



THE COST OF ADDICTION



Cally McFall and her son, Briggs.

The cost of addiction runs high.

It has affected every family and every aspect of our community. In this issue, the Community Voice begins an ongoing series of articles about the cost of addiction, from personal loss to its impact on tax dollars. Anyone with a story to tell who would like to part of a future article is encouraged to call editor Sharon Burton at 270-384-9454.

Mother suffers greatest cost in loss of daughter

Stacey Wilson knows the greatest cost of addiction – the loss of a child. Stacey’s daughter, Cally McFall, died Jan. 28 at the age of 23. Stacey still has trouble coming to terms with her loss, but she speaks out in hopes that she can help others. Cally started using marijuana as a teenager. Stacey believes Cally started taking prescription pills and became an active user around a year before her death. Cally had not “hit rock bottom,” a term often used when someone’s daily life has deteriorated completely because of drugs. She did, however, have an addiction and that addiction was affecting the decisions she was making. Cally missed a doctor’s appointment and couldn’t refill a prescription, so she bought some pills

illegally that turned out to be fentanyl. “She got a bad pill,” Stacey said. Stacey had tried to help Cally, even moving in with her at one point, and she had custody of Cally’s son, Briggs. But she stopped short of using a Kentucky law that forces someone with an addiction into a treatment program. “I had (the paperwork) already filled out, I had my timeline, all I had to do was file it. I didn’t do it,” Stacey said. Stacey wanted Cally to attend a doctor’s appointment she had scheduled for Briggs, so she put off filing the paperwork. Cally was found dead the morning of the scheduled appointment. Stacey says the problems started

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DRUG ABUSE COVERAGE CONTINUES
Casey’s Law. **HEALTH SECTION**

EXPO

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SOUTHERN CENTRAL KENTUCKY OUTDOOR EXPO
OUTDOOR SPORTS AND RECREATION

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Saturday, August 3, 2019 • 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Adair County High School, 10000 Hwy. 100, Columbia, Ky.

A supplement of the **ADAIR COUNTY COMMUNITY VOICE**

OUTDOOR EXPO

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SUMMER SHOPPING

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THE COST OF ADDICTION: System watching over children is overburdened

When Jennifer Russell appeared before Circuit Judge Judy Vance Murphy for final sentencing on the death of her 5-week-old son, Murphy expressed shock that Russell even left the hospital with her newborn child. “To be honest this court is appalled. I’ve been appalled from weeks ago, disgusted to know that this baby not only died with meth in his system but was born with meth in his system and the authorities sent him home with Ms. Russell,” Judge Murphy said. Russell was sentenced to nine and a half years in prison after entering an Alford plea of guilty. Commonwealth’s Attorney Brian Wright originally recommended six and half years but increased the recommendation after Russell missed two mandatory drug tests then tested positive for methamphetamine after appearing in court for sentencing on May 28. Russell’s son, Dakota De-

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THE COST OF ADDICTION Jails, courts overflow from drug offenses

The complications from our nation’s drug epidemic go deep. Obviously affecting users and their loved ones the most, its severity also disrupts many areas of local government. With law enforcement across the state training on how to do their part to tackle the crisis, judges and jailers now have to adjust to the growing population of drug-related criminals coming through their doors. The issues start many times as soon as some people step into the courtroom, as entering it doesn’t always mean there will be progress in a case. Adair County Circuit Judge Judy Vance Murphy explains that because of drug addiction, court caseloads have grown dramatically, resulting in the addition of two extra court days being added monthly in Adair and Casey counties. “One of the biggest problems we have is people come into the courtroom with drugs in their system,” said Murphy. “When they’re under the influence of drugs like that, they can’t make an intelligent and informed decision about a serious felony case.” Murphy said the court would revoke a defendant’s bond when they make a court appearance and test positive for drug use, which gives them a chance to become clean before returning to court. “When they come back to court they’ll be clean and clear headed so they can

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Thirteen women are sharing space in a four-bed cell at Adair County Regional Jail Tuesday. Every jail cell is over-crowded and inmates are flowing into the jail’s conference room. This is a regular occurrence due to increasing drug activity in Adair County and across the commonwealth.