

2021 Spring Preview – Andrew Jackson Volunteers

Ranked #4 in the State 2AA Pre-Season Poll by S.C. Baseball Coaches Association (SBCA), the Andrew Jackson Volunteers are looking forward to the start of the 2021 season after a 5-0 start last season ended abruptly due to COVID-19. After losing six (6) players to graduation Andrew Jackson is poised to continue its success with three (3) seniors and a talented group of underclassmen returning. Though young, the 2021 Volunteers will have experience with seven (7) starters and nine (9) lettermen returning.

The pitching staff will be young with only one (1) senior but still should prove to be a strength for the Volunteers in the Spring. On the mound the Volunteers will be led by Wake Forest commit **Kyle Percival** (Junior, 6' 5", LHP). The (DP) Palmetto Games Participant pitched 7 1/3 innings in last years shortened season posting a 0.00 ERA with (11) K's and (4) BB's. His mental toughness and willingness to complete at the highest level will be counted on in 2021. A newcomer to the Volunteers Baseball Program, College of Charleston commit **Ashton Phillips** (Junior, 6' 0", RHP) a (DP) and a Palmetto Games Participant will be relied upon heavily in the starting rotation. Phillips is coming off a tremendous season in the Diamond Prospects (DP) Fall League and has continued to follow that up with hard work in the weight room this fall/winter. All purpose "Swiss Army Knife" **Bry Neal** (Senior, 6' 0" RHP) will be counted on as a starter and reliever. Prior to the shortened season ending in 2020 Neal pitched (11) innings with a 1.09 ERA, (20) K's and (3) BB's. His leadership and experience will be invaluable to the team's success this spring. **Landon Peavy**, (Sophomore, 6' 0", RHP) and **Bryce Helms** (Junior, 6' 3", RHP) will be relied upon to pitch meaningful innings, during the season as starters and relievers. Other pitchers with the opportunity to "Step Up" and compete for Varsity innings include **Cameron Campbell** (Sophomore, 5' 10", RHP), **Joaquin Espinoza** (Sophomore, 5' 10", RHP), and **Hammond Wrenn** (Sophomore, 6' 0", RHP).

All Region performer and USC Salkehatchie commit **Gavin Phillips** (Senior) will return to handle the catching duties for the Volunteers. In last year's shortened season Phillips hit .385, had (6) RBI's, and drew (5) BB's. As a 4-year starter and 5-year letterman he serves as an anchor in the storm of the game. Without a doubt his toughness, experience, and competitive spirit will play a huge role in determining the Volunteers final destination. **Cameron Campbell** (Sophomore) will be looking to solidify his backup role behind the plate this Spring.

The defense should be another strength for Andrew Jackson in 2021 with more team speed and athleticism. First (1st) base will return experience and depth with **Kyle Percival** (Junior) who hit .429 with (4) RBI's in last year's shortened season and **Landon Williams** (Senior, 2-sport athlete). **Fuller Sims** (Sophomore 2-sport Athlete) and **Skyler Hegler** (8th Grade, 3-sport – Athlete) will provide solid depth and could compete for playing time.

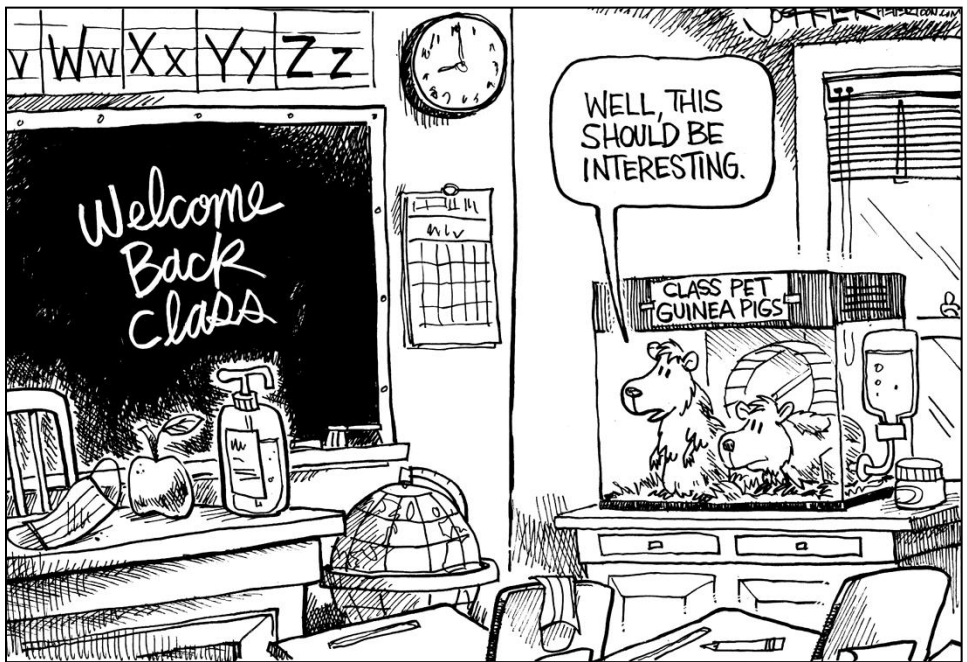
All purpose, 3-year starter **Bry Neal** (Senior) will help anchor the defense from third (3rd) base. When Neal is on the mound competition for playing time will be stiff between **Joaquin Espinoza** (Sophomore), **Skyler Hegler** (8th Grade), and **Cameron Campbell** (Sophomore).

