

# OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS

Indigenous  
teens make  
meaningful  
kayak  
journey

360, B1



Auburn  
embraces  
mounting  
pressure at  
SEC Media  
Days

SPORTS, C1

Thursday, July 17, 2025

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

oanow.com

## FEDS ARREST MAN IN \$225K FRAUD



ADAM SPARKS, ASPARKS@OANOW.COM

Kevin Davidson, acting United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama, speaks during a press conference at the Auburn Police Department on Tuesday, July 15, 2025.

### Indictment against business owner related to 14 raids

ALEX HUSTING  
ahusting@oanow.com

Federal and state authorities executed search warrants Tuesday at 14 locations across six Alabama counties. Officials said the raids were in-part connected to a federal indictment against a 52-year-old Auburn man who allegedly defrauded a COVID-19 relief program for over \$200,000.

Cesar Campos-Reyes, who surrendered to authorities Tuesday evening, faces four counts of bank fraud, four counts of wire fraud and one count of money laundering. He will likely make his first court appearance in the federal case in Montgomery on Wednesday, July 16.

"The charges stem from Paycheck Protection Program loans that Campos-Reyes received on behalf of some of his restaurants. Those restaurants were included in



Campos-Reyes

the locations, which were searched today," Davidson said. "Campos-Reyes is alleged to have falsely certified that the money he received as part of the loans would be used for legitimate expenses and instead used the funds for non-legitimate purposes."

According to the indictment unsealed on Tuesday, Campos-Reyes allegedly took out four loans totaling approximately \$225,000, Davidson said. Authorities believe Campos-Reyes is "unlawfully present in the United States," said Steven Schrank, a special agent in charge with U.S. Homeland Security Investigations.

Please see **ARREST**, Page A2

## Feds: ICE detains 48 undocumented immigrants

BRIONNA MCCALL  
bmccall@oanow.com

Federal agents targeted multiple Mexican restaurants in Auburn-Opelika while executing search warrants at 14 locations across six Alabama counties, said Acting U.S. Attorney Kevin Davidson.

Authorities said they detained 48 undocumented immigrants they found while executing the 14 search warrants across Lee, Macon, Elmore, Autauga, Cren-

shaw and Baldwin counties. Those immigrants remain in custody at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' New Orleans Field Office, said Brian Acuna, the acting director of ICE's New Orleans Field Office.

"They're going to be detained in some of our detention facilities here in the state of Alabama," Acuna said. "From there, they're going to go

Please see **ICE**, Page A3



ADAM SPARKS, ASPARKS@OANOW.COM

El Patron Mexican Grill & Cantina at Tiger Town in Opelika on Tuesday, July 15, 2025.

## Judges to weigh request to put state under preclearance

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Federal judges will weigh a request to bring Alabama back under the preclearance requirement of the Voting Rights Act after ruling the state intentionally diluted the voting strength of Black residents when drawing congressional lines.

Black voters and civil rights organizations, who successfully challenged Alabama's congressional map, are asking a three-judge panel to require any new congressional maps drawn by state lawmakers to go through federal review before being implemented. The Alabama attorney general and the U.S. Department of Justice oppose the request.

Judges on Thursday set a July 29 hearing on the request.

The three-judge panel in 2023 ordered the use of a new congressional map in Alabama. The judges selected the new map after saying they were "deeply troubled" that state lawmakers had ignored their directive to draw a second majority-Black district or something close to it.

Plaintiffs said Alabama's actions and the defiance of the court order mirror the state's actions in the 1960s.

"Alabama sought to ignore, evade, and strategically frustrate attempts to remedy racial discrimination," lawyers for the plaintiffs wrote in a court filing.

The request would require new congressional maps drawn through the 2030 Census cycle to undergo federal review by the court before being used.

Please see **ALABAMA**, Page A2

## New system coming for parking deck

BRIONNA MCCALL  
bmccall@oanow.com

Entering and exiting the Wright Street Parking Deck in downtown Auburn may become a quicker process than usual thanks to a new control system, city officials said.

On Tuesday, July 8, the Auburn City Council approved a \$147,267 contract with FlashParking Inc. and a contract with LAZ Parking Georgia Inc. for \$8,000 a month for management services.

FlashParking will allow for faster entry/exit and payment, along with multiple payment options, including integration with ParkMobile, which is the same app you can use with downtown parking kiosks for street parking, according to the city.

"Flash will provide for a faster, more reliable system that will reduce downtime while improving the customer experience as people enter and exit the deck," said David Dorton, director of communications & legislative affairs for the City of Auburn.

Please see **PARKING**, Page A3

### Weather

A heavy t-storm this p.m.  
**High 90 • Low 73**  
FORECAST • A8

### Inside

Advice	D5	Comics	D4	Opinion	A4
Business	B4	Lively	D1	Sports	C1
Classifieds	C7	Nation/World	B1	Weather	A8

