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Far North Floors offers flooring with a flourish

Lifestyle

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



PRIEST RIVER – A flooring business in Priest River has stepped in to fill any gap by selling and installing flooring in homes across the region.

"We started opening slowly," Memeo said.

Memeo came from the construction business in Spokane while Shipton, a Newport High School graduate, was a tile setter. They said both their business sense and trade knowledge was a perfect fit to start a flooring business.

"I have been a flooring specialist installing floors for 25 years," Shipton said.

Selling, measuring and setting down floors from hardwood, vinyl, and carpet, Shipton said tile is what they specialize in.

"We tested out the area and what we discovered was the area was growing and we wanted to be a part of it," Memeo said.

Shipton has built a lot of connections from his previous work, with Memeo saying the community has really supported them.

The owners' business strategy is making sure customers have a relaxed feel when they step into the store.

"I had clients in my previous career who were overwhelmed. When you are building a house and stressed about financials it's scary," Shipton said.

"If people can come in and feel at home and not be overwhelmed with the amount of selections, that's key for us," he said. "You go into another flooring store and there is every sample of tile. Here people say this is where we need to be."

Shipton said they want to keep people here in both West Bonner and Pend Oreille counties and spend their money locally, as opposed to going down to Spokane.

"Every floor can fit any budget," he said.

Memeo takes care of the front office and uses a forklift to store product in the warehouse, while Shipton is off site measuring and installing flooring in custom homes.

"We are getting to the point of needing help," Memeo said.

"Once this is a success we would like to build our own facility," Shipton said.

The store is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Fridays and by appointment on weekends.

For more information, go to <https://www.farnorthfloors.com>.

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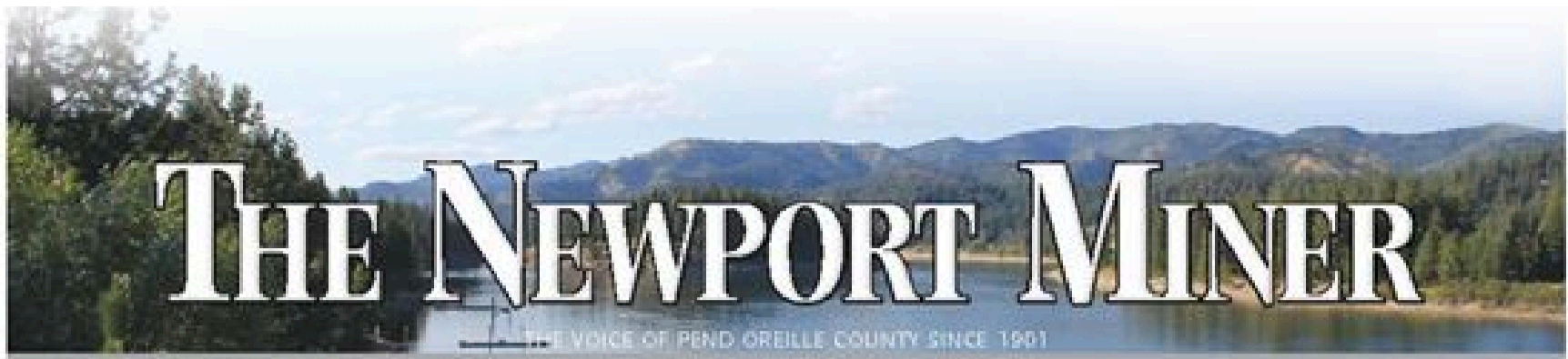


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Gentle, Smiley, Moody leading in Pend Oreille County election

BY MICHELLE HEDVED
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 2,548.

