

The Thielensian



Punxsutawney Phil Makes His Annual Prognostication

By: Jacob Walsh

Feb. 2nd, 2024: The weather-prognosticating groundhog from Western Pennsylvania, known as Punxsutawney Phil, saw his shadow and declared 'six more weeks of winter.'

Every year, on February 2nd, the Punxsutawney Groundhog clubs meet together at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. In front of crowds of people, Punxsutawney Phil comes out of his burrow inside a tree stump. The club president then discusses the weather's future with the famed groundhog.

Each president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club is the only person able to speak to Phil in the language of 'Groundhogese.' Current President Tom Dunkel spoke to Phil on the chilly February morning, and Phil directed Dunkel, which scroll to read. The scrolls are written to inform the masses on if Phil has or has not seen his shadow. If Phil sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter; if he does not, there will be an early spring. On Groundhog Day 2025, Punxsutawney Phil

made his prognostication and stated that there would be six more weeks of winter.

Groundhog Day originated in Christianity from the celebration of 'Candlemas

Day.' This religious holiday began when Christians would take their candles to church to have them blessed. The Christians believed the candles would bring blessings to their household throughout the remainder of winter.

As time went on, the holiday evolved. A basic interpretation of the day became a norm throughout most of Europe, with the celebration always occurring on February 2nd. However, there was never an animal originally associated with the holiday until the Germans introduced one, a hedgehog. According to German lore, "if the hedgehog saw his shadow on Candlemas Day, there would be a "Second Winter" or 6 more weeks of bad weather."



When German settlers came to what would become the United States, the holiday remained, but the U.S. had no hedgehogs. With the lack of hedgehogs, another hibernating 'hog' was chosen, the groundhog.

In 1899, the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club was formed, but the first official Groundhog Day holiday and celebration in the United States took place in 1887. Since then, every year on February 2nd, masses of people come to Gobbler's Knob in the city of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to watch Phil the Groundhog make his prognostication. Since the first prognostication in 1887, Punxsutawney Phil has seen his shadow 108 times, not seen his shadow 21 times...

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, and no prediction 10 times. Statistically, 39% of Punxsutawney Phil's predictions have been correct.

This year, Phil made his prediction and announced he had seen his shadow, indicating six more weeks of winter. Below is the official scroll statement from Punxsutawney Phil for his 2025 prognostication:

"Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye! Now on this February 2nd, Punxsutawney Phil the seer of seers, the prognosticator of all prognosticators was

awakened from his wintry nap at dawn on Gobbler's Knob. Phil looked to the skies and then, speaking in Groundhogese, directed the President to the proper scroll, which reads... What a way to start a Sunday fun day. You always said you'd make it here one day. To this place, barely big enough to contain ya. To this sweet Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. We're all here with the elements combined. Where Mother Nature meets Father Time. To hear the

truth – Is that a gray sky? Only I know (you can't trust A.I.) It's Groundhog Day and maybe life is on a loop. But I miss my burrow, I miss my coop. So I'm headed back down! There's a shadow up here! Get ready for 6 more weeks of winter this year!"

Only time will tell if Punxsutawney Phil's 2025 prognostication is true...

Sources: The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club and National Weather Service

Thiel Winter Sports Update



Thiel College Women's Basketball Seniors.

By: Ben Collins

Jan. 31, 2025: Winter sports at Thiel College are now entering the back half of their seasons with many major storylines.

Men's and Women's Basketball, Men's Volleyball, and Wrestling are currently in season. All active sports on campus have had different struggles and successes, and all are ready to attack the

back end of the season.

Women's Basketball has seen better success in overall gameplay on the floor; despite the winless streak, the Lady Tomcats are playing more aggressive and spirited basketball. The women's team has had multiple freshmen who have stepped up and

have played well in their short time here.

Kayley Risser has been the team's point leader for almost the entire season, averaging 11.8 points per game. Risser finished a game at St. Vincent on Saturday, January 25th, with 15 points. Issy Green has also been a big part of the women's basketball program, leading the team in free throws, rebounding, and assists. Regarding overall success, the team has been in some tighter ball games and has been able to win on several occasions this...

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Thiel Winter Sports Update

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...season. It appears that the Lady Tomcats are getting closer to securing a victory.

Thiel's Men's Basketball program has been right in the mix of the conference playoff contention. The men are currently one game behind Waynesburg.

