

# Groundhog Day brings mixed reactions in West Mich.

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Updated: Sunday, February 2 2014, 07:35 PM EST (NEWSCHANNEL 3) - The groundhog has spoken.

Punxsutawney Phil made his prediction for the rest of winter Sunday from his burrow in Pennsylvania. In West Michigan, the controversial forecast is drawing mixed reactions.

Cheers from a crowd of thousands greet Punxsutawney Phil as he awakes from his long winter nap. After some bizarre rituals to determine if Phil sees his shadow, the results are in.

The weather weary-crowd is very upset with the outcome of the groundhog seeing his shadow.



According to the groundhog, we have six more weeks of winter, that's 42 days, 1,008 hours or 60,480 more minutes of dealing with this.

Philip Maguran says he's "excited, as long as it's not zero degrees or negative 20 with wind chills, we're fine with it." The Maguran family celebrates the news by hitting a sledding hill in Portage.

"We've got a family trip planned down to Florida in March so that will be our getaway. Otherwise, bring on the snow," Kristen Maguran says.

Not everyone is thrilled with the critter's prediction. Mike Branch says his reaction was "disappointed, I was hoping to be about done with it. I've had enough with the snow."

Branch, snow blowing his driveway in Portage speaks for all those discouraged with the non-stop snow and cold. "We'll all be thinking spring with Groundhog Day here, so it will make it a little worse," he says.

How can we trust this shifty rodent year after year? "I have no idea," Philip Maguran says. "I'm sure there's some studies out there that show it does, or we wouldn't be paying attention to it, right?"

I guess we'll see, come spring.

If you'd like a second opinion, Michigan's very own Woody the Woodchuck also predicted six more weeks of winter.

She stayed put inside her home at the Howell Conference and Nature Center Sunday morning.

According to the nature center's executive director, Woody has a pretty good track record. Over the last 11 years, she's been right 15 years times.

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