Hundreds land jobs at soon-to-open Walmart

By Del Lessard  
Beacon Staff Writer

The Niceville Walmart store scheduled to open next week will be Niceville’s biggest private employer by job count, boosting the local economy.

As of Jan. 12, 274 people had been hired to operate the giant store, and there were plans to take on 60 more before the doors open at 7:30 a.m. Jan. 26, according to Kim Stevens, store manager.

The typical mix of employees at a Walmart Supercenter is about a 60-40 ratio of full-time to part-time workers, said Stevens.

On bright sunny holiday afternoon, the Niceville paintball field used to be filled with enthusiastic competitors, as it was one day in July 2007 (file photo, above). Last Saturday afternoon, however, the city-operated paintball field was empty, and equipment sat unused in the office, right. The Niceville paintball field included a semi-wooded area of about an acre, with trees, natural obstacles, and other items to create a simulated battlefield in which competitors can hunt and dodge each other while having fun.

The property will be used to store city equipment, officials said.

The field attracts perhaps 1,250 players a year, drawn from a pool of 2,500, its manager said.

The municipal paintball field is next to the city’s skateboard park, and near the city softball and soccer complex just north of the city hall and library on Panama Drive.

The city brought it up during his usual report to the council on current city matters, and the decision to close the paintball field came during a Jan. 11 meeting of the Niceville City Council, after City Manager Lannette Cottrill said declining revenue has caused a steady fall in revenue, making it too costly to keep the field in operation.

The field was used to store city equipment, officials said.

The field attracts perhaps 1,250 players a year, drawn from a pool of 2,500, its manager said.

Manager Lannie Corbin said declining revenues at the paintball field came during a Jan. 11 meeting of the Niceville City Council, after City Manager Lannette Cottrill said declining revenue has caused a steady fall in revenue, making it too costly to keep the field in operation.

On bright sunny holiday afternoon, the Niceville paintball field used to be filled with enthusiastic competitors, as it was one day in July 2007 (file photo, above). Last Saturday afternoon, however, the city-operated paintball field was empty, and equipment sat unused in the office, right. The Niceville City Council last week voted to close the play area.

Mayor Bruce Arnold declared the service’s plan to operate 59 tenants at a Walmart Supercenter is about 60-40 ratio of full-time to part-time workers, said Stevens.

The typical mix of employees at a Walmart Supercenter is about a 60-40 ratio of full-time to part-time workers, said Stevens.


data:image/png;base64,iVBORw0KGgoAAAANSUhEUgAAAIUAAABkCAYAAAA7uxJzAAAAAgXRFWHRTb2Z0d2FyZQBBZG9iZSBJbWFnZVJlYWR5ccllPAAAAjBpVFh0WE1MOmNvbS5hZG9iZS5的理念 AAAAGXRFWHRTb2Z0d2FyZQBBZG9iZSBJbWFnZVJlYWR5ccllPAAAAfAElEQVR42mP0/bHqEAAAAASUVORK5CYII=

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**MSBU names new officers**

**Landscaping is discussed**

By Mike Griffith

**Byline:** Staff Correspondent

Members of the Bluewater Bay Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) board of directors approved a new slate of officers for 2011 during their first meeting of the new year, held Jan. 11 at the pool clubhouse at 1950 Bluewater Boulevard.

The board also discussed upcoming community projects including sidewalks, street lighting, and stack block planting along Bluewater Boulevard.

Some projects remain unfinished, including sidewalks along the Bluewater Boulevard traffic circle and the Osceola County Public Works Department project to install street striping on Bluewater Bay road.

The MSBU is a unit of county government in charge of managing landscaping, street lighting, street signs, and other beautification and maintenance of thoroughfares and common areas in the unincorporated Bluewater Bay community.

The Bluewater Bay Municipal Services Benefit Unit is replacing aging railroad tracks in common areas, below, with stack blocks, above, which are more durable and easier to clean.

The new officers of the MSBU board were:

- Chairman: Doug Burgess
- Vice chairman: Dale McCarthy
- Secretary: Joan McCarthy
- Treasurer: Bill Roberts
- Member: JoAnn Jernigan

The meeting was held at 7 p.m. at the Bluewater Golf Clubhouse at 1950 Bluewater Boulevard.

