

Opinions

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The next election is near

You have some important business coming up March 20th, 2021. That Saturday is the date for the Special Congressional Primary election to fill the vacancy in the 5th Congressional District. When Luke Letlow unexpectedly died of complications related to COVID-19, he was still five days from taking office. Letlow had been the previous Congressman Ralph Abraham's chief of staff.

If none of the twelve candidates running in this race gets more than 50% of the vote, the winner will be decided in the Special Congressional General Election scheduled for April 24th, 2021.

No doubt many will favor Mr. Letlow's widow, Julia Letlow, just because she is his widow. However, merely being the widow of the previous winner is a dubious qualification for so important a job. If she shares his values as claimed she could still be a good choice. She also has a Ph.D. in communication, a valuable asset for a politician, and she has traveled and worked with her late husband for the last eight years while he served with Abraham. This isn't her first rodeo.

The candidate who visited the Police Jury this last Thursday, February, 25th, 2021, is also a conservative. Sancha Smith is from Opelousas

and an ordained minister. When questioned in the Police Jury meeting, Smith came across as having very good conservative credentials. Smith opened her talk by emphasizing her commitment to economic development, and she also understood the need for assistance to grow in such a relatively poor parish as Catahoula. With 26% of our population below the Federal poverty level, one might expect a politician to stress the hand-outs but Smith focused on the hand up.

Smith showed herself to be at least worthy of consideration, vowing support for the Second Amendment, business, veterans, law enforcement, term limits, and also being pro-life from conception to natural death. That last campaign promise strikes at the evil heart of contemporary Leftism. No issue has been more divisive or more destructive of our Western Civilization than the more than sixty million children that have died from abortion since the Roe v. Wade decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973.

At any rate, this is another important election and considering the balance of power in the U.S. House of Representatives, Christian conservatives need all the help they can get wherever they can find it.

By: Leo Chapelle

An interesting side note to the situation in our 5th Congressional District is that it contains 24 parishes. That compares to only parts of 10 parishes in the gerrymandered 2nd Congressional District. Including most of the City of New Orleans, the 2nd Congressional District will also be choosing a representative on March 20th, 2021. Since all Congressional Districts have approximately the same number of people in them, that says something about how relatively densely populated the areas are in the two districts. My theory is that population density may impact political tendencies. Since Congressional District 2 candidates tend to favor the Democrat party (8 of 15), and of the District 5 candidates, only three of the twelve candidates are not from the Republican party (and just one of them is a Democrat), I think I may have a point.

The rest of the slightly delayed Police Jury meeting was typically brief, but Police Jury President Harold Sones was anxious that I should give credit to Ellis Boothe for using his office to obtain the drinking water distributed by the Town of Jonesville and the Police Jury. Mr. Boothe has always done his job well and I expect we are all much better off for that.



JEB Tales

The Great Freeze and Ice Storm of February 2021 and the Good Samaritans.

When the T.V. weather news predicted freezing weather, Shirley asked if all our outdoor faucets were wrapped? Of course, they were not. I put on winter clothes and went outside and wrapped them all at our home and went to Sargent Lake and reminded my three sisters to let their faucets drip.

On Saturday, the thirteenth the freeze arrived in earnest. No problem, we had natural gas for our cook stove and one space heater that Nathan Roark had given us. We started to let the indoor faucets drip still not too much to worry about.

Sunday morning snow, sleet, and freezing rain. The tree limbs are starting to droop. The powerlines are starting to be covered with ice and are starting to sag. I thought, well I do have an old generator in the barn that I better move by the house. Also, I had an old welding machine we could use to generate power if the generator would not work.

Monday, tree limbs are breaking, trees are falling, power poles are breaking, and power has been off for several hours and I cannot crank the danged old generator.

