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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Just ahead of Labor Day Weekend, ALEA's Highway Patrol Division held driver license safety checks. PROVIDED BY ALEA

Labor Day Weekend sees 6 deaths in Alabama, rise in citations

Shannon Heupel
Montgomery Advertiser | USA TODAY NETWORK

Six people were killed in traffic incidents over Alabama's four-day Labor Day Weekend, according to the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency.

"While no traffic fatalities were reported on two of the four days, six individuals tragically lost their lives during the other two days of the extended holiday period," stated a report released Sept. 4 by ALEA's Capt. Jeremy J. Burkett.

The number of traffic fatalities matched those from Alabama's 2024 Labor Day weekend.

Along with traffic fatalities, there were four boating injuries for 2025 — including a 12-year-old on Lake Martin in Elmore County — over the weekend.

See **LABOR DAY**, Page 2A

By the numbers

Highway Patrol	Marine Patrol
371 crashes investigated	3 crashes investigated
147 traffic injuries	4 boating injuries
6 traffic fatalities	0 boating fatalities
4,696 citations issued	67 citaions issued
1,638 warnings issued	538 warnings issued
2,324 speeding citations	310 vessel inspections
473 seatbelt citations	41 boater assists
33 DUI arrests	1 BUI arrest

What is Alabama's oldest high school?

Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

In a town better known for its university, Alabama's oldest public high school has been making its own history since 1837.

Auburn High School is Alabama's oldest high school and one of the nation's top 50 oldest high schools, ranking as the fifth oldest school in the South.

The history of Auburn High School

Located in Auburn, Auburn High School began as a small private school just a year after the city of Auburn was founded and has evolved into a modern academic powerhouse, all while preserving a legacy that spans nearly two centuries of Southern education.

Auburn High School was a private school taught by a single instructor in a wartime classroom run from a Union prison camp. Wars, economic hardship and educational reform have re-shaped Auburn High.

Once a girls' college run by Masons, the school became public in the 1880s, added college-level classes for women

See **SCHOOL**, Page 2A

TRANSPORTATION SUSTAINABILITY

Study ranks AL among worst

Sarah Clifton
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Alabama is one of the worst states for sustainable transportation, new data shows.

Texas Electricty Ratings, a site that primarily provides resources about Texas electricity companies, ran a study that surveyed methods of transportation and their impact on the environment nationwide.

Using data from the U.S. Census, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Department of Energy, a ranking was created with all 50 states based on 13 factors — including traffic volume, commute time and mode, air quality, and vehicle emissions — to see which state had the most sustainable transportation.

Specifically, each indicator — with higher importance and more weight being put on commute time, EV/hybrid adoption rates, and transportation CO₂ emissions — was scaled from 0 to 10 and weighted according to its environmental impact.

See **STUDY**, Page 2A

ALABAMA'S NATURAL BEAUTY

Southern Living local ranks 20 places

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

From iconic state parks to secluded riverbanks, Alabama's natural beauty often goes unnoticed. However, Southern Living's native reporter Tara Massouleh McCay highlights the 20 most beautiful places in the state, with the top three being so stunning, they might surprise you.

The list, curated by McCay, highlights everything from iconic tourist spots to hidden gems that locals cherish. It's a love letter to the state's rich landscapes and a reminder that beauty isn't always where you expect it.

Here are McCay's top three beautiful places in Alabama.

See **PLACES**, Page 2A

A scene from Christmas at the Falls, the popular annual light show at Nocalula Falls Park. PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF GADSDEN

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