

# White House says 'no extraterrestrials'

By Erica Werner  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – Sorry, E.T. lovers – the White House says it has no evidence that extraterrestrials exist.

The White House made the unusual declaration in response to a feature on its website that allows people to submit petitions that administration officials must respond to if enough people sign on.

In this case, more than 5,000 people signed a petition demanding that the White House disclose the government's knowledge of extraterrestrial beings, and more than 12,000 signed another petition seeking formal acknowledgement of an extraterrestrial presence engaging the human race.

In response, Phil Larson of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy wrote that the U.S. government has no evidence that life exists outside Earth, or that an extraterrestrial presence has contacted any member of the human race.

"In addition, there is no credible information to suggest that any evidence is being hidden from the public's eye," Larson wrote.

But he didn't close the door entirely on a close encounter of an alien kind, noting that many scientists and mathematicians believe that, statistically speaking, odds

are high that there is life somewhere among the "trillions and trillions of stars in the universe" – although odds of making contact with non-humans are remote.

It's not the first petition to force the White House to engage on a somewhat off-beat topic since the "We the People" webpage was unveiled in September. The White House also has been forced to explain why it can't comment in response to a petition demanding "Try Casey Anthony in Federal Court for Lying to the FBI Investigators" (because it's a law enforcement matter).

And various petitions demanding legalization of marijuana have gathered more than 100,000 names, to which the White House argues that marijuana is associated with addiction, respiratory disease and cognitive impairment, and legalizing it would not be the answer.

The White House also has addressed topics including gay marriage and student loan debt.

When the website debuted, the White House promised to respond to any petition that garnered 5,000 or more signatures within 30 days, but it's now raised that threshold to 25,000.

Online: [www.whitehouse.gov/wethepeople](http://www.whitehouse.gov/wethepeople)

# Grant to support veterans seeking agriculture careers

While some veterans returning home have jobs waiting for them, many do not and are returning to rural areas where jobs can be scarce. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency has awarded Kansas Farmers Union, the Center for Rural Affairs and eight additional organizations with funding intended to introduce new veteran farmers and ranchers to agriculture, and thereby find solutions to the employment and economic challenges facing so many rural veterans.

"The long-term goal for this project is to help new veteran farmers and ranchers successfully establish farms and ranches in Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Missouri," said Kathie Starkweather with the Center for Rural Affairs.

Small cities and towns are less prepared to absorb returning veterans than urban centers. The Iraq and Afghan Veterans of America have noted veterans returning to rural communities were having the hardest time reintegrating into

civilian life as these communities lacked employment opportunities and access to veteran services.

The project will allow veterans to learn strategies and implement plans for farm/ranch start-up. Veterans will also learn the resources available.

In 2012 Kansas Farmers Union will hold educational workshops, farm tours and assist Kansas veterans with financial planning.

"Our veterans have done a noble service," Donn Teske, Kansas Farmers Union president said. "Our goal through this project is to help them acquire some of the necessary education they will need..."

According to the grant application, veterans can build on their sense of service and use farming or ranching to reintegrate fruitfully. They can also re-energize rural communities. Assistance to launch a new generation of veteran farmers and ranchers can help ensure their successful entry into farming and a successful return to their country.

# Three easy steps to prepare for juicy Thanksgiving turkey

Brining is the technique of soaking your turkey in a salt water solution. It's plain and simple: salt causes the meat tissues to absorb water and flavorings as it breaks down the proteins, resulting in the most flavorful, juicy turkey you've ever experienced. (And what could be better than that on Turkey Day?) No matter your method of cooking (roasting, deep frying, smoking, grilling, etc) a brined bird is truly the way to go.

## Step 1: Prepare the Brine

Here's my recipe – it's my rendition of an older Alton Brown recipe:

1 1/2 cups kosher salt, 6 ounces orange juice concentrate, 1 quart hot water, 1 cup dark brown sugar, 1 tablespoon peppercorns, 5 to 6 sprigs fresh rosemary, 10 to 12 smashed garlic cloves – combine all and stir until salt and sugar is fully dissolved. Add 3 quarts cold water to cool the prepared brine.

## Step 2: Submerge Your Turkey in Brine

Using a cooler to brine your bird keeps you from having to find a brining container that will actually fit in your refrigerator, which is sometimes not an easy task!

- Pour the prepared brine mixture into a



**Chef Alli Winter**

## • Who's Cookin' Now?

large, clean, cooler. Submerge bird (rinsed and all giblets, neck, etc. removed from cavity, 16 to 18 pounds) breast-side-down in brine. If bird is not fully immersed, add more liquid (broth or water) until nearly covered with brine.

- Fill a couple of gallon bags with ice and place these on top of bird to keep submerged in brine.
- Close the cooler lid and let bird brine (soak) for 8-10 hours. (Exact brining times will vary by taste. Start with 8 to 10 hours and make changes to subsequent birds.)

## Step 3: Cook the Turkey

- Remove bird from the brine cooler and rinse well under cool tap water. (Be sure to toss brine and sanitize cooler.)

• Meanwhile, pat bird dry with paper towels, then rub bird (liberally and lovingly) all over with canola oil, using your fingertips. Tuck wing tips beneath bird and place, breast-side-up, onto roasting rack in roasting pan.