The new officers of the MSBU board were:

- Chairman: Doug Burgess
- Vice chairman: Dale McCarthy
- Secretary: Joan McCarthy
- Treasurer: Bill Roberts
- Member: JoAnn Jernigan

The meeting was held at 7 p.m. at the Bluewater Golf Clubhouse at 1950 Bluewater Boulevard.

One such project is to install stack blocks, large grassy, unlined and black horizons at some intersections along Bluewater Boulevard, as well as at some intersections along Bay Drive.

Board members also approved a one-year contract with the Color Trace firm to pressure wash some dirty stack blocks located in Bluewater Bay. (The contract is expected to cost $2,415.)

New board member Joan McCarthy said fellow board members, who say many plantings throughout Bluewater Bay are better than stack blocks, other than other materials such as wood-decking.

MSBU management consultant Archie Jernigan replied that in the past, many such areas were originally bordered with railties, but the wood ties tended to rot in Florida’s warm, moist climate; and the concrete stack blocks tend to last longer and retain their appearance better, despite needing to be washed occasionally to remove mold and stains from removed solar-station
gation water.

One project under discussion, but not yet approved, said Burgess, would be to place the traffic circle, Bluewater Boulevard,

- removing the current sidewalk, and grass now in the Jernigan plantings,

- creating a red and blue motif throughout the circle, if the proper plants can be found, and
- making the circle grow.

McCarthy said she has received inquiries from some residents about constructing sidewalks near the Marina Cove sub-division Burgess, however, said the MSBU’s activities are usually limited to the city’s thoroughfares, street signs and lighting.

“We don’t do sidewalks,” Burgess said, largely because the expense would be too great to build sidewalks throughout Bluewater Bay with the MSBU’s limited budget. He also said he thinks it unlikely that Okaloosa County would build sidewalks in the unincorporated Bluewater Bay.

However, Burgess said he has been in contact with the Okaloosa County public works department, and is trying to arrange some new road striping on Bluewater Bay streets, especially in areas where local bicycle use is vulnerable to being hit by speeding vehicles when riding along local bicycle paths.

Burgess also said that the MSBU is planning to erect a new sign identifying the native plant trail maintained by the Bluewater Bay Garden Club along Bluewater Boulevard just northwest of the intersection with Caribbean Way. He said the sign will be a “true beacon” design, but is expected to help people note the native plant trail, which is often overlooked by passersby who do not see the very trail, which is often overlooked by passersby who do not see the very
gation

Burgess also said that the MSBU is planning to erect a new sign identifying the native plant trail maintained by the Bluewater Bay Garden Club along Bluewater Boulevard just northwest of the intersection with Caribbean Way. He said the sign will be a “true beacon” design, but is expected to help people note the native plant trail, which is often overlooked by passersby who do not see the very small sign in place now.

**Bluewater Bay Municipal Services Benefit Unit is replacing aging railroad tracks in common areas, below, with stack blocks, above, which are more durable and easier to clean.**

**Campbell takes board helm**

Outgoing Okaloosa County Commission Chairman Wayne Heileman steps down March 31 after the recent election to new Chairman James Campbell. Jan. 11 during a commission meeting in Crestview, Campbell, of Niceville, represents District 3, which includes most of Okaloosa County. He has been a county commissioner since 2004. This is his second one-year term as chairman, a post to which he was elected by his fellow commissioners. He previ- ouously served in 2008. Bill Roberts, District 1, which includes Valparaiso, was named vice chairman for 2011.
Situation

Served with a
time

Eyes: brown
Age: 20
Weight: 170 pounds
Fort Walton Beach.

Name: Ryan Dean Hamilton
Eyes: hazel
Hair: blond
Wanted for: burglary, criminal mischief and theft.

Name: William Shane Allen

This information is from reports by the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office. A reward is offered by Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers, 863-647-1771, or 1-888-654-8477. Information can also be provided anonymously by texting “TIP214 plus the message” to CRIMESTEXT (74637).

Okaloosa seeks fugitives

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Police Blotter

The following accounts of the police are according to reports submitted by the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office and Walton County Sheriff’s Office.

