



# Six more weeks of winter...or not...

## Fate and temperatures lie in the paws of Punxsatawney Phil

by Sylvia Larson  
staff writer

This article ran three years ago in issue 2.22. This is reprinted with the permission of author Sylvia Larson. As a note, Phil saw his shadow this morning as well, meaning six more weeks of winter.

On Monday, the infamous Punxsutawney Phil crept out of his hidy-hole at 7:25 a.m. at Gobbler's Knob, a rural area about two miles outside of Punxsutawney proper. Guess what? He SAW his shadow. What does that mean for us? Six more weeks of snow and cold!

Groundhog Day is the midway point between the winter solstice and spring equinox. The day's history is rooted in the celebration of Candlemas. In 1841, a store keeper in Morgantown, Pennsylvania wrote about February 2nd and referred to it as Candlemas Day; this was the first documented American reference to Candlemas Day.

Storekeeper James Morris: "Last Tuesday, the 2nd, was Candlemas

day, the day on which, according to the Germans, the Groundhog peeps out of his winter quarters and if he sees his shadow he pops back for another six weeks nap, but if the day be cloudy he remains out, as the weather is to be moderate."

For the last two years, Phil has seen his shadow, and both times, his predictions have reigned true. After the particularly brutal winter of 2014, who knows what the weather will do this year?

Punxsutawney Phil has been in charge of telling America how long winter will wear on since 1886, all based on whether or not he sees his shadow on the morning of February 2nd.

That means that Phil is supposedly a sprightly 124 years old! Generally, groundhogs have a lifespan of about six years, so it is extremely unlikely that our famous groundhog friend from the eighteenth-hundreds is still alive and well.

Although it is supposed to be kept a secret that Phil is an imposter, it's not really hard to guess. It's publicly



unknown how many groundhogs have actively played Phil.

The Philadelphian woodchuck's full name is actually "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators and Weather Prophet Extraordinary." He was named by the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club in 1887.

A special group called the Inner Circle takes care of Phil during his down time in the year and also plans the annual ceremony. Members of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club's Inner Circle are recognizable by their top hats and tuxedos.

When Phil is not busy predicting the weather at Gobbler's Knob, he lives in the town library with his wife, Phyllis. Yes, Punxsutawney Phil has his own adorable little groundhog wife, and her name is Phyllis.

Punxsutawney Phil's batting average isn't exactly spectacular. His weather predictions have been accurate approximately 39% of the time since 1887. Because the year's coldest quarter, also known as meteorological winter, runs from Dec. 5 to March 5, Phil predicts a long winter about 80 percent of the time. Members of the Inner Circle claim that predictions are accurate about 75% to 90% of the time.

The forecast for next week holds mild temps, but it's still too early to predict what will happen the rest of the winter. Until then, though, make sure your heater is in working condition.

Just remember, in the words of Hal Borland, "No winter lasts forever, no spring skips its turn."

## Celestial wonder graces sky

by Heather Huether  
staff writer

On Wednesday, January 31st, a total lunar eclipse paired with a Blue Moon, making it a Super Blue Blood Moon. A full moon is not rare; it occurs once a month. Occasionally, it happens twice in one month; this event is known as a Blue Moon.

A Blue Moon occurs approximate-

ly every two and one half to three years. The last Blue Moon was in July 2015. But there will be two in 2018; the second will happen in late March.

But a Blue Moon isn't the only component of this natural wonder; the Blood Moon occurs because the Earth is passing between the Moon and the Sun, which gives the Moon a reddish tint to it. It's caused by light bending around the Earth, or more

commonly known as a lunar eclipse. The US will have to wait another year to see a Blood Moon, predicted to happen January 21st, 2019.

The last factor of this lunar trifecta is a supermoon. This is when the moon is at its closest point to Earth. It appears to be 14% bigger and 30% brighter than normal. Supermoons generally only occur once every 14 months and will not happen again until January 2019, along with the Blood Moon.

