

INNOVATION • DEFENSE
NONPROLIFERATION • ENVIRONMENT



We make the world safer.

Celebrating Historic Communities and Events

Susie Ferrara

Savannah River Site (SRS) Cold War Historic Preservation Program Manager

SC Historic Preservation Conference, April 26, 2024

- Historic Tourism & Public Outreach
- Telling our story
- Publications
- Community & Stakeholder Engagement
- Education Outreach



SRS 50th Anniversary granite marker (SC-125)



Heritage Tourism and Public Outreach

- Quarterly Heritage Tourism meetings
- 8 SRS Historic Public Tours with SR Archeology Program (SRAP)
- Piloting 2 public walking tours of former town of Ellenton in 2024 with SRAP
- Provide historical talks for stakeholders, chambers of commerce, civic groups, etc.



Heritage Tourism Meeting at Banksia

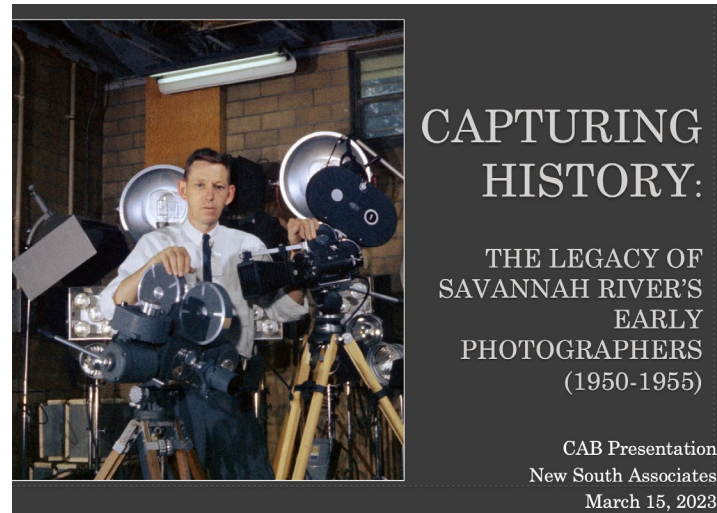


Aiken County Council Chairman
Gary Bunker

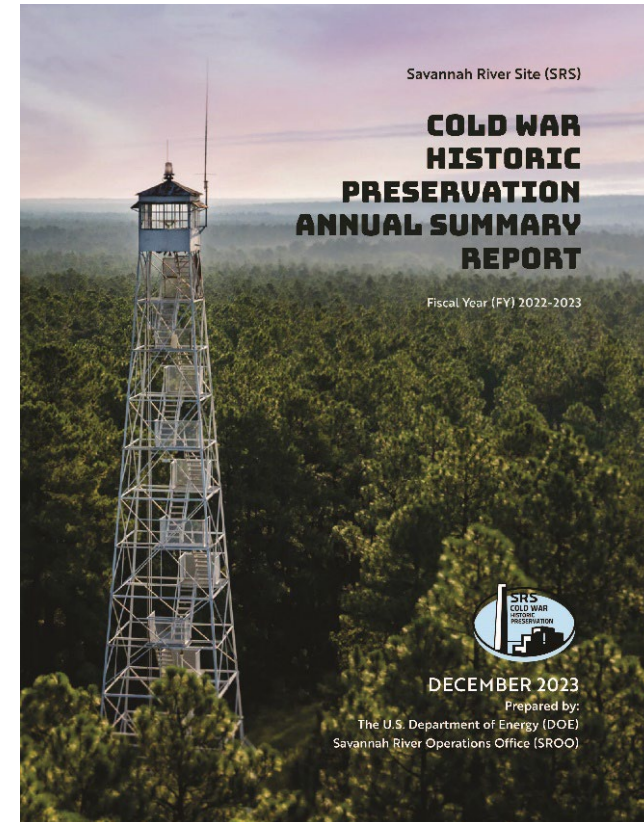
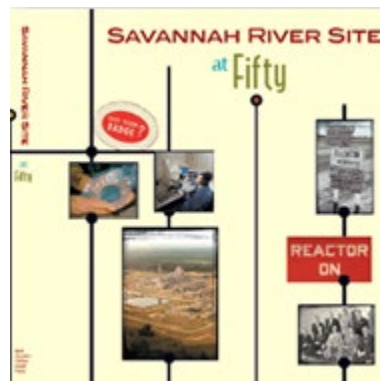
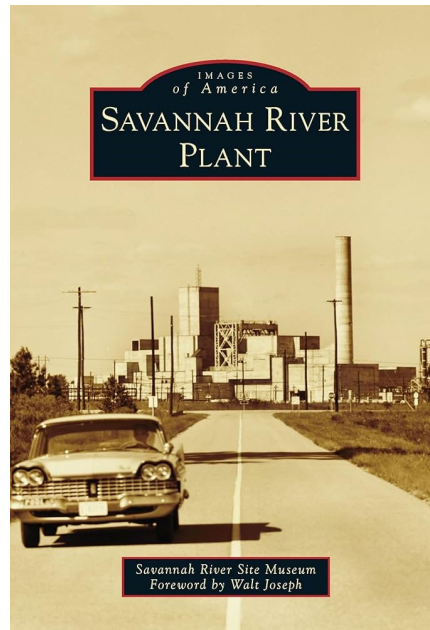


Public Bus Tours

- Cold War Historian Josh Blackmon presented *Preserving Power: The Savannah River Site's Plutonium-238 and the Space Race at Cape Canaveral*.
- Mary Beth Reed provided a program update to the SRS Citizens Advisory Board.
- SRS Cold War Curator Melissa Hanson presented to the Beech Island Agricultural Club.
- SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program Manager Susie Ferrara introduced the Program to the following:
 - Aiken Kiwanis Club
 - Aiken Senior Men's Club
 - Aiken Town and Country Club
 - Cedar Creek Women's Club
 - Aiken Chamber Ambassadors



