

● JUNE 2021

SAVANNAH RIVER NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



# SRNS Today

## First placed

Newly completed characterization and storage pad gets first drum



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## This month

Air Force Global Strike Command visit • Virtual reality with atoms • Fluor Silver Medal



# Welcome

to the June 2021 edition of

# SRNS Today

**Stuart MacVean**  
SRNS President and CEO

**On the cover**  
SRNS operators unload the first CCO drum onto the newly-completed K Area Characterization and Storage pad.

The temperature in South Carolina is not the only thing rising this summer. SRNS is turning up the heat on our commitments to safety, security and excellence in all we do.

We recently achieved final construction, and receipt of the first drum, at the new K Area Characterization and Storage pad. This was a great effort on behalf of the team to accomplish within cost and schedule constraints, despite challenges faced due to COVID-19 and weather delays. The facility adds the capacity to store over 3,800 drums in K Area until they are ready for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, in our ongoing efforts to remove plutonium from South Carolina.

An independent audit described SRNS as having a “robust” and “effectively operated” Environmental Management System, signifying our commitment to environmental cleanup and remediation, and a highly-ranked military visitor emphasized the importance of our dedication to excellence in national security.

This month was no exception when it comes to recognition of SRNS employees and safety, security and performance excellence. Sue Barnwell received the Fluor Silver Medallion Award for lifesaving actions for an ill co-worker. The SRNS Corporate Communications Media Services Department was recently named a winner in two categories in the 42nd Annual Telly Awards. Additionally, Matthew Melton, Manager of SRNS’ National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Programs Safeguards & Security, has been recognized as a member of the NNSA’s 2020 Security Team of the Year.

Through the efforts of dedicated employees like these, SRNS remains capable of learning, growing and adapting to ever-changing missions in an ever-changing world. We are proud to say we make the world safer.



**Savannah River  
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS<sup>SM</sup>**  
FLUOR • NEWPORT NEWS NUCLEAR • HONEYWELL

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell. Since August 2008, SRNS has been the management and operating contractor for the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy-owned site 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.

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

**COMMON ACRONYMS**

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) • Savannah River Site (SRS) • Department of Energy (DOE) • Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL)



H Area Old Manufacturing Facility Manager Sean Lynch shows Lt. Gen. Cotton 1950s Kanae chart recorders, which were used to measure releases from the facility.

## AFGSC Deputy Commander visits SRS

Lt. Gen. Anthony Cotton emphasizes Site’s importance to national security

**W**hen Lt. Gen. Anthony Cotton, Deputy Commander of Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC), visited SRS on June 2, he used it as an opportunity to see first-hand SRS’ work supporting the nation’s nuclear deterrent and to talk about the role of the AFGSC. After touring both the Savannah River Tritium Enterprise (SRTE) and the proposed Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility, he addressed SRTE employees at an all-hands meeting. He discussed AFGSC’s mission, the global security landscape, and emphasized the importance of the work SRS employees perform for the United States’ national security. Summer Jones, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Assistant Deputy Administrator for Major Modernization Programs, joined the visit.

“What you do is critical to the deterrent strategy of the United States of America, and I want to thank you for your service,” Cotton said in his remarks to SRTE employees. “Keeping our country safe takes collaboration and teamwork, so I can’t do what I need to do unless you all here at SRS do what you have to do.”

SRTE produces tritium-loaded containers, called reservoirs, and ships them to the Department of Defense, where they are installed in weapons. AFGSC, a major command of the United States Air Force, provides strategic deterrence, global strike capability and combat support to the United States Strategic Command and other geographic combatant commands. The command comprises more than 33,700 airmen and civilians.

Commenting on his tour, Cotton said, “What I saw today was incredible workmanship from men and women who are absolutely dedicated to the mission at hand. I’m glad I had the opportunity to come here in person to be able to see the great work you all do. I can take this experience back to my force and share how the work done here makes what we do continue to be relevant.”

After his presentation, several individuals who have worked at SRS for 30 years or more were recognized by Cotton. He said, “One of the things that I thought was really interesting about coming to SRS was being able to see the continuity here. There are a lot of people who have worked here for a long time.”



