

● SEPTEMBER 2025

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



# SRNS Today



## Framing 75 years

SRS exhibit captures past and present



**SCAN ME**

to connect with  
our social media

## This month

U.S. Air Force officials visit • Onboarding Nuclear Operators • College Night • Project Serve





**Jeff Griffin**  
SRNS President and CEO

**On the cover**

Winning entries from the Snap SRS photo contest are proudly displayed at the Aiken Center for the Arts now until Oct. 16.

# Welcome

to the September 2025 edition of

# SRNS Today

This month, we proudly celebrated the Site's 75th anniversary through the Snap SRS art contest, highlighting the creativity and pride of our workforce. The competition captured the beauty of the Site, local community and the science that drives our mission. Congratulations to all participants.

Recently, we also welcomed top U.S. Air Force officials, including Lieutenant General Andrew J. Gebara, Major General Jason Armagost and Brigadier General Michael Walters. Their visit included a tour of critical facilities and a town hall with employees, where they discussed leadership, mission readiness and the vital role the Site plays in national security.

SRTE, in collaboration with SRNS, modernized its process monitoring system at the H Area Old Manufacturing facility, replacing outdated equipment from the 1980s with a state-of-the-art, computer-based solution. This strengthens SRTE's ability to meet Department of Defense commitments and uphold its strong record of on-time mission delivery.

SRNS continues its support of education through CSRA College Night, which drew more than 5,400 attendees. Fifteen scholarships, totaling \$15,000, were awarded to high school seniors. Since 1993, the event has awarded more than \$400,000 in scholarships, helping the next generation achieve their goals.

Finally, we continue to move forward with construction activities for SRPPF—a cornerstone project to re-establish the nation's capability to produce plutonium pits. This effort strengthens our nation's nuclear deterrence and supports NNSA.

Thank you for your contributions to these critical missions.



Savannah River  
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS<sup>SM</sup>

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina. The SRNS corporate and community offices are located in the renovated 1912 "Old Post Office" building in Aiken. The primary initiatives of SRNS are national security, clean energy and environmental stewardship. SRNS Today is published monthly by SRNS Corporate Communications to inform our employees and other stakeholders of the company's operational- and community-related activities. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at 803.952.6131 or visit our website.

[savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com](http://savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com)

**COMMON ACRONYMS**

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS) • Department of Energy (DOE)  
Environmental Management (EM) • National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)  
Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP) • Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF)  
Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) • Central Savannah River Area (CSRA)  
science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)



# SRS hosts top U.S. Air Force officials

*Visit emphasizes key role SRS plays in supporting U.S. national defense*



U.S. Air Force officials tour SRTE at the Site.

SRS recently hosted a group of prominent defense leaders from the U.S. Air Force, including Lieutenant General Andrew J. Gebara, Major General Jason Armagost and Brigadier General Michael Walters.

Gebara serves as Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration at the U.S. Air Force Headquarters. Armagost is Commander of the Eighth Air Force and Joint-Global Strike Operations Center, while Walters serves as Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military Application at the NNSA.

The visit included: a tour of SRTE, PPOP Manufacturing Technology Center, SRPPF and other SRS facilities that play a vital role in U.S. defense program missions.

SRTE delivers the nation's only tritium supply for the nuclear stockpile, while SRPPF is part of the NNSA's two-site strategy for producing plutonium pits—a critical component of nuclear weapons—at the quantities needed for U.S. stockpile modernization.

Gebara and Walters also hosted a town hall meeting with Site employees, sharing their perspectives on leadership, mission readiness and the essential role SRS plays in supporting the nation's nuclear deterrent.

While addressing the SRS workforce, Walters remarked, “I’m overwhelmed—not just by the facilities and the mission here but by the work that you do, the dedication and sacrifice. You can see the amount of pride that everybody puts into their job. There’s no small job; every job here is critical to our national nuclear strategic deterrence.”

According to Jim Dawkins, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, “Lt. Gen. Gebara and Brig. Gen. Walters are some

of the nation's foremost leaders in critical defense areas. They bring a wealth of experience connecting strategic defense to everyday mission execution. It was an honor hosting these distinguished leaders at SRS and providing our employees the opportunity to hear firsthand how the valuable work they're performing every day strengthens the broader mission of national security.”

“The mission that this workforce is executing here at Savannah River remains one of the most critical enablers of our Enterprise's ambitious modernization efforts,” said Walters. “We're proud to entrust that with everyone in this room today.”

Gebara agreed, concluding, “Remember: there is nothing you are going to do in your professional life that's more important to our country—and frankly to the entire world—than what you're doing right now.”



SRS recently hosts a group of prominent defense leaders from the U.S. Air Force, including Lieutenant General Andrew J. Gebara, Major General Jason Armagost and Brigadier General Michael Walters.

# Responding to NNSA mission needs

Personnel shifts, housing and future infrastructure planning



SRNS employees construct the new NNSA executive suite, bringing enhanced coordination following the EM to NNSA transition.

After transitioning landlord responsibilities from EM to NNSA, SRNS is swiftly addressing critical infrastructure improvements, personnel shifts and housing developments to support mission demands. Central to these efforts is the SRPPF, which will produce the majority of plutonium pits for the NNSA.

“Our main goal is to provide an immediate strategy for revitalizing and modernizing site-wide infrastructure, which is crucial for NNSA’s mission success,” said Freddie Grimm, SRNS Senior Vice President, Strategic Planning and Integration. “SRS plans to hire thousands of employees over the next five years, including 2,100 roles for SRPPF. To meet these needs, our approach aligns strategic goals with Site development to ensure efficient resource allocation and mission support.”

