



Photo by John Clayton

**INVESTIGATION** — Investigators from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and the Laurens County Sheriff's Office look for causes of a fire that apparently killed Korey Cantell, 42, Wednesday night in the Youngs community.

## — Award —

(Continued from page 1)

Cook's impact on the department is greater, however, because of the way he got Smith involved at an impressionable age.

"Chuck was young and needed guidance and I think that's why Quincy called him, and since 2011 Chuck's been a pivotal part of our department," Pridgen said. "He's only 29 and didn't yet have a kid in the program."

Pridgen said Smith does so

much more than just coach the children in every sport, but he also checks with them about their studies, and makes sure they're staying on track.

Smith said it's all because of the lessons he learned from Quincy Cook.

"He was a loving, caring man and he was a very big piece of baseball season and I miss him," Smith said.

"I'm looking forward to serving this community because these kids need a father figure and I plan to

keep being there for them."

Smith and Pridgen both told stories of parents and students who still ask about Cook's families and express the continued loss.

"This has changed my life for the better," Smith said. "As long as I have breath in my body, I'm going to keep on helping support this community."

This will be the first of many volunteer awards because the parents and other volunteers are so important, Pridgen said.

## Couple killed in moped accident

By John Clayton  
Editor

A Clinton couple traveling on Torrington Road on Wednesday evening.

Aaron Bates, 34, and Brittney Redd, 31, both of Summit Street in Clinton, were pronounced dead at the scene of the accident just after 6:30 p.m. Both died of multiple blunt-force trauma, said Laurens County Deputy Coroner Vickie Check.

According to the South Carolina Highway Patrol, the moped was traveling west on Torrington Road when it was struck by a 2012 Nissan automobile, which was also trav-

eling westbound on Torrington Road near Piedmont Avenue in Clinton.

Neither of the victims was wearing a helmet, said SCLP Cpl. Justin Sutherland.

Sutherland said the accident is still under investigation, but no charges have been filed.

According to Redd's Facebook page, she was a 2006 graduate of Clinton

High School and worked at Señor Garcia's restaurant in Clinton. Bates was also a graduate of Clinton High School.

The deaths are the first two traffic-related fatalities in Laurens County this year. Last year, the county recorded 35 traffic- or vehicle-related fatalities, according to 2018 statistics released from the coroner's office.

## PC to host art exhibit

Presbyterian College will host the art exhibition, "The Idiosyncratic Pencil Resharpener" in the Elizabeth Stone Harper Gallery from Jan. 24 to Feb. 28.

"The Idiosyncratic Pencil Resharpener" is an experimental, "cross-platform" group exhibition, according to Ann Stoddard, gallery director and chief curator of the project.

The exhibition consists of original works transmitted digitally and presented as archival black and white prints. This will be the second iteration of the innovative and well-received "The Idiosyncratic Pencil" at Elizabeth Stone Harper Gallery in January and February 2018.

"The Idiosyncratic Pencil Resharpener" is both an "assessment and a dare, both a temperature reading of the moment and an invitation to entangle," Stoddard said.

The exhibit is inspired — variously and in part — by William Henry Fox Talbot's prescient 1844 "The Pencil of Nature"; the Dadaists; Ray Johnson's New York Correspondence School in the 1950s; Wallace Berman's "Semina"; and the Fluxus movement of the 1960s. Each is a radical break from past methods of art production.

"The Idiosyncratic Pencil Resharpener" is the contemporary artist's response to the whirlwind evolution and mutation of image-making in this topsy-turvy, post-internet, media-mad, and over-stimulated epoch," Stoddard said.

The gallery is located in the Harper Center for the Arts and is open noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, excluding holidays. Admission is free and open to the public.

## Opportunities throughout county celebrating life of MLK

By John Clayton and Judith Brown  
Staff Writers

With the nationwide celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, Jan. 21, several events are planned locally for community service and involvement, including the 42nd Annual Freedom Fund Banquet hosted by the Laurens County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on Saturday evening in Laurens.

The banquet is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday at the Springfield Baptist Church Life Center in Laurens. Brenda Murphy, president of the South Carolina NAACP, will serve as keynote speaker on the theme,

"Economic Sustainability Across the Community."

Murphy is the first woman elected as president of the state's NAACP, and this will be the first annual celebration under the county chapter's new leadership of Rev. David Kennedy.

Prior to that, the annual Sanders Middle School MLK Celebration opens with a Saturday morning parade at 10 a.m. starting at 337 N. Harper Street near the Laurens Post Office and taking about a one-mile route to Sanders Middle School. Pop-up shops and displays will be available starting at 10 a.m. in the Sanders gymnasium, and at noon the middle school winners of the essay contest, "I, Too, Have a Dream," will present their winning essays. Presented by the Sanders Class of 1965, classmate and Laurens City Council Member Sara Latimore will be the guest speaker.

On Monday, Presbyterian College classes are cancelled, and students from the liberal arts college are to spend part

of the day in various service opportunities throughout the community.

Then the public is invited to the annual MLK Day Convocation in Edmunds Hall, set for 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21.

The Rev. Dr. Leslie D. Callahan, the first female pastor of the historic St. Paul's Baptist Church in Philadelphia, will be the keynote speaker, and the theme for this year's program is "King's Beloved Community: How Do We Get There From Here?"

Events were to begin on Thursday evening at the inaugural Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical Competition, featuring Dist. 55 elementary students at the Laurens District 55 High School lecture theater. On Friday, representatives with AmeriCorps Upstate were set to do service work in Joanna at the Christ Central Mission Station.

See the Wednesday, Jan. 16 *The Laurens County Advertiser* for a full description of the various events celebrating the life of Dr. King.



Brenda Murphy

## Community invited to free concerts

The community is invited to visit the campus of Lander University and enjoy concerts and performances by our talented student musicians from the Department of Music. Make plans to join us for a musical adventure beginning at 8 p.m. on show nights in the Abney Cultural Center auditorium. All performances are free and open

to the public.

- Student Honors Recital – Monday, Jan. 28
- Piano Ensemble – Thursday, Feb. 21
- Wind Ensemble - Tuesday, Feb. 26
- Collage Concert - Tuesday, March 19
- University Singers - Thursday, April 11
- Chamber Strings -

- Tuesday, April 16
- Wind Ensemble - Thursday, April 18
- Jazz Ensemble - Tuesday, April 23

For more information, visit Lander online at [www.lander.edu](http://www.lander.edu) or call Lander's College of Arts and Humanities at 864-388-8323 during normal business hours.

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