Arrests

Chanta Maria Bush, 32, of 74 Bimini Lane, Shalimar, was arrested by Niceville police Dec. 30 on a misdemeanor charge of battery or hanging out phone call.

Lorenzo Elmore Clement, 25, of 401 Nile Ave. Niceville, was arrested by sheriff’s deputies Jan. 3 on a misdemeanor charge of violation of probation on the original charges of theft and resisting a retail merchant.

Alto Lee Lockenry, unem-
ployed, 26, of 507 2nd St.
Niceville, was arrested by sheriff’s deputies Dec. 30 on a Walton County warrant on the original charge of retail theft.

Joel Benjamin Nelson, 19, of 112 Evergreen Cir., Valparaiso, was arrested by Valparaiso police Dec. 27 on a charge of theft of a payment card. On Aug. 19 Nelson allegedly used the vic-
tim’s credit card to purchase a $235 ring from an online jeweler and disposed of the ring by mailing it to a vacant address near his home.

A 15-year-old Valparaiso high school student, was arrested by

Valparaiso police Jan. 5 on a charge of domestic violence battery.

A 15-year-old Niceville boy was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 9 on charges of burglary of a vehicle, two counts, and one count of grand theft and posses-
sion of drug paraphernalia.

A 14-year-old Niceville boy was arrested by Niceville police Jan. 9 on charge of burglary to a conveyance, theft of a firearm and mischief and theft. On Jan. 4 the boy allegedly entered an unlocked vehicle in the 100 block of North Lakeshore Avenue and stole a wallet and a .38 caliber pistol.

Paul Christopher Quiggy, 19, of 256 W. Chicago Ave., Valparaiso, was arrested by sher-
iff’s deputies Jan. 6 on charges of theft of property to appear on original misdemeanor charge of theft and possession of drug paraphernalia.

A 17-year-old boy was arrested by

Niceville police Jan. 10 on charges of burglary of a vehicle. On Jan. 6 at 3:01 a.m. Paschel was also charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription, a packet of marijuana and a Xanax bar. He was also cited for driving with an expired driver’s license.

A Niceville resident who was unable to use her credit card over the New Year’s weekend learned from her bank that the card had been used in Florida because of sus-
cious activity. The victim said she did not authorize either of the two charges made in New York Jan. 1. For nearly a week and a half, Sheriff’s investi-
gators forwarded both cases to authorities in New York.

A Niceville resident reported the door to her door and window on her vehicle were damaged while she was parked at Fort Walton Beach bowling alley Jan. 6. The victim noticed the damage when she had difficulty opening the door. Nothing was reported missing from the vehicle.

A Niceville woman reported that she turned around and saw a man steal her wallet from a shopping bag. Only the victim was at the rear of a grocery store. 1001 E. John Sims Parkway, Jan. 9. A woman saw the victim’s vehicle depart the store with another woman. The suspect did not attempt to purchase anything in the store and were possibly traveling in a dark color SUV. The wallet con-
tained a credit card, Social Security card, a birth certificate and various IDs.

A building contractor reported Jan. 4 that unknown persons entered a home under construction in the 9000 block of Bankside River Way and removed water and copper water pipes from the home which was on the market and could not be secured. The estimated property was valued at $7,500. Three days after the contractor reported that some-
one had entered the house and stolen additional copper refriger-
ator lines.

On Dec. 29 a Niceville resident reported that three unknown males jumped out of a pickup truck and tried to rob him in the parking lot of a Niceville convenience store, 1001 Valparaiso Blvd. The victim told police he ran to the ground when he was hit by one of the suspects and that one of them tried to take the wallet from his back pocket. The Niceville officer left in the pickup truck when the victim fought back.

A 20-year-old Niceville resi-
vant reported that three unknown males jumped out of a pickup truck and tried to rob him in the parking lot of a Niceville convenience store, 1001 Valparaiso Blvd. The victim told police he ran to the ground when he was hit by one of the suspects and that one of them tried to take the wallet from his back pocket. The Niceville officer left in the pickup truck when the victim fought back.