To address the immediate housing challenge, SRNS implemented quick solutions such as temporary structures, while also laying the groundwork for future permanent facilities. This dual approach ensures that current needs are met urgently but with an eye towards long-term sustainability and growth.

“To support critical operations, more than 500 personnel were recently relocated to and from an off-site facility in Aiken, South Carolina,” said Jesse Cummings, SRNS Strategic Programs, Site Housing and Development Manager. “This year alone, our team constructed over 140 new cubicles in six different buildings across the Site. We also replaced 71 existing cubicles, which are essential for maintaining the efficiency of our operations.”

Demonstrating a commitment to advancing mission-critical projects, SRNS designed and built a new 320-seat trailer complex in F Area. SRNS is also repurposing the former B Area Star Pad to install the new Star Trailer Complex to encompass 12 modular office buildings, two parking areas and a tornado shelter, providing an additional 250 office spaces.

“Our Site is operating at over 100% capacity in most areas, including ‘trailer city,’” said Dean Van Pelt, Director, SRNS Strategic Programs.

“We work with the resources we have, utilizing and expanding current infrastructure and employing temporary structures to meet immediate needs; however, our goal is to secure additional funding to transition to permanent facilities in the future.”

SRNS is creating executive offices and cubicles to collocate NNSA Savannah River Field Office (SRFO) staff, thereby improving communication and collaboration among the NNSA SRFO, EM Field Office and SRNS. The new executive suite, scheduled for completion by October 2025, will act as a central hub for coordinated activities, ensuring seamless teamwork and enhancing the teams’ ability to manage critical national security missions effectively.

SRNS will continue to support Site housing expansion and is developing a 20- to 30-year Master Campus Plan to modernize site-wide infrastructure and establish a vision and roadmap to support the [NNSA Enterprise Blueprint](#) over the next several decades.

“These quick solutions were essential to accommodate the rapid influx of personnel and ensure mission continuity, but they are just the beginning,” said Grimm. “We are fully committed to a long-term vision that includes the development of modern, permanent facilities, which will support our growing workforce and enhance our mission capabilities for years to come.”



A rendering of future production support facilities



# SRS shares resources with INL

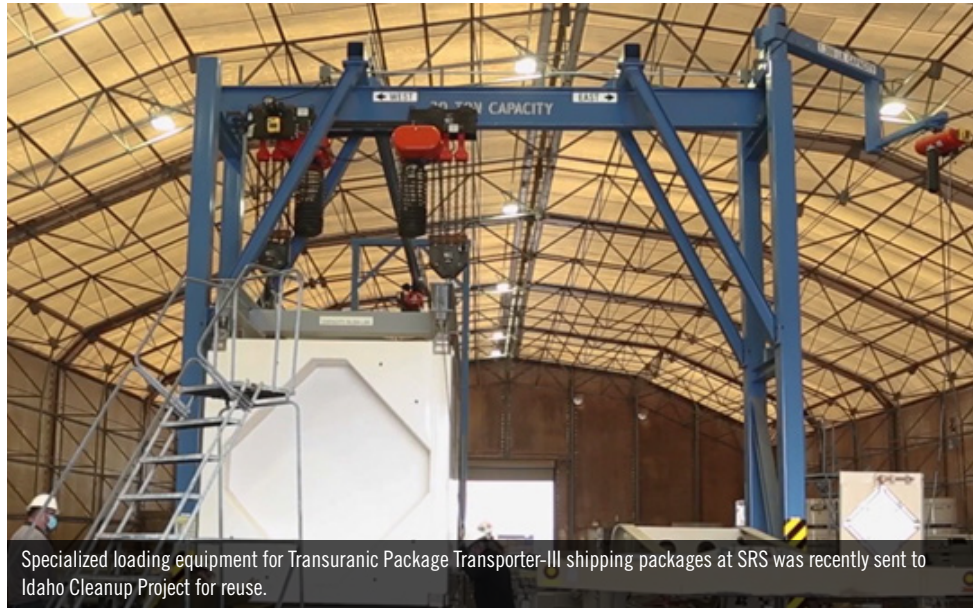
In spring of 2022, the final shipment of a specific type of container holding transuranic waste left SRS in a Transuranic Package Transporter-III (TRUPACT-III) shipping package en route to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) for permanent disposal.

Now, the equipment used to load those containers into TRUPACT-III shipping packages is finding a new home at the Idaho National Laboratory.

“This is a win-win,” said Kerri Crawford, SRNS Solid Waste Programs manager. “This transfer of equipment highlights how EM works to collaborate as an integrated organization. We are always looking for ways to be the best stewards we can with the resources we have.”

Crawford noted that most DOE sites use TRUPACT-IIs to ship their transuranic waste to WIPP.

“Until this point, SRS was the only site utilizing TRUPACT-IIIs, which are bigger than TRUPACT-IIs and allow for a larger waste container to be shipped. SRNS has made progress in transuranic waste shipments to WIPP and no longer needs the bigger casks. So, we offered the special loading equipment to other DOE sites for their use,” she said.



Specialized loading equipment for Transuranic Package Transporter-III shipping packages at SRS was recently sent to Idaho Cleanup Project for reuse.

