

# The Valley Weekly

Volume 1, No. 38

## MSU Hosts 2015 SEC Track and Field Championship



Brandon McBride, 2014 SEC and National 800m champion came in second in the 800m on May 16, hosted by Mississippi State University. McBride was named to the 2015 SEC Track and Field Community Service Team.

According to Hailstate.com, McBride is being recognized, along with team member Carmen Brothers, for his work off the track as the SEC announced its 2015 Track and Field Community Service Team on last Thursday.

Selected from MSU are senior Carmen Brothers and junior Brandon McBride, both of whom have shown immense dedication to helping those around them. "It's great to see athletes recognized for

what they do away from the track," MSU coach Steve Dudley said. "These are two great people who deserve this honor. Both Carmen and Brandon are actively involved in many different community service projects."

McBride is most widely known for being a two-time NCAA champion, but this award recognizes what he gives back to the community. McBride is a volunteer with the Ics Oktibbeha County Head Start Center, while also serving as a math tutor at the Mitchell Memorial Library on the campus of MSU.

He also is a part of the Mentoring Young Minds program at Whitesburg Middle School in Huntsville, Alabama, and

he participated in National Family Literacy Day at the Emerson Family Resource Center.

Both McBride and Brothers have excelled in the classroom, as well. The two were selected to the SEC Academic Honor Roll. McBride earned the honor in 2013, while both he and Brothers received the distinction in 2014.

The SEC Community Service Team is made up of a male and female athlete from each of the 14 schools and looks to acknowledge athletes who give back to their communities.

For more information on the MSU track and field teams, visit HailState.com and follow on Twitter (@HailStateTF).

*"A goal is a dream with a finish line."*  
- Duke Ellington

FAST-FOOD BILL OF RIGHTS, p. 6



FREE

# Valley Weekly

Friday, May 29, 2015

## Latest Population Estimate Reveals Growth of Huntsville and Valley Towns



A recently released estimate of the population of the nation's cities and towns has revealed a slight increase in Huntsville and other Valley-area towns.

According to the stats from the U.S. Census Bureau released this month, Huntsville population estimate for 2014 increased one percent to 188,226 inhabitants. The 2013 estimate was 186,309. The number indicates a 4.5 percent increase since the 2010 census.

With the exception of Gurley, which saw a 0.5 percent decrease that it took it down to 792 from 796 back in 2013, other county towns experienced modest increases.

For instance, Madison's population estimate

increased 1.6 percent to 46,450 people. The largest growth by percentage was credited to Owens Cross Roads, which had an estimated 2.1 percent increase for 1,767.

Other county towns experiencing population estimate increases are: Triana, 1 percent, to 522 people and New Hope, 0.3 percent, to 2,814.

Meanwhile, as population estimates for Birmingham and Mobile show a slight decrease, Tuscaloosa's population estimates since 2010 approach a five percent increase. T-Town is now home to 95,344 inhabitants.

The Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program (PEP) produces estimates of the population for

the United States, its states, counties, cities, and towns, as well as for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and its municipalities. Demographic components of population change (births, deaths, and migration) are produced at the national, state, and county levels of geography. Additionally, housing unit estimates are produced for the nation, states, and counties.

These estimates are used in federal funding allocations, as survey controls, as denominators for vital rates and per capita time series, and as indicators of recent demographic changes.

With each new release of annual estimates, the entire time series of estimates is revised for all years back to the last census.

# Around the Valley!



**CITY LIGHTS AND STARS:** Family and friends enjoying the music of Mambo Gris Gris at an outdoor concert at Burritt on the Mountain. City Lights and Stars continued on May 22 with local Latin favorite Mambo Gris Gris sponsored by Jerry Damson Honda Acura. Mambo Gris Gris was formed in 2004 by brothers Mark and Eric Torstenson. The band combines the musical influences of the latin american and southern Louisiana regions that the brothers grew up visiting throughout their childhood. Mambo Gris Gris plays an eclectic mix of salsa, merengue, cumbia, latin folk songs, zydeco and second line. The six piece ensemble consists of Mark Torstenson on guitar, tres and cuatro, Jose Matienzo on percussion, Mike Dendy on drums and percussion, Jim Cavender on bass, Steve Motz on saxophones and Newt Johnson on piano and accordion. All the members contribute vocally and bring a unique talent set to the group. Mambo Gris Gris has played around the north Alabama region extensively since 2004 and has appeared at Big Spring Jam, Panoply and City Stages festivals as well as many other venues in the area. For attendees who did not pack a picnic basket, food trucks were available.