When a Blue Moon combines with a supermoon, and a Blood Moon, a Super Blue Blood Moon occurs, which is a very rare occasion. The last time all of these events occurred simultaneously, in the Western Hemisphere, was in 1866.

If you missed the show on Wednesday, luckily you won't have to wait over 150 years. The next Super Blue Blood Moon is just 19 years away and is scheduled to occur on January 31st, 2037.

## Word search

### Super Bowl

F O O T B A L L H C S  
P K T I E B O C A O T  
A C I B A E T N T M O  
R E C R A A I W O M I  
T H K A C G D O S E R  
Y C E D R L R D E R T  
F Y T Y S E A H N C A  
O A S E O S B C N I P  
O P L E R C M U I A T  
D O I U D I O O M L B  
F M A E I S L T O S A

Word List:

- |          |          |             |           |           |
|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| BRADY    | LOMBARDI | FOLES       | TOUCHDOWN | CATCH     |
| PAYCHECK | TICKETS  | COMMERCIALS | PARTY     | MINNESOTA |
| FOOD     | FOOTBALL | PATRIOTS    | EAGLES    |           |

## He lifts heavy things

by Greg Arana  
staff writer

Senior, Zeb Johnson, placed second in his weight class last Saturday, January 27, at the local O'Gorman powerlifting meet. Johnson got second out of 190 powerlifters.



Zeb Johnson gets the all clear from the judge during his deadlift last Saturday. Johnson placed second in his weight class and second overall.

Photo by Sylvia Larson

At O'Gorman last Saturday Johnson lifted a total of 1,060 pounds. He squatted 375 pounds, benched 245 pounds, and deadlifted 440 pounds.

Last year at state, he placed 5th in his weight class and this year he hopes to win it all. He said there is a fair chance he could.

In two weeks Zeb is looking to

qualify for the powerlifting nationals. To qualify for nationals, he has to lift a total of 1,041 pounds, already showing he can exceed that requirement during the O'Gorman meet.

Zeb is very passionate about powerlifting and wants to improve as much as he can. He plans on going to State on March third.

# Academic achievements worth noting

## Second Quarter Honor and Merit Roll recipients

Honor roll: 4.0-3.67 GPA

Merit roll: 3.66-2.67 GPA



**High School Honor Roll**

Ashlyn Andersen  
 Keara Beck  
 Mikayla Bottelberghe  
 Jayden Clark  
 Evan DeBates  
 Alexa Draper  
 Ryan Fick  
 Mattea Fiegen  
 Lesly Gonzalez  
 Aftyn Heitkamp  
 Peyton Hove  
 Zebadiah Johnson  
 Rachel Kindt  
 Zachary Klaassen  
 Madden Lardy  
 Angel Larson  
 Nicholas Lundberg  
 Aliah Lymon  
 Isaiah Mader  
 Emily Malsom  
 Brennan Mudder  
 Madisen Nordstrom  
 Madisen Northrup  
 Mckenzie Northrup  
 Nobel Nothstine  
 Logan Nussbaum  
 Amyah Ockenga  
 Elizabeth Olson  
 Isabella Peters  
 Nicolas Pierret  
 Marc Rattenborg  
 Kara Ross  
 Jacob Schroeder  
 Hailey Sheppard  
 Rave Uhlich  
 Keaten Wagner  
 Rebecca Weiland

Abrianna Doppenberg  
 Allison Ebbing  
 Lauren Fick  
 Chloe Flahaven  
 Ryan Flanagan  
 Hannah Frewaldt  
 Kayla Genzlinger  
 Grace Hove  
 Clay Lardy  
 Morgan Moritz  
 Acen Olson  
 Sydney Olson  
 Emily Panning  
 Rian Smidt  
 Sage Solheim  
 Erin Steen  
 NeVaeh Stensland  
 Blaine Trower  
 Sarah Welch  
 Jordyn Williams