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 Soo 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. MICHELLE HEDVED FOR THE MINER

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. Judge 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 51.25% 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

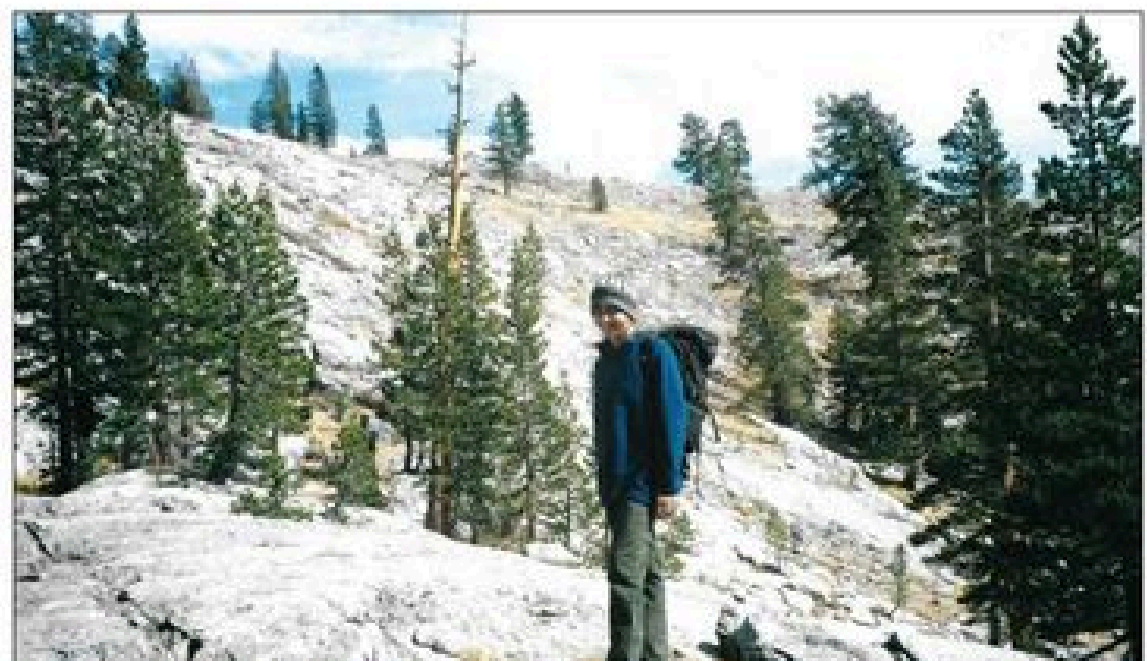
BY AMMI MIDSTOKKE
FOR THE MINER

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, 2003, 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

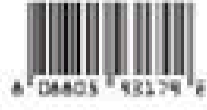
proved, was the foundation of their idyllic family and the life they built near the Mission Mountains before moving to Missoula.

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.

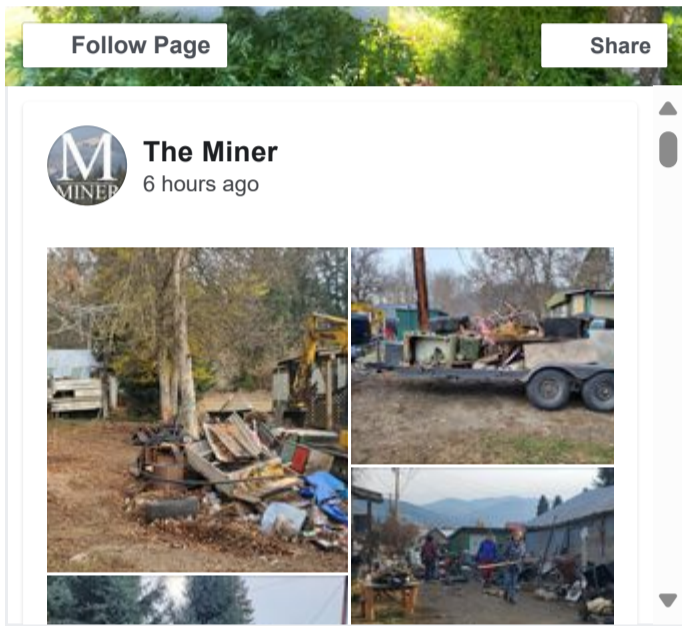
Yet none of that explained why Masin would walk away from her home, husband, and children in the middle of a winter night.

SEE MASIN, 2A



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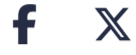
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