

are welcome. For  
ation, call Gary  
740-352-7819.

**Aiken For Com-  
Group** will meet  
60 p.m. Tuesdays  
the conference  
ne main sanctu-  
hn's Methodist  
4 Newberry St.  
re information,  
naranon@out-

**Recovery**, a  
up for men and  
ts at 7 p.m. Tues-  
r Creek Church,  
Mill Road.

**Session Anxiety  
Support Group  
and Surround-**  
will meet from  
Tuesdays online  
oMeeting App.  
information con-  
Harmon at 803-  
mail manicgh@

## DAY

**Adaptation Mov-  
l be held** from  
12:30 p.m. June  
July 3 at the Nan-  
brary, 135 Edge-  
North Augusta.  
uys," rated PG,  
n Monday, June  
an ← rated PG,  
n Tuesday, July  
d Robot," rated  
shown Wednes-  
nd "Paddington  
ted PG, will be  
day, July 3. Bring  
l enjoy the mov-  
re information,  
@abbe-lib.org.

**Bridge Game** is  
a. Mondays and  
s at the Lessie  
ken Senior and  
r, 841 Edgefield  
re information,  
nBridgeClub@  
**nah River Site**  
**24 Laurens St.**  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
through Satur-  
eum features ex-  
ources related to  
h River Site and  
r. Admission is  
re information,  
-1437 or visit sr-  
seum.org.

tate to reach out to us di-  
rectly," the April 22 Face-  
book post reads. "There's  
so much love and poten-  
tial in those walls, and  
we'd be honored to pass it  
on to someone who feels  
the same."

Bistro 55 first opened  
under Maurice Cohen in

doors on 10 years in same  
space.

**Elizabeth Hustad** cov-  
ers politics, government  
and business for The  
Post and Courier North  
Augusta. Follow her on  
Twitter at @Elizabeth-  
Hustad.



FILE/SAMANTHA WINN/STAFF

**Bistro 55 in North Augusta's Hammonds Ferry neigh-  
borhood announced it will reopen "soon" under new  
management. It first opened in October 2023 before  
closing in April this year.**

# Aiken native turns internship into career

SUBMITTED ARTICLE  
mystory@aikenstandard.com

What started out as a sum-  
mer internship for 23-year-  
old Gunner Harris turned  
into a full-time career at  
Savannah River Mission  
Completion.

Harris was born and raised  
in Aiken and attended the  
University of South Caro-  
lina, where he obtained a  
Bachelor of Science degree  
in Chemical Engineering,  
as well as a Master of Engi-  
neering.

In 2022, he got accepted  
into the first internship pro-  
gram offered by SRMC, the  
liquid waste contractor for  
the Department of Energy  
at the Savannah River Site.  
During that summer, he  
worked as a Defense Waste  
Process Facility process and  
regulatory intern.

During his time onsite,  
Harris got the opportunity  
to work under the guidance  
of experienced engineers,  
assisting with monitoring,  
documenting, and improv-  
ing process operations. At  
the end of his internship,  
he left SRMC with new  
knowledge, experiences, and  
growth — as well as an offer  
to return as an employee.

After completing his in-  
ternship, Harris, impacted  
by the company's mission,  
returned to SRMC and be-  
gan working full-time.

"As interns, we were told



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Intern-turned-employee Gunner Harris works as a  
sludge batch lead at Savannah River Mission Com-  
pletion, the liquid waste contractor at the Savannah  
River Site.**

we are part of eliminating  
the greatest environmental  
hazard in South Carolina,  
and that was kind of my  
'a-ha' moment," he said. "I  
realized I was playing a part  
in something big, something  
important, that also offered  
me a lot of personal and pro-

fessional growth."

For the last two years,  
he has worked as a sludge  
batch lead and a system  
health coordinator in the  
SRS Tank Farms. He helps  
handle space management in  
the Tank Farms hub tanks,  
procedure compliance, and

waste tank compilation/  
qualification efforts.

Even though he's working  
toward the same mission, his  
role now in the Tank Farms  
is different from working at  
DWPF as an intern, but Har-  
ris said he would not have it  
any other way.

"I really enjoyed my time  
as an intern in DWPF, but  
I wanted to branch out and  
see what else SRMC had to  
offer," he said. "I feel like I  
have found my people within  
my department — my team  
is great, and I really love what  
I do."

In a full circle moment, he  
is now mentoring his own  
intern this summer. So far,  
he said that his biggest em-  
phasis has been encouraging  
interns to be curious and to  
ask questions.

"One of the purposes of the  
SRMC internship is being a  
learner first, and a contribu-  
tor second," Harris said. "I  
always tell the interns to ask  
as many questions as they  
can, because there is no such  
thing as a stupid question. I  
was once in their shoes and  
had someone help me, and  
now it is my turn to do the  
helping."

Through this opportunity,  
he has been able to take his  
own experiences and use  
them to educate and guide  
the interns in hopes that they  
will carry some of these con-  
cepts not just through their  
careers, but their lives too.

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2025

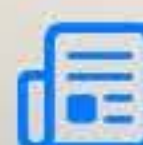
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