**High School Merit Roll**

Dominic Abraham  
 Andrew Blosmo  
 Evan Bly  
 Carmen Bohl  
 Clayton Bonte  
 Jaden Braaten  
 Cory Bryan  
 Kennedy Buckneberg  
 Caeden Bunde  
 Hunter Carver  
 Joseph Cordier  
 Kristen Cordier  
 Brady DeBates  
 McKenzie Decker  
 Keisean Deehr-Thornton  
 Aleksander DeLaTorre-Carver  
 Ian Doppenberg  
 Trevor Edmundson  
 Emily Erickson  
 Trevor Fiegen  
 Erynn Fink  
 Lucas Fitzgerald

Collin Flahaven  
 Myranda Folland  
 Geraldine Fry  
 Jazmin Gawarecki  
 Rakell Gnad  
 Erik Hanson  
 Lauren Heesch  
 Caroline Hoskins  
 Molly Houg  
 Heather Huether  
 Molly Hulscher  
 Collin Johnson  
 Malia Johnson  
 Nadalie Johnson  
 Trevor Johnson  
 Trenton Karli  
 Kendra Kleven  
 Sylvia Larson  
 Devon Leedy  
 Diontae Lymon  
 Aiden Magnuson  
 Isabella Narigon  
 James Nussbaum  
 Kyler O'Neal  
 Tee Paterson  
 Tessa Pederson  
 Seth Petersen  
 Tara Petersen  
 Matthew Rattenborg  
 Noah Reed  
 Triston Rekstad  
 Alexis Richter  
 Peyton Sage  
 Chayce Schleuter  
 Emily Schleuter

Elizabeth Schmidt  
 Alexander Stephenson  
 Joshua Thomas  
 Caitlyn Trower  
 Kylie Uhl  
 Mark John Vandersnick  
 Josue Vargas  
 Keisha Veldkamp  
 James Widrig

**Middle School Merit Roll**

Hunter Abraham  
 Jaelyn Benson  
 Connor Bertotti  
 Logan Bly  
 Maren Bonte  
 Keara Bottelberghe  
 Payton Campbell  
 Treyton Chester  
 Carson Clark  
 Morgan Damman  
 Madison Decker  
 Tyler Edmundson  
 Joy Fry  
 Autumn Gaspar  
 Alexis Gawarecki  
 Braedon Genzlinger  
 Matthew Gilbert  
 Isaiah Gnad  
 Blake Gulbrandson  
 Adair Hanisch  
 Katherine Hanson  
 MaKayla Heesch  
 Maverick Houg  
 Amber Hulscher  
 Dylan Jessen  
 Gabriel Johnson  
 Noel Johnson  
 Anna Jones

Dylan Kindt  
 Samantha Kruger  
 Aliyah Leedy  
 Cooper Long  
 Mya Long  
 Lacey Lumpkin  
 Cadence Magnuson  
 Jayse Miller  
 Kloey Mullin  
 Olivia Mullin  
 Ethan Narigon  
 Cadyn Ockenga  
 Michael Olson  
 Jazmine Osberg  
 Drew Pederson  
 Morgan Pierret  
 Cash Pullman  
 Lily Ranschau  
 Alexander Reker  
 Carsten Rozeboom  
 Taylor Sage  
 Chloe Schleuter  
 Samuel Schleuter  
 Samantha Shellum  
 Bryce Stoterau  
 Justin Stoterau  
 Joseph Sundvold  
 Bryn Swatek  
 Tayson Swatek  
 Dmitry Sysa  
 Oliviyah Thornton  
 Mason Tillma  
 Mataya Trower  
 Zachary Uhl  
 Jenna VanHolland  
 Caleb Westerbur  
 Dustyn Winterton  
 Dylan Wolf  
 Christopher Wynia

*Congratulations*

## Senior Spotlight

*Sylvia Larson*

**SENIOR PROJECT:** Photography  
**ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:**  
 Yearbook  
 Newspaper  
 Oral Interp  
 Not doing my homework

