon gender identities. He said he just wasn’t comfortable with the sexual scenes in the books.

When Kim Pakowski, the library chairperson at District 99’s Downers Grove South High School, told Newsome she had no formal definition of child pornography, Newsome showed her a printout of a Merriam-Wester definition he had prepared, according to the official meeting minutes obtained by The Epoch Times.

Pakowski then focused on the intention of author. She said the intent of pornography was to provide sexual excitement, but this book’s intent was different—it was to show the author’s unique experiences and journey.

She said she had recommended adding “Fifty Shades of Grey” to bookshelves. Later, she decided not to, because of author’s sexual intention.

“Fifty Shades of Grey” landed three times on the American Library Association’s annual top 10 list of most banned and challenged books, because of sexually explicit content.

At District 99’s two high schools, librarians make the decisions on book selections.

After the meeting, both high school principals, Courtney DeMent and Edward Schwartz, announced their decision to Newsome through email. We agree “Gender Queer” should remain at our libraries.

The book spoke to a unique group of students and had received positive reviews from authoritative organizations, the email read. The graphics also helped reluctant readers to find joy in reading, they added, according to an email obtained by The Epoch Times.

“Students have the choice to check this book out or not; those who do, and find it distasteful, can return it and [hopefully] select another book to read,” they wrote.

On Dec. 1, Newsome raised the issue with District 99 Superintendent Hank Thiele.

Thiele told Newsome that librarians shouldn’t be expected to comment on the legal definition of pornography; that was a lawyer’s job, according to an email obtained by The Epoch Times.

Thiele spoke with school board attorneys, who wrote in an email that the books weren’t pornography.

Keep Beating the Drum

After the heated November board meeting, District 99 administrators moved the December meeting from the new spacious stadium to a small community room in an old administrative building.

Only 20 people were allowed to attend. Two Downers Grove police officers and one school security guard were assigned to be present at the board meeting.

On Dec. 13, the day of the meeting, Noel Manley, a parent who has been active in local school board meetings for 10 years, arrived an hour and a half early to make sure he got a chance to hold the microphone.

This would be District 99’s last school board meeting of the year, and Manley wanted to use the three minutes given to each public commenter to summarize issues of the year, including that of Kobabe’s books.

Manley didn’t think District 99 administrators would take Kobabe’s books off the shelves.

Yet, the issue could rally parents to support like-minded candidates in upcoming school board races, Manley told The Epoch Times.

“You have to constantly beat the drum to get people to vote on these issues,” Manley said.

As for Newsome, he didn’t attend the December meeting at all. He went to an event supporting local congressional candidate Rob Cruz, who runs on an education agenda that speaks to Newsome.

“Am I going to make a difference? Maybe yes, maybe not,” he said.

“But I got to at least try. I cannot go on and think that I didn’t even try to help my children’s future.”

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NOTICE OF INTENT AND PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE The Brewster Flat Domestic Water Association will file an application with the USDA Rural Development for financial assistance to develop water system improvements, including water line replacement and well control improvements. A public meeting for comments will be held at 6:30 PM on January 3, 2022 via Zoom to discuss the proposed project and to provide the opportunity for public comment. Join online at www.zoom.com, Meeting ID: 935 0898 1644, Passcode: 690997. Telephone option is available by dialing 253-215-8782, Meeting ID: 935 0898 1644, Passcode: 690997. Contact Barb Lawson at brewsterflatwater@frontier.com or 509-689-2634 for information. Published in the Quad City Herald December 22, 2021 #3243

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Favorite remedies of 2021

The year 2021 is coming to a close. It's time to share the remedies I've found most helpful this year.

1. Acetaminophen (Tylenol) PLUS ibuprofen (Advil)

Taking acetaminophen and ibuprofen AT THE SAME TIME seems to boost the pain relieving effect of each. I love how adding acetaminophen seems to make ibuprofen more effective. Because my stomach hurts whenever I take more than one tablet of over-the-counter (OTC) ibuprofen, whenever I need something to ease muscle aches, I take that combo, with surprisingly effective results. Although you can buy this combination as Advil Dual Action®, it's much less expensive to team up an extra-strength Tylenol® (500mg) tablet with one Advil® (200mg) tablet. With effective pain relief for my headache and muscle aches with less stomach upset, what's not to love?

2. Cerave® for dry skin.

Wearing a mask 8 hours a day at work really makes my skin dry. Cerave® eases my dry and itchy hands and skin with absolutely NO greasiness after applying it. I love how quickly and completely it soaks into my skin, better than any other hand cream or body butter I've tried.

3. Aspercreme® Lidocaine Roll-On for pain.

Aspercreme® doesn't contain aspirin. Instead, it has something more effective: lidocaine. Unlike patches, you can use lidocaine roll-on anywhere you need relief from minor aches and pains. It can also be used in between applications of other topical pain relievers, like Voltaren® (ketorolac) gel, capsaicin or CBDs (cannabinol).