TRUPACT-IIIs weigh approximately 50,000 pounds and are used to ship radioactive boxes. To load and transfer the containers to a truck for shipment, specialized loading equipment was created, both for lifting the boxes and to maintain shielding for the workers. The equipment SRS transferred to Idaho Cleanup Project (ICP) included hoists, support beams, lifting fixtures and a control board.

“SRS completed a total of 239 shipments using this equipment since initial startup in 2011,” said Crawford.

“As the largest volume shipper of transuranic waste to WIPP, this equipment, once it is placed into service, will give us an additional capability to remove waste from Idaho,” said Mark Henderson, Production Planning Manager for Idaho Environmental Coalition, ICP’s cleanup contractor.

## SRTE modernizes process monitoring system



The new system at H Area Old Manufacturing (HAOM)



The old system at HAOM

The SRNS SRTE, in collaboration with Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), recently completed a significant upgrade to a process monitoring system in its oldest processing facility—H Area Old Manufacturing (HAOM).

The original system, which had been in operation since the 1980s to monitor and operate the mission-critical Inert Loading Process, utilized outdated parts that could no longer be sourced or repaired. Upgrading to a more technologically advanced system was essential to ensure continuous operations at the facility in order to meet commitments to the Department of Defense.

“This has been a years-long project, with design beginning in 2023 and the installation phase kicking off in March of this year,” said SRTE HAOM Facility Manager Stephen Noel. “The new system is a state-of-the-art, computer-based solution that leverages sophisticated data acquisition hardware to read digital inputs from various processes and display real-time status conditions on digital screens.”

The monitoring system displays valve positions and alarm conditions during the essential loading process, thereby providing operators with a comprehensive and dynamic overview of the process’ operational status. This additional step ensures that SRTE continues its impeccable on-time delivery record to the Department of Defense.

“Completing this significant upgrade not only exemplifies SRTE’s commitment to staying ahead of obsolescence issues but also ensures operations remain safe and reliable,” continued Noel.

“Leveraging the combined expertise and resources of both SRTE and SRNL facilitated a seamless integration of the new system into HAOM’s operations.”

# Partnership drives pit production mission

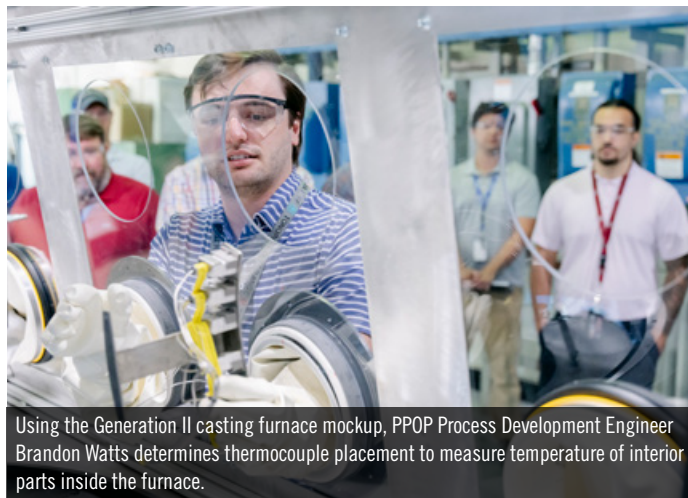
**S**RS continues to implement strategies for accelerating pit production and meeting NNSA requirements for strengthening stockpile capabilities in support of nuclear deterrence.

At the center of plutonium pit fabrication is the foundry process. Although induction furnace technology has existed for more than a century, designing a furnace to meet the unique challenges of a plutonium production environment such as the SRPPF is a complex task.

In partnership with SRNS PPOP and the SRPPF Project, technical personnel at the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) designed, delivered and tested a first-generation casting prototype furnace, allowing for validation of critical design features. A second-generation furnace integrates key design features from the original prototype and has been adapted for improved operability inside a glovebox. Modifications ensure the operator can use the furnace safely and reliably.

SRNS and SRNL are collaborating to create a physical mockup of the second-generation furnace, a partnership essential to providing the furnace fabricator with the necessary requirements and ensuring delivery of functional furnaces to the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center (HFTOC). The HFTOC will provide a non-nuclear environment for training and process development and will support operator certification and qualification, classified product development, readiness verification and product realization. Operators will then transition to the SRPPF Main Process Building, where pit production operations will take place.

“To ensure that a validated, ergonomic and reliable system is included in both the HFTOC and SRPPF, the SRNS/SRNL team is leading the charge for the furnace design and collaboration with the vendor,” said PPOP Process Development Engineer Brandon Watts.



Using the Generation II casting furnace mockup, PPOP Process Development Engineer Brandon Watts determines thermocouple placement to measure temperature of interior parts inside the furnace.

“We are pleased with the progress we’ve made so far to ensure operability, increased efficiency and mission acceleration to support SRPPF start-up.”

Under an SRNS-managed service level agreement, SRNL recently completed a third series of successful part castings. Completion of this casting series was four months ahead of schedule.

“This has been a team effort and is a great example of how we can put science to work and deliver creative solutions to complex problems in support of our defense missions,” said Devon McClane, SRNL Production Technology Manager. “It’s amazing what can be accomplished in a relatively short period of time when individuals with the right set of expertise, across SRNL and SRNS, are brought together, and everyone works in tandem to achieve a common goal.”



A team of personnel representing SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs, SRPPF Design Authority, Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) Plutonium Technology, SRNL Advanced Engineering, the NNSA, and Merrick & Company are contributing to casting furnace advancements to accelerate the SRS pit production mission.



