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Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith around," he says.

Jeff has staged talent shows for young people all over the world. In Boston, he was an international business attorney and developed contacts all over the world. "It turned out to be an opportunity to go to difficult places and create opportunities for young people. It turned out to be mostly art programs."

He did one in Haiti in conjunction with a group called the Turquoise Mountain Foundation from the British Isles.

"And we created like American Idol on line. We went there in 2008, 9 and 10 right after the earthquake and we ran contests. We were able to recruit a whole bunch of talented young people in Port Au Prince to show up for our contest. We got local judges and then I got a lot of young folks from Boston University to help. We had video equipment and recorded the top twenty people in the contest like American Idol and the local judges said these are the top ten. Then we went to Facebook. My young team figured out how to create the contest on line using Facebook tools. Thousands of people voted and a winner was selected. The winner was a young man named Juanito and we replicated that many times. The kid is famous now all over the east coast where Haitian immigrants live because his work was all over the place."

Jeff did art projects in Afghanistan where the US Army gave him protection.

"It was much more challenging there. We built incredible relationships but it was more of a learning experience than anything else. Probably the image that stays with me more than anything else is a grand piano in the middle of rubble in a torn up field and a young man playing Mozart as I'm walking by. It's very difficult for me to think about that these days. Youth all over the world just keep their hopes alive any way possible.

"In working with youth, it's always about finding the right relationships. Sometimes you can do it through the public setting but more often than not, it's through the private settings. There's a lot of private programs working with youth. We would be in these places a couple of weeks at most so we had to move quickly."

He is working with a program at Baylor called the Innovation Collaborative. It has a three-story building. Jeff and others want to fill it with innovative types of businesses. "I would love to see a digital story telling business there working with the Taylor Museum here and the city of Waco and the county."

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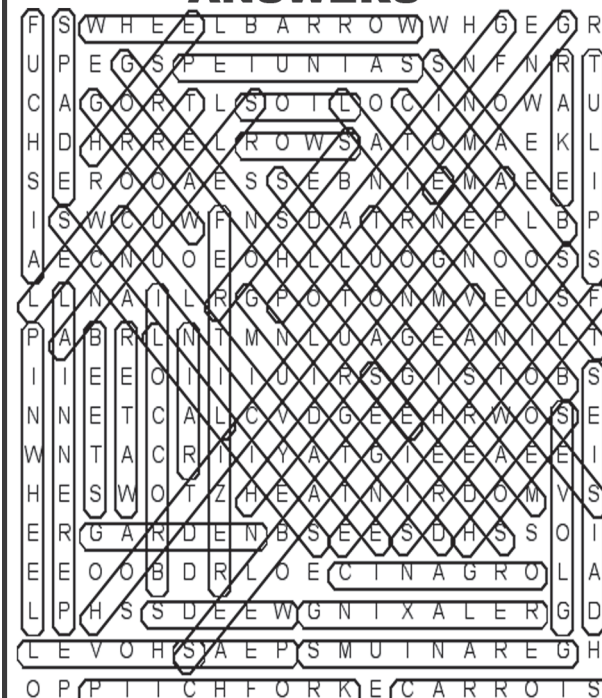
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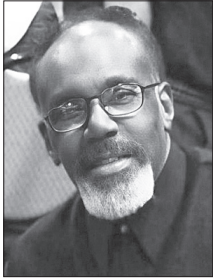
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Pastor Thomas Peters

May 13, 2025 — Homegoing Celebration for Pastor Thomas Peters will be held May 17, 2025.

Public Viewing: 11:00am until 12:50pm

Service Time: 1:00pm

Church Name: Cypress Baptist Center

Address: 901 Como St.

Sulphur Springs tx. 75482



Sarah Evonne Edwards

Sarah Evonne Edwards was born in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Billy Wayne Sr. and Cassie L. (Clayton) Edwards on November 9, 1972. She went to Lamar Elementary, Douglas Intermediate, and Sulphur Springs High School, and later graduated from Paris High School in 1993.