<http://www.burrittonthemountain.com/calendar-of-events>

**SALIENT POINTS:** The Diversity Leadership Colloquium-Cohort II is hosted by Beth Martin (2nd, r), president of Progress Bank in Madison, Ala. Martin started her banking career more than a decade ago and has been responsible for consumer and retail banking, business banking, private banking, regional management and, she has served as

Madison Market President for Progress Bank. The Colloquium session also included trainer Olly Orton of Morgan Stanley. DLC offers inspiring and experienced leaders opportunities to benefit from qualified and seasoned trainers, scholars, and business professionals who share and discuss research and best practices regarding the means to achieve excellence through diversity.



**MESSAGE IN THE MUSIC:** The Lockhart Family sharing their ministry in songs at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

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**The Valley Weekly**

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# Off from the Editor

*June bugs!*

Graduations are over, school is out and everyone is busy planning for the next thing to do or phase to pursue. Some will ‘hang out’ in the neighborhood in the evenings, reminiscing about the past, sharing the future and dreaming of the future. Where I grew up, we did not have street lights on those dirt roads. On some nights, the sky was clear and it appeared that we could see the entire universe. On those clear nights, we could see our shadows on the roads from the moonlight. We used to catch ‘lightning bugs’ in jars. The larger the jar, the more bugs we could gather. We made holes in the lids with the tip of a nail so the bugs could breathe. After we caught a lot of bugs, we essentially had our own outdoor lights. Of course, we could not burn the porch lights unless someone was coming or unless someone had knocked on the door. So, when we were outside playing, we used lightning bugs to find each other, and to play games such as “tag,” “round-up” and “hide-and-go-seek.”



I was always fascinated with the June bugs. They used to be plentiful, seemingly in the month of June. I believe that is why they were called June Bugs. We used to watch the frogs and lizards snap them up for meals. Wow, I was afraid of frogs because the adults warned us that they would put bumps on our skin if we caught them. I disliked lizards and snakes even more. I stayed away from them. I did not like things that slithered around on the ground, changed colors and bit. I still don’t!

However, June bugs have wings covered by a hard casing to protect them. They came out in June in a variety of colors and buzzed around around in groups, appearing to show off. They were strong and visible. There was a young lad, in the Fountain community where I was reared, who we called “June Bug.” He was smart, handsome and everyone liked him. He had good manners, and the adults and children all thought he was a role model. We loved him. Good manners is one of those leadership lessons that will take you places. I am not sure where he is today or what he is doing in life; however, many of us wanted to go places, like June Bug. He left the community after high school and went on to college--seemingly somewhere far away. That was a pretty big deal for his family and the entire community. By now, you should know, we wanted to be like June Bug!

Until next week,

*Dorothy*

*When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us on-line at [www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com).*

# Huntsville Museum of Art Will Feature Recent Acquisitions This Summer

## "Recent Acquisitions"

July 11 – October 11, 2015

The Huntsville Museum of Art's "Recent Acquisitions" exhibit this summer (beginning July 11 and running through October 11) will showcase artworks added to its permanent collection within the past two years.

Museum officials say a few of the gifts come from "generous donors," while others were added through bequest. Nonetheless, all were reviewed by the Museum's Collections and Acquisitions Committee to fit the criteria established for the collection, and the pieces are compatible with the museum's collecting objectives and goals.

Recent acquisitions exhibitions are by nature a wonderful hodgepodge. Works of different styles and media are displayed together, sometimes with no unifying characteristic other than the fact that they came into the collection within a given period of time. Regardless, such shows meet a key purpose. Moreover, they demonstrate the scope of the museum's collecting interests, and provide it an opportunity to acknowledge generous donors whose gifts help the collection grow.

Some of the works on view are identified as memorials – given as such, or purchased with funds

donated in someone's memory. For instance, Huntsville artist and former Alabama A&M University professor Bill Nance's enigmatic "Self Portrait with Paper Heart" was donated to the collection in his memory by friend, colleague and Museum patron Lakin Boyd.