Other

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WALMART

From page A-1

The next-largest retail tenant at Niceville, measured by number of jobs, is Twin Cities Hospital, which employs 210 full-time, 19 part-time, and 60 as-needed people. At 153,283 square feet, the Niceville store is about 17 per cent smaller than the average Walmart Supercenter built by the Bentonville, Ark., retail giant. In part, because it will not have an automotive and tire center. There are 2,369 Supercenters nationwide, and most, like this one, are open around the clock. Supercenter average 185,000 square feet and employ about 350.

In addition to groceries, clothing and other general merchandise, the Niceville store offers a garden center and liquor store, but no gas station. Wal-mart employees must keep shelves well-stocked. Wal-mart jobs are an undoubted shot in the arm to the local economy, they may come at a price elsewhere. Community and business leaders said last year that they expect the additional competition may put more pressure on some existing stores.

The Niceville, at least until next week, is Kmart, which employs about 30 people, 60 of whom are not part-time. Kmart’s lease has $7,000-square-foot-footprints, a fire break for the last Walmart outlet on John Sims Parkway.

The first 100 or so Walmart employees, whom the company calls associates, began work Dec. 24. The last 75 were due to work until the end of January.

The local Walmart provides an economic boost to the area. The Niceville Walmart provided $72,786 in non-tax revenue in 2010, according to the city’s annual financial report. At its peak, the store paid $4,730,467, according to the city’s forecast for this fiscal year.

For 18 years the voice of Niceville, Bluewater Bay and Valparaiso, Lee Mullis hosted The Bay Beacon, which was one of Northwest Florida’s local papers. The Beacon moved to the Daily News in 2010. He also owned the Destin Weekly, which is still in print. Mullis died Dec. 31, 2009.

Lee Mullis, MD

Dr. Mullis was born in Valparaiso and has been practicing medicine in Niceville for 18 years. Dr. Mullis is an internist and addiction medicine specialist who sees patients here at the Destin and Niceville offices.

Lee Mullis, MD

Dr. Mullis is a true medical expert. He’s always been able to deliver a high level of service, regardless of the situation. His knowledge and experience are unparalleled, and his bedside manner is second to none. He’s always available when I need him, and I would highly recommend him to anyone looking for a great doctor.

Lee Mullis, MD

Dr. Mullis has been my doctor for over 10 years. He has always been very informative and has a personal touch with his patients. I would highly recommend him to anyone looking for a great doctor.

Lee Mullis, MD

Dr. Mullis is a fantastic doctor. He has a great bedside manner and is always willing to listen to his patients. He is also very knowledgeable and has helped me through some tough times.

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Air Force Nov. 4. He reiterated his Arnold declared in a letter to the fiscal failure of the city, “To repay its debts.
many as 850 of the city’s 4,144 residents would be forced from their homes by the resulting jet planes will use is expected from the Pentagon this spring. From page A-1... what runways the F-35 lightnings over V alparaiso.
Valparaiso has nearly $5.4 million in long-term debt, with repayment based primarily on future tax revenues. The majority of these revenues is derived from sales tax revenue, franchise fees and cable service providers. To prevent the city from either raising utility and cable rates or property tax rates to repay the borrowings.
F-35 in test flight. Valparaiso officials assert that noise aris-
ing to block city legal action seek- against the Air Force on the F-35 project. An F-35 in test flight. Valparaiso officials assert that noise aris-
ing to block city legal action seek- against the Air Force on the F-35 project.
AF prefers to build units at south end of main base

By Mike Griffith

Eglin Air Force Base officials hosted a public hearing last week in Niceville to discuss a recent Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concerning the Air Force’s plans to have private industry build and manage 1,477 homes for servicemen and their families. Public comments submitted during the hearing Jan. 11, and another in Fort Walton Beach Jan. 12, will be forwarded to the Secretary of the Air Force for consideration before final decisions are made about where to locate the new housing, said Mike Spaits, Eglin environmental manager.

“The secretary actually reads each and every comment received,” said Jago, “and sends us questions and comments about many of them.”

The Niceville hearing, at Northwest Florida State College, was attended by about 150 people in addition to base officials who explained the alternatives under consideration and answered questions from the public.

Eglin environmental engineer Minda Rogers said the latest developments in the housing plan are that two alternative locations, one near Crestview and Duke Field, and another near DeFuniak Springs, have been dropped from consideration.

