

[Skip to main content](#)

MICHAEL E. PALMER'S ALMANAC: Will space aliens sing sweet home Alabama?

Staff Writer | The Tuscaloosa News

Aliens are here. Or they soon will be, starting Tuesday.

On that day, according to postings on the Internet, Alabama will be the site of a three-day alien visitation in which our fair state will play host to a large spaceship.

The story originated with a woman called Blossom Goodchild, who revealed the upcoming visitation to the world after she apparently spoke with one of the otherworldly creatures. Goodchild says a representative of the Galactic Federation of Light told her a giant spaceship would visit Earth to show us that other beings exist.

I feel this is no laughing matter.

I met my first alien a few years ago when I visited the Walker County Fair just outside Jasper. It was the type of fair that featured displays of prize-winning cows and pigs. A person could walk through the nearby pavilion and learn about the habits of bee colonies while a bluegrass band played nearby. Nothing mixes like bees and bluegrass.

But what struck me was that quite a few people at the fair were walking around accompanied by aliens. I felt this was a little strange. Initially I was apprehensive about making eye contact with the quiet creatures. After a while I realized the aliens were in fact three-foot tall inflatable plastic toys. The toys were prizes offered up alongside inflatable Bugs Bunny and Yosemite Sam dolls.

I went to the fair looking for an old friend but instead made friends with a few aliens. It seemed to me that the large eyes of the alien dolls were looking back at me when I looked at them. I thought the little aliens would make a nice photo series, so I began taking pictures. At the time I was an undergraduate at the University of Alabama, and I put the pictures up in Gay Burke's photo class and called the series "Alienated."

Aliens have had a peculiar history in American pop culture. They first came blazing into American living rooms in 1938 with the radio broadcast of the H.G. Wells' Martian invasion classic "War of the Worlds." Orson Welles aired the adaptation on Oct. 30 as a Halloween radio drama. Quite a few of the listeners in New York and New Jersey thought the "newscasts" were real and became afraid. Widespread panic ensued. The next day, a front-page headline in the New York Times read: "Radio Listeners in Panic, Taking War Drama as Fact."

The broadcast turned out to be great publicity for Welles and launched him to fame.

An alleged UFO crash in 1947 has spawned an entire alien industry in Roswell, N.M., which has become the destination of choice for thousands of UFO enthusiasts.

Now, large populations of Web users believe a spaceship will appear over the skies of Alabama for three days starting Tuesday. The event is loosely referred to as the Oct. 14, 2008, first contact.

Historically, a number of groups have predicted the imminent arrival of space people, with the predictions coming mostly in times of crisis as a coping mechanism.

In the early 1950s, a Minneapolis housewife named Marion Keech received messages from an alien called Sananda on the planet Clarion. Sananda told her the world would end in a flood on Dec. 21, 1954. Keech and some friends prepared for the event by quitting their jobs, selling their houses and leaving their families. But before the flood, Sananda told Keech, she and her group were going to be picked up by a flying saucer and flown to safety. The group was infiltrated by social psychologists from the University of Minnesota who reported the happenings in a book called "When Prophecy Fails." The saucer never arrived and apparently the Earth was not destroyed.

Native Americans legends and prophecies address the possibility of creatures visiting earth from outer space. One Hopi Indian legend states that "ant people" helped the Hopi survive the earth's destruction thousands of years ago. Rock drawings of the ant people depict them looking like little gray beings with big heads and small bodies.

Hopi Indian prophecy states that true Hopis will be flown to safety on ships without wings when the earth is destroyed on the Day of Purification.

In May in Vatican City, the Rev. Gabriel Funes released a statement saying that intelligent beings created by God could exist in outer space. Funes, director of the Vatican Observatory, says it's OK to believe in life existing elsewhere and that belief does not contradict a belief in God. Funes released the information in a Vatican newspaper under the headline "Aliens Are My Brother."

I asked the Rev. Jerry Deasy, priest at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Tuscaloosa, to help clarify the church's stance on alien life forms.

Deasy said the Catholic church does not officially take a stance on the existence of aliens.

