

The

Thielensian



Indonesia Swarmed With Natural Disasters

By: Colin Schroyer

April 2024: A series of earthquakes in Indonesia brought about a volcano eruption, in turn sparking more natural disasters, posing a threat to the surrounding area.

In the weeks leading up to the eruption, hundreds of earthquakes were detected in the region, which caused the volcano to explode, reported agency chief Hendra Gunawan to national news agency Antara.

On Tuesday, April 16, Mount Ruang began to erupt, throwing lava and ash into the air, resulting in the evacuation of thousands of civilians in the North Sulawesi province. Antara, the national news agency, reported that the eruption occurred at about 7:19 p.m. locally. The volcano continued this behavior for several days, with ash reaching up to two miles above its peak; this extended period of activity has displaced much of the local community.

Over 800 people had to be relocated for safety concerns over the eruption, with many taking ferries and finding shelter in community areas, as shared by Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency on Wednes-

day.

Coupled with a thunderstorm that produced lightning over the crater of Mount Ruang, which had erupted four times on Wednesday, authorities declared the volcano to be of the highest alert level based on the Volcano Explosivity Index, a four-tiered metric.

The danger does not end there; due to the eruption, concerns of a tsunami have led to a further 11,000 people having to be relocated for their safety. Thursday, April 18, saw the most severity, officials reported. The volcano erupted five times, which led to concerns that falling debris would cause a tsunami. Due to these natural phenomena, a local airport had to be shut down, which made evacuation more challenging. Back in 1871, Mount Ruang had caused a tsunami this way before.

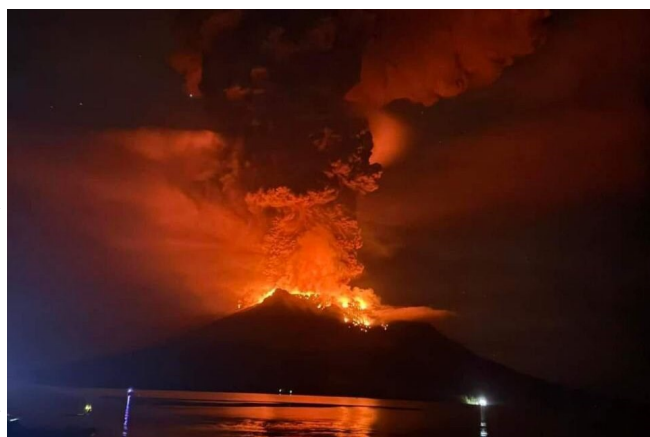
A six-kilometer zone has been established for residents and tourists to avoid. A local prison on Tagulandang Island was also evacuated by authorities, transporting 11 officials, 19 residents, and

17 inmates, as requested by the prison chief. Tagulandang Island prison lies across from Mount Ruang.

Indonesia sits on the Ring of Fire, a collection of colliding tectonic plates underneath the Pacific Ocean. The friction and collisions caused by these plates cause earthquakes and volcano eruptions. As the world's largest archipelago nation, most of Indonesia rests on the Ring of Fire. "It is in a part of the world where there are a lot of active volcanoes," shared Dr. Tracy K.P. Gregg from the University at Buffalo.

Mount Ruang is a steep, conical volcano called a stratovolcano, which has grown from repeated eruptions, creating layers of rock, lava, and other such sediments.

Mount Ruang erupts.



Sports

Women's Lacrosse Clinches Playoffs, Celebrate Seniors

By: Hannah Stoughton

April 20th, 2024: After a dominant 21-1 win over Saint Vincent College's women's lacrosse team on April 20th, 2024, the Thiel College women's lacrosse players secured their road to playoffs.

Falling short of the playoffs in the 2022-2023 season was a difficult end for last year's players. It gave the team the push to be better than before, and being ranked 8th in the PAC Coaches' Pre-Season Poll pushed the team even harder. Goals had been set before the season started, and each member was ready to work hard to achieve them.

In the fall, Thiel's women's lacrosse team traveled to Edinboro, Pennsylvania to play a scrimmage against Division II Edinboro. They won the *The Tomcats Celebrate Seniors.*



game with a final score 10-8, making it the second year in a row that the Tomcats outplayed the Fighting Scots. The energy and pride from winning the scrimmage continued into the preseason play, where the Tomcats went 1-1 with Lake Erie College and Slippery Rock University, with both of those schools playing for Division II conferences. The tomcats beat Lake Erie but fell to Slippery Rock, who is ranked in division II women's lacrosse.