4. Butterfly bandages to avoid stitches.

This fall I caught my hand between two steel bars. This



smashed my thumb and split the skin wide open on both sides of my thumbnail, almost to the bone. Too deep for a skin sealer like New Skin®, I used butterfly bandages to hold the skin edges tightly together. Cutting each bandage in half lengthwise first, I then used two as many, which held the skin neatly and securely in place. Since the adhesive "wings" don't always stick well, I covered them with ribbon tape, leaving the laceration open to the air. It healed without a scar!

5. Actifed® for both runny and stuffy nose.

I'm allergic to ragweed, which makes my nose congested and runny at the same time. Luckily for me, the older formulation of Actifed® works like a charm. The antihistamine triprolidine found in Actifed® dries up runny nose PLUS relieves itchy eyes and stuffy nose. You will have to buy it from the pharmacist because it contains the decongestant pseudoephedrine. Some pharmacists have never heard of it, so you'll need to ask them to order it for you or find a pharmacy which stocks it.

6. Petroleum jelly or coconut oil to reduce nosebleeds.

Nosebleeds range from annoying to downright scary. People who use oxygen at night are often plagued by frequent bloody nose episodes, especially in dry climates or during fall and winter months. Many of my patients have reported great success in reducing frequent nosebleeds by GENTLY applying a thin layer of petroleum jelly or petrolatum (Vaseline®) to the inside of their nose every evening with a Q-tip swab.

If you don't have any petroleum jelly or

petrolatum, you can substitute coconut oil on the Q-tip. However, you should avoid petroleum jelly entirely if you use oxygen through tubing with prongs that go into your nose. That's because petroleum jelly can dissolve the prongs' plastic tubing! Instead of petrolatum, use coconut oil or a saline gel for the nose like Ayr®.

7. Afrin® nasal spray to stop nosebleeds.

Afrin®, or oxymetazoline, relieves nasal congestion by shrinking blood vessels in your nose. This relieves a stuffy nose but is also quite helpful in stopping a nosebleed. If you show up at an Emergency Department with a nosebleed, the first thing many ER doctors will do is to squirt several sprays of Afrin® on a gauze pad, roll it up, then push the soaked roll of gauze right up your nose. The combination of applying direct pressure and shrinking the blood vessels inside your nose with Afrin® can often stop a nosebleed dead in its tracks.

8. New Skin® to seal cuts and hangnails.

When using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, I can always tell if I have a cut on my hands because it really STINGS. New Skin® Liquid Bandage is a clear, waterproof liquid with an applicator brush. It protects hangnails, paper cuts, and minor abrasions from the sting of soap and water and alcohol sanitizing gels. New Skin® is better than regular bandages because it's waterproof and contains an anti-infective.

Dr. Louise Achey, Doctor of Pharmacy, is a 42-year veteran of pharmacology and author of Why Dogs Can't Eat Chocolate: How Medicines Work and How YOU Can Take Them Safely. Get clear answers to your medication questions at her website and blog TheMedicationInsider.com. ©2021 Louise Achey

THE WASHINGTON OUTDOOR REPORT

Fish and wildlife commissioner call it quits

By JOHN KRUSE, THE WASHINGTON OUTDOOR REPORT



Courtesy WDFW

Dr. Fred Koontz

Mountains, only 11 remained alive at the end of November and 77 of them were killed by predators.

In response to this briefing, Koontz stated, "I don't know how much of a crisis it really is" and suggested managing the herd at a level of 4,500 animals instead of its objective level of 5,500 elk. Koontz's sentiment was echoed by Lorna Smith, who pushed back at the thought of managing predators and instead recommended less elk hunting.

Angry and astonished outdoors media professionals, conservation organizations and hunters immediately took Koontz and Smith to task. Andy Walgamott, Editor of Northwest Sportsman Magazine, detailed some of the public comments made to the Commission at their December 3 meeting.

One of the speakers quoted in Walgamott's article was Tino Villaluz, the wildlife program manager for the Swinomish Indian Community. He said both Koontz and Smith showed a "wanton disregard of the wildlife profession." Villaluz also accused the two commissioners of showing a bias against ungulates and went on to tell them "The arbitrary protection of predators cannot continue."

Brian Lynn, a resident of Eastern Washington and the Vice-president of Marketing for the Sportsman's Alliance, told

me in a recent radio interview that both Koontz and Smith clearly show a bias against hunting and questioned whether they understood the science behind wildlife management or were just denying the science presented to them to support their own positions. In his words, "Any way you slice it, they shouldn't be in charge of making decisions that govern the method and means of take and of hunting in the state."