Fifth-year Marlon Ellerbee eclipsed the one-thousand-point mark in their most recent win over Waynesburg on Saturday, January 18th. Freshman Rob Thomas has been a big part of the team this season leading the team in points averaging 11 points per game.

The men's team has a record of 6-12 with six games remaining. The Men's and women's basketball teams fell to Westminster on Wednesday, January 29th. Both teams will return home to take on Franciscan on Saturday, February 1st.

The Wrestling team is continuing their winning tradition after a slow start. They picked up their first win on January 22nd over Waynesburg. Joey King and Seth Phillips have led the way for the Tomcats and are

both in a good position to place at the Presidents Athletic Conference Tournament on

Saturday, February 15th, at Waynesburg.

On Wednesday, January 29th, the Wrestling team hosted Hiram on Senior night, and the Tomcats came out with a 39-14 win with pins from EJ McCarthy, Landon Mead, Joey King, and Seth Phillips and a win by decision for Chase Kyler. The Tomcats Wrestling team's last home match will be on Thursday, February 6th, against St. Vincent.

The Men's Volleyball Team is still in the early parts of their season and currently sits at 3-4. Men's Volleyball has looked solid against some good opponents, taking Mount Union to 5 sets in their loss on Tuesday, January 28th. and have had some players stepping up in big ways so far. Ezra Osterling has been a true freshman sensation, leading the team



in both Kills and Digs this season. *Thiel College Wrestling takes on W&J.*

Ben Lowell and Kaleb Proudfoot have all been solid on the court as well. The Men's Volleyball team will be in action on Saturday, February 8th, when they travel to Berea, Ohio, at the Baldwin Wallace Invitational to take on the Baldwin Wallace Yellow Jackets and the Hiram Terriers.

As Men's and Women's Basketball enter the back half of their schedules, wrestling winds down, Men's Volleyball is in full swing, winter sports at Thiel are getting increasingly exciting. With several more matches and games to go, Thiel's winter teams hope to see major improvements in their success.

Current Events

Thiel Greek Life Hosting Greek Gatsby Games

By: Mason F. Adams

Jan. 31, 2025: Thiel College fraternities and sororities hosted a campus-wide game night in the Sawhill Georgian Room (SGR).

Thiel College's Greek Life held a 'Great Gatsby' themed game night last Friday in the SGR from 6 to 8 P.M. The event charged 1 dollar per person, with all proceeds going to AWARE Inc. in Sharon, PA, to help fight domestic violence. AWARE Inc. has been helping to eliminate domestic and sexual abuse in Mercer County since 1976 and has partnered with numerous Mercer County non-profit organizations, such as First Baptist Church of Greenville, Center Presbyterian Church, and Thiel College.

The Thiel fraternities of Phi Theta Phi, Kappa Sigma, and Sigma Phi Epsilon were all present, as were the sororities of Sigma Kappa, Chi Omega, Zeta Tau Alpha, and Alpha Xi Delta. Students were encouraged to dress in business casual, play games, or just hang out. The available games included poker, gin, rummy, Yahtzee, canasta, go fish, blackjack, and slapjack. No monetary prizes were given away.

However, prizes were given out in the form of raffle gift baskets, with tickets given to students after paying a dollar at the door. Each Greek organization had created its own gift basket to give out. Phi Theta Phi, for example, made a movie-themed basket. The event was themed after "The Great Gatsby," with a 'Roaring 20s' aesthetic.

At the event, Alpha Xi Delta sorority member Charlee May was interviewed and said that the event, "while not a great recruitment tool for rush, this event has been a great success as both a fundraiser for AWARE, as well as a great opportunity for Greek life students to have a fun time together." May has been a member of Alpha Xi Omega for 3 years.

Zachary Roberts, a freshman at Thiel interested in joining a fraternity, said in an interview, "I had a great time. I haven't played many of the games before, but it was fun to meet the frat members and hang out with them."

Students were allowed to interact with Greek life by playing games, hanging out, asking questions, and having fun. This was Thiel Greek Life's first event of the spring 2025 semester, with Kappa Sigma and Sigma Phi Epsilon running their rush events the same week. Phi Theta Phi and all the sororities will be holding their rush events in the coming

An image of the flooding..

weeks. All Greek life organizations are excited for this semester and hope to recruit many more people to join.

Source: Aware Inc., Thiel College



MEET THE GREEKS

FEBRUARY 7TH 7PM-8PM
IN THE BISTRO

GET TO KNOW WHAT GREEK LIFE HAS TO OFFER!
ASK QUESTIONS!