Eglin environmental engineer Minda Rogers said the latest developments in the housing plan are that two alternative locations, one near Crestview and Duke Field, and another near DeFuniak Springs, have been dropped from consideration, largely because of their remoteness from the main part of Eglin Air Force Base.

In addition, alternative 2A, on the southwest portion of Eglin’s main base, has been identified as the Air Force’s “preferred alternative” location for the new housing, said Mike Spits, a base public affairs officer.

The proposed location is south of Eglin Parkway, midway between Poggin Bayou and Ben’s Lake, and north of Shalimar; a mixed-use site that contained, or once contained, older housing. Much of the government-owned housing on Eglin has been torn down in the past two years. The purpose of the EIS is to evaluate the different alternative locations for housing and the associated potential impacts before a final decision is made.

Although Eglin land at White Point and in Valparaiso are among the alternatives being considered, the latest draft EIS states the Air Force’s preferred alternative is to have private developers build 993 units on the southwest corner of Eglin’s main base and another 444 at Hurlburt Field. At Camp Rudder, the location of the Army Ranger training center, all 25 existing housing units would be demolished and 35 new units would be built.

The Eglin land includes mature green spaces, thus preserving much of the natural environment of the base. Although the Air Force says the purpose of the EIS is to evaluate the different alternative locations for housing and the associated potential impacts before a final decision is made, according to the draft EIS, transportation is a problem with building the housing in the White Point area around Bluewater Bay, while noise is the issue if the housing were built in Valparaiso. High noise levels are also problems for potential housing sites on other areas of Eglin as well as alternate sites in Fort Walton Beach, according to the EIS.

Public comments will be accepted through Feb. 7.

Eglin environmental manager Mike Spaits, an environmental public information official at Eglin, points to a map of the preferred alternative location for new military housing on Eglin Air Force Base.

Photos by Mike Griffith

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For 18 years the voice of Niceville, Bluewater Bay and Valparaiso
By Kenneth Books

While many of her peers spend their free time on video games, TV and worrying whether members of the opposite sex like them, Alexandra Blikker is working hard to become a leader.

Alexandra, 14, who goes by Alix, an enterprising Niceville High School freshman, is part of the Air Force Reserve (AFR) Teen Leadership Council, working with younger kids who, like her, have a parent in the Air Force.

The leadership council is a national wide group of youngsters from Air Force Reserve families that helps to bring a youthful voice to the planning, implementation and evaluation of Reserve programming and speaks at various functions.

"We work on finding our new ways to help the Air Force," Alix said.

Alix Blikker with some of the children she helps

"We represent the AF Air Force Reserve Base, Georgia, works with kids and interacted with them to help make them more secure," Alix said.

The 16 teens also planned three summer trips, to Central Texas, Denver, Colorado and Washington, D.C., in 2010. Alix plans to go to Washington, D.C. There, she'll visit the capital and "do historic things." She also visited Estes Park in Colorado in August.

"We did some leadership classes," she said of her Colorado visit. "We also went hiking, biking, horseback riding and we had dinners."

But there's more to the Teen Leadership Council than classes and trips. The members learn that true leadership involves both hard work and a heart for serving others.

Alix plans a project on Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field to set up a BABY-Sitting clearing house for parents who are alone because of a deployment and need some "me time."

To accomplish this, first she must speak to the 5th Special Operations Squadron leader, the squadron her father, Dave, a lieutenant colonel in the Air Reserve, belongs to. Then, she'll discuss the concept with the children's parents, personnel on the base.

"I probably will take two months to get the program off the ground," she said.

Alix understands what going through a child's mind when a parent is deployed. Her father has been deployed four times in the last five-and-a-half years, said Alix's mother, Lorrim.

"She'll use that understanding at the end of this month in Sanduskin at another Yellow Ribbon event. There, she'll work with about 40 girls ages 7-12 with a co-worker, Brittany Beach of Mississippi."

"We're going to be doing a bunch of different programs," Alix said. "They'll go to know one another over board games at the beginning, then go to the beach and spend time together. She also plans to attend a Feb. 18-20 Yellow Ribbon event in Dallas.

