

PLAYOFF,

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Van Cleave unleashed a long bomb two plays later intended for senior Matt Aguilar. Aguilar was under cover by a Ram defender and stepped back behind him to get the catch at the 30-yard line and ran for a touchdown. The score closed the gap to 35-14.

After trading punts, Van Cleave came up with his second interception of the night, but Central Catholic got the ball back on an interception of its own.

The half ended as Van Cleave made his third interception in the Celtic end zone.

The Rams scored again, and for their final time, on their first play after the second-half kickoff, expanding the lead to 42-14.

The Celtics suffered another setback three drives later. After converting on fourth-and-one with LaCroix Hill taking the snap and driving to reset the chains, McNary pushed all the way to Central Catholic's 23-yard line. Facing third-and-12, Van Cleave escaped a pair of tackles on the scramble before launching the ball to Aguilar at the four-yard line. Aguilar got the grab, but offsetting penalites forced the down to be replayed.

Another rushing attack by Van Cleave set the Celtics up at the 12-yard line, but a holding penalty sent the team back to the 28-yard line. A last ditch attempt at conversion was intercepted at the Ram 5-yard line.

The Rams' return possession sputtered thanks, in large part, to a sack by Kolby Barker that left the Portland team at fourth-and-24.

McNary struck for the final score of the game on its next drive. Sparks put the Celtics on the Rams' 19-yard line on the first play. He helped move the ball to fourth-and-one giving Hill another chance to convert and reset the downs at Central Catholic's six-yard line.

Van Cleave put the ball into the end zone with fourth-and-inches to go.

HEROIN,

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she was clean. She was mother of the year material. But with heroin, you can't feel. That's not the answer, waiting for a heroin addict to say, 'I'm ready.'"

Even as her daughter struggled with various drug addictions for years, Sue kept the lines of communication open. In last week's story, Young pointed to that as a key.

"The biggest thing is be involved," Young said. "Users are distancing themselves with the drug. When you see them spending time alone, bring them into the family unit again, especially with juveniles. They are using that as a replacement for something lacking, which is often family. You have to make sure you're all together mentally."

Sue had the same approach.

"Building trust and respect early on is a huge thing," she said. "Peggy could talk to me about anything. Making sure the kids feel respected so that they don't feel they're being judged, that's a big thing in our house. I don't agree with the notion about not being your kid's friend. You need to treat them with respect, like any other human being. That worked with my other four kids. They can tell me anything. It worked. The drill sergeant thing just breeds hiding and lying. Then the parents are the opposition."

Sue knows Peggy smoked weed in high school and then moved on to meth before turning to heroin. But in the midst of that, mom was there.

"I made her talk to me every day," Sue said. "Through all of this, I always made sure she stayed connected. I listened without judgement. When she did meth, I called the police and she was in jail for a month. I made her tell me what was happening, not that it was okay, but I made sure she stayed connected to me. I listened because I needed to know and I needed her to know she could talk to me about it. There was a lot I didn't want to know."

And yet, even with that communication, even being there for her daughter, Sue still

had to deal with the pain of losing her daughter to drugs. In some ways, it made her question the approach.

"That's what I felt was right, but it didn't change anything. The outcome was still the same," Sue said quietly. "Of course you want to be there for your kid and not be judgmental. It's not because she was a bad person. She didn't grow up on the streets or in a bad situation. She was raised in a suburban upper class home. In the end, heroin is such a bad drug, there's nothing that my being there could change. She was locked in."

Though she isn't certain, Sue believes her daughter's first experience with drugs fueled a habit that caused escalating destruction.

"The ritual of escaping, that opens the door to all the rest of it," she said. "Then your mind is open to the next thing. You give yourself permission to do the next thing. There's nobody who did heroin who didn't do weed first."

"The solution is keeping people from doing it the first time," Sue added. "Once you've done it the first time, it's too late. It's supposed to be the best high ever. I don't want to know. It's just a culture as far as escapism. There's got to be a better way to cope with whatever it is."