**WHAT I'LL MISS MOST:** Skipping school to go to concerts  
**PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:** Honestly, I'm just going to wing it



## Senior Spotlight

*Myranda Folland*



**SENIOR PROJECT:** Making a stop-motion film  
**ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:**  
 Concert band—Flute  
 Marching band—Commander  
 Oral Interp  
 Military—Air Guard

**WHAT I'LL MISS MOST:**  
 Band  
**PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:** Basic training for the summer and then going to a college for engineering

# Garretson ballers have up & down week

*Girls go 2-1 in Big East Conference play but fall short in non-tournament competition; Boys get tight win over rival Baltic*

by **Sylvia Larson**  
staff writer

Last Friday, the girls basketball team (6-9) faced the Chester Flyers (7-10) for the second round of the BEC in a rematch from a game earlier this season. The first time these two teams met, the Blue Dragons scratched out a 14 point victory and it was much the same this time



Lizzie Olson makes the fast break look easy despite pressure from the Titan defender. While Garretson kept the game close, they were unable to pull out the victory, falling to Tea Area in overtime, 60-62.

Photo by Sylvia Larson

around; Garretson won 38-26.

Freshman Lizzie Olson led the offensive stat line with 12 points, senior Erynn Fink followed with 11, and junior Kyley Greenhoff had five.

On Saturday they finished out the BEC with a 62-58 win against Howard (7-8). Aftyn Heitkamp had

12 points, Greenhoff had 14, and Olson led with 18. The Blue Dragons finished the conference tournament 2-1, securing the consolation championship.

On Tuesday, the boys played their arch nemesis in Baltic (3-10), while the girls took on Tea on the home court. The boys had a close game, leaving the stands on edge with no clear winner throughout. Garretson managed to pull through with a 58-56 final score, staving off multiple attacks by the Bulldog offense in the waning seconds of the game.

The girls and Tea Area (3-10) had quite the roundup for their senior night showdown. It was close throughout, needing a last second shot to just extend the game. Down by three with just seconds to spare, Kyley Greenhoff hit a basket from beyond the arc to tie the game and send it into overtime to settle the



Seniors Beth Schmidt (statistician), Carmen Bohl (guard), Erynn Fink (post), Amyah Ockenga (guard), and Sylvia Larson (photographer) were recognized at Tuesday night's game vs. Tea Area.

score. Tea Area found their leading scorer wide open underneath the hoop with 17 seconds left to take a two point lead. The Blue Dragons had a few different looks at the basket but ended up losing 60-62.

Capping off a busy week of play the ladies got another stab at the McCook Central-Montrose Fighting Cougars (16-1) last night. Garretson played them in the opening round of BEC but it did not fall the Dragons' way. The same issues happened in last night's rematch as MCM downed the Blue Dragons 63-39.

The boys, on their home court, get their chance at redemption against MCM tonight. The Blue Dragon boys (2-12) also played the Fighting Cougars (5-8) in their BEC matchup and narrowly lost that game. They are looking to turn the tides and capitalize on the momentum from their win against Baltic.

# Garretson grapplers trying to get healthy before region, state

by **Isaiah Miles Mader**  
staff writer

The Garretson wrestling squad has struggled to post consistent results over the past few weeks amid injuries, sicknesses, and open weight slots. The grapplers headed to Wagner this past Saturday and to Freeman on Tuesday.

As the Blue Dragons travelled to Wagner, these struggles were put on full display. The Wagner Invitational did come with glimpses of success as junior Ben Konechne left with a fourth place finish. Garretson placed 15th as a team.

"It's tough with injuries and missing wrestlers, but I'm hoping we can get healthy before regions and qualify some kids," stated senior wrestler Jack Konechne.

