

## Olney Enterprise

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## Drug addiction assistance in Olney

BY RONNI WALKER  
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Drug use across America is on the rise. Newspapers in Texas alone are saturated with drug-related headlines such as “Man sentenced for trafficking enough fentanyl to possibly kill nearly 6 million people...” There are reports of illegal drug use ranging from marijuana to heroin and more recently opioids, which is now referred to as a national health crisis as it takes the lives of approximately 115 people every day according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

In addition to the opioid epidemic, marijuana use has increased significantly, especially with the legalization for the medicinal use in 30 states; Oklahoma is the most recent state to approve medicinal use. Some reports reveal that Texas is not far behind getting onboard.

Currently, 1.8 million people are addicted to painkillers like Vicodin and Oxycontin, and this has become a growing concern in the U.S. coupled with Heroin abuse, that carries the fear of spreading diseases through the use of shared needles. Despite the increasing use of drugs, alcohol addiction remains at the top of the addiction list with more than 18 million suffering from alcohol-related illnesses in the U.S.

Considering the above concerns, it is relatively easy to see that substance abuse counseling is needed. Fortunately, Olney has resources to help. Olney Hamilton Hospital has opened the Helen Farabee Center, located at 1006 Arbor St. in Olney, Texas. The center’s mission is “to provide support, resources and opportunities to enable people with behavioral health issues and intellectual and developmental disabilities to live satisfying, responsible, and productive lives to the

fullest of their abilities.” Brad Fisk is the seasoned substance abuse counselor who will run the center. He is here on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. He said he realizes the need to have someone here more than once a week. However, he can refer people to Graham as needed. Fisk lived with his family in Young County in the mid-1970s. After graduating from Graham High School, he returned to Graham in 1992 to work for MHMR. Although he started working in treatment centers in Wichita Falls in the late 1980s and early 1990s, he was afforded the opportunity to work in his hometown Graham, Texas as a substance abuse counselor. “I worked at the Young County Mental Health Center from 1992 through 1996,” said Fisk who spent the last 20 years working at this substance abuse facility in several different capacities including substance abuse counselor, clinical supervisor and assistant program director for the most recent 10 years. Fisk discussed his goal for Olney. “My big goal is to help people who are suffering from addiction and helping reduce addiction in this community because I know how devastating it is to a community from all aspects. I want to be a part of that,” he said. “Having a local resource will relieve the stress on addicts who reside in Olney who had to travel to Graham for treatment previously. Sometimes they did not have transportation or money to buy gas to get there. It was a huge barrier for people.” Another barrier Fisk mentioned was a heavy caseload. He said in the early 1990s, he had a caseload close to 100 people, but he does not expect to have a large caseload in Olney. He noted caseloads are not that big anymore because the system

is organized differently; policies and procedures are more specific and treatment plans are more streamlined compared to previous years. “We are a 90-day outpatient treatment program. Before, some counselors would have open cases for five or more years. We don’t do that anymore. We treat people to get them better quickly,” Fisk said. Fisk said the treatment programs are designed to address medical, social and emotional issues. If someone needs medical detox, they assist with referring that person to a program that can help them. “We are not an inpatient treatment facility. As an outpatient treatment facility, we treat patients after they are detoxed,” Fisk said. “We are connected with Outreach Screening Assessment Referral (OSAR). If someone cannot pay, we connect them with the OSAR counselor who has access to many resources for payment options.” The treatment plan is typically for 90 days. Fisk said he is working with the local doctors to help people who are addicted to opioids. “The doctors are prescribing the necessary medication to help their patients withdraw from the opioids; then we provide the treatment,” Fisk said. “As far as I know, the doctors require that treatment is part of their policy to write the prescription.” According to the Drug Enforcement Administration

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Brad Fisk, a substance abuse counselor with decades of experience, will run the new Helen Farabee Center in Olney.

OLNEY ENTERPRISE PHOTO BY RONNI WALKER

(DEA), drug overdose deaths are now the leading cause of injury death in the U.S. Additional studies revealed that, in 2016 more Americans died due to opioid overdoses than car crashes. Though opioid addiction is a national crisis, Fisk said he believes Methamphetamine is the most abused drug in rural areas including Olney. He is thrilled that we have the House of Mercy as he is currently working with clients who reside there. “I think [The House of Mercy] is an excellent facility. I hope it continues,” Fisk said. Fisk encourages anyone who is struggling with addiction to reach out for help. “There is no shame in getting help. The shame comes when you need help, and you don’t reach out and get it. We all need help. We are all human beings. We are all broken in one way or another. There is definitely no shame in wanting and reaching out for help.”