- *Images of America Savannah River Plant*: The forward of the book was written by Walt Joseph, the SRS Heritage Foundation and SRS Museum Founder. Proceeds of book sales benefit the SRS Museum.
- Nine Thematic Studies, includes oral histories, online: <http://shpo.sc.gov/research/Pages/conreps.aspx>
- Program annual summary reports



New South Associates' Savannah River Site at Fifty wins the American Cultural Resource Association's Quality Award

- SRS Heritage Foundation chartered in 2005
- Nonprofit 501(c)(3)
- SRS Heritage Foundation Board
- SRS Museum operates in collaboration with Aiken County Historical Museum and guidance of the SRS Heritage Foundation.
- Occupies the former Dibble Memorial Library building. Aiken's first dedicated library building, named for prominent Aiken banker Henry M. Dibble.



SRS Museum Founder Walt Joseph



Image courtesy of the South Carolina State Library.



Gallery Opening With Community and Stakeholders



The SRS Heritage Foundation and Museum ribbon-cutting ceremony and opening of the new National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) sponsored gallery in October 2022. Over 3,200 visitors in 2023.





 Nuclear Merit Badge Day
at the
SRS Museum
"Where History and Science Collide!"



Scouts Nuclear Merit Badge Program



- Our mascot: Roddy U. Ranium
- Student Tours (K-12)
- 854 students reached in 2023
- STEAM Summer Camps
- Career Panels
- Science-based Lesson Plans

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President Joe Biden and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, meet with victims' relatives and first responders who were directly affected by the Hamas attacks Wednesday in Tel Aviv.

Blinken, Austin say U.S. is ready to respond to aggression against U.S. personnel

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. — Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Sunday said the United States expects the Israel-Hamas war to escalate through involvement by pro-Israeli Iran and asserted that the Biden administration is prepared to respond if American personnel or armed forces become the target of any such hostilities.

"This is not what we want, not what we're looking for. We don't want escalation," Blinken said. "We don't want to see our forces or our personnel come under fire. But if that happens, we're ready for it." Austin, echoing Blinken, said "what we're seeing is a prospect of a significant escalation of attacks on our troops and our people throughout the region."

He said the U.S. has the right to self-defense "and we won't hesitate to take the appropriate action."

The warning from the high-ranking U.S. officials came as Israel's military response to a deadly Oct. 7 attack by Hamas on civilians in communities in southern Israel entered its third week.

Israel warplanes struck targets across Gaza overnight and into Sunday, as well as two airports in Syria and a mosque in the occupied West Bank allegedly used by militants as the war threatened to engulf more of the Middle East.

Israel has traded fire with Lebanon's Hezbollah militia at group-on-a near-daily basis since the war began, and tensions are soaring in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where Israeli forces have battled militants in refugee camps and carried out two airstrikes in recent days.

The U.S. announced Sunday that consular staff at its embassy in Iraq should leave the country.

Blinken, who recently spent several days in the region, spoke of a "likelihood of escalation" while saying no one wants to see a second or third front to the hostilities between Israel and Hamas, which strikes Gaza.

He said he expects "escalation by Iranian proxies directed against our forces, directed against our personnel, and added: "We are taking steps to make sure that we can effectively defend our people and respond decisively if we need to." Iran is an enemy of Israel.

Please see **RESPOND**, page 4A

Fun for the family



"A 'mad science' presentation taught viewers how to do interesting chemical experiments, like making 'elephant toothpaste'."

Savannah River Site Museum hosts fall festival

BY ERIN WEEKS
erweek@aikenstandard.com

The Savannah River Site Museum hosted its first ever Fall Fission Festival on Saturday. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon of costume contests, games and scientific fun in celebration of International Nuclear Science Week.

"It's perfect timing for it to be a fall festival," said Suse Ferraro of the Savannah River Site Heritage Board Foundation.

The museum's inaugural event featured a Ruth Patrick Science Education Center annual exhibit with tortoises and reptiles, a crystal ball fortune teller, a chemistry experiment lesson by a pair of "mad scientists," and live bluegrass music. Children and parents were able to explore the different booths as well as the inside of the Savannah River Site Museum.

According to Ferraro, this kind of event is a way to share with the community — the ones who make Savannah River Site operation possible.

"We wouldn't be the Savannah River Site, really wouldn't be here, without community," she said. "And just to be downtown, being part of that downtown business community is just tremendous for us." SRS Museum Director Linda Lindler agreed that bringing



Children watch with anticipation as they wait for the mad science show to begin.

a museum. So this is an opportunity for us to share that with our community. And just to be downtown, being part of that downtown business community is just tremendous for us."

Anyone interested in supporting the museum can become a member of the SRS Heritage

Foundation, make a monetary donation or apply to be a volunteer online at www.srsheritagemuseum.org.

Erin Weeks is the Education Manager for the Aiken Standard.

Celebrate!

- Celebrate anniversaries (25, 50, 70 and 75th) with your community, employees, supporters, investors, and elected officials.
- Try something new and different (i.e., Fission Festival)
- Collaborate with other historical groups— lessons learned, bench marking
- Show the love to your volunteers.
- Grand opening, re-opening, ribbon cutting – doesn't have to break the bank; don't go cheap, either.
- Network, network, network... don't assume your hometown crowd knows where you are or what you are all about. Tell them, tell them again.
- The average person has no clue about “a day in the life” of an archeologist, curator, or historian. Share with them, it might surprise you.
- “This ain't your grandmama's museum” – boring is the kiss of death.
- Have fun, be creative!



“What kills a skunk is the publicity it gives itself.” – Abraham Lincoln

Questions
for the SRS
Team?