Current Events

U.S. and Colombia Reach Agreement to Put Tariffs on Hold

By: Robert Doyle

Jan. 27, 2025: After the United States and Columbia threatened to raise tariffs on each other, an agreement to halt the tariffs was reached only if Colombia honored the deal.

The two sides [United States and Columbia] agreed to put the tariffs on hold on the evening of January 26th if Columbia agreed to fly military planes with deported individuals from the U.S. back to Columbia. President Trump made the agreement to keep the threatened tariffs on hold as long as Columbia held up their end of the bargain.

Earlier in the day, Colombian President Gustavo Petro refused to authorize President Trump's proposal

to carry deported persons on military flights into Columbia. President Trump claimed that this refusal posed "a significant threat to U.S. national security and public safety."

President Trump then posted the tariffs and sanctions he would enact: Emergency tariffs of 25% on all Colombian imports, which would escalate to 50%. An immediate travel ban into the United States and cancellation of visas for Colombian government officials, their allies, and supporters. Enhanced Inspections of Colombian nationals and any cargo on grounds of national security, and financial sanctions under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act ("IEEPA").

In response to these proposed

measures, President Petro posted on his Twitter/'X' that he would implement an immediate 25% tariff on goods imported from the U.S., which would escalate to 50%. These proposed measures would have overruled some protections under the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, a longstanding principle of trade between the two countries.

Although the countries agreed to put the tariffs on hold, visa sanctions and enhanced border inspections will remain in place until the first plane of Colombian deportees is successfully returned. The trade war that never was could have had some costly implications for the United States and Columbia, as the Colombian peso was projected to significantly devalue and damage its exchange rate. In the U.S., the coffee industry could have endured a huge hit as nearly 20% of all coffee in the United States comes from Columbia, being the second largest import behind Brazil.

Donald Trump and Gustavo Petro.



Sports

Super Bowl LIX Preview

By: Jason Walsh II

Feb. 3, 2025: Super Bowl LIX is set for this Sunday, February 9th, 2025. The game will feature the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles and will kick off at 6:30 p.m. ET.

The first-seed Chiefs represent the AFC, while the second-seed Eagles represent the NFC and are the designated home team. Super Bowl week will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the game itself will be held at the Ceasars Superdome.

This is the second time the Eagles and Chiefs will meet in the Super Bowl, with their last meeting occurring in 2022/23 (Super Bowl LVII) in Arizona. The Chiefs won that game 38-35 on a game-winning field goal. The Philadelphia Eagles will wear their home 'Midnight Green' Uniforms, while the Kansas City Chiefs will wear their white away uniforms, the same ones worn in their last meet-up.

Super Bowl week will begin tonight, Monday, February 3rd, with opening night festivities at the Superdome. The opening night will feature player appearances and autograph opportunities. Players and coaches from

the Chiefs and the Eagles will attend; public admission is \$20.

The Super Bowl experience will be held at the Ernest Morial Convention Center from Wednesday, February 5th, through Saturday, February 8th.

The event will feature a fan fest

that includes games, field clinics, and autograph opportunities.

The NFL Honors will be held at the Saenger Theater in New Orleans on Thursday, February 6th. Snoop Dog will host the event, which will begin at 9/8c on Fox. The honors will award the best players on and off the field for the 2024/25 season.

Back on January 26th, the NFL Conference Championships were played.

The AFC Championship game was between the first-seed Kansas City Chiefs and the second-seed Buffalo Bills, and the NFC Championship game was between the second-seed Philadelphia Eagles and the sixth-seed Washington Commanders.

The NFC Championship game was the first of the conference championship games. The visiting Commanders and the Eagles kicked off at Lincoln Financial Field at 3 p.m. The favored Eagles beat the Command-



ers to head to the second Super Bowl appearance in 3 years, winning 55-23.

In the win, quarterback Jalen Hurts threw for 246 yards and a touchdown with 20 completions on 28 attempts. Hurts gained 3 touchdowns on the ground as well. For the second week in a row, running back Saquon Barkley was an unstoppable force, rushing for 118 yards on 15 attempts and 3 touchdowns. A.J. Brown also contributed to the air attack with 96 yards receiving and 6 receptions, including a touchdown.