• Place roasting pan onto lowest rack of preheated 500 degree F. oven; roast, uncovered, for 30 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees F. and remove bird from oven.

• Cover bird with heavy-duty aluminum foil and return to oven; roast for 2 to 2 1/2 hours, until an instant-read meat thermometer registers 160 degrees at the center of the breast. Remove bird from oven and allow to rest for 20 to 30 minutes before carving.

Try it!  
Now You're Cookin'.

Alli Winter was raised in Topeka and began cooking at age 4, though it was much later when she attended the Personal Chef Institute in Rio Rancho, N.M., where she acquired her certification. Her website is at [www.ChefAllis.com](http://www.ChefAllis.com).

## On the Beat

### COLBY POLICE

#### Thursday

1:07 a.m. – Security check at Twister's.

7:31 a.m. – Caller could see black smoke coming from a pipe on a house. Fire Department notified. All OK, was wood burning stove.

2:30 p.m. – Removed debris from roadway in the 2100 block of S. Range.

3:53 p.m. – Caller reported harassment. Report filed.

5:29 p.m. – Caller reported a horse out on Country Club south of the railroad tracks. Horse was put in a corral until owners contacted.

6:41 p.m. – Building check. Everything OK.

7:33 p.m. – Welfare check. Everything OK.

9:15 p.m. – Assisted Sheriff's Office with accident.

### THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

#### Nov. 6

1:20 a.m. – Booked Troy Bielser.

1:07 a.m. – Booked Hunter Olson.

1:21 a.m. – Released Olson.

6:03 a.m. – Released Bielser.

9 a.m. – Released Nicholas Paul Kyner.

1:12 p.m. – Booked Tohanna Jonene Thompson.

1:21 p.m. – Released Thompson.

5:40 p.m. – Caller reported an

individual shooting off a cannon at 600 block of Aspen. Everything OK, they're done.

#### Last Monday

11:10 a.m. – Civil forfeiture: assisted Highway Patrol on drug traffic stop at eastbound I-70 mile 48.8. Report filed.

11:33 a.m. – Helped Colby Police Department and Fire Department on smoke call at 1995 W. Fourth.

1:45 p.m. – Released Travis Logan Downing.

2:03 p.m. – Took three inmates to Rawlins County Sheriff's Office.

2:36 p.m. – Caller reported two cows on roadway just south of U.S. 24 on U.S. 83. Report filed; chased off roadway.

2:36 p.m. – Booked Aaron M. Klare.

3:45 p.m. – Released Timothy Towey.

5:34 p.m. – Booked Jon McGrady.

6:05 p.m. – Served warrant for Kansas Highway Patrol case number.

8:18 p.m. – Booked Charles Prevatt.

#### Tuesday

1:08 a.m. – Booked Aaron L. Brown.

1:25 a.m. – Released Brown.

2:17 a.m. – Caller reported gunshot victim; happened in Sheridan County. Sheridan County Sheriff's Office notified.

6:10 a.m. – Released Leparis N.

#### Holloway.

8:29 a.m. – Helped Colby Police at 1115 Taylor Avenue.

9:39 a.m. – Insufficient funds checks report filed.

9:59 a.m. – Booked Cameron Ashley McDaniel.

10:13 a.m. – Released McDaniel.

11:28 a.m. – Responded to rollover on U.S. 83 at Rexford; was in Sheridan County. Turned over to Kansas Highway Patrol.

4:14 p.m. – Released Charles D. Prevatt.

7:53 p.m. – Narcotics violation report filed for incident at 1255 S. Range.

#### Wednesday

6:47 a.m. – Caller reported motor vehicle accident with deer at U.S. 24 mile 59.

11:12 a.m. – Released Arron Maxwell Klare.

11:21 a.m. – Released Jon Cory McGrady.

11:23 a.m. – Brought inmate from Rawlins County to Thomas County Law Enforcement Center.

3:53 p.m. – Report filed for possession of drugs at 1255 S. Range Ave.

7:06 p.m. – Vehicle accident on I-70 eastbound at mile 59.

8:24 p.m. – Caller reported missing daughter from residence in Brewster. Able to disregard; subject called back reporting she found the child.

#### Thursday

11:30 a.m. – Supplement filed

to narcotics violation report from 3:53 p.m. Nov. 9 for arrest.

11:30 a.m. – Booked Jarrod Kenneth Ferguson.

11:40 a.m. – Released Ferguson.

12:05 p.m. – Booked Tyler Charles Jones.

12:12 p.m. – Provided vehicle identification number inspection for Colby Dodge.

12:15 p.m. – Released Jones.

1 p.m. – Insufficient funds check report filed.

1:23 p.m. – Booked Gage Joseph Soderlund.

1:37 p.m. – Released Soderlund.

1:47 p.m. – Insufficient funds check report filed.

1:59 p.m. – Booked Gregory Thomas Mead.

2:16 p.m. – Released Mead.

3:01 p.m. – Booked Alan Michael Goetz.

6:57 p.m. – Multiple subjects reported a vehicle accident at westbound I-70 mile 39. No report.

7:50 p.m. – Assisted motorist with a tire on westbound I-70 at mile 45.

8:16 p.m. – Warrant arrest made.

8:54 p.m. – Booked Garth Kruse.

9:15 p.m. – Accident at 680 W. Sixth.



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