

3-9-2016

The Murray Ledger and Times, March 9, 2016

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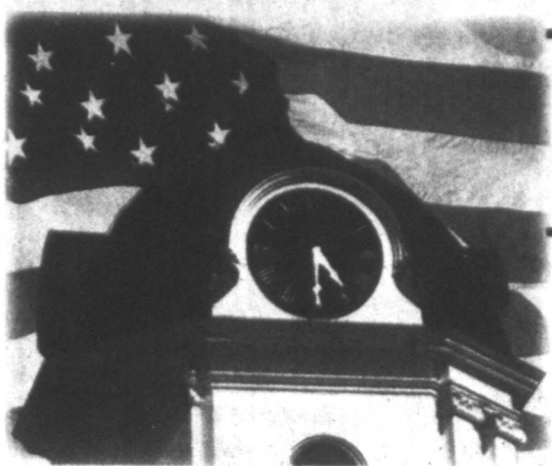
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Vol. 137, No. 58 www.murrayledger.com Wednesday, March 9, 2016 Murray, KY 42071 \$1

Democrats take 3 special elections to hold control of state House

By ADAM BEAM and BRUCE SCHREINER
Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Democrats won three of four special House elections on Tuesday, dealing a blow to Republican takeover attempts and solidifying power in the last legislative chamber in the South the party still controls.

Just four months ago, the party lost four of six statewide elected offices in a debacle that led to two of its members switching parties in the House in what looked like the beginning of a Republican power grab. But Tuesday's victories energized a Democratic party that once dominated Southern politics with its coalition of conservative, mostly rural Democrats who preach states' rights and limited government.

"The rebirth of the Democratic Party occurred tonight," House Speaker Greg Stumbo said.

Democrats successfully defended seats in Greenup County near the border with Ohio and West Virginia and Christian and Trigg counties near the border with Tennessee. Those seats were vacated when

► See DEMOCRATS Page 3A

Verse of the Day

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

John 3:16-17

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Students to Bevin: 'cut the bull, not the budget'

By JORDAN FERGUSON
Staff Writer

Almost two weeks ago, students and faculty from Murray State University, as well as other collegiate campuses across the Commonwealth of Kentucky, converged on Frankfort to march against the

budget cuts to higher education proposed by Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin. His proposed performance-based budget has earned the ire of many of the students, faculty and even administrators at Murray State, as well as other higher-ed institutions across the state. Under the proposed budget, university

funding would be based on performance measurements in certain fields of study, such as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and universities underperforming in these fields face a potential cut to their funding. "It's not a sustainable model," said Emily Ferguson, a junior from

Owensboro, Ky. who is majoring in Creative Writing at MSU. "The proposed budget calls for immediate cuts, and these cuts will have to be made before universities know what they will be scored on when the time comes for

► See STUDENTS Page 2A

Reality strikes

Exercise teaches middle schoolers lessons about life in the 'real world'

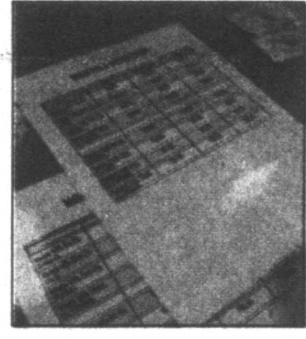
By DEBBIE BATTEIGER
Staff Writer

Middle school students from Murray Middle School and Calloway County Middle School learned some important life lessons on Tuesday.

Seventh-graders from MMS and eighth-graders from CCMS attended the Reality Store, an annual event that is produced in cooperation with Calloway County 4-H, Calloway County High School Harbour Youth Services Center, Leadership Murray, Murray Family Resource and Youth Services Centers and Murray State University. The event, held at the National Guard Armory on Tuesday, had been rescheduled from Feb. 10, which was a snow day for the schools.

Tenth-graders from both school districts will participate in the Reality Store experience Wednesday, according to Ginny Harper, Calloway County Extension Agent for 4-H/Youth Development.

"We've held (the Reality Store) annually since 1998. We've got 100 volunteers helping us," Harper said. "The Reality Store will help (students) think about



Students are taught life skills such as budgeting and paying bills at the Reality Store. One booth required is one involving an exercise for budgeting the grocery bill.