Over time, Sue picked up on cues that indicated when Peggy was on heroin.

"The first thing I can remember in figuring out she was doing something was that she had no concept of time," Sue said, remembering one holiday season. "She would bring the kids over and would be four hours late. With school, her kids were not getting there on time. She completely lost track of time. A lot of naps and sleeping are involved. They steal Q-tips

and lighters. You will see a lot of Q-tips around your bathroom. And there are a lot of pick marks. It was mainly her face. If she picked, I knew."

There were also the eyes: dilated pupils meant Peggy was on methamphetamine, while pinpointed eyes meant an opiate (heroin is an opiate).

"She wouldn't have put a gun to her head."

— Sue

Sue, who called anti-drug efforts like DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) "worthless," said Peggy told her she got bacteria from a dirty needle.

"She said she had a bladder infection that got into the kidney and the blood stream," Sue said. "If she was not doing heroin, it wouldn't have happened."

In Peggy's final year, she was in and out of the hospital. A week before Peggy's death, Sue discovered used needles in her closet and realized her daughter was using again.

"I didn't know the infection had come back," Sue said. "I didn't know she was sick again. So a week before she died, I kicked her out of the house. Knowing that she would die, she still used. It was basically suicide. It was the air she breathed. She couldn't kick the habit. You just get this tunnel vision and you don't see anything else that's going on."

After Peggy's passing, the family went to the funeral home and got a rude surprise.

"They said they needed to do special handling of the body due to Hepatitis B," Sue said.

"Never had we heard about that. I wonder if she got that in the last week."

That put the exclamation point on a sad ending, which leaves bad memories for the family.

"The last year of her life was so traumatic," Sue said. "That's what you're left with, it's just yuck when you see someone so unhealthy. The Peggy we knew the last couple of years was a train wreck."

Peggy's passing brought out anger in her mom.

"I was mad at Peggy," Sue said. "When the doctor said there was 0 percent chance she would make it, I went straight to anger. I was mad for a good month, just fuming. That wasn't the Peggy I know. The Peggy I know, I'm not mad at her."

Sue said her daughter was an amazing woman who was great with crafts — when clean.

"Her kids were everything

to her," Sue said. "She was always all about doing craft projects with them. She was very creative and so crafty. It was terrible to take her to a place like Michael's, because you couldn't get her out of there. A card from her wasn't just a card. When she did birthday cards, she would do 3-D pop out things. It would be like a cityscape. She would sit there and make signs and cards for other people."

"Everything she did, she would do 110 percent," the mom added. "She was always about helping everyone and taking care of everyone else. She was a really good person when she was not clouded up by her demons."

Sue is sure the Peggy not clouded by the demons didn't want a tragic ending.

"She did not want to die," Sue said. "She wouldn't have put a gun to her head."

NEEDLE,

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recent years to see the number of requests for needle drop boxes grow, even within the more rural areas of Benton County.

"We go out and talk with some of the local town councils and pretty soon someone asks if they can get a drop box in their

area," he said.

While law enforcement can stem, at least temporarily, the tide of drugs available, Gray said the real resolutions come from seeing an addict not just as an addict but as a person.

"Addicts are not going to go away, they are our brothers our sisters, our mothers, our fathers. We can choose to ignore them or choose to engage them," Gray said.

FLAG,

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"I'd like to know how long its been toiling in their mind? How long had they had it? How long did it take between taking the flag and starting to feel some remorse over it? I want to know if they still have any connection to McNary? What about their guilt

prompted them to send it back?" Jespersen said.

And he's not giving up hope that the former student comes forward.

"It's so funny to have a former student who comes up and apologizes for the way they acted in class, but I just smile because they were 15 at the time and now they're off making their way in the world. I bet that this would be a similar situation," Jespersen said.

	<p>Sam Goesch Ins Agcy Inc 3975 River Road North Keizer, OR 97303 Web: SamGoesch.com Bus: 503-393-6252 1211999</p>	<p>Sam Goesch CLU, Agent</p> 
<p>State Farm, Bloomington, IL</p>		

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