# 75th Anniversary video wins Telly Award

Celebrating the 75-year legacy of SRS, the SRNS Communications and Media Services Department has earned a prestigious recognition among video production professionals. The SRS 75th Anniversary video earned the Silver Telly Award in the non-broadcast corporate image category during the 46th Annual Telly Awards.

The SRNS team competed alongside high-profile industry names such as JP Morgan, IBM, PBS and over 13,000 other companies that made submissions. Each year, the Telly Awards operate under a specific theme. This year's theme was "Stories Take Shape." In line with that theme, Media Services displayed the importance of the organization's mission of nuclear deterrence, the employees who support it and the community that has grown around the rich safety culture at the Site.

"SRNS Media Services is a remarkably talented team," said Dawn Haygood, SRNS Director, Office of the President and Corporate Communications. "They consistently deliver high-end products that tell the stories of SRS in an effective, understandable way. They are all dedicated to their craft, and that shows in their productions."

Media Services employees who assisted in the production of the 75th Anniversary video include Nathan Lester, Brad Bohr, Laura Russo, James "Lj" Gay, Walter Ray, Justin Crawford and Chance Briley. SRNS Corporate Communications writer Mackenzie McNabb also aided as a scriptwriter for the production.

Media Services has previously won two other Telly Awards in 2021: one Gold Telly for the "SRS Overview" in the corporate image category and one Bronze Telly for "SRNS Now: September 2020" in the non-broadcast, employee communications category.



The SRNS Media Services team all assisted in bringing the 75th Anniversary video to life, earning the production a Telly Award. Chance Briley, Mackenzie McNabb, Brad Bohr, Nathan Lester, Walter Ray, Laura Russo and Justin Crawford. Not pictured: James "Lj" Gay.



## WATCH THE VIDEO:

Go to the SRS YouTube channel and search for "SRS 75th anniversary"

## Training simulator renovation

A new training tool will soon be available to personnel at SRS. The renovation of a "hands-on" training simulator at Building 766-H provides incoming Commissioning and Test Engineers, as well as Maintenance personnel, with an enhanced educational opportunity.

Originally used to simulate H Canyon for classroom training in engineering and maintenance, the now renovated trainer includes modern updates such as an Allen-Bradley Compact Programmable Logic Controller and a PanelView 5000 Human Machine Interface. These updates enable realistic system simulation and control via a touchscreen.

The renovation allows trainees to gain practical experience using real-world equipment by simulating an operational system in a low-risk environment. The trainer's new capabilities include using instrumentation and controls like level transducers and thermocouples to monitor and control fluid levels and temperatures within four tanks, facilitating cross-disciplinary understanding among mechanical, electrical, and instrumentation and controls engineering fields.

The hands-on trainer will initially be used to train Commissioning and Test Engineers and demonstrate implementation of the 5E Commissioning/Test Program, in addition to reinforcement of Human Performance Indicator tools, Engineering fundamentals, Configuration Management, and issue investigation.



Engineering's Lance Durden showcases the tank simulation of the 766-H trainer.

"This can be used by anybody on the Site," said Lance Durden of SRNS Commissioning and Test Services. "This is a great training tool, not only for our engineering team, but also maintenance, or even procedure writers for their orders as well. Everyone can get a visual on how they're supporting our missions."

This integration into training is expected to augment the preparedness of personnel for field situations at a significantly reduced cost of \$40,000, as compared to an estimated \$1 million for a new trainer from an external vendor. This effort not only made efficient use of existing resources but also provided flexibility to incorporate adaptable training scenarios.



# Framing the past and present

## SRS goes *Beyond the Barricade* with art exhibition

**AFTER** a four-year hiatus, the site-wide photo contest, Snap SRS, returned to help celebrate the Site's 75 years of service to the nation. Employees were invited to express their creativity by capturing the essence of SRS and the surrounding area the Site calls home.

All SRS personnel had the opportunity to submit their original artwork in the following three categories: Images Captured at SRS, Local Scenery and Science as Art. A panel of judges representing each major site entity reviewed the 135 submissions and selected 30 winning images, 10 from each category.

These judges were shown anonymous contest entries. An additional five images were also selected as honorable mentions.

The top 30 winners participated in an additional contest—the People's Choice Awards. In emails sent through SRS Employee Communications, 1,647 employees cast their votes for their favorite artwork in each category. Savannah River Mission Completion employee James Lee received the People's Choice Awards for the Science as Art category. SRNS employee Krikor Yemenjian received the People's Choice Awards for both the Images Captured at SRS and Local Scenery categories.

On September 18, SRS hosted a special reception at the Aiken Center for the Arts. All SRS employees were invited, along with their friends and family, to join the celebration.

NNSA Savannah River Field Office Manager Michael Mikolanis presented remarks that not only congratulated Snap SRS winners but also highlighted the Site's innovation in nuclear nonproliferation, national security and environmental stewardship.

"The exhibit was a wonderful way to showcase both the history and creativity of the Site's employees," said Mikolanis. "It was truly inspiring to see SRS' rich legacy and current efforts reflected through the lens of those who contribute to it every day."

"We were so pleased with the incredible turnout at the Snap SRS gallery reception," said 75th Anniversary Committee Lead and Workforce Services and Talent Management Communications Advisor Jessica Hall. "It was

inspiring to see our employees, retirees and community members come together under one roof to celebrate not only the creativity of today's employees but also the rich history that brought us here. This milestone is about more than looking back—it's about recognizing the strong connections that make our Site what it is."

