

SC's top stimulus scams in 2020 returning soon

BY MATT BIASE
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Money from the new \$1.9 trillion stimulus package could start rolling out this week. It's one of the largest stimulus relief bills yet. It includes another cash infusion to help struggling Americans and businesses hit hard as the economic impact of COVID-19 plays out.

Now as vaccinations increase there is new optimism that it will soon be over. Lawmakers who voted for the recent package believe additional stimulus money will give a sturdy foundation to a new economy and create new opportunities.

But some people have a different idea about stimulus money — they want to steal it. And with millions soon spend-

ing fresh money, the opportunities will be endless for those using charm, creativity and deceit.

"These scammers are out there and they are taking advantage of the headlines," said Bailey Parker, Communications Director for the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA). "They are going to do whatever they can to separate you from your money or your private information."

There's always going to be scammers but now more than ever they are aware when potential victims may have some new money. Such was the case during the first two rounds of stimulus payments in March and December of 2020.

The SCDCA reports the three most common scams in South Carolina for 2020 were purchasing scams from on-



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line shopping, service and repair scams and the top reported scam was a crime and warrant scam.

"That means somebody calls and says there is a warrant out for your arrest or there is some sort of citation that you haven't paid and if you don't you're going to be thrown in jail," said Parker.

Locally there are numerous reports of scams, some are successful and some are not. Potential victims realize during the conversation with the scammer or while their way to purchase pre-paid gift cards, a common request by many swindlers, that things aren't on the up-and-up. While some people may seem easier to take advantage of, anyone can get caught.

"There is a stereotype that the person

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FILE

Dorchester County and the town of Summerville are spending \$300,000 each to support improvements to the John McKissick Field and Memorial Stadium. File

Historic Summerville football stadium getting a face lift

BY ROGER LEE
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The sights, sounds and thrills surrounding one of the state's most successful football programs will continue to be based in downtown Summerville.

For many local football fans there is no better way to spend a Friday night in the fall than under the bright lights of Summerville's Memorial Stadium. Located in the heart of the downtown area, the stadium has hosted Green Wave home games for decades.

"The things I remember the most are when we would run out before the games and our band would play the Rocky theme," Summerville coach Ian Rafferty, who played for the Green Wave in the early 1990s, said.

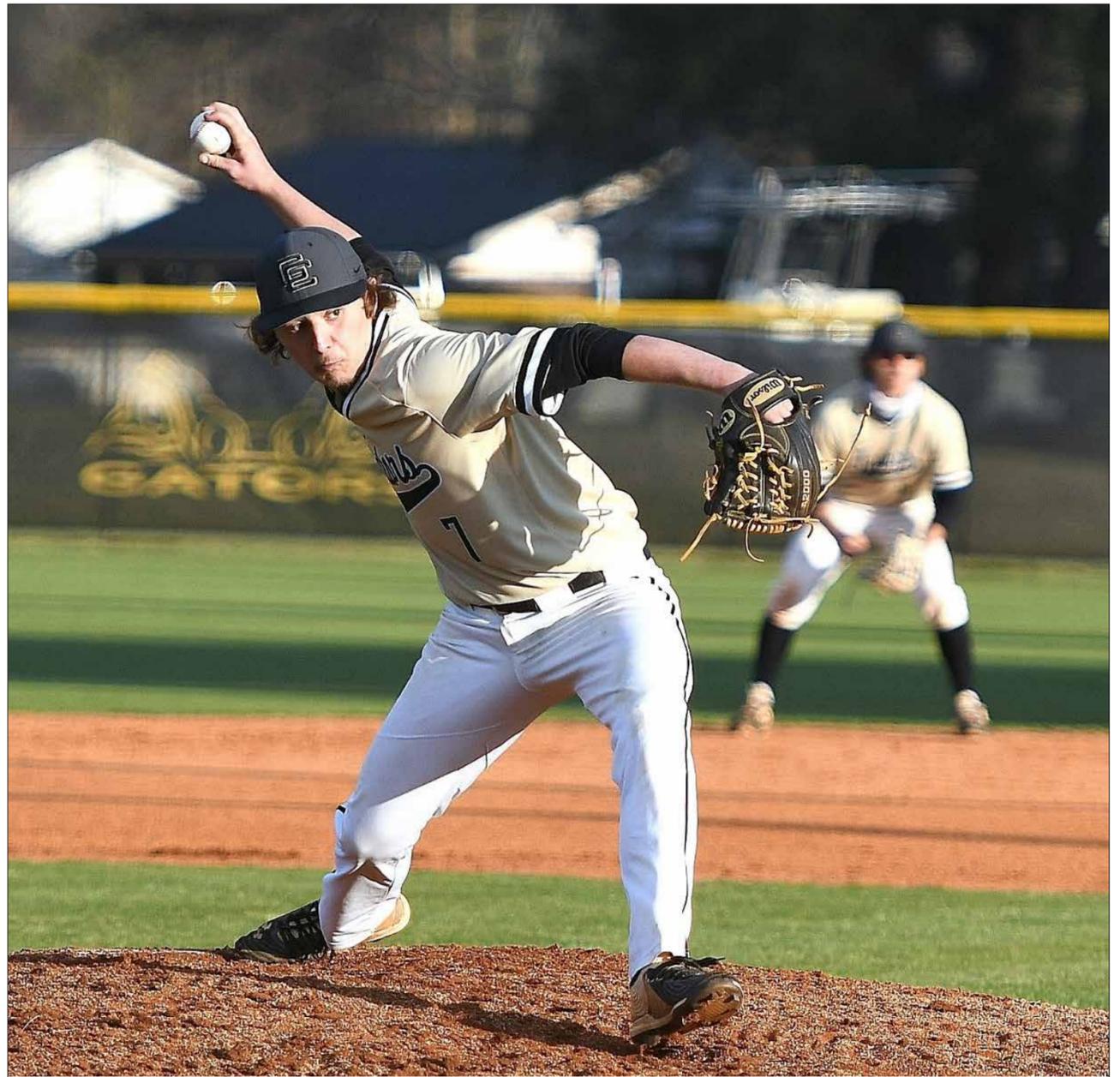
"We always got jacked up for that. Back then there were 6,000 to 8,000 people in these stands. At big games, the whole field would be lined with people standing. Those are the things you never forget. Just the community support and the people yelling and screaming for you was unbelievable."

