



Pundits, supporters questioning Trump's health

INSIDE, 2A

The Tuscaloosa News

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Builder faces fines after worker dies

Sarah Clifton
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

An Alabama construction company is facing eight serious safety violations and a hefty fine following a worker fatality last year.

Investigators from the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration said that in December 2025, Breland Homes Inc. — a home builder based in Huntsville — had workers install a sewage drainpipe in a Madison County subdivision, which led to a trench collapsing on a worker.

The DOL said that their investigation found that Breland Homes exposed construction workers to multiple safety hazards during groundwork prep and allowed workers to operate in an unprotected and unsupported section of the trench.

The DOL's investigation also found that the company failed to train workers to recognize unsafe conditions, allowed workers to work without protective helmets and permitted employees to work with damaged ladders.

The DOL said that OSHA cited the company with eight serious violations for these circumstances, resulting in proposed penalties of \$115,855. As the case progresses, penalties are subject to adjustment.

Breland Homes Inc. has 15 business days from receiving its citation to either comply, request a conference with OSHA's area director, or contest the findings.

The company said that they cannot comment on the situation at this time due to ongoing litigation surrounding the incident.

Sarah Clifton covers business for the Montgomery Advertiser. You can reach her at sclifton@montgome.gannett.com or follow her on X @sarahgclifton and TikTok @sarahgclifton. To support her work, please subscribe to the Montgomery Advertiser.



The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has fined an Alabama company \$115,000 for safety violations after the death of a worker. DESIGNER491/GETTY IMAGES



Central High presented 186 diplomas to the Class of 2025 during graduation at Coleman Coliseum. Central High valedictorian Benjamin Wegrzynowski, salutatorian William Peterson and class president Payton Ike are introduced as honor graduates. PHOTOS BY GARY COSBY JR./TUSCALOOSA NEWS

High school graduation schedules are here

Jasmine Hollie
Tuscaloosa News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Graduation ceremonies for the class of 2026 have been scheduled at the nine public high schools in the Tuscaloosa County and city school systems, along with five private schools.

Tuscaloosa City Schools

Tuscaloosa City Schools will hold graduation for its three high schools on May 11 at the same location, Coleman Coliseum, 1201 Coliseum Drive on the University of Alabama campus. Here's the city schedule:

- Northridge High School: 1 p.m.
- Central High School: 4:30 p.m.

See GRADUATION, Page 2A



Tuscaloosa County High presented 382 diplomas to the Class of 2025 during graduation at Coleman Coliseum. Students march in the processional.

Meet the 11 snakes most common in Alabama

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Snakes are a common sight across Alabama, inhabiting forest trails and backyard gardens alike, especially as

temperatures rise. Encountering them can be unsettling for some; however, most snakes in the state are harmless and help control pests.

Here's what to know about some of the most common snakes you're likely to encounter in Alabama.

What are the most common water snakes in Alabama?

If you spend time near creeks, ponds or lakes, you'll likely spot one of

See SNAKES, Page 7A

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