

Smoke Signal



Punxsutawney Phil Predicts Spring's Arrival

Groundhog Day brings many people from all over the world to a small town in western Pennsylvania to see the prediction of the most famous groundhog in the world, Punxsutawney Phil.

Where does Groundhog Day come from and why do we celebrate it? Like many dates on the American calendar this holiday has its roots in Christian religion. Candlemas Day, on February 2, was the day that Christians would bring their candles to church for blessing.

They felt that these blessings would help them get through the remaining part of the winter. Winters are long and hard and the thought of being able to predict when people could emerge to start being outside again was alluring.

The idea of Groundhog Day in America came over the Atlantic with the German immigrants who believed that when a hedgehog saw his shadow on Candlemas Day that there would be a "Second Winter" or another six weeks of bad weather. We do not have hedgehogs in Pennsylvania. Groundhogs hibernate just like hedgehogs, so close enough. Groundhogs were substituted and a new American tradition was born.

The first recorded Groundhog Day in America was back in 1886 when it was recorded in a local newspaper. Every year since then has brought more people and tourists to visit Phil and listen to his prediction. Other places have attempted to use their own groundhogs. Staten Island Chuck was famously dropped by Mayor DiBlasio. He died from injuries sustained during the attack. Perhaps, just leaving the weather predictions to the professionals in Punxsutawney is best.

– Hilltop Staff Writer



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUNXSUTAWNEY GROUNDHOG CLUB

Punxsutawney Phil, the most famous groundhog, on display to a large crowd in western Pennsylvania.

Guidance Suite

The guidance department wants to inform students that they need to stay on top of their college applications. Get them in before the due dates and as soon as possible. You can always go to the guidance department to get help with it. Also, you can get help with writing your entrance essay in tutoring. See Dr. Zeiler in M54 before school for writing help. Good luck and get to it.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Scholarship

Value: \$45,000 - Deadline: May 1, 2024

The Earl Warren Scholarship is named for the Honorable Earl Warren, the 14th Chief Justice of the United States and former Governor of California whose stewardship of the Warren Court helped end school segregation and transform America's legal landscape.

In honor of his memory, the Earl Warren Scholarship is awarded annually to rising law students whose commitment to racial justice reveals outstanding potential for training as civil rights and public interest attorneys. Eligible law students include those entering their first or second year of full-time legal study at an accredited law school.



LDF's Earl Warren Scholarship awards are \$15,000 per year for three years (as long as scholars remain in good academic standing and continue to meet the scholarship criteria) for a total of \$45,000. In addition to financial assistance, Earl Warren scholars are given the unique opportunity of an LDF internship, externship, or guided research project-competitive positions that are sought out by dozens of students every year. Final decisions are made in August. All applicants will be notified of their status.

<https://www.naacpldf.org/about-us/scholarships/earl-warren-scholarship/>

Scholarship Owl Fund

Fifty scholarships of \$1000 available - Deadline: Mar 29, 2024

ScholarshipOwl is your source of relief from the dreaded application process. We put students on the fast-track to success by providing direct access to the scholarships they need the most. Take the hassle out of financial aid and maximize your chance at a free ride in college. No matter how much funding you need for school, we have the opportunities you're looking for.

Eligibility

- You must be a resident of any of the 50 United States, District of Columbia or US Territories
- You must be 16 years of age or older



- You must either be enrolled in a college/university or registered in a qualified high school
 - You must be located within the United States
- https://scholarshipowl.com/awards/scholarship-owl-scholarship?transaction_id=1025324d84eef2aec7e41ad97f5c45&offer_id=24&affiliate_id=1085&aff_sub=&aff_sub2=&aff_sub3=&aff_sub4=&aff_sub5=

Bold.org Scholarship

Value: \$25,000 - Deadline: Apr 01, 2024

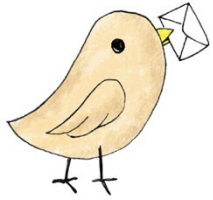
If you have two minutes you can apply for this money! The "Be Bold" Scholarship is a no-essay scholarship that will be awarded to the applicant with the boldest profile. It takes less than two minutes to apply.

To us, boldest does not mean "best" or "most accomplished." Being bold means being:

- A) Earnest
- B) Determined
- C) Moving

The scholarship will be awarded to the student whose profile is most bold, according to these characteristics. Furthermore, the scholarship will be unique in that it will favor students who apply earlier-who are bold and seize the day without procrastinating.