AFGSC Deputy Commander Lt. Gen. Anthony Cotton stands with NNSA Assistant Deputy Administrator for Major Modernization Programs Summer Jones, SRNS NNSA Operations and Programs Senior Vice President Mark Davis, and NNSA Savannah River Field Office Manager Jason Armstrong.

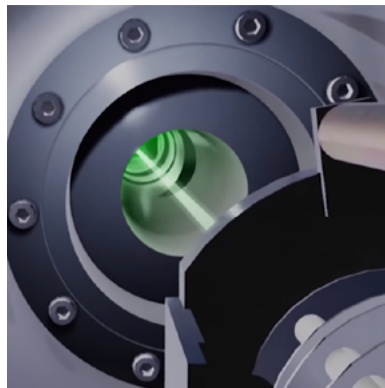


## In the Beam, Science in the Fast Lane

SRNS First Line Manager Nancy Norris loads material into a mass spectrometer for analysis at SRS.

**T**hrough the world of virtual reality, students can fly with atoms on an electron beam, racing to the point where they witness the molecule's controlled destruction and analyze the scattering particles within a highly specialized scientific device known as a mass spectrometer.

The virtual program, created by employees at SRS, is derived from the Site-produced video "In the Beam, Science in the Fast Lane," which presents a peek inside the happenings of a spectrometer.



"We will be replacing the video with a virtual reality program headset for a visual deep dive into and through the spectrometer, as if you were really there," said Kim Mitchell, with the education outreach group at SRNS.

SRS personnel used laser mapping to virtually recreate the computer-generated mass spectrometer featured in the video, which is based

on an actual mass spectrometer operated at SRS.

SRNL engineers created the virtual program, while the associated educator's guide was written by SRS experts in the fields of physics and chemistry who work in laboratories that use these high-tech precision instruments.

A mass spectrometer allows laboratory personnel to separate individual components of a substance, resulting in the exact

identification of each component and the amount present in the substance being tested, according to Mitchell.

"This virtual mass spectrometer experience effectively demonstrates the need for a variety of professions for real-world operation and use of this resource. Scientists, engineers, lab techs and radiation control personnel are just some of the career fields touched by this fascinating technology," Mitchell said. "We will also proactively use this virtual reality program at future career fairs."

To receive a link to the free video and educator's guide, teachers may complete a short form at [surveymonkey.com/r/inthebeam](https://surveymonkey.com/r/inthebeam).

David Arrington, the science department chair at Lakeside High School in Evans, Georgia, recalls sharing the "In the Beam, Science in the Fast Lane" video with students in the school's high-level chemistry spectroscopy unit.

"The video provided an inside look at the workings of a mass spectrometer," Arrington said. "This is something that students otherwise would not have been able to experience. You could definitely see them making the connection between the gas sample, electron beam and the mass fragments detected while watching the video."

To date, nearly 2,000 students and educators have watched the science, technology, engineering and math-based lesson and video.

Since 2009, SRNS has worked with local public and private schools to enhance education. During the month of April 2021 alone, more than 25,000 students and 410 educators used various multi-platform programs offered by the SRNS education outreach division.

## Fluor Silver Medallion Award issued to Sue Barnwell

**Sue Barnwell**, SRNS employee, was recently awarded the Fluor Silver Medallion Award for her quick action and perseverance in saving the life of a fellow co-worker.

The Fluor Silver Medallion Award recognizes Fluor and its contractor employees who have taken life-saving action to prevent an accident or injury at work or in the community.

In March 2021, Barnwell noticed that a teleworking co-worker was not on a daily group meeting call. She knew her co-worker wasn't feeling well the previous week, so she decided to give them a call and see how they were doing. After multiple attempts to contact them failed, she notified management, who got in touch with the co-worker's emergency contact. The co-worker was found extremely ill and was immediately transported to the hospital by ambulance.



*"Whether teleworking at home or present in the office, SRNS employees stay connected and look out for each other's safety and security."*

**Rick Sprague**



SRNS employee Sue Barnwell and SRNS Senior Vice President of Environment, Safety, Health and Quality Rick Sprague

SRNS Senior Vice President of Environment, Safety, Health and Quality Rick Sprague, presented the award to Barnwell at the June 2021 President's Safety Council meeting.