► See REALITY STRIKES Page 5A



ABOVE: Calloway County Middle School student Dilian Grande talks to a volunteer about budgeting clothing at the annual Reality Store, an exercise that teaches middle and high school students about life skills such as budgeting.

BELOW: Reality Store volunteer Judi Little, far left, talks to Murray Middle School students Ansam El-Beram and Claire Leatherwood about the price of groceries.

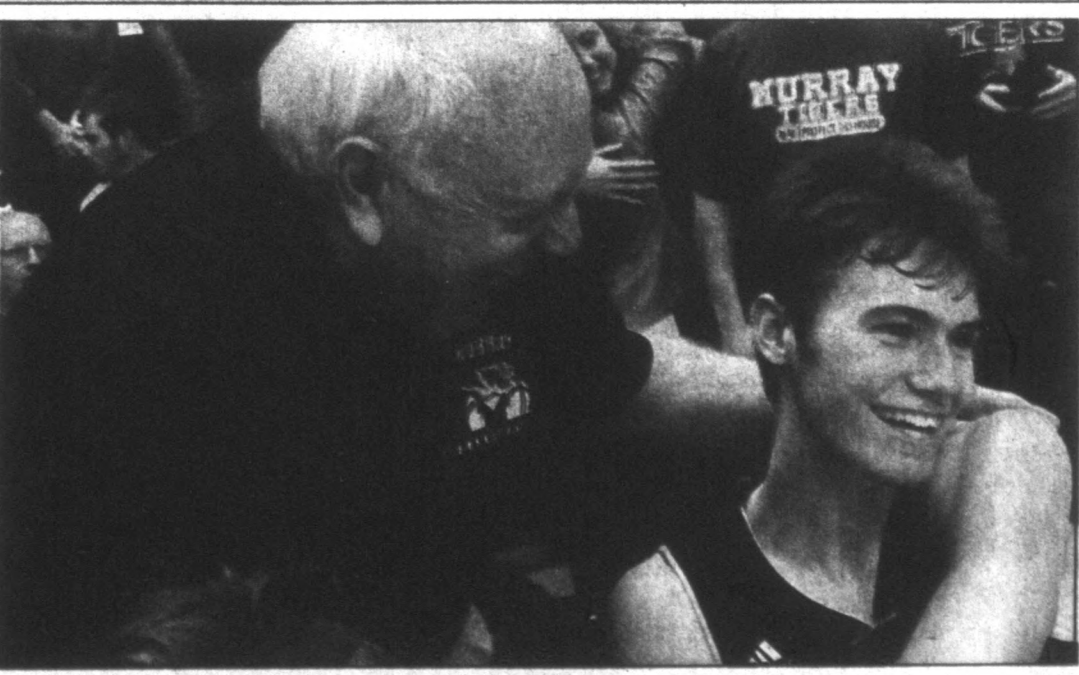


Tigers celebrate first title since '85

JOHN WRIGHT/
Ledger & Times

Murray Independent School District Superintendent Bob Rogers, left, shares a joyous moment with Murray High forward James Boone Tuesday night after the Tigers' claimed their first Region 1 boys basketball title since 1985 with a 55-47 win over McCracken County at Murray State University.

See story on Page 8A.



MISD Board OKs adjustment to calendar for makeup days

By JOHN WRIGHT
Staff Writer

With three days still to make up following snow events in both January and February, the Murray Independent School District Board of Education took action Tuesday to take care of that matter.

The Board took very little time in unanimously choosing the makeup dates. One of the days will be made up on March 18, while the other two will be made up on May 18-19. The original closing day for students was May 17 with teachers' final day set for a

► See MAKEUP Page 5A

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WEATHER



TODAY

72
61



TOMORROW

72
57

Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Thursday: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 72. South wind 10 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100 percent.

Thursday Night: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 57. South southeast wind around 10 mph becoming east northeast after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent.

Friday: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Cloudy, with a high near 66. East northeast wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Friday Night: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Cloudy, with a low around 57. East wind around 10 mph becoming south southeast after midnight. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent.