She gave her life to Christ at an early age at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of her late grandfather, Rev. Elgie Clayton, Sr. After moving to Paris, Texas in 1988, she became a member of the Hospitality Church of God in Christ under the leadership of Elder Benjamin Nickerson. As an adult and returning to Sulphur Springs, she joined the East Caney Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. M. Lavelle Hendricks. After the passing of her mother in 2016, she returned to Paris to live with her sister and was under watch care at Hospitality COGIC, presently under

the leadership of Elder John Flowers. She received her honorary Missionary license on February 5, 2006, from the East Caney Institute of Missionary Training. She sang in several gospel groups alongside her mother, and they sang for nursing homes, church programs, and musicals.

Her favorite song was "When I See Jesus, Amen." Her favorite saying was, "I am the oldest." Her favorite day of the year was her birthday, Nov. 9th, and she told everyone every day of the year. She loved God and followed Him with dedication. She read the Bible and talked to others about Jesus. Her smile and contagious spirit will be greatly missed.

Sarah is preceded in death by her parents, Billy W. Sr. and Cassie L. Edwards; her grandparents, Elgie Sr. and Cassie Mae (Lewis) Clayton, Willie B. and Ora Lee Edwards; brother, Daniel Clayton; nephew, Quinton Edwards; niece, Amaya Edwards; aunts, Cynthia Perry and Maggie Finnie; and uncles, Willie B. Edwards, Jr. and Willie James Brooks.

She is survived by her sister, Dr. Marian(James) Ellis of Paris, TX; brothers, Billy W. Edwards, Jr, of Grand Prairie, TX; John Edwards of Shreveport, LA; Byron Edwards of Sulphur Springs, TX, and Michael Edwards of Dallas, TX; aunts, Donna Washington, Teresa (Alton) Nelson; uncles, Jimmy Edwards, Vernon Clayton, Elgie (Bonnie) Clayton, Jr., Jerry Clayton, Paul Clayton; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

Visitation: Thursday May 15, 2025 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM West Oaks Funeral Home. Funeral Service: Friday May 16, 2025 11:00 AM St. Luke Baptist Church. Interment following funeral service: Friday May 16, 2025 St. Luke Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Tia Price Eddins

A private Graveside for Tia Price Eddins, age 48, of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held at Gafford Chapel Cemetery. Mrs. Eddins passed away on Thursday, May 8, 2025.

Tia Price Eddins was born on February 7, 1977 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Roger and Nan (Tatom) Price. She married David Eddins in Sulphur Springs on September 3, 2017. Tia worked as a nurse for several years, helped at the family Pawn Shop for 15 years, she was a Functional Nutrition Practitioner, and also worked at Fox and Fig. She was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Tia is survived by her husband, David Eddins of Sulphur Springs, Texas; daughter, Ally Gilstrap (Garrett and their children, Blaire and Brooklyn) of San Angelo, Texas; son, Andy Eddins of Sulphur Springs, Texas; son, Jase Kirkpatrick (Baylie) of Sulphur Springs, Texas; son, Jonah Kirkpatrick (Lexi) of Dallas, Texas; daughter, Ann Janae Kirkpatrick of Sulphur Springs, Texas; father, Roger Price of Sulphur Springs, Texas; brothers, Jay Price (Susannah); Clay Price (Juli); and Tate Price (Kobie); and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Nan Price.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a donation to the First Baptist Church — Nicaragua Fund at 116 Oak Avenue, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482 Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Lithium mining: a ‘Smackover’ the head for East Texas or the start of a new energy era?

By Nicole Kimball

There’s something beneath the feet of East Texans that keeps drawing people to the region. Some say it’s the healthy soil, others say it’s the charming people. Recently, energy companies across the United States have set their eyes on East Texas for a different reason: lithium.

East Texas sits in the prime seat of a geological area called the ‘Smackover Formation’. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Smackover Formation is “a relic of an ancient sea that left an extensive, porous, and permeable limestone geologic unit that extends under parts of Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. It dates to the Jurassic geological time period and is known for its rich deposits of oil and bromine. In recent years, the Smackover Formation has also gained attention for potential lithium in brines—high-salinity waters associated with deep salt deposits.”

This formation is around 2,000 feet deep in the northern parts, and 22,000 feet deep in southern regions. It was named after an Arkansas town where they first drilled and produced ‘Smackover Limestone’ in 1936.