"Whether teleworking at home or present in the office, SRNS employees stay connected and look out for each other's safety and security," said Sprague. "Sue's actions are a clear example of going the extra mile to ensure a co-worker's well-being."

"During these trying times, it is more important than ever to look out for each other," said Barnwell. "I believe that we need to be our brother's keeper and recognize when the people around us are having a problem. This situation could have happened to anyone."

## Matthew Melton recognized for NNSA contributions



Matthew Melton

(DBT) Implementation team, made up of contractors and federal personnel from every site in the Nuclear Security Enterprise, plus the DOE Office of Security Policy.

The award recognizes the contributions the members of the NNSA DBT Implementation team make each day to the nuclear security mission. The team protects some of the country's most vital strategic assets and information, and through their award-winning

**Matthew Melton**, Manager of SRNS' National Nuclear Security Administration Programs Safeguards & Security, has been recognized as a member of the NNSA's 2020 Security Team of the Year. He, along with George Klipa of the NNSA Savannah River Field Office, are among the 23 members of the Design Basis Threat

work, have significantly influenced the way NNSA assesses risk and thereby made great strides in advancing U.S. national security objectives. The DBT policy the team developed is designed to represent a set of goals for the planning and implementation of departmental safeguards and security programs for the next three to five years.

"I commend the team's work to complete the rigorous analysis required to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of NNSA's security performance relative to the DBT," said Jeff Johnson, Associate Administrator for the NNSA's Office of Defense Nuclear Security and Chief of Defense Nuclear Security.

An Army veteran, Melton has worked at SRS for more than 38 years, beginning his SRS career with the Site protective force before moving to maintenance management then back to security work. Biannually, he works with the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Threat Reduction Agency as the Lead Adversary Controller on joint service nuclear surety exercises. He has been part of the NNSA Operations & Programs Security team for 12 years, being named to his current position in 2020.

# Storage space

## SRS completes construction of pads for CCO drums, aiding in material removal

Construction has been completed and the first drum has been placed on the K Area characterization and storage pad, an accomplishment that will support the removal of plutonium from the state of South Carolina.

The pad was constructed to provide three separate functions in one building to support plutonium removal: interim storage, characterization and shipping. After plutonium is downblended by being mixed with a multicomponent adulterant in the Site's K Area Complex glovebox, it is packaged in Criticality Control Overpack (CCO) drums and stored on the pad until it is characterized and is ready to be received at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico for final disposition. The pad also contains the equipment to load drums into larger shipping containers on the shipping transport vehicle.

"Initially the pad will add the capacity to store over 3,800 CCO drums while awaiting shipment," said SRNS K Area Characterization and Storage Pad Project Manager Geoff Hendrick. "The first shipment is planned for the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2022."

In the past, all waste being shipped to WIPP was characterized in the SRS Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF), located several miles away from K Area. A large piece of characterization equipment was transferred from SWMF to the pad in December 2020 to prepare for the characterization process. Additional characterization equipment has also been procured and installed onto the pad. This equipment will be used by WIPP contractors to verify and validate that the waste within each container matches the documentation provided by SRS and that it does not contain any WIPP-prohibited items before shipment out of the state.

"By being able to store, characterize and ship the material directly from the pad, we are eliminating the step of sending the material to SWMF to verify the material is safe to ship. With the pad in operation, that same verification can now be done in the area where the material is packaged and stored. This saves time and resources and allows for more efficient mission execution," Hendrick said.

Along with the characterization and storage pad construction, K Area is also undergoing extensive facility modifications and equipment upgrades to expand plutonium downblend operations.

"Despite many unavoidable challenges throughout the project, such as weather delays and a global pandemic, the SRNS project team remained committed to completing the K Area characterization and storage pad construction safely and within cost and schedule constraints. This focus was clearly demonstrated by the Project Manager. This new storage facility is an important step in progressing the nonproliferation mission of the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration," Bill Wabbersen, NNSA's Office of Materials Management & Minimization said. "This impressive project is just one of the ways SRS helps make the world safer."



K Area operators James Adams, Gage McIntosh, Charles Proveaux and Austin Eubanks help deliver the first CCO drum to the newly constructed characterization and storage pad.