## Looking Back

100 years ago: July 19, 1918

### Demand for Labor to Result in Nation-Wide Search

Every community will be combed for war workers. War industries are sort nearly 400,000 common laborers, and lack of workers in the coal-mining industry is imperiling all war production. There is also a serious shortage of skilled labor. One of the largest ammunition plants, turning out heavy caliber guns, is short 2,000 machinists. The war plants of Connecticut and Maryland are under-manned 35,000 machinists.

75 years ago: July 16, 1943

### Kathleen Marcell Chosen Princess for Coronation

When Miss Louise Allbritton, Hollywood movie star, visited in Wichita Falls, her home town, Saturday night, and was crowned cotton queen of the 307 Training Squadron’s cotton ball, Kathleen Marcell of Olney served as one of her seventeen princesses. The affair was held at Wichita Falls Boys Club.

50 years ago: July 18, 1968

### Coyote Gets Its Kicks By Just Being A Coyote

HARTLET—Some Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists found out that it is a good idea to have a scapegoat, or in this case, a scape-coyote, nearby when you irritate a mother.

The biologist spotted the coyotes while capture antelope fawns for examination. When they netted a particularly noisy fawn, its bleatings brought mama at full charge.

After striking out at biologists, nets, and anything else which, to her, looked menacing, the big female spotted the two coyotes who were watching, they thought, from a safe distance. The antelope gave chase and quickly caught one of the hapless critters, giving it a sharp powerhouse kick just on general principles.

25 years ago: July 22, 1993

### Police Investigate Theft of Gasoline “Stick”

Thieves have run out of anything to steal when they took the long stick used to measure gasoline in underground tanks at a local convenience store, according to police chief Cliff Blackstock. The theft was reported Friday.

Police investigated three minor accidents, one Friday on West Main, another Sunday at Main and Grand and a hit and run Monday on West Payne.

## Obituary Bradley Jack Parsons

Bradley Jack Parsons, age 56, son of Grover and Kay Parsons of Olney, Texas passed away at his home in Chickasha, Oklahoma, Sunday, July 8, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Brenda, and son, Collin of the home; two daughters, Corin of Norman, Oklahoma, and Tanaisha of Farmington, New Mexico. He is also survived by three sisters: Julie Thorton of Olney, Texas, Judie Sartor of Denison, Texas and Jennie Handke of Duncan, Oklahoma. Other survivors include aunt

and uncle, Judy and Larry Gandy of Olney, two nieces, five nephews, and several cousins.

He is the grandson of the late Elver and Analue Clinesmith of Levelland, Texas and the late Alfred and Mary Parsons of Seminole, Oklahoma.

Mr. Parsons was a former high school teacher at Pinon High School in Pinon, Arizona on the Navajo Indian Reservation. He was currently employed by Cummins, Inc. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The family requests



donations be made to the American Cancer Society. Memorial services are pending.

## Obituary Tracy Dirk Wade

Tracy Dirk Wade, age 54, passed away on Friday, July 6, 2018 in Wichita Falls, Texas. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, July 11, 2018, in the chapel of Lunn Funeral Home in Olney with Chad Edgington, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating, assisted by Scotte Clark, minister of Hamilton Street Church of Christ. Interment will follow in Restland Cemetery in Olney. Arrangements are under the direction of Lunn Funeral Home of Olney.

Dirk was born December 2, 1963 in Olney, Texas to Robert Conner Wade and Christine (Dixon) Wade. He graduated from Olney High School and followed his father in the florist business as owner of Robert’s Flowerland. He was a

lifetime resident of Olney and a member of the First Baptist Church. Dirk was a member of the Horizon Program and Kiros and was active in the community. Dirk loved his family and the fun times they shared. Dirk was preceded in death by his father, Robert C. Wade; a son, Brandon Carter; and a grandson, Alec Carter.

Survivors include his wife, Sudie Wade of Olney; one son, Gavin Wade of Wichita Falls; one daughter, Fallon Bowers and husband Andy of Olney; four grandchildren: Jaylee Carr, Bradi Carr, Cashton Bowers, Erin Fuentes; his mother, Christine Wade of Olney; two brothers, Donnie Cagle and wife Glenna of Olney, Randall Wade of Olney; one sister, Rhonda Ramsey and husband Richard of



Oklahoma, Texas; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. The family will receive visitors from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at Lunn Funeral Home. Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.lunnfuneralhome.com.