Snap SRS photos will be on display at the Aiken Center for the Arts as part of the *Beyond the Barricade* exhibition until October 16. This special exhibition honors the legacy and ongoing impact of SRS on our region and nation, giving visitors a glimpse of the Site's past and present.



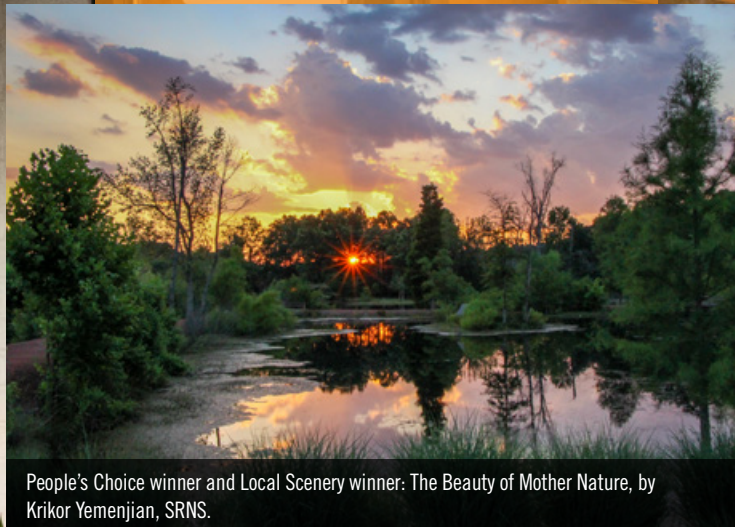
During the reception at the Aiken Center for the Arts, NNSA Savannah River Field Office Manager Michael Mikolanis celebrates the accomplishments of Snap SRS photo contest winners and the success of the Site's 75-year legacy.



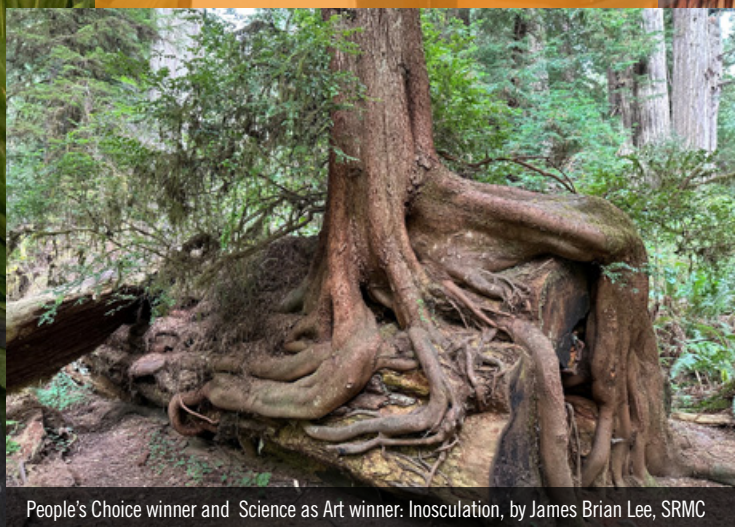
# SNAP SRS



People's Choice winner and Images Captured at SRS winner: The Beauty of Nature at SRS, by Krikor Yemenjian, SRNS.



People's Choice winner and Local Scenery winner: The Beauty of Mother Nature, by Krikor Yemenjian, SRNS.



People's Choice winner and Science as Art winner: Inosculation, by James Brian Lee, SRMC

Additional winning art is on display at Aiken Center for the Arts, 122 Laurens St. SW. Winners list and more at [savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com/snapsrs](http://savannahrivernuclearsolutions.com/snapsrs)

AIKEN CENTER for the ARTS

SEPTEMBER CLASSES

Guitar - Mondays  
 Pottery - Tuesdays  
 Pastel - Sat 9/20  
 Alcohol Ink - Sat 9/27  
 Experimental Art - Tuesdays  
 Oil Painting -  
 Studio - Mondays + Thursdays  
 Class - Thursdays p.m.  
 Horses in Action - Thursdays  
 Exotic Birds - Wednesdays  
 Watercolor Painting - Sept. 13  
 Watercolor - Wednesdays







## SNL partnership improves production modernization

SRNS is leading the charge to enhance the Site's production modernization capabilities and meet NNSA mission requirements, including enhancing collaboration with other Labs, Plants and Sites within the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE).

SRNS PPOP recently hosted a collaboration visit with Laura McGill, Director of Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), and Christine Mitchell, Senior Manager and Digital Transformation (DT) Program Lead, highlighting SRNS efforts to support NNSA modern manufacturing initiatives and promote collaboration across the NSE.

"We are invested in strengthening partnerships with Sandia, whose production experts can provide valuable insights into how our digital ecosystem is configured," said Scott Pardue, PPOP Production Modernization Manager. "As an expanding production agency, SRS can leverage several of the technologies and processes being developed at SNL."

SNL is a leader in NNSA's DT efforts, establishing the DT Senior Steering Group, which facilitates enterprise-wide collaboration to implement DT initiatives and support future weapons programs.

"Laura and Cristine's leadership reflects the values we strive for—assurance, innovation and accelerating product realization," said Bruce Page, SRNS Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer. "This visit underscored our shared mission and the importance of advancing DT from an NSE perspective."