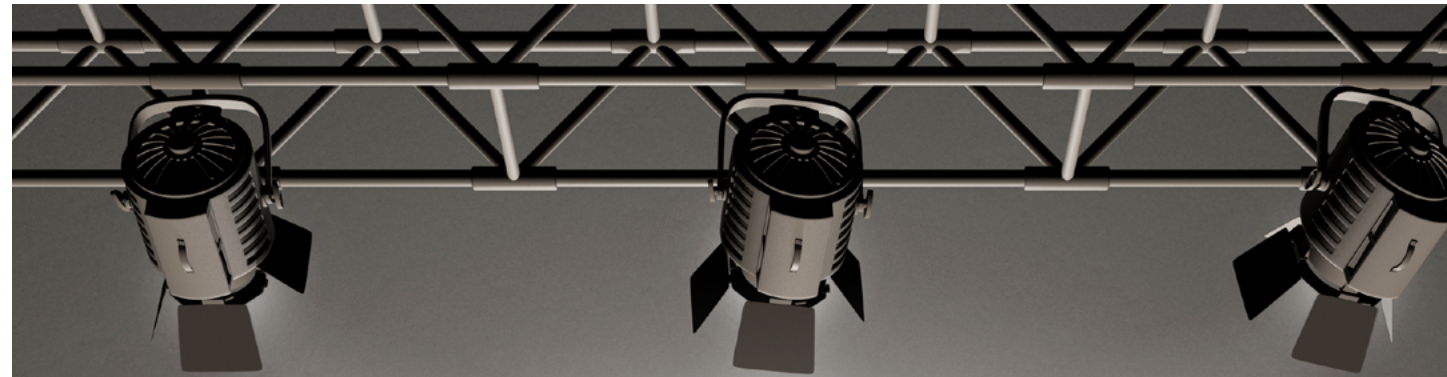
“Initially the CCO pad will add the capacity to store over 3,800 CCO drums while awaiting shipment.”

**Geoff Hendrick**



### FROM START TO FINISH





# And the winner is...

Media Services wins two Telly Awards for excellence in video production

SRNS Corporate Communications Media Services Department was recently named a winner in two categories in the 42nd Annual Telly Awards. The department won a Gold Telly for "Savannah River Site Overview" in the Non-Broadcast: Corporate Image category and a Bronze Telly for "SRNS Now: September 2020" in the Non-Broadcast: Employee Communications category.

Although there was no red carpet or stage for acceptance speeches, the Telly Awards are quite prestigious and honor those who are the best in their craft. "This team...their talent is unparalleled," said SRNS President and CEO Stuart MacVean. "We rely on their expertise to help us tell our story to the workforce and to the community. Even though the subject matter of SRS missions can sometimes be fairly technical for the average audience, the team continues to produce entertaining, informative, visually appealing and high-quality videos."

The Telly Awards, founded in 1979, have continued to annually showcase the best work created within television and across video, for all screens. Receiving over 12,000 entries from all 50 states and five continents, Telly Award winners represent work from some of the most respected advertising agencies,

television stations, production companies and publishers from around the world.

"We are proud to be recognized amongst such high-profile winners as Warner Brothers, The Walt Disney Company, HBO, Playstation and ViacomCBS," said SRNS Director of Corporate Communications Dawn Haygood. "We are thrilled to be awarded these Telly Awards, which symbolize the quality of the team that earned them and our commitment to keeping the public and our employees informed on how we are making the world safer."

Entries for the Telly Awards are judged by a group of over 200 working industry leaders who have previously won the Telly Awards highest accolade and, as such, have demonstrable expertise in the categories they review.

The "Savannah River Site Overview" was produced by Brad Bohr and Nathan Lester of the SRNS Communications & Media Services Department. "SRNS Now: September 2020" was produced by the entire Media Services Department, including Bohr, Lester, Laura Russo, Andrew Harrell, Ian Rojas-Godoy and Steve Ashe. Tom Kotti was the manager of the Media Services department during the production of the award-winning videos.

You can view the Gold Telly Award winning *Savannah River Site Overview* on the SRS YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/SRSNews>. Just search for "SRS Overview 2021," or click on the image to the left.



## SRNS Environmental Management System deemed 'robust'

SRNS recently completed an independent audit of their Environmental Management System (EMS), which determined the company meets the standards set forth by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and DOE.