Saturday: Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Cloudy, with a high near 70. South wind 9 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday: A chance of showers before 10 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms between 10 a.m. and noon, then a slight chance of showers after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 72. South wind 9 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Wednesday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. South southeast wind 8 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 21 mph.

Daily Forecast
The National Weather Service



LEFT: Emily Ferguson, a student from Murray State University, is pictured with other students from MSU and other colleges from across the state as they marched against the proposed budget of Ky Gov. Matt Bevin.

INSET: MSU President Dr. Bob Davies was present with students at the march in Frankfort which opposed potential budget cuts to higher education. With Davies, from left, are Claire Ghent and Megan Epperson.



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Kathy Crouch, Principal
270-762-7325


North Calloway Elementary School
2928 Brinn Road
Melinda Hendley, Principal
270-762-7335

Southwest Calloway Elementary School
3426 Wiswell Road
Josh McKeel, Principal
270-762-7345

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Calloway County Schools Welcome Class of 2029



Thursday, March 24, 2016
9:00 am & 5:00-7:00 pm
School Cafeteria

Registration for Calloway County Schools' 2016-2017 Primary 1 / Kindergarten Program

Children who will be five (5) years of age on or before October 1, 2016 are eligible to attend Calloway County's full day Primary 1 / Kindergarten program.

Parents should bring the following items:

- A copy of the state issued birth certificate (Hospital birth certificate cannot be accepted)
- An up-to-date Kentucky Certificate of Immunization
- A copy of the student's Social Security card
- A Kentucky Preventative Health Care Examination form (Physicals dated prior to August 3, 2015 cannot be accepted)
- A Kentucky Eye Examination Form completed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist will be required by Jan. 1, 2017.
- A Kentucky Dental Screening Examination Form completed by a dentist, dental hygienist, physician, registered nurse, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant will be required by Jan. 1, 2017.

STUDENTS...

From Front

Bevin's proposed performance based funding.

"It will be a vicious cycle of under-preparedness, under-performance and under-funding. Bevin also seems to think the humanities are less important than STEM programs, when in reality, a healthy, functioning society needs members who are capable of fulfilling all roles, not just engineers."

"It's inevitable that tuition will rise," Ferguson said. "And Murray would stand to suffer from that in particular because low tuition is one of the major attractions of Murray State. MSU provides quality education to a region that can ill-afford exorbitant tuition rates, and it's fought to keep tuition low for as long as it could. If programs are suffering because (MSU) is being underfunded, why would anyone want to go to that school?"

Megan Epperson, a junior English Education major from Greenville, who currently serves as the president of the English Student Organization and as vice president of the local National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) chapter, also expressed concerns over the governor's proposed budget.

"The budget cuts will mean fewer classes offered, meaning larger class sizes and fewer electives - which, for an English Education major, can make it difficult to meet requirements to graduate," Epperson said.

"It also means fewer professors, and student workers in several departments would lose their positions, assuming they are university workers and not federal work-study positions. This could lead to lower retention rates, less funding, fewer scholarship and study abroad opportunities, and a seriously under-educated work force."

"All the state agencies in Kentucky have already received \$1.6 billion in cuts since 2008," said Kaley Owens, a junior from Paducah, as well as an English Literature major at Murray State. "With any more cuts, the universities will barely be able to function at all."

"There is fat that can be trimmed elsewhere, but when you begin to cut too deficiently in education you are cutting people's futures," Owens said.

"The future students of MSU or any Kentucky college for that matter, should be very fearful of these proposed cuts. They would only be seeing a shell of what once was a thriving institution."

"Not only that, but the comments made by Gov. Bevin regarding the humanities should be concerning to everyone. This is coming from someone who promoted lesser government, yet his comments suggest a potentially larger form of government. One in which the government would control what is seen as a valid degree."

"Future students would not be able to attend state universities if they wanted a degree in liberal arts, rather they would have to be a STEM major in order to achieve a degree worthy in the eyes of the government. This is a very scary point of view, especially with all of the amazing things people have achieved with humanities and liberal arts degrees, I mean, look at Matt Bevin! He has a liberal arts degree in East Asian studies and he is the governor of Kentucky!"