The team continued to dominate for much of the nonconference play, going 4-0 against their first four season opponents. They suffered their first loss to Division II Davis & Elkins in a close 12-9 score.

Since their first loss, the Tomcats have suffered four more, while also gaining four more wins, leaving them with an 8-5 record. They sit 4-3 in the PAC, with their fourth win over Saint Vincent securing a playoff spot.

The victory against Saint Vincent was already a touching win, as it was they key to securing a post-season spot before the last week of regular

season play, but it was also a day of celebration for the Lady Cats' senior players. Seniors Katie Aaron, Mary Cassano, Bailey Fritz, and Emili Scavitto were honored by family, friends, and teammates at the beginning of the game.

Each of the seniors had a goal in mind for this game, and that was to score—three of the four had not played offense this season, with two never having played offense at all. Once the Tomcats reached a sizable lead, the seniors began to make a transition to offense, with the only senior having scored at that point being Cassano, who scored the first goal of the match. Each senior was able to tally a goal, and the celebration was made richer with the 21-1 win.

The Tomcats still face two PAC opponents during the regular season: Chatham University and Bethany College. A victory over these schools would mean hosting the first playoff game at Alumni Stadium. They travel to Chatham on April 24th for a 7p.m. match, and then to Bethany on April 27th for a 4p.m. game.

Sports

Caitlin Clark Drafted 1st Overall–WNBA on the Rise

By: Jacob Walsh

April 15th, 2024: On April 15th, Iowa's Caitlin Clark was drafted first overall by the Indiana Fever; in the ensuing days, the popularity of the WNBA rose to new heights. The polarizing shift is being referred to as the 'Caitlin Clark Effect.'

2024 WNBA Draft

This year's WNBA draft featured a multitude of talent featuring college basketball stars like Caitlin Clark, Cameron Brink, Angel Reese, and National Champion Kamilla Cardoso. The draft viewership was a record-breaking average of 2.446 million viewers. In comparison to the 2023 draft, 2024 had a 307% increase.



Fresh Out of Stock

After Caitlin Clark was drafted, sales for her Indiana jersey and other Fever gear skyrocketed, with Clark jerseys selling out of stock, with a planned restock around mid-June to August. According to the licensed sportswear retailer Fanatics, Clark's #22 Fever jersey is already the top-

earning jersey ever for a draft pick. Ticket Sales and Broadcasts. When Clark announced her intention to enter the 2024 Draft, the Fever, who held the first overall pick, had a large spike in ticket sales for their 2024 regular seasons. This led to a domino effect of other WNBA teams scheduling their games against the Fever to be played in larger arenas. Thus, selling more tickets and creating a larger capacity and atmosphere. For example, the Las Vegas Aces announced their July 2nd game against the Fever would move from the 12,000-seat Michelob Ultra Arena to T-Mobile Arena, which seats 18,000. With regular season tickets

on sale currently, most teams are looking at near sellouts when the Fever are traveling to their city. The WNBA also announced plans to show 36 of the Fever's 40 regular season games on national broadcasting, compared to only 22 games last year, where Indiana finished 10th of 12.

Caitlin Clark will make her Indiana Fever debut on May 3rd in a preseason matchup against the Dallas Wings. She will then appear in her first regular season game on May 14th, facing off with the Connecticut Sun. All the hype culminates when the Fever hosts the New York Liberty on Thursday, May 16th at the Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis for Clark's first home game.



Current Events

Donald Trump Stands on Trial for Alleged Cover-Up

By: Christina Newman

April 22, 2024: Donald Trump is currently on trial for allegedly covering up hush money linked to extramarital affairs.

The former Republican president and current presumptive nominee for the Republican party is being charged with falsifying around three dozen business records, in an attempt to cover up payment for an alleged affair with porn star Stormy Daniels. Daniels claims the two had a brief sexual encounter in 2006. Mr. Trump has declared innocence, claiming that the charges are politically motivated. Trump is accompanied by his attorneys, Todd Blanche and Susan Necheles, both veteran attorneys in New York City. The primary prosecuting attorney is the Manhattan District Attorney, Alvin Bragg.

The trial is being held at Manhattan Criminal Court in New York City. The judge presiding over the trial is Judge Juan M. Merchan. The trial opened on Monday, April 15th, 2024. The first day was spent with two sessions, a morning and afternoon session. The morning session was spent maneuvering the prosecution and defense on how the trial will run. By the afternoon, they had begun going through and interviewing 96 prospective jurors.