Acquisition memorials allow the Museum to both enhance its collection and enable contributors to give meaningful and lasting tributes to friends and family members.

Additionally, among the exhibi-

bition highlights are an exquisite marble sculpture by Italian artist Giovanni Balderi, donated by the artist; a dozen accomplished photographs by regional and nationally acclaimed master photographers Barry Andersen, Shelia Pinkel, Robert von Sternberg, and Todd Walker; a pair of mid-20th century etchings by Vermont artist Luigi Lucioni; and historical selections from the Museum's signature Sellars Collection of Art by American Women.

## NASA Scientists Could Take Web Searching to New Level

What the average person sees when conducting a basic Web search is only the tip of the iceberg, says Elizabeth Landau of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif. Most of the information, she reports, is really buried in what she refers to as the "Deep Web."

JPL is collaborating on a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) initiative

called Memex, which explores the connections between bits of information hidden in the vast ocean of content.

When one does a simple Web search on a topic, the results that pop up aren't the whole story, notes Landau. The Internet contains a vast amount of information -- sometimes called the "Deep Web" -- that isn't indexed by search engines: information

## Chamber Holds Workshop Securing Government Business

The Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County sponsored "2015 Doing Business with the Government-Small Business Workshop" on May 21 in the Chamber auditorium.

The U.S. Army Contracting Command-Office of Small Business Programs introduced Dawn Robinson, who presented "Game Changer," an interactive and informative session that helped "make a difference" in government contracting.

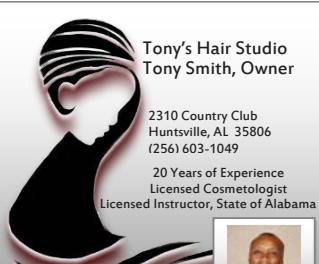
Attendees learned how to influence the procurement process; what influences the source selection; why market research is so important; and updates on source selection topics.



The free event proved especially useful for small businesses with a service and/or product; small businesses the hospitality and restaurant field; and small businesses in the areas of technology and manufacturing.

For more information about future events, contact Beverly Pike, small business coordinator, at (256) 535-2089.

this mysterious online world. Researchers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, have joined the Memex effort to harness the benefits of deep Web searching for science. Memex could, for example, help catalog the vast amounts of data NASA spacecraft deliver on a daily basis.



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## Annual Sickle Cell Walk-A-Thon Announced

The North Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation, Inc., has announced its Annual Sickle Cell Walk-A-Thon for Saturday, June 6, at 9 a.m. Registration for the Walk will begin at 7:30 a.m. at Big Spring Park in Downtown Huntsville.

Organizers are encouraging local citizens to come out and support sickle cell awareness, education and research. Schools,

churches and the community are urged to organize walking teams.

Additional information is available at 224 Church Street, Suite B, or by calling (256) 536-2723 or (800) 636-2723. The website can be accessed at [www.sicklecellna.org](http://www.sicklecellna.org). E-mail inquiries should be sent to Pamela D. Thompson at [pthompson@sicklecellna.org](mailto:pthompson@sicklecellna.org).

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# St. Luke Graduates “Seniors”



St. Luke Christian Church graduated 21 local seniors on May 19, from its computer classes offered free to the community.

Computer classes are offered during the year including Beginning Keyboarding, Computer Applications, Windows 7, Microsoft Office Excel 2010, Microsoft Word 2010, and Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2010.

Mother Thelma Brooks was the Instructor. Mrs. Catherine Holliday and Deacon Robert Washington are Assistant Instructors. Rev. Dawn Bowles, Assistant Pastor, presided at the Graduation. Other program participants included Mrs. Claudette Tibbs, Brother Robert Jackson, Brother Robert

Washington, Ms. Johnnie Eason.

Persons interested in these offerings should contact the Church at (256) 721-1294. The summer quarter will begin on

July 7.

St. Luke Christian Church is located at 1800 Sparkman Drive. Rev. T. C. Johnson is Pastor.

## Noted Artist Launches PowerShot Greeting Cards

John “Jahni” Moore, a graduate of Cohort I of The Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium and illustrator for The Valley Weekly has launched a series of PowerShot Greeting Cards.