To gain her appointment to the Teen Leadership Council, Alix had to write five essays. They were mostly about how we feel when our parents are deployed and how to help them.

http://www.nhfs.com/page-64

NHS freshman learns leadership, helps kids

"I really was excited when I signed up," Alix said.


BY KEITH LAMM

The annual Niceville-Vafortune Community Chamber of Commerce awards celebration was held at the Northwest Florida State College Building 100 Jan. 14, as part of the Blue Jean Ball and event. The following Chamber members were recognized in their service to the Chamber and the community in 2010.


Large Business of the Year: Northwest Florida Regional Airport, represented by director Greg Donovan.


You Rock Award: Donna Cohn, Old South Land Title.


Chairman’s Award: Jimmie Harrison, Two Cities Hospital.


New Business of the Year: Domenica Donovan, New Business of the Year.


TAD BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: Filipino-owned company Dominica Donovan, who received the 2011 New Business of the Year award. She is a representative for the Chamber.


You Rock Award: Donna Cohn, Old South Land Title.


Chairman’s Award: Jimmie Harrison, Two Cities Hospital.


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Thursday, Jan. 20

— NHS vs. Walton, girls basketball, 6:30

— Ruckel vs. BlueWave, basketball, 9:15

— NHS vs. MSA, volleyball, 7:30

Friday, Jan. 21

— Destin vs. Laurel HIll, basketball, 6:30

— Ruckel vs. BlueWave, girls basketball, 9:15

— NHS vs. Crestview, wrestling, 4-9

— MSA vs. Tate, boys soccer (some girls, 8:30)

— Destin vs. Ponce de Leon, girls basketball, 5:30

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College names released after 1st president

J.E. McCracken served NWFSC for 24 years

The loop road that encircles the Niceville campus of Florida National University College finally has a name. The road was named “McCracken Way” at a Jan. 14 ceremony held on what would have been the 85th birthday of the college’s founding president, Dr. J.E. “Bill” McCracken.

“Bill McCracken was a visionary leader, one of the most dedicated and selfless individuals I have ever worked with in the United States,” said Dr. Samir A. Abdul-Aziz, president of the college.

In 1964, McCracken turned 24 while serving in the military in England for the U.S. Army. He matriculated at the University of Florida and graduated in 1967 with a bachelor of science in education and nearly 25 years of vital leadership to the college into a brief dedication of vital leadership to the college mission coincided with his acceptance of the post “because the concept of the community college mission coincided with his concept of opportunities,” said Dr. Handy. Through leading such a commitment, Dr. McCracken said of his vision, now 25 years later, “I hope that tradition endures.”

Handy noted the dedication remarks, noting that he had a bit of a challenge to compress McCracken’s 40 years of dedication to education and nearly 25 years of vital leadership to the college into a brief dedication speech.

The founding OWSC president served as resident counselor at the University of Florida, professor of education and psychology at the University of Mississippi; dean of students at Millipitas College; and director of research and development at Pensacola Junior College.

Handy noted that McCracken’s 24 years of work in the field of OWSC almost didn’t happen as he initially refused the job, wanting instead to continue serving at FSCJ. He said McCracken finally accepted the position because the concept of the community college mission coincided with his concept of opportunities. Through leading such a community-based institution, he could provide a high-quality educational experience that would lead to a greater quality of life for each student and for the community as a whole.

In 1964, McCracken turned 24, a year of great significance, as it not only was the beginning of his military service on both the east and west coasts of the United States, but also the beginning of the college’s longest serving chief administrator, Dr. J.E. “Bill” McCracken.

In 1970, students at the Pensacola Junior College were the first in the nation to participate in the Collaborative School Science Initiative. The program, created by the Japan Fulbright Commission, was selected by the National Council for Science and Technology, along with hundreds of others, to create a working group to develop models for science education across the nation.

Dr. Tyrone Handy, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Florida National University College, has asked three members of the college’s founding president to participate in a historical ceremony held on what would have been Dr. McCracken’s birthday.

From left: Niceville High School NaGISA students Justin Anderson, Victoria Marks, and Tom McCracken, and two of the college’s first intercollegiate athletes. (from a 25th anniversary interview with Dr. McCracken).