The audit team, led by third-party independent evaluators from DOE Headquarters and an Exemplar Global Certified ISO Lead Auditor, conducted an extensive evaluation of SRNS' environmental program, including environmental regulatory compliance, direct environmental operations and significant environmental protection and remediation projects and activities.

The final audit report concluded that the SRNS EMS conforms to ISO Standards outlined in 14001: 2015, as well as the environmental protection requirements set forth by DOE and other regulatory agencies. The report describes SRNS' program as "robust" and states that all focus areas "appear to be professionally managed, well-coordinated, and operationally effective."

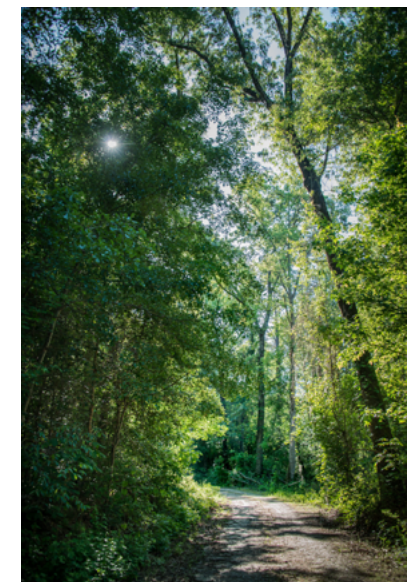
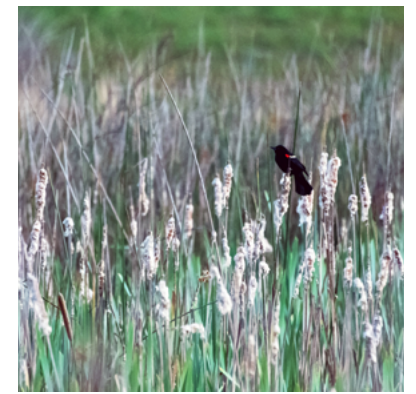
"SRNS is proud of our environmental program that strives to restore and protect the land, water and air at SRS and in our surrounding communities. The audit findings verify that we remain on the right path in this important area of our work," said Rick Sprague, SRNS Senior Vice President, Environmental Stewardship, Safety, Health and Quality.

The ISO 14001: 2015 Standard helps an organization achieve the intended outcomes of its EMS, which provides value for the environment, the organization itself and interested parties. Consistent with the organization's environmental policy, the intended outcomes of an environmental management system include enhancement of environmental performance, fulfillment of compliance obligations and achievement of environmental objectives ([www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)).

In addition to achieving conformance with ISO 14001:2015, the successful completion of the audit ensures that the SRNS EMS meets DOE expectations outlined in DOE Order 436.1, which requires that contractors develop and implement an EMS that is certified to, or conforms with, the ISO 14001:2015 standard.

"Despite our ability to sustain a 'robust' EMS, the desired outcome of any third-party evaluation is to identify opportunities to continuously improve. SRNS is a learning organization that appreciates the feedback we are provided from independent experts. We were provided four opportunities for improvement from the auditors, and we look forward to implementing their suggestions to further strengthen our programs," said Sprague.

The ISO 14001:2015 EMS audit is performed tri-annually. It is conducted both on-site and in remote locations and consists of inspections, personnel interviews and facility visits.



Above: Nature at Savannah River Site.

Left: SRNS mechanic Todd Cockrell, engineer John Bradley and Project Manager Joao Cardoso-Neto plan the removal and dismantlement of a high-vacuum soil vapor extraction unit at the Site's M Area.

# On display: Life during the Cold War

**R**ecently, Georgia Southern University post-graduate student Jessica Forsee created a special exhibit for the SRS Museum, featuring life during the Cold War at the Savannah River Plant (SRP), now known as SRS.

The SRS Curation Facility selected and provided, on loan, a range of artifacts.

“Learning how to tell the story of SRS through objects is incredibly important when it comes to exhibit curation,” said Forsee. “Getting to bring to life the experiences of the everyday worker at SRS during the Cold War made our ‘Nuclear Culture’ exhibit such an exciting project from the beginning.

“Right from the start, my internship at the SRS Museum taught me how to take the technical and scientific accomplishments of SRS employees and add in humanities interpretation to bring to life the larger history of SRS during the Cold War,” she said.

