



These 3 questions could define Alabama football 2026 TE room

SPORTS, 1B

The Tuscaloosa News

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The primary objective of the water games played Jun 12 during the final day of Boy Scout Summer Camp at Camp Horne 2026 in Tuscaloosa was to get wet. Mission accomplished. One hundred forty scouts participated in the summer camp. J.T. Loper douses himself with a bucket of water. PHOTOS BY GARY COSBY JR./TUSCALOOSA NEWS

Suspect arrested in Brookwood double homicide

Ken Roberts
Tuscaloosa News
USA TODAY NETWORK

A 24-year-old man was charged with capital murder after two people were found shot to death inside a Brookwood-area home July 6, according to the Tuscaloosa Violent Crimes Unit.

Brookwood police were asked to conduct a welfare check at about 1 p.m. at a residence in the 12900 block of Alabama Junction Road. The homeowner, who was out of the country, became concerned about a friend who was house-sitting and caring for a dog.

Investigators said the homeowner had been unable to contact the house-sitter for an extended period and reviewed footage from doorbell cameras, which showed a man acting suspiciously on the back porch during the late-night and early-morning hours of July 6. The homeowner contacted the landlord, who then requested the welfare check.

When officers entered the home, they found one person dead near the front of the residence. After securing the scene, officers discovered a second victim, a woman, dead inside a bedroom closet. Both victims had been shot. A dog inside the home also had been shot and killed.

The victims were identified as Jose Felix Alvarez-Duenas, 31, and Jazmine Alexis Bates, 22. Bates was a student at the University of Alabama.

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How to spot heat stroke, stay hydrated

Mark Hughes Cobb
Tuscaloosa News
USA TODAY NETWORK

To Alabamians, "heat dome" could seem like just another word for the middle part of any year, from late April until October.

But it's a descriptor of one of the deadliest weather-related hazards, occurring when high-atmospheric jet streams push north, dragging more hot and humid air along. Under the high-pressure heat dome, air sinks and condenses. That layer traps heat, leading to extreme temperatures.

A heat dome can last days, or for longer than a week. During the Fourth of July weekend, much of the eastern half of the U.S. was under such a warning. With heat dome conditions, a temperature of 93 may feel more like 106.

This heat that has hit the U.S. for the past few weeks is forecast to ease and shift west through mid-July, but other heat domes may occur.

According to the federal government's Fifth National Climate Change Assessment of 2023, heat waves are becoming more frequent, intense and longer-lasting due to human-amplified climate change.

The average number of heat waves in major cities has doubled each year since the 1980s.

Adjusting lives to such conditions begins with basic awareness and preparedness. The first thing to know is that heat-related health issues range on a spectrum, said Dr. Brett Bentley, a sports-medicine specialist on faculty with the University of Alabama, serving at the University Medical Center, and with Crimson Tide athletics.

Muscle cramps, painful and sudden, can last from seconds to minutes. Typically they'll be suffered in calves,

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Runners cross the finish line April 25 at the Mayor's Cup 5k, the race that helps raise money for Pre-K education in Tuscaloosa.

No early fall: When forecasts say Alabama will cool down

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

The South may be dreaming of pumpkin spice and cooler mornings, but summer is not ready to pack its bags just yet.

The relentless summer heat gripping the South is not expected to disappear overnight, but long-range forecasts suggest some relief may begin to arrive in stages as the region moves toward late summer and early fall.

For millions across the Deep South, June and July have brought repeated rounds of dangerous heat, with tem-

peratures soaring into the 90s and heat indexes climbing even higher.

While cooler stretches may appear, forecasters say the pattern will likely remain warm well into August before more noticeable seasonal changes arrive later in the fall.

When could Alabama finally cool down? Old Farmer's Almanac says summer heat expected to linger

The Old Farmer's Almanac 60-day outlook suggests the Deep South will continue to see typical summer

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AL tax-free weekend returns July 17-19

Jennifer Lindahl
Montgomery Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Families preparing for the new school year will soon have an opportunity to save money during Alabama's 2026 Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday.

The Alabama Department of Revenue announced that the state's 21st annual Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday will run from 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 17, through midnight Sunday, July 19, 2026.

During the three-day event, shoppers can purchase qualifying school supplies, clothing, computers and certain books without paying Alabama's 4% state sales tax.

However, shoppers should keep in mind that local sales tax may still apply, depending on whether their city or county is participating in the tax holiday.

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