The middle infield returns multi-talented **Landon Peavy** (Sophomore) at shortstop (SS). Peavy flashes a solid skill set with his bat speed, fielding ability, arm strength, and speed. This was evident with Peavy making the Diamond Prospect (DP) Fall League All Star Team and being named the Top Position Player Prospect in the 2023 Class at the 2020

Diamond Prospect (DP) Fall Showcase. Second (2nd) Base will come down to competition with returning starter **Andrew Taylor** (Sophomore) holding a slight edge over returning letterman **Joaquin Espinoza** (Sophomore) and newcomer **Will Rape** (Sophomore).

The Volunteers outfield will be led by Junior speedster **Bryce Helms** (2-sport Athlete). The junior hit .467 in the COVID-19 shortened season and stole 6 bases. Helms showcased his speed in winter conditioning running a 6.77 in the 60-yard dash. He is the ultimate team player that displays a tremendous work ethic, mental toughness, and the unwillingness to lose. **Ashton Phillips** (Junior) is the front runner for an outfield spot when not pitching. His bat speed, arm strength, and foot speed provide him with a distinct advantage. On the surface the other outfield position looks like a battle between senior **Landon Williams** (2-sport athlete) and **Hammond Wrenn** (Sophomore) Wrenn a three (3-sport athlete) has speed, a strong arm, and the ability to make good reads on the ball. Other outfielders that will make a push for playing time this Spring include **Cameron Campbell** (Sophomore) and **Banks Helms** (Freshman). To accomplish their team goals in 2021 the Volunteers must continue with their hard work, show improvement in the areas of base running, command of the strike zone by pitchers, situational hitting, and pitch recognition.

The Volunteers will be tested throughout the season beginning with tough scrimmages against South Pointe and York Comprehensive. The start of the Season begins with the Volunteers co-hosting the "Comporium Preseason Invitational" then participating in a Spring Break Tournament. A competitive Non-Region schedule against Camden, Robert E. Lee, and Indian Land coupled with playing in one of the toughest AA Regions in the state will prepare the Volunteers for the challenge of returning to the playoffs.



MBDA COVID-19 Project Hosts Webinar on PPP Round 2

Columbia, SC (February 8, 2021) – The MBDA COVID-19 Project invites all small business owners to participate in its free webinar, PPP Round 2 Update. This online event, scheduled for Tuesday, February 16th at 4 pm, is geared to small and minority-owned businesses. There will be special attention given to businesses with employees.

The CARES Act provides \$325 billion for small business relief. At least \$25 billion is being set aside for Second Draw PPP Loans to eligible borrowers. This event will discuss how to apply for the first and second rounds of the forgivable loans.

Speakers and topics include:
Matthew Cox, Smith Currie law firm – PPP Rules & Regulations
David Sharp, UP Community Fund – Tax Implications & How to Get Ready
Dominic Mjartan, OPTUS Bank – Bank Application Process & Pitfalls to Avoid that Delay Processing
Sandra Bell, Project Director of MBDA COVID-19 Project says, "Whether your business was profitable or not,

to grow in 2021, you need to have cash ready for everyday operations, to take advantage of new opportunities, and to combat unexpected risks.

If COVID-19 has taught us anything," she continues, "it's to expect the unexpected. That's why we are asking minority business owners, especially those who have experienced at least a 25 percent decrease in business, to join us to get more information on how the PPP loans can help sustain and even grow their business."

The webinar will provide comprehensive information about who qualifies, what is needed to apply, and acceptable uses of the funds.

To register, go to [columbiambdacenter.com](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_bN96GjnJQ2ibvIDL7nrcHg) or https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_bN96GjnJQ2ibvIDL7nrcHg

Letter to Editor

Members of the Kershaw News-Era team,

I hope you are staying safe & healthy in this new year!

I reach out to you today with a couple of requests/questions about a virtual event the Arras Foundation is co-hosting with MUSC Health – Lancaster Division on February 15th.

The Arras Foundation began a "Weekly Virtual Convening" in April of 2020 with hopes of: Bringing experts directly to the community to discuss issues and topic areas important to residents - especially those being impacted by the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Keeping the community con-

nected during these unprecedented times.

As our public health officials and medical professionals continue to fight this deadly disease and its new variants, we are partnering with MUSC Health – Lancaster Division to bring State Epidemiologist, Dr. Linda Bell, back to speak to our community (virtually) about the health crisis and to share the state-level perspective. She will be joined by local MUSC executives who will provide an update from the local level.

We would like to promote this event widely, with hopes of informing as many people of our region as possible, and we would love your help in sharing this public service announcement.

As stated, the event will happen on Monday, February 15 via Zoom. Before we publish, though, I would love your thoughts: What would be your recommendation on timing of promotion next week & what are the deadlines associated with that timing?