The good Samaritans arrive. Jackie and Nathan Roark crank the old generator and run extension cords to our outlets that operate some of our appliances. Sharon Terry calls and tells Shirley that she can not get her mother, Mrs. Madlon Chisum to answer her phone. I go check on Mrs. Madlon and she is okay. Her cell phone was in her car being charged. Also, I saw that a good Samaritan had already been there to check on her. Beau Melton had not only been there but was down the road checking on other people to see if he could help. Later when my old generator bites the dust he came and cranked our old welding machine to give us some power. Curtis and Nathan Roark had already hooked up and fueled up several generators in our community. The sheriff's deputies were calling to see if elderly people were okay. If they could not reach them by phone they tried to get to their homes and check on them. Also, the sheriff and deputies were out cutting trees off the road. Homeland Security Director, Ellis Boothe had already been checking on people and had secured bottled water and meals ready to eat (MRE's) from the national guard. The state highway workers were out by day light cutting trees off the roads. The police jury and their workers were out checking on people and trying to clear parish roads. I believe every police jury member showed up to get MRE's and water to take to their constituents. Ron Renfrow and Tony Ewing also helped distribute these items. (P.S.

Tony Ewing has a great restaurant in Aimwell.)

Probably those that worked the hardest were the workers of Concordia Electric. They were putting in sixteen hour shifts with no days off. Concordia Electric also called in other contractors to help clear and restore electricity. SLEMCO out of Lafayette were in the Enterprise area from before daylight to many hours into the night. I'm sure there were others in the area also. Others I saw out delivering food and water were Cleve and Deb Ainsworth, Melissa Sheppard, Blake Vinson, and Deb McCormack.

The limbs in our old oak trees are really popping. I am incredibly grateful that Scott Fuqua came last summer and cut the ten beautiful ninety-year-old oaks that surrounded our house.

Wednesday morning: Last night I was up three times putting gasoline into our old generator. It is still running but backfiring very loudly. The water is still running but John Tiser put on Facebook that a valve had burst on the north end of the water system and would be off shortly. We drew up a couple of buckets and called family members to do so.

Thursday: Old generator dies. Nathan brings his. It runs much quieter than mine and runs a lot longer on one tank of gas. The water is off, and the roads are extremely dangerous. We still can't take a bath, but it's only been five days. However, my wife thinks that is a very long time. Friday: Wife says I smell bad. Melts snow on cook stove for sponge bath. I take wife's cell phone to truck to recharge. Wife very grumpy without cell phone. Wife joins me in truck to get warm.

Nathan and Jackie check on us and Nathan says Curtis Dale made it to Winnsboro and back and the road is okay. Since we could not get to Columbia for Shirley's doctor's appointment she called and got an appointment in Winnsboro. We also planned to get groceries, medicine, and gasoline for the generator. However, when we got to Winnsboro, Walmart locked the doors just as I let Shirley out of the truck. We then went to her doctor's appointment. I went in to ask to use the restroom which was locked. The young lady smiled and said, "no water. But you can go behind the building." I did. When we had been to Wal Mart Shirley had spotted "Mustang Lucy's Restaurant". Since Lucy was from Aimwell and Eddie Ray Posey's granddaughter, we had to stop. Best decision we made all day. They had no water, but they were open. We were seated by a couple from Rayville. The lady was a nurse who had worked with Earnie Reeves and knew many of the people we knew. The man was a football coach who knew many of the people Shirley and I knew when we lived in Union Parish. However,

By John Ed Bartmess, Jr.

things really livened up when the coach asked us if we had ever eaten at a place by the Duty Ferry called "Jim Bowie's".

Saturday: Still no electricity. Curtis and Nathan Roark brought Curtis's generator which ran much quieter than mine and used much less gasoline. Went to Harrisonburg and bought gasoline and some food items at the dollar store.

Sunday: Still no electricity but Jackie brought our lunch and supper. Harrisonburg First Baptist Church had yard clean-up days for elderly people. Other churches were taking food and water to people.

Monday: Still no electricity. But some on Louisiana 124 had gotten it.

Tuesday: Most people in Enterprise have electricity but those on the side road did not.

Wednesday and Thursday: Some are still without electricity. I realize main roads must be done before the side roads with few houses can be done. However, these people without electricity are suffering. Some do not have butane, natural gas, or generators. I feel for them and pray for them.

Friday: Many of those on side roads have electricity! New Ouachita young deacons are helping clean up! What can we learn from the past two weeks experience? 1. Be more cooperative with the electric company 2. IF you see a pole leaning ten percent or more notify the company. 3. If the company needs to bush hog let them do it. 4. Don't rut up the right of way. 5. In other words try to be a good neighbor.

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