When the 96 prospective jurors were asked if they could remain impartial throughout the trial, over 50 raised their hands saying they couldn't. By the end of the first day, 11 prospective jurors were interviewed, with two more being dismissed: a woman who determined she could not be fair during the trial, and a man who discovered he may have a prior commitment that could conflict with trial dates.

The next day of the trial was Tuesday, April 16th, 2024. The day was spent interviewing and selecting more prospective jurors. By the end of the day, seven jurors were selected.

Mr. Trump's lawyers had gone through the perspective jurors' social media, trying to identify with any anti-Trump posts, and even questioned the prospective jurors and attempted to get ones that were found with such posts removed from the selection. The process of questioning the prospective jurors prompted Judge Merchan to admonish Mr. Trump, warning that he would not allow for intimidation of jurors.

The next day of the trial was Thursday, April 18th, 2024. The day was spent finding the rest of the jury, which proved to be a daunting task after two of the seven jurors selected prior had to be excused. The jurors were removed after it was revealed that they might have

been identified as being part of the jury for this case.

Mr. Trump's legal team used up their peremptory challenges to remove potential jurors and could not contest to remove jurors who voiced negative opinions about Mr. Trump and his politics. Judge Merchan denied their attempts to remove them, understanding that the jurors stated while they do not agree with Mr. Trump's persona, they believed they could remain fair for the trial.

Before the end of the day, one of Mr. Trump's attorneys had asked the prosecution to share the first three witnesses they planned to call. The prosecution refused, under the guise of concern that Mr. Trump would post the names on his social media. Judge Merchan agreed to this concern, despite the assurance from Mr. Trump's attorneys that he would not. Judge Merchan said he would not force the prosecution to release the names of their witnesses, also stating that "they are not required to."

All of the jurors were selected and sworn in by Friday, April 19th, 2024. There were also six alternate jurors selected. It is projected that opening statements for the case will begin on Monday, April 22nd.

Current Events

Taylor Swift Releases ‘Tortured Poets Department’

By: Jason Walsh II

April 19th, 2024: On April 19th, Taylor Swift released a brand-new album, “The Tortured Poets Department.” This is the 11th album released by Swift, and the first new album since 2022, when she released “Midnights.”

“The Tortured Poets Department” has been highly anticipated by her fanbase after she and actor Joe Alwyn ended a six-year relationship.

As she commonly does, she delivered for her fans, not just releasing a standard 16-song album, but also releasing the “Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology” which contains a total of 31 songs.

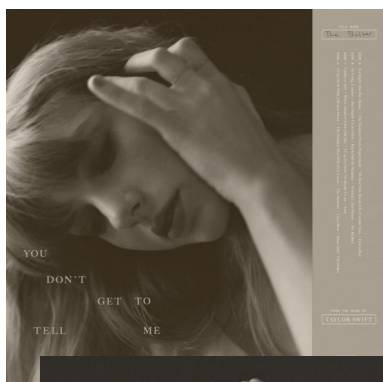
Since Friday, “The Tortured Poets Department” has continued to grow on streaming services such as Apple Music, Amazon Music, and Spotify. On the day of release, the album broke Spotify's record for streams in a single day. “TTPD” also broke another record for the first album to reach more than three hundred million streams in a single day; the album broke three hundred million in less than twelve hours.

The album amassed 1.4 million copies sold on its first day on the market. Shortly after its midnight release, Apple Music reported that the album had broken the record of biggest pop album of all time with first-day streams. Taylor also broke her own sales record, selling over

700,000 copies of the vinyl album in the first week on the market.

As fans continue to listen to the album, they analyze the songs and the lyrics, piecing together their theories. Some of the songs that have been theorized are; “Fortnight (ft. Post Malone),” “I Can Fix Him (No Really I Can),” “The Smallest Man Who Ever Lived,” “The Alchemy,” “The Black Dog,” and “thank you aMee.” Fans have posted their thoughts on social media, debating on the meanings of the songs and who they are about. Most fans believe that most songs are about Swift herself, actor Joe Alwyn, Matty Healy of the band The 1975, and Travis Kelce, her current boyfriend.

Despite having positive reviews from listeners, some critics have given the album low reviews. Most critics rated it a 6 out of 10. However, the album has received an 89% ‘people like this’ album rating paired with a 4.2 out of 5 stars on Google reviews.



Promotional Content for

“The Tortured Poets Department.”

Staff: Hannah Stoughton (Co-Editor-in-Chief/Webmaster), Jacob Walsh (Co-Editor-in-Chief), Jason Walsh II and Colin Schroyer (Staff Writers), Carol Birdy and Christina Newman (Co-Curricular Writers), Prof. Matthew Humphrey (Advisor)