During the visit, PPOP personnel demonstrated new technology in the Manufacturing Technology Center and the High-Fidelity Training and Operations Center, two facilities that will be used for developing operator skills and competencies in preparation for standing up SRPPF operations.

"We thank the SRS leadership and team for an outstanding visit," said McGill. "We learned even more about the exceptional efforts that are underway to prepare for future work with embedded digital engineering capabilities. The progress is impressive and well-aligned with the NSE's DT plans. We look forward to ongoing partnership to advance capabilities for the entire enterprise."

"SRS must act as a forcing function to embrace NSE advancements," said Pardue. "The connections made during this visit are already paying off as we champion new collaboration opportunities with our SNL and NNSA partners to ensure enterprise-wide success."

## University engagements support pit mission

SRNS is bolstering existing partnerships with regional universities in support of technology and personnel pipeline development to advance NNSA's two-site pit production mission.

Heather Wilson, President of The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), recently visited SRS to explore future collaborations in support of SRS pit production. Hosted by SRNS Pit Production Operations and Programs (PPOP), the discussions focused on enhancing SRNS' footprint on regional college campuses like UTEP—one of the few universities in the U.S. with a metallurgy program—that can accelerate pit production.

"As SRS looks to establish the capabilities and staffing for future SRPPF operations, identifying students with these critical and often specialized skillsets is key," said Matt Biasiny, PPOP Production Enterprise Services Director. "In addition to local academic institutions, partnering with regional universities like UTEP allows a strategic advantage to accelerate vital national security missions."

Wilson and SRNS leaders discussed strategies for recruiting, developing curriculum, research, and engaging undergraduate students in defense program missions, such as initiating the security clearance process for students conducting pit-related research in partnership with Labs, Plants and Sites (LPS) like SRS.

"We are focused on strategic partnerships with LPS," said Wilson. "These are ideal collaboration opportunities offering long-term alignment and commitment. It makes sense to build these partnerships with research sponsors that have a need for talent and have long-term missions."

SRNS is already benefiting from these strategies. Sarah Leon is a recent UTEP graduate whose unique experiences and background as a bench jeweler made her an ideal fit in her role as a Scientist in the PPOP Material Characterization group. She was recruited at a 2024 UTEP career fair attended by SRNS.

"I have had an exceptional experience settling into the PPOP group, from inquiring about SRNS to relocating," she said. "There are many great aspects of SRNS, but the best one is the people. The kindness I have experienced here is deeply appreciated."



SRNS hosted Heather Wilson, President of The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) (front row, third from right), to explore future SRNS/UTEP collaborations in support of SRS pit production.





SRNS employees worked on fencing and yardwork at Heritage Academy in support of the United Way's Project Serve.

# Lending a hand

## SRNS gives back through Project Serve

Approximately 60 SRNS employees volunteered a day of service to benefit United Way agencies across the area, as a part of the CSRA Project Serve Day of Caring.

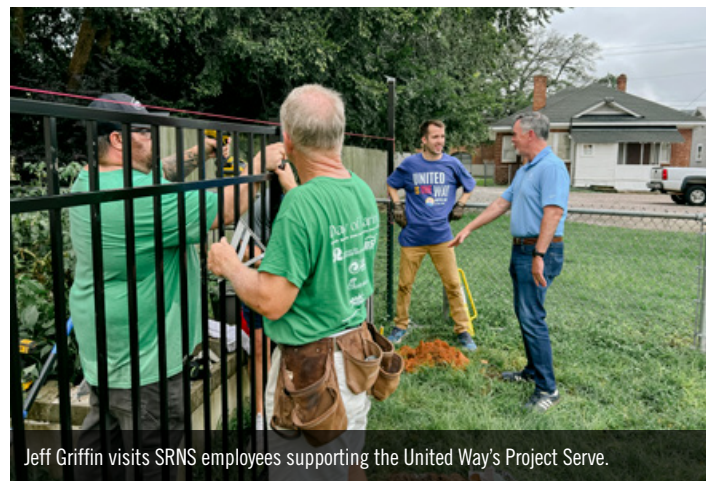
SRNS employees worked across six different worksites to accomplish a variety of tasks associated with maintenance, beautification and repair efforts. These projects ranged from mulch and railing construction at Heritage Academy to dock repairs at the Robert E. Knox Scout Reservation in Lincoln County.

While visiting the sites, organizers, such as SRTE Area Operations Manager Kevin Cross, observed that volunteers maintained safety while providing needed services.

"Year after year, our volunteers from SRNS offer their time and talents to help United Way partner agencies in many ways," stated Cross. "Our employees have a desire to give back and lend a helping hand."

SRNS Project Operations Coordinator Luke Mondeel served in a leadership role during the campaign for the first time this year. He says working alongside the United Way nonprofit agencies and volunteers from the Site gave him a new perspective on the impact SRNS can make locally.

"These agencies often don't have time or resources to spare, so our work during Project Serve takes the weight off their shoulders and lets them focus on helping those in need," said Mondeel.



Jeff Griffin visits SRNS employees supporting the United Way's Project Serve.

Volunteers from SRNS worked at these sites:

- Murphy-Harpst Evolve Homes
- Family YMCA of Greater Augusta
- Georgia-Carolina Council of Scouting America Nature and Adventure Center
- Heritage Academy (Augusta)
- Georgia-Carolina Council's Madeline Drive office
- Fisher House (Lincolnton, Evans)

With over 20% of Project Serve volunteers being from SRNS, partners from the United Way say working with SRNS shows how the power of people who are united in service can transform lives and strengthen the community.