The March For Education totaled at around 200 marchers from various schools. Students from MSU, Kentucky State University, Eastern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University, and the University of Kentucky were all present to have their voices heard, and faces seen, in Frankfort.

The event was organized solely by students, with support from the faculty at Murray State.

"Dr. Kevin Binfield, Dr. Jeff Osborne, Dr. Andy Black, Dr. Sue Sroda, and Dr. Staci Stone were all invaluable in their encouragement of our efforts," Ferguson said.

Even MSU President Dr. Bob Davies made the trek to Frankfort to show his support for his students.

"President Davies has a rock star status with the students at Murray State," Owens said. "and seeing him in Frankfort really meant a lot to all the marchers from MSU."

Education commissioner plans town hall meetings across state


FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — State Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt wants to know how Kentuckians define school success. So he's planning a series of town hall meetings starting next week to gather comments.

The suggestions will be used by state education officials in developing a new accountability system. Pruitt has listed that as one of his priorities since being hired as education commissioner last fall.

Pruitt says he wants an accountability system that's fair, reliable and easier to understand.

The state's work stems from congressional passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act. That law shifts much of the oversight and responsibility for schools from the federal government to the states. That includes how accountability is determined and how to define and improve low-performing schools.

The first town hall meeting is set for March 14 in Shelbyville.



Murray Ledger & Times

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Health Beat

MCCH recognizes Go Blue Day for Colorectal Cancer Month

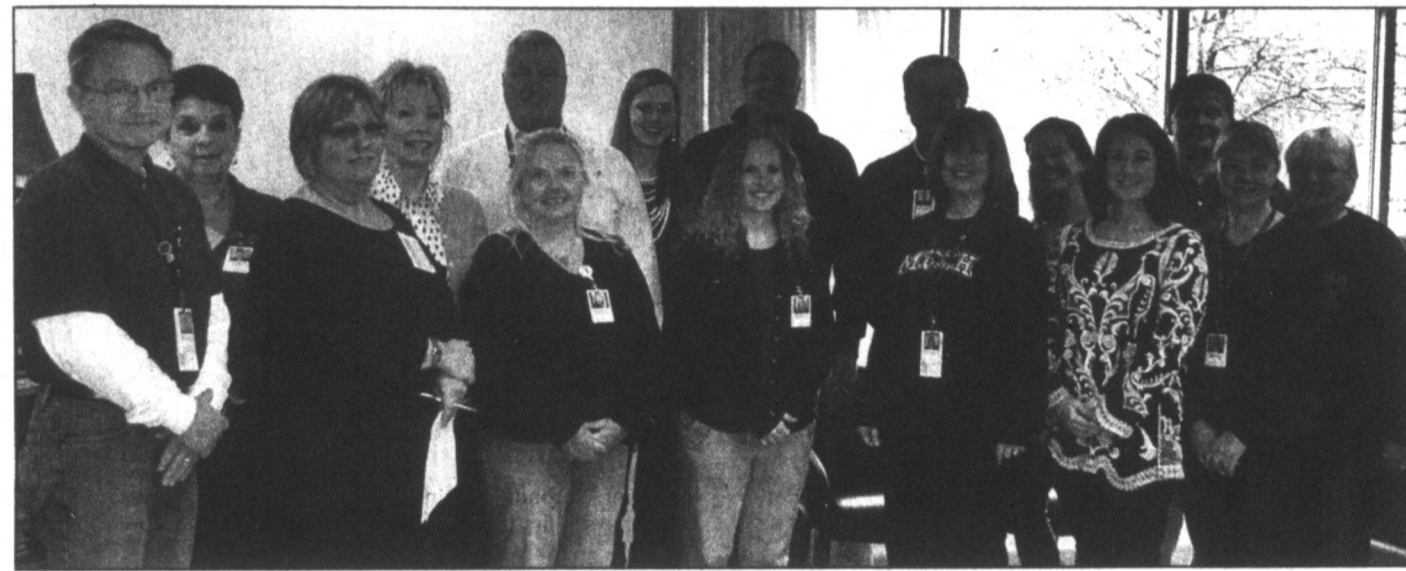


Endoscopy staff pictured with Dr. Monte Finch, Gastroenterologist, and Jerry Penner, CEO creating awareness by reminding everyone to GET YOUR : CHECKED!