Smackover Lithium is one of the companies interested in mining the lithium under East Texas. They’re a joint venture between Standard Lithium and Equinor, currently operating on the company’s flagship projects: the Southwest Arkansas Project and Phase 1A Project. According to Standard Lithium’s website, these are located in southern Arkansas, near the Louisiana border.

So what would these types of projects mean for East Texas? There has been equal push and pull for lithium mining, an outcry of concern about what this would do for the environment, people’s land, the economy, and more. Just like in any discourse about energy, there’s a list of pros and cons. Lithium is primarily mined for rechargeable batteries. This means that most electronics we use every day rely on lithium in some shape or form. The need for lithium has been slowly increasing as electric vehicles are also pushed on the market, due to it being more energy efficient. The USGS says that the U.S. relies on imports for more than 25% of its lithium and has a low-end estimate that the “five-million tons of lithium present in Smackover brines is also equivalent to more than nine times the International Energy Agency’s projection of global lithium demand for electric vehicles in 2030.”

Andy Robinson is the President of Standard Lithium and has a PhD in Geochemistry from the University of Bristol. He also has 20 years of experience as a geoscientist and worked on a range of projects in power and energy sectors in Europe, Africa, and in North and South America. We had a chance to speak with him about the process of lithium mining and its effects.

“Historically, there’s been two ways that lithium is mined,” Robinson explained. “There’s evaporation ponds— which are very, very large ponds and may cover hundreds and thousands of acres. They pump the brine to the surface and move it from pond to pond over several months. During that time period, they evaporate the water in those very large, very shallow ponds. It’s a very large, but low-energy input processing technique. You’re relying on the sun to do all the work for you, so it can take months.”

A study done by Columbia Climate School at Columbia University in New York stated, “To extract one ton of lithium requires about 500,000 liters of water, and can result in the poisoning of reservoirs and related health problems.”

Robinson explained why evaporation ponds are not the method they would choose for East Texas, “You literally need thousands of acres of flat ground to build evaporation ponds and that does not exist in East Texas or Southern Arkansas. And the climate does not allow for evaporation ponds. It’s humid in East Texas— the Gulf Coast in general. Evaporation rates are low and it rains. That’s why we need to use alternative technology.”

The other method of lithium mining is known as Direct Lithium Extraction (DLE). It does not require the giant evaporation ponds and, according to the International Lithium Association, the production has much lower water and carbon footprints, and the chances of damage to local water sources are considerably less.

Unlike the evaporation ponds, DLE uses various technologies to extract lithium from brine, and it is done so in a matter of hours or days. It is considered much more environmentally friendly due to the lower land and water requirements, and often achieves higher lithium recoveries.

“There are some well pads that are required, but it would be similar— in terms of a footprint— to a small oil and gas type operation,” Robinson said. He went on to explain this parallel, “At the core of what we do is that we have a fluid resource in the ground in a geological formation— very much the same as oil and gas. It’s just that our resource is salt water. We drill a small number of wells, exactly the same as oil and gas as well. Same rigs, same people, same technology. For all intents and purposes, it’s very similar to an oil and gas operation— except we don’t produce any hydrocarbons.”

Smackover Lithium has been working on getting a project started in East Texas for the past four years. Robinson said they’ve drilled three exploration wells in East Texas and they’re still calculating the data, but so far, they see “potentially world-class deposits”. Robinson also emphasized their thoughts for the people of East Texas, “We’re working with landowners and we’re very respectful of what land means to people in East Texas. The fact that so many of these ranches have been passed down for generations or a first-time landowner who has worked so hard to have that— we appreciate that kind of intrinsic value that the land has. We want to be conscious and careful by design to make sure we’re not disturbing any of the shallow surface groundwater aquifers.” While they are in talks with East Texas leaders, Robinson said they are still several years away from knowing exactly where mining infrastructure would go. In the future, they wish to discuss the project with the public, hold Q&A’s, and forums. In Southern Arkansas, Standard Lithium has been very community-involved by building a local workforce, helping workforce developmental programs at local colleges, and dedicated time and money to the K-12 STEM programs in schools around the area. “We want to earn the trust of the community because we want to be a part of the community,” Robinson said. “We’ve been very transparent in Southern Arkansas and we want to do the same thing in East Texas.”



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