Melissa Hanson, Curator at the SRS Curation Facility, expressed her admiration for the work accomplished by Forsee, stating that the insight into the day-to-day life of the average SRS worker during those high stress years at home and at work, in an isolated environment, was interesting and revealing.

“It was a much different world then, especially during the height of the Cold War in the 1950s and early 60s,” said Hanson. “We carefully selected about 20 artifacts that we thought would best help Jessica depict the ‘nuclear culture’ of the times as she defines it.”

These loaned items included a United Way cup, DuPont Security patch, 1950s film about SRP, a catcher’s mask, bowling scorecards, security badges and a wooden bat with “D SHIFT” engraved on it.

Hanson noted that a part of the exhibit demonstrated how SRP officials at the time often reached out to residents of local communities to ensure the general public felt at ease with the nearby nuclear

facilities, stressing an emphasis on safety and the importance of plant missions.

“Public outreach is a valued and significant part of what we do at the SRS Curation Facility, and the COVID-19 pandemic has limited our normal interface with employees and those living



in surrounding counties. Partnering with the SRS Museum, primarily through the loaning of artifacts, has been a successful method toward staying in touch and available to those outside the fence. The museum is a wonderful asset for everyone to enjoy,” said Hanson.

According to SRNS Program Manager Andy Albenesius, SRNS and the Curation Facility strongly support the SRS Museum. Public Outreach is a fundamental part of the program, and the museum is the primary vehicle for sharing the Site history.

“It’s a convenient location for visitors to experience the diverse and important role SRS employees played all through the Cold War in defense of our nation,” said Albenesius. “Jessica’s highly valued exhibit shows an important side of life at SRS only the employees of that time were able to experience.”



**Savannah River Site Museum**

Established in 2015 for the interpretation and preservation of Site history, especially during the Cold War

- Developed by the SRS Heritage Foundation, which was chartered in 2005
- For more information, visit [srsheritagemuseum.org](http://srsheritagemuseum.org)

## THE PEOPLE OF SRNS



**Kristin Huber**

**AT SRNS:** Principal Public Relations Specialist for SRNS Government and Community Relations

**IN THE COMMUNITY:** SRNS Loaned Professional with the American Heart Association and Barnwell School District 45

Kristin Huber is a Principal Public Relations Specialist for SRNS Government and Community Relations. Her responsibilities include the oversight of the SRNS community giving program; facilitating a strategic community outreach plan; engaging with local stakeholders on SRS missions; and advising and supporting employee giving campaigns.

A third-generation SRS employee, Huber is now on a temporary assignment to serve as the SRNS Loaned Professional with the American Heart Association and Barnwell School District 45. DOE supports such efforts as part of its community commitment to regional efforts such as economic development programs and annual loaned professionals to our local United Way organizations. Over the next year, Huber will be working in Barnwell to create partnerships that provide nutrition opportunities by expanding existing programs and exploring the offering of a third meal for children before they leave school for the day. This program will be modeled after a successful third-meal program in Burke County, Georgia.

Huber earned her bachelor’s degree from Clemson University, and has more than 10 years of experience in strategic community outreach, engagement and philanthropy programs. Prior to joining SRNS in 2013, Huber served as a State Training Manager for South Carolina and West Virginia with the American Cancer Society. She serves on the Board of Directors for Southern Palmetto Chamber of Commerce. Huber is a 2015 graduate of Leadership Salkehatchie and was recently selected to participate in the 2022 Class of Leadership South Carolina. Huber is a native of Williston, South Carolina, where she resides with her husband and two children.

# Snap SRS contest underway



“Celestial Night,” by Rebecca Lynn

The annual Snap SRS competition is ready to see what creativity SRS employees have been capturing. All badged SRS employees have the opportunity to submit their original photos and illustrations to help make SRS a more compelling place to work.

Snap SRS accepts entries in four categories: Science as Art, Local Scenery, SRS Scenery and Nuclear Knowledge.

Just like years prior, a panel of judges will select the top 10 submissions from each category to be printed, matted and framed for exhibit at the Aiken Center for the Arts.

INNOVATION • DEFENSE

NONPROLIFERATION • ENVIRONMENT

# SRNS



**Savannah River Nuclear Solutions**

We make the world **safer.**