

# TRASH PICKUP

next week will be  
**NORTH**  
of Government Street,  
Airport Boulevard  
and Grelot Road.

# METRO/REGION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2009

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## REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR

# U.S. Navy retiree recalls December 1941

By **RHODA A. PICKETT**  
Staff Reporter

Harold Pouyadou awoke before 8 that Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941, and was getting ready for church. Only 21, he had celebrated his birthday the week before.

Most of his fellow sailors on Ford Island at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii were taking it easy on what was usually a day of rest. "Then we saw the planes coming in below us," Pouyadou said, describing the 360-degree

view from his third-floor barracks. "At first we thought it was some sort of a training mission. When they passed below us, we could see the insignia of the Japanese military."

At the airfield about a block away, Japanese pilots pounded U.S. fighter planes, dropping bombs that wrecked them on the ground. Fires broke out. Heavy oil from stricken ships poured into the water.

The destroyer USS Shaw, in dry dock, became a bull's-eye. "It lit up the whole Pearl Har-

bor when it went up," Pouyadou said.

"There were pieces of steel as big as car engines flying around."

Pouyadou, retired and living in Mobile, and a small number of other survivors of that infamous day will be recognized Sunday aboard the Battleship USS Alabama.

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MARY HATTLER/Staff Photographer

**Harold Pouyadou**, 89, shown Friday, is a Pearl Harbor survivor. Pouyadou was a sailor stationed on Ford Island at Pearl Harbor the day the Japanese airplanes bombed the island.

## Kids get help in making music

► Guitars Not Guns program teaches children, teens how to be musicians

By **RENÉE BUSBY**  
Staff Reporter

Last Christmas, 10-year-old Isis Harris was hoping for a guitar. This Christmas, she's making music with one.

She earned it through Guitars Not Guns, a national nonprofit that provides guitars and lessons to inner-city and at-risk children and teens in an effort to stem violence in schools and on the streets.

Wilson Newell, a senior at UMS-Wright Preparatory School, started Alabama's first Guitars Not Guns chapter a year ago.

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## TEACH THE MUSIC

The next Guitars Not Guns class begins in January at the Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club on Rice Street. Anyone interested in volunteering to teach guitar lessons should call the Boys & Girls Clubs of South Alabama at 251-432-3821.



The Child Advocacy Center's annual Holiday Tribute Program is a unique way of remembering others during the upcoming holiday season and helping the center at the same time.

Individuals, businesses or firms can make a donation to the center on behalf of friends, colleagues or family members.

The center will then mail a holiday card designed by its children to those being honored, letting them know that you have made a donation in their name. Cards are available for Christmas, New Years or Hanukkah.

To receive a packet containing a remembrance list card, a holiday greeting sample card and a donor card, call 251-432-1101.

To submit an item about a holiday donation, solicitation or good deed, fax Holiday Cheerity at 251-219-5799; mail P.O. Box 2488, Mobile, AL 36652; e-mail holidaycheerity@press-register.com; or drop by the Press-Register office at 401 N. Water St. in downtown Mobile.

## WINTERY WONDERLAND



Photos by **G.M. ANDREWS**/Staff Photographer



**K**ids of all ages try to catch "snowflakes" falling Friday from the balconies of Hargrove Engineering during the North Pole Stroll in downtown Mobile. Downtown businesses hosted the first-time event with carolers and other entertainers, a holiday market, train rides, snow falling from the balconies and refreshments for children and adults. **Left:** Val Thompson, a youth associate with the Mobile Public Library, reads "The Bear Stays Up" under a 27-foot Christmas tree at the Battle House Hotel.

## No bail given to slaying suspect

► Demetrius Thomas accused of killing girlfriend at group home in Theodore

By **KATHERINE SAYRE**  
Staff Reporter

A 34-year-old man accused of killing his estranged girlfriend at a Theodore group home was outraged that the mother of their four children had ended their relationship, prosecutors said Friday.

Mobile County Assistant District Attorney Ashley Rich said that as Demetrius Thomas fired the final shots at Cindy Longmire in the group home's kitchen, he repeatedly asked, "Who is he?"

Thomas falsely believed that Longmire had started a new relationship with someone else, Rich said.

Mobile County District Judge Michael McMaken denied Thomas bail Friday, keeping him in Mobile County Metro Jail on a charge of capital murder.

Thomas stood before the judge wearing a navy jail uniform and bandages on both arms. Prosecutors said he cut himself as he crawled through a window to get to Longmire.

As details were described in court, family members of Longmire cried and gasped.

Rich said that Longmire worked as a caregiver for mentally and physically disabled residents at two separate group homes each week.



**Thomas**  
Wednesday photo

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## Two local colleges shine in national rankings

► University of Mobile is a 'Best College Buy,' while Bishop State wins recognition for rising enrollment

By **RENÉE BUSBY**  
Staff Reporter

Two area colleges are basking in national attention — one for good value and the other for rapid growth.

The University of Mobile has

been named one of "America's 100 Best College Buys" by the Institutional Research and Evaluation Inc., a research and consulting group that surveyed 1,195 institutions.

The Southern Baptist-affiliated university, with an annual tuition of \$22,345, was joined in the rankings by the University of Alabama, Auburn University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Bishop State Community College, meanwhile, has been ranked as one of the nation's 50 fastest growing two-year public

colleges. Bishop State placed 27th on the list, according to enrollment surveys by the College Week newspaper.

Mark Foley, University of Mobile president, said the "Best College Buys" listing comes as UM trustees pursue a new goal to place the 1,646-student school on the "national stage."

The university, Foley said, is committed to remaining "a good value to our customers."

The new recognition, he said, sends "a strong message to families" who are searching for a school like the University of Mobile.

Bishop State posted an enrollment of 3,706 for the 2009 fall semester, a jump of 13.3 percent in a year. The numbers demonstrate, said President James Lowe, that students and the city have "regained confidence" in the college.

He said that Bishop State "has made tremendous gains to become a viable college."

Prior to Lowe's arrival in 2007 as interim leader, the college was plagued by problems that included theft of financial aid. Lowe was named president in 2008.

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