PowerShots are an illustrative dose of positive, education, inspiration and motivation for inter-generational readers. He can be reached via e-mail at [getjahni@yahoo.com](mailto:getjahni@yahoo.com) or by calling (256) 527-6288. His work can be viewed on the website at [www.jahnithestartist.com](http://www.jahnithestartist.com).

Jahni has served as an educator and taught “art” on every academic level from kindergarten to university. He lives and works in Huntsville. He earned a B.S. in art and an M.Ed. in art education, both from Alabama A&M University.



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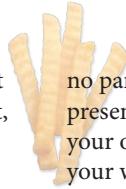


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# The Fast-Food Consumers Bill of Rights

by Jerome Saintjones



You order a two-third-pound beef patty burger with a side of imitation lobster nuggets. You slowly pull away, stick your hand into the bag and pull out an only one-third-pound burger and fried cheesecake puffs. Who ordered !@##! fried cheesecake puffs?

Or, maybe you waited patiently in the drive-thru line for a simple order of fries. In your haste, you forgot to request ketchup. When you reluctantly go inside to get it, you either are given one packet or 21 packets.

Chances are, if you've been in the Valley for any period of time, then you have probably pulled away from a fast-food drive-thru window totally disappointed and partially fuming. Well, in the words of Etta James ... At Last! Here it is: your long-awaited "Fast Food Consumers Bill of Rights."

## The Right to Reasonable Appearances

All places have busy periods, but you have a right to expect wiped tables, a swept floor and clean restrooms, especially during those not-so-busy periods. And, you have a definite right to a clean and presentable drive-thru window, one that is not filled with smears, smudges, grease, spilled food or wads of chewing gum. Incidentally, a little clean up around the perimeters wouldn't hurt, either.

## The Right to Be Served Within This Time Dimension

When you decide to go inside a fast-food establishment, you have the right to be waited on or acknowledged within one minute. No more six to 10 workers passing you by and ignoring you on their way to do different tasks as you stand at the register waiting to do business with them.

## The Right to Reasonable Expectations

You have a right to expect that a chicken restaurant will have chicken or that a burger shop won't allow the beef patties to run out.

You have the right to expect that what should be hot is served hot, and that what should be cold is served cold.

**The Right to Advertised Best**

You have a right to the best product the business has to offer. Not its old, greasy, after-rush-hour chicken. Not its tired, dried out fries or shriveled up veggies.

**The Right to "Reasonable Pause"**

Speedy service is commendable. However, too-fast service that grabs your money, tosses part of your change on the pavement, shoves your order in your face and seems annoyed when you request condiments is utterly deplorable.

**The Right to Reasonable Decibels**

Just because you choose to eat at a burger joint or chicken shack as opposed to a fancy restaurant, you don't have to hear entire conversations between the workers out front and the workers in the back.

## The Right to Change in a Recognizable Form

Whenever you have change due, expect your change to be handed to you in a form that suggests that it is, in fact, change. No crumpled up mini-baseballs of dollar bills, nickels and dimes. No ones, fives and tens that crisscross one another in

no particular order and that are presented for you to sort out on your own before placing them in your wallet. Cashier! Learn how to count change! And, no receipt tucked among the change that must be peeled away and tossed on the passenger seat, alongside the likely incorrect order.

## The Right to a Return or to Seek a Refund

Last but not least. There is no need to fume silently. Disappointed? Hold on to the receipt (it might be in your wallet with the crumpled dollar bills). Take the order back. Gotta go to work and can't drive back right now? Hold the food. Take it home overnight. Better yet, hold it until your next visit, whenever that is. Then take it back. You don't have to be like one irate customer who circled a local fast-food business and tossed her half-melted milkshake into the drive-thru window. But you do have to do your part to change a runaway culture that has become better at collecting money and skimping, yet that also has seemingly become lacking in its service.

So, there you have it—your very own Fast-Food Consumers Bill of Rights. Now, go out there and, in the spirit of Aretha Franklin, demand that burger with some R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

## PowerShot

"Your life is your art. What are you creating today?"  
-S.K. Webb



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# Calendar at a Glance

June 6

11th Annual Charity Car Show  
Milton Frank Stadium Parking Lot  
No Admission Charged to Public  
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

June 13

5th Annual Cruizin' for a Cure  
St. Rebecca P.B. Church  
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

June 22-28

Jazz-N-June Festival

July 16-18

Play: The Pirates of Penzance

Admission Charged

Von Braun Center Playhouse  
7:30 p.m. (Fri.); 2 & 7:30 p.m.

