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# Fentanyl: scourge of society

Front Page

Main

BY GREG HITCHCOCK OF THE MINER 📅 05/01/2024 06:00 AM



Speaker talks about her addiction to assembly of Newport students

NEWPORT – Spokane County Sheriff John Nowels’ daughter Sarah spoke about her addiction to fentanyl to an assembly of students at Newport High School Thursday warning them of addiction.

Her behavior didn’t change even as her parents enrolled her in a different school to shield her from bad influences.

Meeting another boyfriend, Nowels soon got addicted to fentanyl when her boyfriend introduced her to the drug.

“I started with ten pills a day and it soon increased,” she said. Nowels’ parents found out about the addiction and forbade her to use in the home.

“Instead, I chose to leave home and stay with my boyfriend,” Nowels said.

That choice turned from bad to worse as her boyfriend spun out of control, becoming argumentative and abusive and blaming her.

“My boyfriend overdosed on fentanyl. I got so panicked I called my parents,” she said.

He was saved by Narcan. By 2022, Nowels depended on 200 pills a day to get her through the day, sometimes taking cocaine to get through a work shift at a restaurant.

“My addiction affected every part of my life,” she said.

Eventually, she got sick from her drug use, an ambulance scrambling to save her life by rushing to the behavioral health floor of Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center.

She was placed on a forced 24-hour hold and stayed what she said as a “long eight days.”

“This didn’t include weekends and holidays,” Nowels said. “When I left I looked horrible. I weighed 94 lbs.”

Despite her ordeal, this was the first time she broke away from her abusive toxic boyfriend.

“I was done with it. After detox, I went home,” Nowels said.

Nowels enrolled in an outpatient program and went to Alcoholics Anonymous meetings three to five times a day.

Today, Nowels is 489 days clean, she said to a cheering audience.

She speaks out at events about her ordeal and her depression which she says helps her and hopes helps others.

“Mental illness and addiction are stigmatized. And they are often co-occurring,” Nowels said.

Sheriff Nowels walked up and hugged his daughter before taking the stage.

He spoke about being helpless as her daughter took a nosedive into addiction, having to set ground rules about not having narcotics in the home or kicking her out.

Nowels painted a picture of an airplane full of passengers crashing to the ground every day and the numbers of overdoses due to fentanyl, saying the public would do something about the crashes, but look away at addiction.

Newport School Superintendent David Smith said the district takes fentanyl seriously. Pend Oreille County is considered a hotspot for poison center calls per capita, averaging 15 compared to just five in King County.

Last year, the Newport School District had a full day devoted to fentanyl prevention awareness.

The school district employs a fulltime prevention specialist who educates students about the dangers of fentanyl, alcohol, tobacco and other narcotics use.

“We will continue to be proactive in education and awareness,” Smith said.

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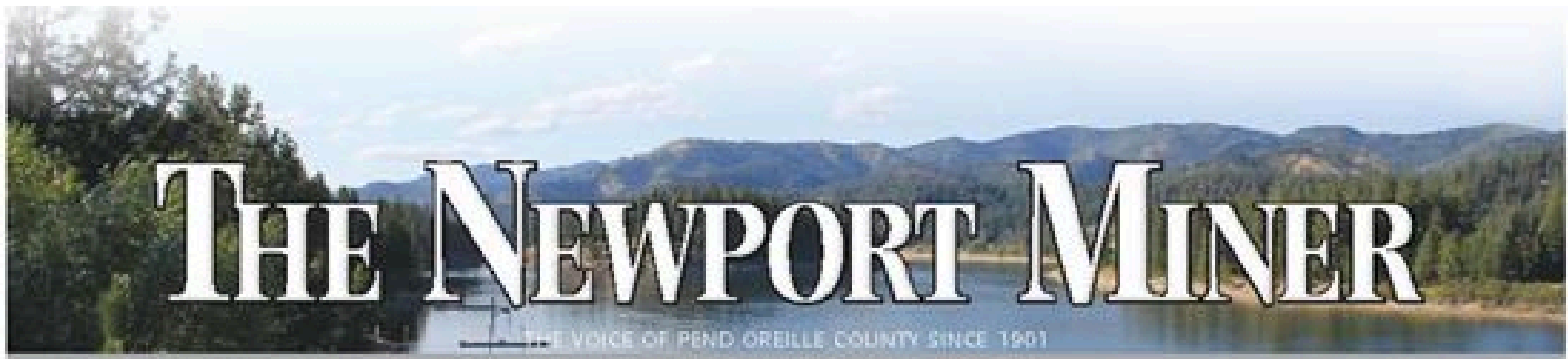
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Wednesday, November 6, 2024

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# Gentle, Smiley, Moody leading in Pend Oreille County election

BY MICHELLE NEEDVED  
OF THE MINER

NEWPORT — Initial vote tallies in Pend Oreille County show that incumbent county commissioners Brian Smiley and John Gentle are leading, as is Troy Moody, who is running against incumbent Pend Oreille PUD Commissioner Joe Onley.

In other contested races, Lisa Malpass Childress is leading for Superior Court Judge in Pend Oreille County and district wide. The position is for the tri-county area of Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille County. Malpass is leading 64.32% to 35.04%, or 6,142 to 3,351.

Brian Smiley is leading for Pend Oreille County commissioner, District 3, with 64.62% of the vote, compared to 33.64% for challenger Kevin Young, or 4,555 to 2,371.

Gentle is leading for Pend Oreille County commissioner, District 1, with 62.52% to Steve Haroldson Minnich's 35.78%, or 4,452 to 2,348.