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From left: Niceville High School NaGISA students Justin Anderson, Victoria Marks, and Tom McCracken, and two of the college’s first intercollegiate athletes.

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**The Piano Men**: a musical journey through the 1970s, will feature the songs of Elton John and Billy Joel Monday, Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m., at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center at NWF State College, Niceville. Tickets are $30 in advance. Call 729-2074 or online at www.mkarts.com.

**Piano Man** to perform

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**Relay captain meeting**

A Relay For Life team captain meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 25, 6-7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church Parish Life Center, 1200 E. John Sims Parkway, Niceville. Call 678-2615.

**Roundabout contest planned**

The Donnie History & Finding Museum will plan an annual contest and silent auction fundraiser Saturday, Jan. 22, at the Donnie Community Center, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Area restaurants and individuals can compete for the title of the best pendant on the roundabout. The event will include live music from local musicians and a slow auction. Advance tickets are available at the Museum for $5 per adult and $3 per child. Call 644-6193 or email kathy@baliwest.com.

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Obituaries

Joice Maria (Santucci) Abounader March 16, 1942- Jan 3, 2011
Joice Maria (Santucci) Abounader of Niceville, Fla., passed away at her daughter’s residence on Kennesaw Drive on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011. She was born in the Land of the Free both of her sons, her daughter, and her son-in-law by her family was long before her heart.

Mrs. Abounader was born in Utica, N.Y., in 1942. She is the daughter of the late Giuseppe Santucci and Anna Santucci, who both immigrated here from Italy. Joice relocated her family from New York to northwest Florida in the early 70’s. She had a passion for her Italian heritage. One of her most wonderful highlights was traveling to Italy, visiting her relatives and bonding with those family members who still reside there.

Ms. Abounader is survived by her daughter, Alyssa (Joe) Bliss, sons, Ray and Fred (Illeana) Abounader; sister, Linda (Theodore) Fondulac; two brothers, Salvatore and Ronald Santucci; and grandchildren, Sean, Lucas and Logan Abounader. In addition to her parents, Joice was preceded in passing by brother Emesto Santucci, daughter-in-law Joann Abounader, niece Sandra Santucci, and nephew Michael Santucci.

Celebration of life service will be held Jan. 22 at 2 p.m. at the Immanuel Anglican Church in Niceville. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the Immanuel Anglican Church or the “Supper on Sunday” program hosted by Niceville’s First United Methodist Church.

In Memory of Mildred Marlowe

Thank You For Being Part of her Life.

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Dr. Olivier Brouitin, D.M.D. is excited about offering these new, expanded services, as well as his regular family and cosmetic dental procedures. First of all, we now offer Botox and Juvederm. Botox is a refined protein that is used cosmetically to remove wrinkles, particularly those around your eyes and eyebrows, and on the forehead. Plus, Botox was recently approved by the FDA to be used therapeutically to treat migraine headaches.

When Botox is used cosmetically, you will see results within a couple of days and may continue to see improvement in your appearance during the first week following treatment. That improvement can continue for up to 30 days. Results are long-lasting for up to 6 months.

Juvederm is an injectable gel that instantly smooths away those parentheses that line around your nose and mouth area with just one treatment! The smooth, natural results can last up to a year.

Another service Dr. Brouitin now offers is Invisalign. Invisalign is a series of removable, clear, custom-made braces that straighten teeth. These braces are virtually invisible, there are no metal wires or brackets, and offer quick fix that can fit into just about any busy lifestyle.

Some people have a fear of dentistry. Are you one of them? If so, Oral Brouitin dentist may be the answer. This is a service that Dr. Brouitin now offers and recommends for the apprehensive patient, especially those undergoing extensive dental treatment. Sedation dentistry is a service that can help call you during long procedures.

Dr. Brouitin is always striving to provide his patients with the dentistry they want. His desire to provide the best possible care in this practice is evidenced by his commitment to continuing education in advanced dental studies.

He continues to hone his skills through post-graduate training at the prestigious Las Vegas Institute (LVI) for Advanced Dental Studies and the general dentistry mastership program at the University of Florida. He is a member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, and the American Academy of General Dentistry. He is also a member of the Better Business Bureau. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call Dr. Brouitin at (850) 897-4488.