



Mike Cox
P. 2



Complete Works of Shakespeare
P. 5



Public
Notices

PP. 11-16

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THE GREATER COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN AREA'S LOCALLY OWNED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1963

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Welcome back spring sports!

By Josh Cruise

March is one of the more anticipated months on the calendar. Day light savings time arrives and offers more sunlight in the evening. Warmer temperatures are welcomed and allow for more outdoor activities and then there is the start of spring sports.

While there have been highly anticipated spring sport seasons in the past, there may not have been one as anticipated as this one because last year's was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Airport baseball coach Tim Perry, Cardinal Newman baseball coach Charles Assey, and Gray Collegiate boys soccer coach Kevin Heise have gone through the process of navigating their programs through the shutdown and instituting the protocols put in place as a



The 2021 spring sports season is underway for the South Carolina High School League. A.C. Floraz's Griggs Vinsant handled the ball while being defended by Brookland-Cayce's Philipp Ceremer during the 2020 season.

What dogs wish their humans understood



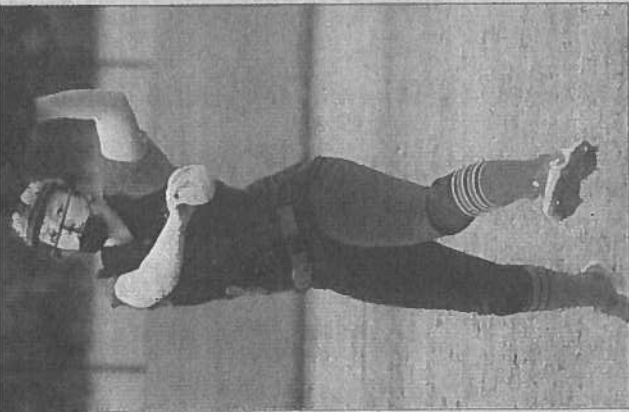
When a dog's behavior changes suddenly, it could be an indication that he is sick or in pain. This can happen when a dog gets older. This is Jane Walker's older dog.

Ridge Road residents clean up community



Photo by Phillip Jones

Frustrated with trash along Lower Richland Boulevard and Ridge Road, community residents take to the road to pick up litter that lines both sides of the road. Billy Sanders, a Ridge Road resident, organized a community litter pickup Sunday morning, March 7 while traffic was slow. The group picked up 40 bags of litter in only two tenths of a mile, ending at old Leesburg Road.



The 2021 spring sports season is underway for the South Carolina Independent School Association. Cardinal Newman's Ali Dulaney pitches against Ben Lippen during a game in 2020.

benefit his team as the school baseball coach, says he has never missed the playoffs during his time. He says Hammond is the team to beat, and he wants his team to be in position to challenge the Skyhawks in the postseason.

Perry wants his team to improve as the season progresses, hopefully hitting its stride in late May or early June. He hopes the team is able to make the playoffs and win the last game it plays.

Heise believes his team can win Region 3-2A and make a deep playoff run, with a shot at competing for a state championship.

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"It feels great after a year layoff to see the kids get some skill work in on excitement and to get back the baseball diamond. some type of normalcy." That continued with Perry said.

Most teams saw their 2020 season come to an end either March 12 or 13. The cancellation of coaches in a rather precarious position. They had to console seniors and their parents after losing their final seasons while helping the underclassmen navigate the lost season and subsequent offseason with hopes of returning to action.

"Every coach, every parent, anybody who had to go through the shut down last year was impacted," Heise said. "We'll always hurt for those seniors. It was a tragic ending for a lot of those kids to have their senior year ripped away from them."

All three coaches have seen varying degrees of impact from the pandemic. Heise said his players missed out on summer workouts and on the field during the summer. He said there is a noticeable difference between the players who around the outfield. Assey play-soccer year-round and those who may not have kicked a soccer ball since last March. Preparation was further impacted by the mandatory quarantine the team faced early in February.

Perry said some of his players were able to play summer baseball. Despite that, he has seen some mistakes he contributes to the long off.

Assey said his players were able to lift weights in week of the month, but the were able to lift weights in coach believes they will

Home and Garden 16

Classifieds 10
Public Notices 11-16

Pet Page 6
Sports 7, 11

News 4
Education/Events 5

STAR NEWS
On second thought 2
Business 3

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