"There is no proof that aliens do or do not exist, so [the Church] leaves it an open question," he said.

So when Tuesday's visit rolls around, I say unfold the lawn chairs, ice down the beer and fire up the grill. They may or may not come hungry.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Email](#)

[Black Horse Refund Checker - Lookup Your Name thepcguys.co.uk](#)

[Get Offer](#)

Undo

[People Born 1940-1975 With No Life Insurance Could Be Eligible For This Reassured](#)

Undo

[Stuck in Depression? A Brain Switch Helps Reset Your Mood Nurosym](#)

[Learn More](#)

Undo

[Homeowners should go solar before the end of 2024 if their house has this The Eco Experts Solar Quotes](#)

Undo

[This game is so realistic that it's worth just watching! Raid Shadow Legends](#)

Undo

[Co-Founder of Google Brain, Andrew Ng, Recommends: 5 Books For Turning Your Life Around Blinkist: Andrew Ng's Reading](#)

[List](#)

Undo

- [Help](#)
- [Terms of Service](#)
- [Subscription Terms & Conditions](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Site Map](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Our Ethical Principles](#)
- [Responsible Disclosure](#)
- [✔️🔒Your Privacy Choices](#)

© Copyright Gannett 2025

Keep on reading

[Alabama football's DeBoer explains why he didn't bench Jalen Milroe](#)[Alabama football coach Kalen DeBoer had every reason to play backup QB Ty Simpson in a ReliaQuest Bowl loss to Michigan. He explains why he never did.](#)[Tuscaloosa News](#)

Undo

[Black Horse Refund Checker - Lookup Your Name](#)[Up To £4,500* Per Vehicle](#)[thepepguys.co.uk](#)

SponsoredSponsored

Get Offer

Undo

[People Born 1940-1975 With No Life Insurance Could Be Eligible For This](#)[Reassured!](#)

SponsoredSponsored

Undo

[What Jalen Milroe said about NFL draft after Alabama bowl loss](#)[Here's what Jalen Milroe said about entering the 2025 NFL draft after Alabama football's 2025 ReliaQuest Bowl loss.](#)[Tuscaloosa News](#)

Undo

[What's next for Alabama football 2025 QB room without Jalen Milroe?](#)[Jalen Milroe is no longer in Alabama football's quarterback room. But he has a better idea than most of what the Crimson Tide will have in 2025.](#)[Tuscaloosa News](#)

Undo

[Goodbread: Alabama basketball defense smothers Oklahoma top scorer](#)[Alabama basketball's defense locked up Oklahoma's top scorer, Jeremiah Fears. That could be a big indicator of how SEC play will go for Tide.](#)[Tuscaloosa News](#)

Undo

[What does the future for Alabama football look like? What Crimson Tide GM said](#)[Before Alabama's ReliaQuest Bowl trip, Courtney Morgan spoke to the Tuscaloosa News looking at the future of Alabama football in 2026 and beyond.](#)[Tuscaloosa News](#)

Undo

[Alabama football makes staff changes to Crimson Tide defense](#)[Alabama football has made some small moves to its defensive coaching staff ahead of the 2025 season.](#)[Tuscaloosa News](#)

Undo

[Close Brothers Refund Checker - Lookup Your Name Up To £4,500* Per Vehicle thepcpguys.co.uk](#)

Sponsored Sponsored

Get Offer

Undo

[Stuck in Depression? A Brain Switch Helps Reset Your Mood A Breakthrough Discovery is a Life-Changer for Thousands. Nurosyn](#)

Sponsored Sponsored

Learn More

Undo

[Crocodile star of 'Crocodile Dundee' film dies in reptile habitat Burt, a saltwater crocodile who appeared in the 1980's hit movie "Crocodile Dundee," died this weekend at a reptile center in Australia. Tuscaloosa News](#)

Undo

[Goodbread: Alabama football's DeBoer owes players no promises in 2025 In his first year, Alabama football's Kalen DeBoer showed loyalty to those who were loyal to him. In 2025, he owes no promises. Tuscaloosa News](#)

Undo