<https://bold.org/scholarships/the-be-bold-no-essay-scholarship/#ref=best-scholarships>



Ask Aida

Dear Aida,

I can't handle the weather. It seems like climate change is making the weather so weird. One day it is cold, then it is hot. When is winter going to be spring already?

Weather scared

Dear Scared,

Did you ever hear the saying that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb? That is what it is talking about. The weather changes from winter to spring and just gets unpredictable. The good news is that we can all hold out hope that spring will be here soon. (Please refer to the groundhog article in this issue.) We will get there.

- Want to ask Aida a question? Please send them to the Hilltop Star Advisor, Dr. Zeiler at (hzeiler@passaicschools.org) or drop a handwritten question in M117 (home of the Hilltop Star) or in the main office mailbox. We would love to hear from you!



Z's Quote Corner

I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England, too.

– Queen Elizabeth I



IMAGE COURTESY OF HULTON ARCHIVE /GETTY IMAGE

Queen Elizabeth I in the dress, crown, and scepter worn when she thanked the English Navy for the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

Passaic Indians Spring Sports Schedule

Boys Varsity Baseball

- 3/28 - HOME vs. Univeristy HS - 4:30 PM
- 4/1 - HOME vs. Passaic County Tech - 4:30 PM
- 4/3 - Away vs. Passaic County Tech - 10:00 AM
- 4/5 - Away vs. Passaic Valley High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/8 - HOME vs. Clifton High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/9 - Away vs. Clifton High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/12 - Away vs. North Bergen High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/15 - HOME vs. JF Kennedy High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/17 - Away vs. JF Kennedy High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/19 - Away vs. Wayne Hills High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/23 - Away vs. Bergen County Tech - 4:30 PM
- 4/24 - HOME vs. Bergen County Tech - 4:30 PM
- 4/29 - Away vs. Eastside High School - 4:30 PM



Boys Junion Varsity Baseball

- 4/1 - Away vs. Passaic County Tech - 10:00 AM
- 4/3 - HOME vs. Passaic County Tech - 10:00 AM @ Christopher Columbus Park
- 4/5 - HOME vs. Passaic Valley High School - 4:30 PM @ Christopher Columbus Park
- 4/8 - HOME vs Clifton High School - 4:30 PM @ Christopher Columbus Park
- 4/9 - Away vs. Clifton High School 5:00 PM
- 4/12 - HOME vs. North Bergen High School - 4:30 PM - Boverini Stadium
- 4/15 - Away vs. JF Kennedy High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/17 - HOME vs. JF Kennedy High School - 4:30 PM - @ Boverini Stadium
- 4/19 - HOME vs. Wayne Hills High School - 4:30 PM - @ Christopher Columbus Park
- 4/23 - HOME vs. Bergen County Tech - 4:30 PM - @ Christopher Columbus Park
- 4/24 - Away vs. Bergen County Tech - 4:30 PM
- 4/29 - HOME vs. Eastside High School - 4:30 PM - @ Christopher Columbus Park

Girls Varsity Flag Football

- 3/13 - Away vs. St. Benedict's Prep - 4:30 PM
- 3/18 - Away vs. Nutley High School - 6:00 PM
- 3/21 - HOME vs. Wallington High School - 6:00 PM
- 3/24 - Away at the Wayne Valley Tournament - 10:00 AM
- 3/26 - HOME - hosting Tri-Garfield Elizabeth Tournament - 6:00 PM - @ Boverini Stadium
- 4/5 - Away - vs. DePaul Catholic High School - 12:00 PM
- 4/10 - HOME vs. Clifton High School - 6:30 PM
- 4/18 - Away vs. Eastside High School - 7:00 PM
- 4/25 - HOME vs. Passaic County Tech - 6:30 PM



COED Varsity Golf

- 3/20 - Practice at Willowbrook Golf Center - 3:30 PM
- 3/25 - Practice at Willowbrook Golf Center - 3:30 PM
- 3/26 - Practice at Willowbrook Golf Center - 3:30 PM
- 4/1 - Away - Demarest OPEN - at Preakness Valley Golf Course - 3:00 PM
- 4/8 - Away - Passaic Valley OPEN - at Preakness Valley Golf Course - 3:30 PM
- 4/9 - Away - Bergenfield OPEN - at Preakness Valley Golf Course - 3:30 PM
- 4/15 - Away - vs. Bergen County Tech - at Preakness Valley Golf Course - 3:30 PM
- 4/17 - Away - Fort Lee, Eastside OPEN - at Preakness Valley Golf Course - 3:30 PM
- 4/22 - Practice at Willowbrook Golf Center - 3:30 PM
- 4/23 - Away vs. J.F. Kennedy High School - at Preakness Valley Golf Course - 3:30 PM
- 4/30 - Practice at Willowbrook Golf Center - 3:30 PM