## Fueling the nuclear workforce: Onboarding 10 Nuclear Operators

The Site is further enhancing its nuclear workforce with the recognition of 10 graduates from the SRNS Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship Program. These graduates were honored at a ceremony held at Denmark Technical College (DTC), marking the commencement of their careers as fully qualified nuclear operators for SRTE.

After receiving eight months of combined classroom instruction and paid on-the-job training with experienced senior operators, the graduates successfully completed the SRNS Nuclear Operator Program, earning their Nuclear Fundamental Technology certificate from DTC and a nationally recognized, portable credential from the U.S. Department of Labor.

During the graduation ceremony, graduate Caelan Postell shared his experiences from the program. He recounted the challenges he faced and the skills he developed throughout the eight-month journey. He also highlighted the support and mentorship he received along the way.

"I want to thank the apprenticeship program for giving us this opportunity," said Postell. "Not only did you give us a job, but you also gave us a career."

Preparing the nation's only tritium supply, SRTE provides a unique work experience for these new operators, requiring them to assume crucial nuclear responsibilities.

"The graduates are now equipped not only with the foundational skills necessary to become world class operators but also with a profound understanding of the strategic importance of their roles," said Senior Vice President, NNSA Tritium Operations and Programs Nick Miller.

For more than 70 years, SRTE has helped maintain the U.S. nuclear stockpile by preparing the nation's only tritium supply. The SRS Apprenticeship School has played a significant role in helping build the workforce pipeline to ensure its continued commitments to the Department of Defense.



## SRTE/PPOP visit F.E. Warren Air Force Base

SRTE and PPOP employees had the unique opportunity to visit the esteemed F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Over three days, the group participated in comprehensive tours and visits throughout the base, closely observing the ongoing work that was conducted and gaining valuable insights. This immersive experience not only allowed SRTE and PPOP employees to learn from military experts but also fostered an exchange of knowledge and best practices.



# CSRA College Night draws 5,400+ attendees

Over 5,400 attendees filled the Augusta Convention Center on September 11 for CSRA College Night, the Southeast's largest college recruitment event. Fifteen local high school seniors were awarded scholarships totaling \$15,000. Since 1993, SRNS has proudly presented this marquee event, awarding over \$400,000 in scholarships and impacting 176,000 attendees.

The convention center buzzed with excitement as students and parents visited recruitment booths from 125 colleges and universities, representing local technical schools and prestigious institutions from across the country, as well as four branches of military.

"College Night is a remarkable opportunity for high school students to explore a wide array of higher education options and get a head start on their future careers," said Cindy Hewitt, SRNS Education Outreach Specialist. "We hope to empower the next generation to achieve their educational and professional goals."

Among the scholarship winners, Bryona Bibbs, a senior at Mead Hall Episcopal School, shared her excitement. "I was so nervous accepting the scholarship on stage but immensely grateful for the opportunity. I'm exploring colleges today to see what they have to offer, especially those within one to two hours from Augusta. My goal is to pursue a degree in nursing and eventually become a travel nurse."

"I'm hoping to connect with some amazing students and help them determine if Berry College is the right fit for them," said Ellie Sherrod, Berry College Admission Counselor. "We specialize in STEM majors, animal science, and have 27,000 acres of extensive exploratory land. Having attended this event for a few years, it remains a priority for us due to the strong turnout. It keeps our name out there and ensures students find the right place for their future."

With the rising demand for skilled STEM professionals in defense, engineering, cybersecurity, and nuclear energy, College Night plays a crucial role in meeting workforce needs for NNSA and DOE.

"I am excited to be part of an event where we hand out scholarships to well-deserving high school seniors," said Jim Dawkins, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer. "This event demonstrates SRNS' commitment to these students and recognizes them as the



North Augusta High School senior Quinton Armstrong accepts a \$1,000 scholarship presented by Jim Dawkins, SRNS Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer; Dawn Haygood, SRNS Director, Office of the President and Corporate Communications; and Barbara Smoak, SRNS Deputy Director of Corporate Communications.

future of our workforce. It also opens their eyes to the multitude of paths available to them, including opportunities at SRS, which has provided long-lasting careers for over 75 years. It's a chance for students to discover, connect and get guidance, paving the way for long-term opportunities."

Over 150 SRS volunteers come together each year to make the event possible, providing students and parents with information on college admission requirements, financial literacy, scholarships and potential career paths.

"I've volunteered for this event for over 15 years and witnessed its remarkable growth from just four to five local colleges to now over 125," said Jay Jefferies, WFXG Chief Meteorologist. "This event eases the burden of rising educational expenses and gives each scholarship winner a small but significant break on tuition."

SRNS continues to enhance talent retention by strengthening connections between local students, industry, and federal partners, maintaining a sustainable workforce pipeline and bridging opportunity gaps through this free, public event.



## WATCH THE VIDEO:

Go to [vimeo.com](https://vimeo.com) and search for "CSRA College Night 2025"







# SRPPF opening new work fronts

## SRNS works with partners to accelerate important infrastructure project

**S**RS is opening new early construction work fronts to accelerate building the SRPPF and re-establish the nation's capability to produce plutonium pits in support of sustainable nuclear deterrence.

