

Relyant says EBB will help make service affordable to households

Relyant Communications has announced that it is working to help build consumer awareness about the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB), a new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program. The temporary benefit will help to lower the cost of broadband service for eligible households during the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$3.2 billion Emergency Broadband Benefit program provides a temporary discount of up to \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households. A household is eligible if one member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or the FCC's Lifeline program;
- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income through job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020, and

the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers.

Emergency Broadband Benefit enrollment began on May 12, 2021. Eligible households can enroll through a participating broadband provider like Relyant Communications, or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) using an online or mail-in application.

Additional information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit is available at www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit, or by calling 833-511-0311 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. any day of the week.

Hice re-examines the events of Jan. 6

By Congressman Jody Hice

Throughout the past year's many tense, tumultuous and heart-wrenching moments, my constituents have consistently voiced their alarm over the deterioration of law and order in America.

Folks are justified in feeling concerned. Last year between May 25 (the date George Floyd was tragically killed) and July 31, a report found that there were 574 declared riots and over 2,000 law enforcement officers were injured. In all of 2020, 264 officers were killed, a dramatic 96% increase over the previous year.

As a Christian conservative, I have repeatedly spoken out in defense of law and order, and I have always strongly condemned the rise in politically motivated violence. Many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, meanwhile, stayed silent.

On January 6, 2021, this unrest reached the very heart of our nation's republic as rioters breached the U.S. Capitol and disrupted the certification of the Electoral College in a Joint Session of Congress. This tragedy hit home for all Members of Congress and could not be ignored – unlike the violence and destruction caused by Black Lives Matter and Antifa throughout the past year.

Unfortunately, rather than pursue a thoughtful and nuanced examination of January 6, this tragedy was immediately and aggressively politicized by Democrats and the mainstream media to attack former President Donald Trump and his 75 million supporters.

If you have any doubts about how hyper-partisan January 6 has become, my own experiences over the past week are worth considering. On May 12, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform held a hearing on the Capitol riot

to explore the many unanswered questions that continue to linger months later. During my opportunity to speak, I reviewed the timeline of January 6, highlighted previously misreported information on who lost their lives that day, and shared eyewitness testimony – all of which is well within the bounds of a normal investigative hearing. I encourage you to take a few moments to watch my statement in full.

Almost immediately after the hearing concluded, Democrats and liberal media outlets seized on snippets of my statement and alleged that I was "downplaying" or "whitewashing" the events of January 6. Even a quick effort to watch my entire statement would show that wasn't the case. In fact, I forcefully condemned the January 6 Capitol riot, just as I have all political violence. One Democrat even threatened to introduce a resolution to censure me for remarks in the hearing but has evidently had a change of heart – likely after taking the time to listen to my full statement and realizing everything I said was factual – as no such resolution has been brought forward.

Facts matter. January 6 was a horrific and tragic day, and we can never allow it to be repeated – and that requires a truthful examination of what occurred. To truly heal and bring Americans together, we cannot simply accept a prevailing emotionally charged narrative set in the immediate aftermath, and that remains essentially unchanged even as new facts continue to emerge.

The House considered H.R. 3233, the National Commission to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the United States Capitol Complex Act on Thursday, May 20. While I support the concept of an independent and bipartisan commission to add to the multiple

investigations already underway, I joined 175 fellow House Republicans in opposing the passage of this particular legislation, which has two fundamental flaws.

First, H.R. 3233 would establish a commission exclusively focused on the events of January 6, which I believe is a crucial mistake. One cannot view the Capitol riot in isolation as it is part of a larger escalation of political violence in America – dating at least as far back to the June 2017 shooting at the Republican Congressional Baseball practice and as recently as the deadly attack against Capitol Police on April 2, 2021. Frustratingly, Speaker Nancy Pelosi blocked the commission from being assigned a broader scope.

Second, Democrats have already proven themselves more than willing to politicize January 6. While the members of H.R. 3233's commission would be evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats, the staff of the commission – who inevitably play a significant role – would be selected by the Democratic chairman, not by both parties. I fear this will disproportionately skew the work of the commission and undermine a genuinely bipartisan investigation.

As you've likely heard me say before, America is facing a deep moral and spiritual crisis. Politically opportunistic gamesmanship will not help our nation. As H.R. 3233 moves to the United States Senate, I hope that this legislation's flaws will be corrected and enable a truthful and unbiased investigation into the January 6 U.S. Capitol riot – not used to score reckless and cheap points against political opponents.

Congressman Jody Hice (GA-10) serves as the Ranking Member of House Oversight's Subcommittee on Government Operations.

Stone Mountain Memorial Association Board pass resolutions to tone down parks imagery

By DAVE WILLIAMS
Capital News Beat Service

The state board that oversees Stone Mountain Park voted Monday, May 24 to tone down its Confederate imagery but stay in keeping with a state law prohibiting the removal of historic monuments from public property.

The Stone Mountain Memorial Association's Board of Directors passed four resolutions to give the giant carving of three Confederate leaders on the side of the mountain historic context with a museum exhibit to be located at the park's Memorial Hall.

The resolutions also call for relocating the Confederate flags that line the park's main walk-up trail to the base of the mountain, designing a new logo for the park and seeking national historic site designation for a covered bridge at the park designed and built by a Black contractor from Athens.

"By law, Stone Mountain Park is a Confederate memorial," Bill Stephens, the association's CEO and a former state senator, said following Monday's votes. "But there were things we could do to tell a complete story that's acceptable to the 3 million Georgians who come here every year."