Special to The Ledger

Murray-Calloway County Hospital recognizes Go Blue Day during Colorectal Cancer Month. During the month of March the goal is to inform men and women aged 50 years and older about the importance of having regular colorectal cancer screening tests.

Screening tests help find precancerous polyps (abnormal growths) so they can be removed before they have a chance to turn into cancer. This prevents colorectal cancer. Screening also can find this cancer early, when treatment is most effective. However, about one-third of adults aged 50 or older (about 22 million people)—the age group at greatest risk of developing colorectal cancer—have not been screened as recommended. For more information or to schedule your colonoscopy, call (270) 762-1100. ■



MCCH Staff participate by wearing blue to create awareness about the importance of colorectal cancer screenings.

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West Ky. Wellness Summit set for March 17

Special to The Ledger

A Mayo Clinic expert and other specialists will speak at the March 17 Western Kentucky School and Community Wellness Summit at the Paducah Regional Campus of Murray State University.

The summit is designed to assist school wellness committees with tobacco and wellness policies, now required by federal law. School committees need public input as they draft their policies, so the public also is invited to the free summit.

Dr. Richard Hurt, emeritus professor and emeritus director

of the Nicotine Dependence Center at the Mayo Clinic, will speak on harmful effects of tobacco and e-cigarettes, as well as the importance of adding e-cigarettes to tobacco-free ordinances and policies. The Murray native has authored more than 200 scientific publications and remains an activist for effective tobacco policy.

Other speakers include: Elizabeth Hoagland, Kentucky Department of Public Health, how to maintain 100 percent smoke free campuses.

Jacy Wooley, Alliance for Healthier Generations, how to

convene a wellness committee and develop a wellness plan for staff.

Jamie Sparks, the Kentucky Department of Education, how to develop a comprehensive School Health Policy.

MeMe Perdue, Action for Healthy Kids, the school health index and your school wellness policy.

The event will begin at 9 and conclude at 2:30, with lunch provided. To register, e-mail your name, title and organization to ranaa.sullivan@ky.gov.

Hundreds see Incredible Colon at Lourdes

Special to The Ledger

Hundreds of people toured the Incredible Colon, the oversized, inflatable walk through replica of the human colon today at Lourdes. The 20-foot long, 10-foot tall exhibit shows examples of polyps, healthy colon tissue and several non-cancerous diseases of the colon.

Mercy Gastroenterologist, Dr. Ross Jones educated visitors on signs, symptoms and risk factors for colon cancer. "I can't stress enough the importance of getting the appropriate screenings for colon cancer," says Dr. Ross Jones, Mercy Gastroenterologist. "With screenings, we find and remove polyps before they become cancer or we find cancers in their earliest, most treatable state."

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer mortality in Kentucky and, nationwide, and it

affects men and women of all ethnicities. Kentuckians have a higher than average risk of colon cancer due to higher rates of obesity, diets high in fat, and lack of regular exercise.

As many as 60 percent of deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented if everyone age 50 and older were screened regularly, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Screenings detect any abnormalities or early

signs of cancer, like polyps in the colon, and when detected early, polyps can be easily removed during a colonoscopy before they develop into cancer. When colon cancer is found early and treated, the five-year relative survival rate is 90 percent, underscoring the need for preventive health exams.

To schedule a colon screening, call Mercy Gastroenterology, call (270) 443-0777. ■

