

Weather

A few afternoon showers.

High: 94 Low: 73

Page 2A

Index

BUSINESS	7B	LOTTERIES	3B
CLASSIFIEDS	1D	NATION	6A
COMICS	6C	OPINION	4A
CROSSWORD	8D	SCOREBOARD	3B
LOCAL	2A	TV LISTINGS	7C



OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2012

VOL. 107 NO. 216

75 CENTS



www.oanow.com

State Education Trust Fund

Revenue on pace to meet expenses

Official: Levies should be enough to meet spending target, avoid cuts

The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY — The state Education Trust Fund should collect enough state income taxes and other levies to meet its spending target for this fiscal year and avoid across-the-board cuts, Assistant State Finance Director Bill Newton said.

He also predicted the state General Fund, a major source of state money for Medicaid, prisons and other non-education areas of government, should collect enough revenues to meet its trimmed spending target for the year without further cuts.

"Our estimates continue to be that both budgets will end balanced at the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30," Newton said.

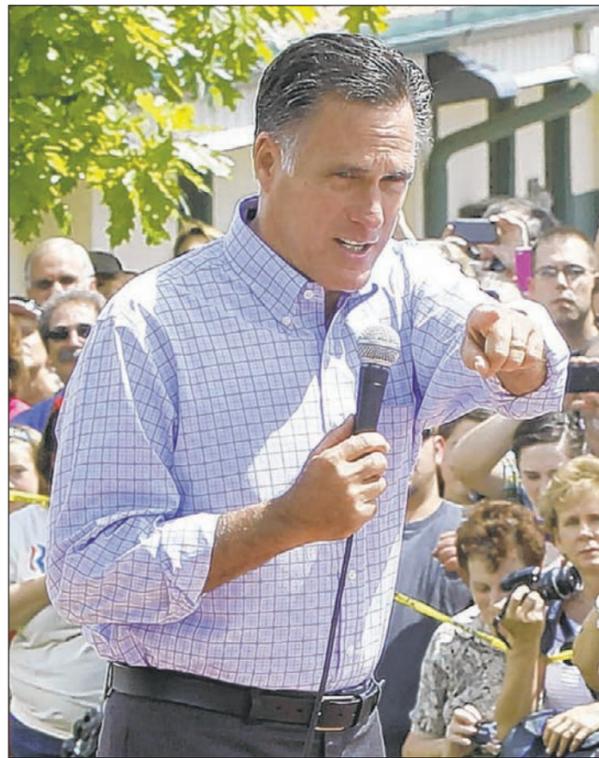
The Education Trust Fund collected \$4.51 billion in October through July, the first 10 months of the state's fiscal year, an increase of \$250.7 million, 5.9 percent, from the same period a year earlier, the state Finance Department reported Wednesday.

Tax collections for the trust fund, the main source of state tax dollars for public schools and colleges, need to grow by roughly 5.6 percent for the entire year to

See **REVENUE**, Page 5A

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Swing state showdown



PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some undecided voters have said this week that they place little importance on jobs statistics and want more details about economic proposals from Mitt Romney (left) and Barack Obama (right) in the tightly contested presidential race.

Undecideds want more leadership, less bickering

The Associated Press

PURCELLVILLE, Va. — Undecided voters in swing states hold the key to the presidential election, but neither Mitt Romney nor Barack Obama has an easy recipe for winning them over.

Friday's new jobs report, even if dismal for incumbent President Obama, might do little to help challenger Romney with this group.

Undecided voters interviewed this week said they place little importance on such statistics, even though both campaigns mine them for every possible advantage.

Instead, these voters want more details about Romney's economic proposals and Bain Capital record, less bickering between the parties and a greater sense

"Neither candidate and neither party really has that much to say, or that much to do, about the economy."

Win Hoffman,
Retired architect from Lauderhill, Fla.

of inspiration and leadership from both candidates.

Some of them acknowledge that's a vague wish list. But with less than a dozen states in play, and polls showing that about 10 percent of the electorate remains undecided, this sliver of hard-to-please Americans could decide the Nov. 6 election.

Scott Davison, who works at a bicycle shop in Purcellville, Va., is typical of on-

the-fence voters interviewed this week in Virginia, Ohio and Florida. Romney has a chance to dissuade him from his inclination toward Obama, Davison said, but the former Massachusetts governor must offer more details about how he would improve the economy.

"I'm not seeing anything substantial that Romney has to offer," said Davison, 40, who lives in politically competitive Loudoun County. "I'm just seeing superficial stuff."

Davison, who studied economics at Colorado State University and weighs his words before speaking, said he puts little campaign stock in monthly employment reports.

See **UNDECIDED**, Page 5A



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Smiths Station Fire & Rescue recently received a second advanced life support ambulance from Care Ambulance. The ambulance came at no cost to the department.

Fire & Rescue

Smiths Station gets new ambulance

BY DREW TAYLOR
ctaylor@oanow.com

Smiths Station residents may have noticed a new ambulance roaming the roads this week.

Recently, Smiths Station Fire & Rescue acquired a second 24-hour advanced life support ambulance from Care Ambulance, a division of LifeStar Response of Alabama Inc.

The ambulance will be stationed within the fire district at SSFR Station #5 on Lee Road 240, while its East Alabama Medical Center ambulance will continue to provide advanced life support service at SSFR Station #1, locat-

"When minutes can mean a matter of life or death, it's good to have that ambulance."

Capt. Daniel Sexton

ed on Lee Road 430.

Chief Joe Walden said he is glad to have the second ambulance at the department's disposal and that it would be an asset to the community, where the department responds to roughly 1,500 emergency calls per year.

"It's a win-win situation for everyone," Walden said.

Capt. Daniel Sexton said that

in the past, calls to the department would become so frequent that when its sole ambulance was away on an emergency run, the department would have to wait for an ambulance from Opelika or Auburn to get to the area. After encountering problems with this on a regular basis, the department contacted Care, which lent the ambulance to the department at no charge. With an additional ambulance, the wait time has been cut from 20-30 minutes to 5-8 minutes.

"When minutes can mean a

See **AMBULANCE**, Page 5A

After-Hours Shopping

Live Street-Corner Entertainment

by Destiny Brown

Weather Permitting

Many Delicious Dining Options

Shop Late Eat Local

DOWNTOWN OPELIKA

www.OpelikaMainStreet.org

SHOPPING:

- Whistle Home - New
- Kiss My Little Sass - New
- TLC Gift Shop, Bookstore & Toy Chest
- Taylor Made Design
- Southern Crossing
- Fringe
- Yarnhouse Studio
- Heritage Gifts & Gourmet
- The Gallery on Railroad

DINING:

- Ma Fia's
- Irish Bred Pub
- Jimmy's
- Jefferson's
- Sid's 8th Street Cafe
- The Cheesecake Cottage
- Cafe 123
- Railroad Creamery
- Venable's Sweet Shoppe

Uptown Art offers classes EVERY Friday night!