I appreciate your consideration & thought around this critical public health virtual event and look forward to speaking with you all!

Best,
Macy Whitener
Communications Coordinator
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www.ArrasFoundation.org

Obituaries

Patricia (Patsy) Morgan Ashley Columbia, SC (formerly of Kershaw)



Patricia (Patsy) Morgan Ashley entered Heaven's gates on December 23, 2020. She grew up in Kershaw, attended Flint Ridge Baptist Church and graduated from Kershaw High School. Patsy was the daughter of Lewis and Hattie Morgan, youngest sister to Annie Grace (Morgan) Young, Vivian (Morgan), Austin Charles Morgan, Charles Morgan, Dennis McManus, Carolyn (McManus) Phillips.

She loved spending time with her family, laughing, singing, shopping with her three girls, camping and riding around looking at Christmas lights. Every Saturday, she phoned her siblings to check on them and always ended the conversations with "I Love You." She loved having Facetime on her phone with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren - which she did OFTEN! Her life was focused on family, letting them know how much she loved them and that she prayed for each of them daily.

Patsy was known by many for being a Prayer Warrior. Her daily walk with Christ influenced

and inspired everyone's life she touched. She was described as loving, gracious, kind, soft spoken with a subtle strength. She was very active in her church, was servant to others, and spent time in nursing homes washing and styling hair for the resident ladies.

One of the strongest legacies was her unconditional love and service to family and those in need, which was witnessed by everyone around her. She was truly a light in a dark world, and one whose absence will be felt by many. She was laid to rest t New Hope Baptist Church Cemetery in Lancaster, SC.

Patsy leaves behind her husband, R.B. Ashley, three daughters and son-in-laws, 6 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Our Mom was OUR QUIET GIANT!

Thanks - Your Acts of Kindness Appreciated!!

My family and I thank everyone for the love and support shown Doris and me during her lengthy period of illness. Your acts of kindness, cards, prayers and phone calls were felt and very much appreciated. May God bless each of you.

In Christian Love,
Wade Hunter, Kershaw

Robert William Fulck, Sr. Cassatt, SC

Robert William Fulck, Sr., 43, of Cassatt, S.C., passed away, Monday, February 8, 2021, in McLeod Regional Medical Center, Florence, S.C. Born in Columbia, S.C., he was a son of James Ray Fulck, Sr. and Susan Marie Leonhard Miller. Mr. Fulck enjoyed, spending time with his children, working on cars, building and fishing.

Surviving are his children, Devante R. Lowery, Hailey Marie Langley (Michael), Robert William Fulck, Jr., John Thomas Fulck, Austin H. Fulck, and Harmony Campbell. Mr. Fulck is also survived by his two brothers; James Ray Fulck, Jr. (Michelle Lynne) and Randall George Combs, Jr. (Ruby).

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Leonhard; and his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fulck.



Marilyn Joyce Taylor Kennington Heath Springs, SC

Mrs. Marilyn Joyce Taylor Kennington, 87, of Heath Springs passed away Tuesday, February 2, 2021. She was born February 3, 1933 in Lancaster, a daughter of the late Guy Taylor and Mary Faulkenberry Taylor and was married to Robert Brock "Sonny" Kennington. Mrs. Kennington was an active member of Pleasant Plains Baptist Church.

A private graveside service to celebrate the life of Mrs. Kennington will be held Monday, February 8, 2021 with Rev. Todd Montgomery officiating.

Mrs. Kennington is survived by two sons, Robert

"George" Kennington of Heath Springs, and Michael Kennington (Teresa) of Kershaw; one daughter; Brenda Baxley of Marshville, NC; one brother, Tommy Taylor (Matrell) of Heath Springs; six grandchildren; Rob Baxley, Brock Kennington, Tracy Catoe, Bailey Kennington, Mica Blackmon and Sunni Kennington, and six great grandchildren. Mrs. Kennington was preceded in death by her parents and husband; two deceased brothers; Robert Taylor and Jimmy Taylor.

Notes to the family may be made at www.lancasterfuneralhome.com.

Lancaster Funeral Home & Cremation Service is serving the family of Mrs. Kennington.



Rep. Ralph Norman Selected as Ranking Member of Environment Subcommittee on House Oversight

Washington, D.C. – On Thursday, Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC), was selected as the ranking member of the Environment Subcommittee of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

The House Oversight Committee is the main investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Its purpose is to ensure the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the federal government and all its agencies. Among its five (5) subcommittees, the Environment Subcommittee has jurisdiction over federal action in environmental protection, energy policy, public lands, public health, endangered species, and air & water

quality. As the new ranking member of the Environment Subcommittee, Rep. Norman issued the following statement on Thursday:

"For both current and future generations, so much is at stake when it comes to our nation's environmental policies. That's why I'm honored to have been selected as the ranking member for the Environment Subcommittee on House Oversight, and look forward to the important work ahead of us during the 117th Congress."

Media inquiries for Rep. Norman should be directed to Austin Livingston at 803-833-0030.

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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FEBRUARY 14th

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