July 17

Space Exploration Celebration  
U.S. Space and Rocket Center  
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5-9 p.m.

September 3-6

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Attention: Karl Hersey

Rain Date - June 20, 2015

## HPAC to Hold Annual Leadership Banquet

The Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc., will hold its 14th Annual Leadership Awards Banquet on Saturday, June 6, at 6 p.m. at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the Alabama A&M University campus.

Among the 2015 honorees are William and Edna Fails of the Kimberly Fails Jones Memorial Foundation, Inc. (Civic/Community Award); Deke Damson, Damson Automotive Group (Corporate Award); Dr. Kemba Chambers, Calhoun Community College (Educational Award); Dr. Ruth D. Jones and Abner Merriweather (Government and Industry Award); Hon. Paul Sanford (Government Relations Award); Dr. Bobby Sledge (Religious Award); and Neal Gladden (Xcel Printing Services).

Special alumni honors will be presented to Sadie L. Pleasure, Gary T. Whitley and Carolyn H. Parker.

Tickets are \$50 each. For additional information, call (256) 656-4698.

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## AAMU to Offer Concentration in Nuclear Power in Fall 2015



a new course in nuclear power.

The course, EE-306: Survey of Energy Systems, will help AAMU students explore how nuclear power works and the importance of atomic energy.

Dr. Mohammad A. Alim will be the instructor for the new course.

For further information, contact Electrical Engineering Chair Dr. Kaveh Heidary or visit 212 Arthur J. Bond Hall.

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# DLC

Tennessee Valley

## Diversity Leadership Colloquium III



### Vision:

The Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) advances leadership excellence by advocating and progressing the affirmation and inclusion of diversity in strategic markets and communities of interest for competitive intelligence.

### Mission:

DLC's mission is to become a premier provider of diversity training for inspiring and experienced leaders throughout the lifecycle.

### Values:

Our values are: Collaboration for Excellence; Appreciation with Insight; Respect for Understanding; and Empathy for all ... C.A.R.E.

DLC offers inspiring and experienced leaders with opportunities to benefit from qualified and seasoned trainers, scholars, and business professionals who share and discuss research and best practices regarding obtaining excellence through diversity.

DLC is designed for individuals interested in gaining access to networks, mentors, and sponsors that have traditionally not been available to diverse members of the broader community. Enrollees will be exposed to topics such as: Understanding and Embracing Diversity, Organizational Culture and Structural Reform, Racial and Gender Intelligence, Social Justice and Equality, Networking and Mentoring, Politics, Heroes and Holidays, Critical Thinking and Self-Affirmation and Living the CARE Values.

Individuals and companies are making sincere efforts in verbalizing a commitment to diversity excellence. However, we must be trained to build the next generation of leaders who have the skill sets, tools and commitment to execute.

### Training Schedule

DLC will run four quarterly, eight-week colloquia. The sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Participant cannot miss more than 2 sessions.

Location: 415-A Church Street - Downtown Huntsville

Enrollment limited to: 16 - Tuition: \$795

### 2015 Schedule

**Summer** July 7 – August 25 - Deadline to register (June 7, 2015)  
**Fall** Oct 6 – Nov 24 - Deadline to register (September 6, 2015)

### To Apply

- Application Form
- 3 References
- Resume
- Photo

**Tuition Payable Upon Acceptance**

*Accepting Applications  
for Cohort III!*

### Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium III APPLICATION FORM

**Requirements:** Application Form - 3 References - Resume - Photo and Tuition (Both Required upon Acceptance)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_ Business/Home \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Citizen?  Yes  No Enrolling Quarter \_\_\_\_\_

### Education

High School Attended \_\_\_\_\_ Graduated: Yes  No

College(s) Attended \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Career Field \_\_\_\_\_

### References

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this Application Form, 3 Letters of Reference, and Resume to: 415A Church Street-Ste. 100, Huntsville, AL 35801 - (256) 651-9028; visit us at [www.diversityleadershipcolloquim.com](http://www.diversityleadershipcolloquim.com); or e-mail [info@diversityleadershipcolloquim.com](mailto:info@diversityleadershipcolloquim.com). Tuition and photo will be required only if accepted to participate.