"It's amazing to see the scale and urgency at which dirt is moving around the SRPPF worksite with the early site preparation scopes in progress," said Jeff Griffin. "The construction work fronts for this project are dynamic and will move throughout the project site as different tasks are completed and new ones begin. SRNS is working together with our partners to accelerate this important infrastructure project for the NNSA. Time is critical for this mission of national importance, and every day matters as we work to deliver SRPPF project completion by the early 2030s."

SRNS is collaborating with the NNSA and Construction Management subcontractor Fluor Federal Services to construct SRPPF, which will manufacture the majority of plutonium pits for the nation once operational. A plutonium pit is a critical component of every nuclear weapon.

The plutonium pit production mission is an essential part of the NNSA's long-term strategy for nuclear stockpile sustainment. NNSA is revitalizing and modernizing its infrastructure across the Nuclear Security Enterprise, and re-establishing the country's pit production capability is a national priority.

The SRPPF project involves repurposing an unfinished facility at SRS with more than 400,000 square feet of available Hazard Category-2 space. This allows the NNSA to make use of an existing, seismically-qualified structure to meet pit production requirements. The project also involves construction on more than 20 additional support facilities, as well as building temporary infrastructure to support the incoming construction workforce.

"The SRPPF Project Execution organization is opening up additional work fronts not already in progress prior to starting Critical Decision (CD)-2/3 construction," said Mike Basham, SRNS Senior Vice President and SRPPF Project Director. "NNSA approval of CD-2/3



SRS is opening new construction work fronts to accelerate building the SRPPF.

will establish a baseline for the project and provide authorization to proceed with full construction. In preparation for CD-2/3 approval, we're optimizing our construction approach and opening up new work fronts to accelerate the project."

Early site preparation activities include subprojects inside and outside of the SRPPF Main Process Building, such as interior and exterior building modifications, Special Facility Equipment procurement, and the installation of underground water system utilities and infrastructure.

"We're making significant, measurable progress in F Area ahead of the main SRPPF construction buildout," said Bob Smith, Fluor Senior Vice President and Interim SRPPF Project Director. "It's nice to see visible changes both inside the facility and out. Fluor is proud to work with SRNS and our sub-tier contractors as we execute these early work scopes."

Under federal law and to meet national security requirements, NNSA must be able to produce no fewer than 80 pits per year to maintain and replenish the nuclear stockpile. The Nuclear Weapons Council endorsed NNSA's approach for supplying plutonium pits to meet stockpile requirements: a two-site strategy with SRS producing no fewer than 50 pits per year and Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico producing no fewer than 30 pits per year.





**Jessica Hall**

**AT SRNS:** Workforce Services and Talent Management Communications Advisor, lead for the SRS 75th Anniversary and SRS Family Days

**IN THE COMMUNITY:** Volunteer at Millbrook Baptist Church

## THE PEOPLE OF SRNS

Jessica Hall is the Workforce Services and Talent Management (WSTM) Communications Advisor for SRNS. In this role, she develops communication strategies for both internal WSTM objectives and goals, as well as company-wide initiatives. For the last two years, Hall has served as the lead for the SRS 75th Anniversary and SRS Family Days.

An SRNS employee for 16 years, Hall values her work at SRNS because it provides a healthy work-life balance. "As a mom and a wife, finding a career that aligns with my family priorities was essential," said Hall. "I am so blessed to have discovered a fulfilling career that challenges and empowers me, while also allowing me to be present with my kids. This time is irreplaceable, and I cherish every moment. I am grateful that working for SRNS makes this possible."

Hall says she has enjoyed her time working on the 75th Anniversary and Family Days because she feels it is contributing to the legacy at SRS.

"It's truly awe-inspiring when you think of the impact SRS has made on the world in the past 75 years. I am deeply humbled to have even a minor role in such a profound legacy. It has been an honor to serve the dedicated employees of the Site and celebrate their contributions to SRS and our nation every day," she said.

Hall is an active member of Millbrook Baptist Church, where she teaches First-grade Sunday school with her husband Jonathan, and she volunteers to snuggle babies in the nursery. When not attending a football practice or basketball game for her two sons, she enjoys spending time on the coast with family and sipping coffee on her front porch swing.



## CNTA Up & Atom Breakfast

Jeff Griffin recently presented at a Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) Up & Atom Breakfast. Griffin spoke on how SRNS is building on its 75-year legacy and how the company is helping prepare SRS for the future. "SRNS has built an outstanding foundation and platform for our new and expanded missions," Griffin said. "The change in landlord from EM to NNSA came with a change in mission priorities. While we have spent almost two decades focused on cleaning up from the Cold War, we are now going back to our roots and embracing a more robust national defense mission."



## FEATURE FRIDAY

The following employees were highlighted as part of the SRNS Feature Friday series on social media.



**SCAN ME**  
to connect with  
our social media



**Colin Hoover**

Spent Fuel Project Design  
Authority Engineer



**Christina Stone**

Lead Business  
Systems Analyst



**Kathy Widener**

Engineering Contractor  
Assurance Systems Lead



**Jessica Hall**

Workforce Services  
and Talent Management  
Communications Advisor

# SRNS

**Supplying products and services necessary  
to maintain the nation's nuclear deterrent**

**Securing nuclear materials to prevent  
unwanted proliferation**

**Developing innovative approaches to deliver  
on our environmental commitments and  
nuclear materials challenges**

**Transforming nuclear materials into assets  
and stable wasteforms**



Savannah River  
**NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS<sup>SM</sup>**