With Koontz's departure there are two vacancies on the nine-member commission. In addition to Koontz's at-large position an Eastern Washington position has been left unfilled after well-known angler and outdoors media personality Dave Graybill completed his term as a commissioner at the end of 2020.

Reaching out to Governor Insee's office as to when these vacancies will be filled, Deputy Communications Manager Mike Faulk responded there is no firm timeline to fill the vacant seats but the Governor's office will, "continue to work with our partners to identify and appoint strong candidates to these positions."

It appears only three of the remaining seven commissioners identify as anglers or hunters through their posted biographies at the WDFW website, even though much of WDFW's role is about providing sustainable recreational opportunities for fishing and hunting and setting regulations for these pursuits. Asked whether the next commissioners would be hunters and/or anglers Faulk responded, "We will consider anyone who's qualified but I don't think it would be appropriate to limit who would be eligible for consideration."

John Kruse - www.northwesternoutdoors.com and www.americaoutdoorsradio.com

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Nobel Prize winning author Gabriel Garcia Márquez was quoted as saying, "All human beings have three lives, public, private and secret."
In our modern world of the Internet search engines and DNA testing, keeping our private and secret lives separate is increasingly difficult. Sometimes they can come crashing in on our public lives when we least expect it. Father Robert McCarthy is a middle-aged priest who is suddenly and unexpectedly confronted with his secret past. How he deals with the revelation of that past with his family, his congregation and the impacts of that secret life is inspirational. How McCarthy discloses the news of his college indiscretion requires him to take everyone involved on a journey of confession. That journey forces him to deal with issues of homosexuality, judgementalism, divorce and pride.
His pastoring skills and the depth of support from his wife help him bring forgiveness and restoration to many broken relationships.
The bonds of three families are ultimately restored through celebrations of life experiences including fishing, holiday gatherings, the discovery of unknown family connections and a wedding.

Bill's Book is available online through Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and Apple iBook.
The paperback is \$16.99 and the ebook is \$8.99. You can also pick up a copy of the book or order the book directly from Carol Forhan at The Leavenworth Echo (509-548-5286), or the Lake Chelan Mirror (509-682-2213), or by emailing your contact information to Carol@leavenworthecho.com. Sales tax applies and if you request mail delivery add \$3.00 for postage. There is no extra charge if your order is picked up at the Echo office, 215-14th Street, Leavenworth, WA 98826 or Lake Chelan Mirror office 131 S. Apple Blossom Dr. Suite #109, Chelan, WA 98816

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- THESE
- General Services Administration
- Ex-Miami Heat player Dwyane
- Pomegranate seed
- Actor Chris O'
- Pacific Crest Trail walker
- Country dance formation
- Wished undone
- Popeye's sweetie
- "Sudden Impact": "Go ahead, ___"
- Arm part
- Gold unit
- Parabola, e.g.
- San Joaquin Valley city
- Hangs out with
- Unit of electrical resistance
- "Star Wars": "Stay in ___ formation"
- Mr. Jinx's (of "Meet the Parents") cry
- Clay and silt deposit
- Camel debris
- Japanese sword fighting
- Was aware of
- Come into sight
- "Independence Day": "I belong in the ___"
- "The Dark Knight": "Why so ___?"
- Common allergen
- Cup alternative
- Bird-made fertilizer
- Sketch
- "On the Waterfront": "I coulda been a ___"
- El Dorado-related
- Tabernacle Choir's home state
- Contributed
- Star Wars attacker
- Unidentified aircraft
- Prep for publication
- Ladder step
- Tropical American cuckoo

64. Part to play DOWN

- Precedes storm?
- Soprano's song, e.g.
- "Mean Girls": "On Wednesdays, we wear ___"
- Makes smooth, as in hair
- Dutch cheese
- "Darkest Hour": "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and ___"
- Walker, American Girl doll
- "Field of Dreams": "If you build it, he ___"
- Related
- Deity, in Sanskrit
- "... he drove out of sight"
- Fungus damage (2 words)
- Meryl Streep's "The ___"
- Supernatural life force, pl.
- Query
- "Who Framed Roger Rabbit": "That's all, ___!"
- Cûtes du ___, wine region
- Midwest V.I.P.
- Soreness
- Kidney-related
- "Princess Bride": "You killed my father. Prepare ___"
- Bound by oath
- "Lights out" tune
- Nile reptile
- "Finding Nemo": "Just keep ___"
- Danish money
- Two before Oct
- Lack of enthusiasm
- 1/16th of a pound
- Not two years but three, e.g.
- Coped (2 words)
- Freshwater eel, in Japan
- Comics character Little ___
- Caribbean island country
- Carpenter's joint
- Like a fairytale stepmother?
- Network of nerves
- Acronym, abbr.

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.