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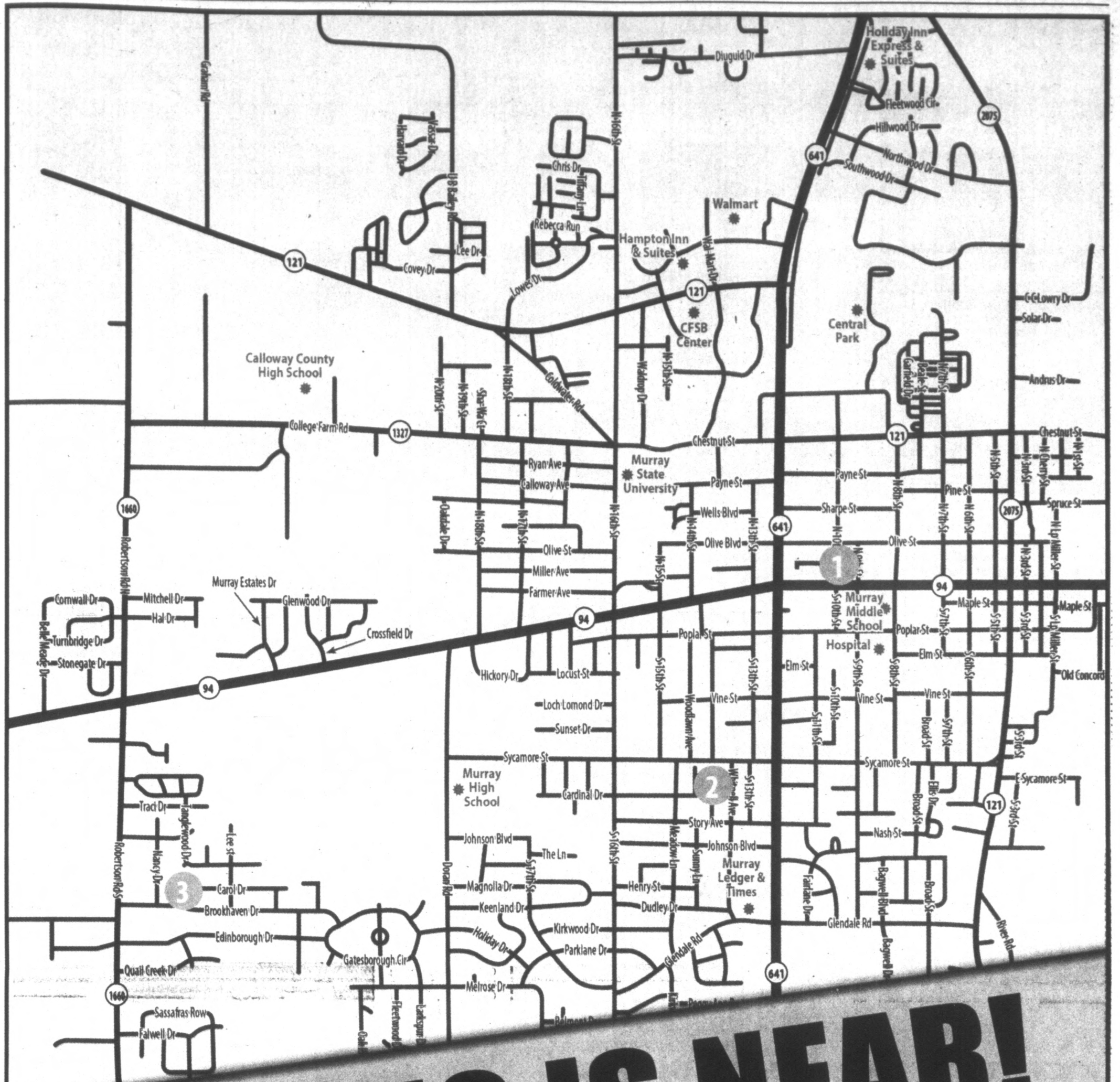
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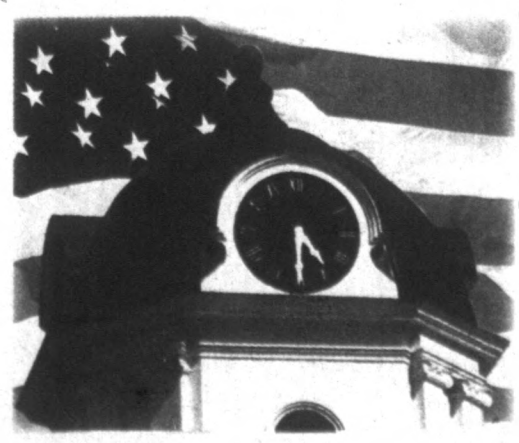
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