Moody is leading over Onley 59.01% to 40.3%, or 4,141 to 2,828.

For State Representative, District 7 Position 1, Andrew Engell is leading 59.31% to 39.62% over Bob Ing-Moody, or



Pend Oreille County elections workers pick up ballots at the drop box in Newport Tuesday morning, Nov. 6. The box will be emptied again at 8 p.m. Tuesday night but those ballots won't be processed that day.

13,870 to 9,265.

For Position 2, Hunter Abell is beating Rocky Dean, 16,666 to 8,063, or 67.31% to 32.565. Dean is a Democrat. Abell, Engell and Ing-Moody are all

Republicans, as are all four Pend Oreille County commissioner candidates. Judges and PUD commissioners are non-partisan.

Fire Protection District No. 4's EMS levy is failing.

It needs a 60% super majority to pass, and is receiving 51.35% of the vote, or 495-469.

Fire Protection District No. 5's lid levy lift is failing, with 45.95% in favor

and 54.05% against.

Sacheen Water and Sewer District's excess levy is passing with 65.33% of the vote in favor, or 130-69 votes. Votes will continued to

be counted for the next few days. Any ballots dropped in a drop box by 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5 will be counted, as well as any ballots post marked by Nov. 5.

## The slow unraveling of a quick mind

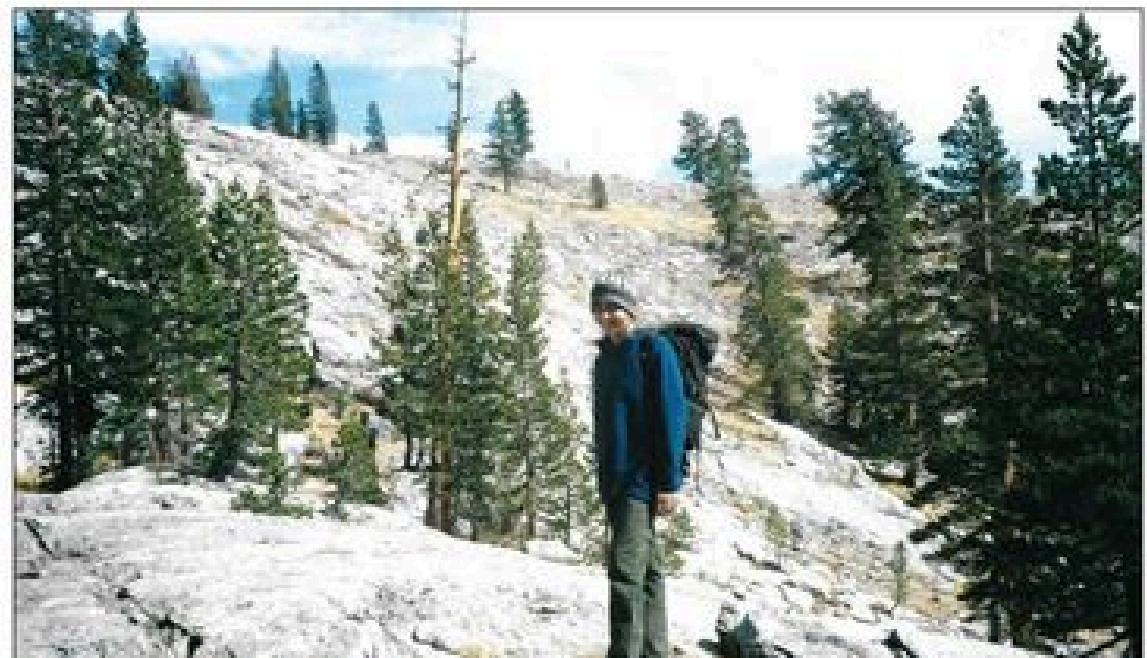
BY AMMI MIDSTOKKE  
FOR THE MINER

Editor's note: This was first published in The Spokesman-Review Sunday, Nov. 2. It is reprinted here with the permission of the author.

On the night of December 30th, 2023, Eva Masin crawled out of bed, crept silently out the back door of her home, and disappeared into the freezing night. The only trace she left was the soft imprint of her bare feet in the frost of the quiet Missoula alley. They were heading toward the river.

Masin's husband, Dave Prather sits in a well-worn chair in his living room, the long hair of his organic farming days trimmed to the docility of middle-age. The bookshelves are stuffed with titles from botany manuals to Tom Robbins novels. A guitar hangs on the wall. The air smells of herbs and teas. These, along with children's art and flourishing plants, are the domestic remnants of the woman who once lived here.

The last time Prather saw his wife, it appeared she was sleeping soundly. Yet in the weeks, days, and hours prior to that, Masin, 43, who had recently been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, was struggling to mitigate





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melodic voice and gardening skills that Masin inherited, along with her father's analytical mind. She was drawn to plants and nature, studied at Evergreen in Washington, traveled to South America and Europe, and hiked most of the Northwest.

Masin pursued a career in forestry, becoming a writer and editor for the US Forest Service. Her marriage

proved, was the foundation of their idyllic family and the life they built near the Mission Mountains before moving to Missoula.

For much of that life, Masin was also one of my closest friends. Her soft chuckle was the soundtrack to many of my youthful memories. In our letters and visits over the decades, there were few hints: A reference to

cope better with stress, a propensity to feel depressed in winter.

Yet none of that explained why Masin would walk away from her home, husband, and children in the middle of a winter night.

SEE MASIN, 2A



CLASSIFIEDS	8B	OPINION	4A	RECORD	10B
LIFE	7A	POLICE REPORTS	10B	SPORTS	8A
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