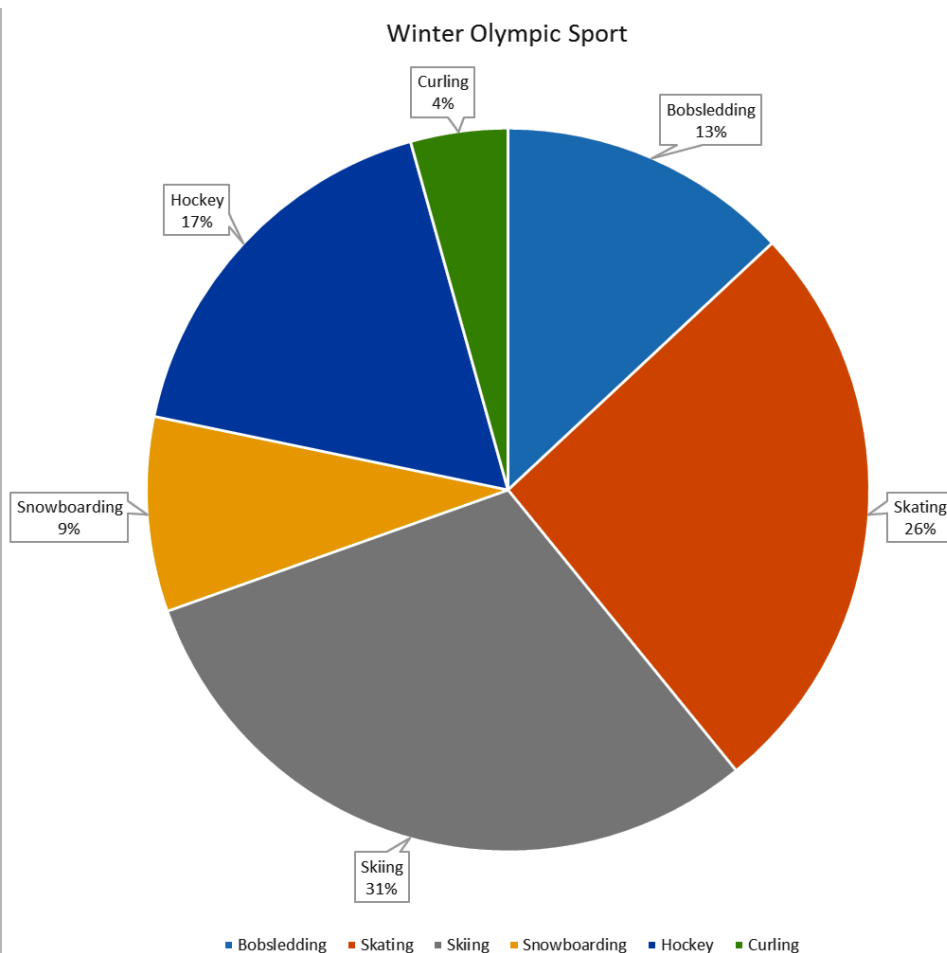
Looking for better results, the team travelled to Freeman for a quad against Marion/Freeman, Elk Point-Jefferson, and Beresford/Alcester - Hudson. The day brought more success and some much needed confidence as regions approaches and the squad attempts to make their way to compete at state.

Garretson was able to defeat Marion/Freeman handily 42-24, but fell short to their other two opponents. The Blue Dragons lost a heartbreaker to EPJ, losing 36-37. Garretson also fell to Beresford/Alcester Hudson 30-53.

Tomorrow the squad will head up to Clear Lake to participate in the Big East Conference/Lake Central Conference tournament and hone in their skills as they trudge into the last few weeks of the season.

With regions just two weeks away, the Blue Dragons are looking to regain their full team of competitors in time for their chance to punch a ticket to state.

## Student Opinion Poll



*Students were asked which was their favorite winter Olympic sport*

### Bobsledding

Includes sports such as bobsledding, luge, skeleton

### Skating

Includes figure skating, short track speed skating, speed skating

### Skiing

Includes alpine skiing, biathlon, cross country skiing, freestyle skiing, Nordic combined, ski jumping

### Snowboarding

### Hockey

### Curling



PyeongChang 2018



**GARRETSON**  
BLUE DRAGONS