The Stone Mountain carving was sculpted during the last century over a period of decades, a time that saw the rebirth of the

Ku Klux Klan at a 1915 gathering atop the mountain and the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court order desegregating schools.

The project was conceived during the Jim Crow era, when Confederate monuments sprang up across the South glorifying the "Lost Cause" of the Civil War as an honorable struggle for Southern independence rather than a fight to preserve slavery.

That interpretation of the war later fell into disfavor, particularly during the Civil Rights era and – more recently – during the protests against police brutality that spread across the nation last year following the murder of George Floyd, a Black man from Minneapolis, by a white police officer.

With Confederate statues toppling across the South, critics of Stone Mountain's depictions of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson have called for the carving to be removed.

Representatives of the Stone Mountain Action Coalition and other groups showed up at Monday's meeting with signs carrying messages including "Don't Celebrate Treason" and "Tell the Truth: Remove the Carvings."

Dennis Collard, a member of the Stone Mountain Action Coalition, said Stone Mountain Park is the wrong place to honor the Confederacy.

"This is not a battlefield. This is not a cemetery," he said. "People come here for recreation. ... It is time to stop pretending this place is about Civil War heritage."

But Grady Vickery, a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, said Stone Mountain is an appropriate place to remember the war dead.

"This carving is a monument," he said. "This carving is to stand for 80,000-and-some unknown soldiers who put it all on the line to go fight. ... That monument is for all of those who never came home."

Rev. Abraham Mosley, who took the reins recently as the association's first Black chairman, said there was no way the board could please everybody, given such polarized views on the park's purpose.

"We want to tell the whole story, the good, the bad and the ugly," he said. "History isn't good and pleasant to all of us. But it's history."

The proposed museum exhibit provided for in one of the resolutions approved on Monday will be developed by a seven-member advisory committee, to include members of the board as well as community leaders.

The board is due to adopt a design for a new logo by July 1.

The resolution calling for the Washington W. King Bridge to be designated a national historic site sets a goal



Garden club hosts annual plant sale

Plant enthusiasts turned out for the Pine Needle Garden Club's annual Plant Swap and Sale held Saturday, May 22, on the lawn next to Bell's Food Market.

SSO approved through June 2022

(continued from page 1)

lowed to serve meals through USDA's National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO), which is typically only available during the summer months. This option maintains the nutrition standards of the standard school meal programs – including a strong emphasis on providing fruits and vegetables, fluid milk, whole grains, and sensible calorie levels, while allowing schools to serve free meals to all children. In addition, schools that choose this option will receive higher-than-normal meal reimbursements for every meal they serve, which will support them in serving the most nutritious meals possible while managing increased costs associated with pandemic-related operational and supply chain challenges. This option also affords schools the financial flexibility to further customize their meal service design to fit their local needs.

"Students' success in the classroom goes hand in hand with their ability to access basic needs like healthy and nutritious meals," said Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "It's critical that our ef-

forts to reopen schools quickly and safely include programs that provide access to free, healthy meals for our most vulnerable students, particularly those whose communities have been hardest hit by the pandemic. This program will ensure more students, regardless of their educational setting, can access free, healthy meals as more schools reopen their doors for in-person learning."

USDA will continue to offer targeted meal pattern flexibility and technical assistance as needed. In addition, schools and both child and adult care institutions can continue providing breakfasts, lunches, and after school snacks in non-group settings at flexible meal times

Up to 12 million children are currently living in households where they may not always have enough to eat during the pandemic. During the past year, America's schools and childcare centers have provided a nutrition lifeline for children across the country, many of whom depend on USDA's child

nutrition programs for the nourishment they need to grow and thrive. Some kids rely on these programs for as many as three meals a day, underscoring how essential it is for USDA to empower schools and childcare centers to continue their dedicated efforts to serve healthy meals, safely.

Poland to speak

(continued from page 1)

November, skipping July. "We'll have this talk in the Pavilion, with plenty of room for social distancing and instead of our traditional desserts, we'll have pre-packaged snacks and bottled water and soft drinks. We might even have some Moon Pies," Edwards said.

There is no admission fee, however the Lincoln County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization and donations are gladly accepted. For more information, contact President Don Thomas at dpdstro@aol.com or Edwards at 757-831-9556.

Students can earn up to two credits in summer school

Lincoln County High School will offer summer school for those students who have failed courses and must retake those courses for credit. A maximum of two credits can be earned, and the first credit must be completed before beginning the second.

The cost is \$100 per credit which will be refunded upon the successful completion of the course by July 1.

Teachers will be available for assistance in each subject area.

Classes will be held 8 a.m.-1 p.m. June 9-11; June 15-17; June 22-24 and June 29-July 1 in the LCHS Medica Center.

Regular bus routes will run, and breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Students must return registration forms signed by a parent/guardian. For more information contact 706-359-3121.



Arthur gets certified

Lincoln County Elementary School pre-kindergarten teacher Elizabeth Arthur became a certified National Geographic Educator on May 14. This professional development program recognizes pre-K through 12th-grade educators who are committed to inspiring the next generation of explorers, conservationists, and changemakers. These educators are part of a powerful movement to make the world a better place by empowering students to be informed decision-makers equipped to solve meaningful challenges in their communities and beyond



LCMS tennis players take top spots

Lincoln County Middle School offered tennis as a sport this year thanks to the efforts of Coach Roy Lee Johnson. Forty-five students participated and were separated according to their experience in tennis. During a recent tournament held at the Lincoln County High School tennis court, Ryan Crite (top photo, left) and Johnathan Norman placed first in doubles playing on Team B and Brooklyn Seagraves (left) and Allie Drake placed first in doubles playing for Team A.