Girls Varsity Softball

- 3/28 - Away - vs. St Mary's High School - 4:00 PM
- 4/1 - Away - vs. Passaic Valley High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/3 - HOME - vs. Lakeland Regional High School - 10:00 AM
- 4/4 - HOME - vs. Hawthorne High School - 10:00 AM
- 4/5 - Away - vs. Passaic County Tech - 10:00 AM
- 4/8 - Away - vs. Eastside High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/10 - HOME - vs. DePaul Catholic High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/11 - HOME - vs. Ferris High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/12 - HOME - vs. Clifton High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/13 - HOME - vs. Payne Tech School - 10:00 AM
- 4/15 - Away - vs. Paramus High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/16 - Away - vs. Memorial High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/17 - HOME - vs. Bergen County Technical HS - 4:30 PM
- 4/19 - HOME - vs. J.F. Kennedy High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/22 - HOME - vs. Passaic County Tech - 4:30 PM
- 4/23 - HOME - vs. Dickenson High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/24 - Away - vs. Dickenson High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/29 - HOME - Bergen County Tech - 4:30 PM



Girls Junior Varsity Softball

- 4/1 - HOME - vs. Passaic Valley High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/3 - Away - vs. Lakeland Regional High School - 10:00 AM
- 4/4 - Away - vs. Hawthorne High School - 10:00 AM
- 4/5 - HOME - vs. Passaic County Tech - 10:00 AM

- 4/8 - Away - vs. Eastside High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/10 - Away - vs. DePaul Catholic High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/11 - Away - vs. Ferris High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/12 - Away - vs. Clifton High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/13 - Away - vs. Payne Tech High School - 10:00 AM
- 4/15 - HOME - vs. Paramus High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/16 - HOME - vs. Memorial High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/17 - Away - vs. Bergen County Tech - 4:30 PM
- 4/19 - Away - vs. J. F. Kennedy High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/22 - Away - vs. Passaic County Tech - 4:30 PM
- 4/23 - Away - vs. Dickenson High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/24 - HOME - vs. Clifton High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/29 - Away - vs. Gergen County Tech. - 4:30 PM

Boys Varsity Tennis

- 3/19 - Away - vs. Wayne Valley High School - 4:30 PM
- 3/21 - HOME - vs. Rutherford High School - @ Main Avenue Tennis Courts 4:00 PM
- 4/2 - Away - vs. Passaic County Tech - 9:00 AM
- 4/4 - HOME - vs. J. F. Kennedy High School - @ Main Avenue Tennis Courts
- 4/9 - HOME - vs. Clifton High School - 4:30 PM @ Main Avenue Tennis Courts
- 4/10 - HOME - vs. Belleville High School - 4:30 PM @ Benson Courts
- 4/11 - HOME - vs. Paramus Catholic High School - 4:30 PM @ Main Avenue Tennis Courts
- 4/16 - HOME - vs. Eastside High School - Passaic Valley High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/17 - HOME - vs. Passaic Valley High School - 4:30 PM @ Main Avenue Tennis Courts
- 4/18 - Away - vs. Bergen County Technical School - 4:30 PM
- 4/23 - HOME - vs. West Milford High School - 4:30 PM at Main Avenue Tennis Courts
- 4/25 - Away - vs. J. F. Kennedy High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/30 - Away - vs. Clifton High School - 4:30 PM



Boys Junior Varsity Tennis

- 3/19 - Away vs. Wayne Valley High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/2 - HOME vs. Passaic County Tech - 9:00 AM
- 4/9 - Away vs. Clifton High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/10 - Away vs. Belleville High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/11 - Away vs. Paramus Catholic High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/18 - HOME vs. Bergen County Tech. - 4:30 PM
- 4/23 - Away vs. West Milford High School - 4:30 PM
- 4/30 - HOME vs. Clifton High School - 4:30 PM