It is a unique facility with a unique history. The stadium's cement bleachers and press box on the home side that tower over the field named in honor of legendary coach John McKissick and large trees draped with Spanish moss behind the visitors bleachers and one end zone give it character. Generations of athletes have played at the venue and were supported by generations of fans so the atmosphere at Memorial Stadium is hard to match.

"Coach McKissick coached several of my uncles and my dad," former Green Wave athlete Jimmy Tupper said. "I played here, my brothers played here and my cousins played here so there has basically been one of us every decade. One of my fondest memories from this place is of the game when Ian had four sacks in a row

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Batter up!



ROB GANTT/BERKELEY INDEPENDENT

Kaleb Hollifield pitches in an early game for GCHS.

It's spring and Goose Creek High School pitcher Kaleb Hollifield fires one toward the plate in a scrimmage against Hanahan High School on March 10 at GCHS. For more information on the Gators and Hawks as baseball season dawns, see Sports.

Summerville Communications awarded excellence by SC Press Association

Staff Report

Summerville Communications Inc. and its family of papers brought home several journalism awards given by the South Carolina Press Association.

News teams from across the state are awarded for top news writing, photo and video entries in multiple categories ranging from Investigative Reporting and Breaking News to Sports Photo and Humorous Photo, among others.

The Summerville Journal Scene, Goose Creek Gazette and Berkeley Independent secured eight total



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awards for work published in 2020.

Large Weeklies- First Place, General Excellence- Staff; Journal Scene Large Weeklies- Second Place, General Excellence- Staff: The Gazette

All Weekly- Second Place, Humor Column Writing- Julie Smith, Journal Scene: Scented masks leads to fond memories; Run and hide when gators come knocking; You know it's bad when the oyster crackers run out.

Large Weeklies- First Place, Photo Series or Photo Story- Joy Bonala, Journal Scene: Habitat for Humanity and Lowe's unite women during

International Women Build Week

Large Weeklies- Third Place, Series of Articles- Joy Bonala, Journal Scene: Tales of Valor

Large Weeklies- Third Place, Photo Series or Photo Story- Joy Bonala, Journal Scene: Summerville Miracle League Opening Day 2020

All Weekly- Second Place, Investigative Reporting- Matt Bise, Journal Scene: Carfax accuracy questioned in lawsuit playing out in Berkeley County

All Weekly- Second Place, News Video- Matt Bise, Journal Scene: Day two of protests in Summerville.