The second game of the conference championships was the AFC Championship. The Buffalo Bills traveled to Arrowhead Stadium to face the Chiefs at 6 p.m. The game was the fourth playoff matchup between Josh Allen and Patrick Mahomes. Mahomes moved to 4-0 against...

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...Allen and the Bills in the playoffs with a decisive Chiefs 32-29 victory. This title game clinched the Chief's third straight Super Bowl appearance and also gave KC a chance to become the first three-peat Super Bowl champions. In the win, quarterback Patrick Mahomes threw for 245 yards and a touchdown with 18 completions on 26 attempts. Mahomes also rushed for 43 yards and 2 touchdowns. Chiefs running back Kareem Hunt rushed for 64 yards on

17 carries, including a touchdown.

Xavier Worthy caught 6 passes for 85 yards, including a touchdown.

The Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs will kick off Super Bowl LIX at 6:30 p.m. ET this Sunday, February 9th, in New Orleans. The Kansas City Chiefs are -1.5-point favorites.

Patrick Mahomes



The New Face of United Healthcare

By: Kaden Drew

Jan 29, 2025: United Healthcare announced its new CEO, Tim Noel, after the murder of its previous CEO in December 2024.

United Healthcare, America's largest health network and a subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group, announced its new CEO, Tim Noel, last Thursday, January 23rd. Noel has been with United Healthcare since 2007. Noel's promotion was due to the sudden murder of Brian Thompson, the previous UHC CEO. For most of

his career, Noel was the head of Medicare and retirement at UHC.

UnitedHealth Group is the parent company of UnitedHealthcare, which provides insurance for an estimated fifty-two million Americans. UHG is single-handedly the largest healthcare conglomerate, primarily based on revenue. Tim Noel's introduction as the company's CEO seems to result from his previous status in the company, his experience, and the need for a replacement CEO.

Tim Noel's becoming the new UHC CEO is the result of the murder of Brian Thompson, the previous CEO. Brian Thompson graduated from the University of Iowa in 1997 as valedictorian with a bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting. Eventually, Brian Thompson joined UHC in 2008, quickly rising the ranks to become CEO in 2017. Brian Thompson was shot and killed in Midtown Manhattan on December 4th, 2024. The alleged killer...

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The New Face of United Healthcare

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Luigi Mangione, had fled the scene, leaving only the bullet casings used to murder Brian Thompson. The bullet casings were engraved with the words "Deny, Defend, Depose," which many have speculated to be a reference to how insurance companies attempt to keep up profits by denying healthcare to people who need it.

The phrase Deny, Defend, Depose has recently become a common phrase for Americans who are outraged at the current healthcare system. Across all social media platforms, there are still many posts regarding the murder that seem to imply that some people wish for a revolution to overhaul the healthcare system.

After all of this had occurred, a conference Zoom call involving United Health Group CEO Andrew Witty was leaked. Witty claimed that they would continue to use the same practices as when Brian Thompson was still CEO of UHC. These practices seem to be one of the driving factors in this outrage.

Ever since the beginning of the manhunt, support for Mangione has been

overwhelming. Merchandise featuring Mangione's face, parts of his manifesto, and repetition of the phrase "Deny, Defend, Depose" have sprung up all around Manhattan. In addition, several wanted posters with other CEOs' faces, names, and salaries have sprung up all around Manhattan. This has also re-

sulted in a defense fund being started for Mangione, which has rapidly been gaining donations.

Miranda Yaver, the assistant professor of health policy and management at the University of Pittsburgh, spoke on the situation, stating: "Obviously, it is morally reprehensible to murder someone, and vigilante justice is not justice. But I am particularly surprised by the forceful expression of anger towards the American health insurance system."

The UnitedHealth Group CEO Andrew Witty made a statement after the backlash began: "We Know the healthcare system does not work as well as it should, and we understand people's frustrations with it." This response to the public was released after Mangione's capture. According



CEO Andrew Witty.

to FOX News, Witty also stated that the company is still confident it will grow in the 2025 fiscal year despite the recent bad press and drama surrounding the murder and media outrage.

After Mangione had fled, a nationwide manhunt for him persisted for four days. Eventually, Mangione was found in a McDonalds in Altoona, Pennsylvania, after a worker recognized him and called the authorities. Mangione had a copy of his manifesto on his person when he was found. Mangione was arrested and has been charged with two counts of second-degree murder and one count of first-degree murder. Mangione was also charged with terrorism.

Sources: The Guardian, BBC news,