



Severe Weather Awareness Day Coming Soon!



NWS Nashville's favorite annual event is back! Join us at Trevecca University on February 24th from 9am to 4pm for what is sure to be a fun-filled day!

SWAD is a FREE, public event hosted by NWS Nashville that brings members of the community together to talk about weather, science, and emergency preparedness. You'll get to meet your favorite broadcast meteorologists from News 2, WSMV, NewsChannel 5, and FOX17. Come meet NashSevereWx, amateur radio enthusiasts, the American Red Cross, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, and a lot more! Oh, did we mention James Spann is going to be there, too?

Topics scheduled for this year include an event recap of the December 9, 2023 tornadoes, the 50th anniversary of the 1974 tornado outbreak, a broadcast Q&A panel, and a weather safety talk. For more information and to register, visit weather.gov/ohx/swad2024.

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2023 Year in Review

Here's a look at the CoCoRaHS stations who recorded the most precipitation in 2023. Did you make the list?

Station	Liquid Precipitation (inches)
TN-WR-20 (McMinnville 8.5 ESE)	60.90
TN-FN-6 (Clarkrange 6.0 NE)	59.92
TN-CM-4 (Fairfield Glade 0.1 NNW)	58.64
TN-CM-32 (Crossville 4.7 S)	58.22
TN-GY-2 (Beersheba Springs 2.1 ENE)	58.11
TN-GY-8 (Altamont 3.9 NW)	58.07
TN-MT-79 (Clarksville 4.9 NW)	57.62
TN-PM-45 (Monterey 5.6 S)	57.35
TN-GY-13 (Grueti-Laager 1.3 E)	57.32
TN-DC-24 (Dickson 6.3 WSW)	56.39
TN-CM-38 (Crossville 7.2 SE)	55.99
TN-BF-5 (Shelbyville 3.1 ESE)	55.76
TN-LR-26 (Loretto 4.9 ENE)	55.15
TN-WR-4 (Morrison 1.9 SSW)	54.51
TN-CF-14 (Manchester 2.6 WNW)	54.25
TN-ST-10 (Dover 7.8 NNE)	53.30
TN-LR-27 (Loretto 1.1 E)	52.85
TN-LS-5 (Hohenwald 0.3 E)	52.41
TN-CF-27 (Manchester 2.4 NNW)	52.33
TN-DC-3 (Dickson 5.8 NW)	51.91

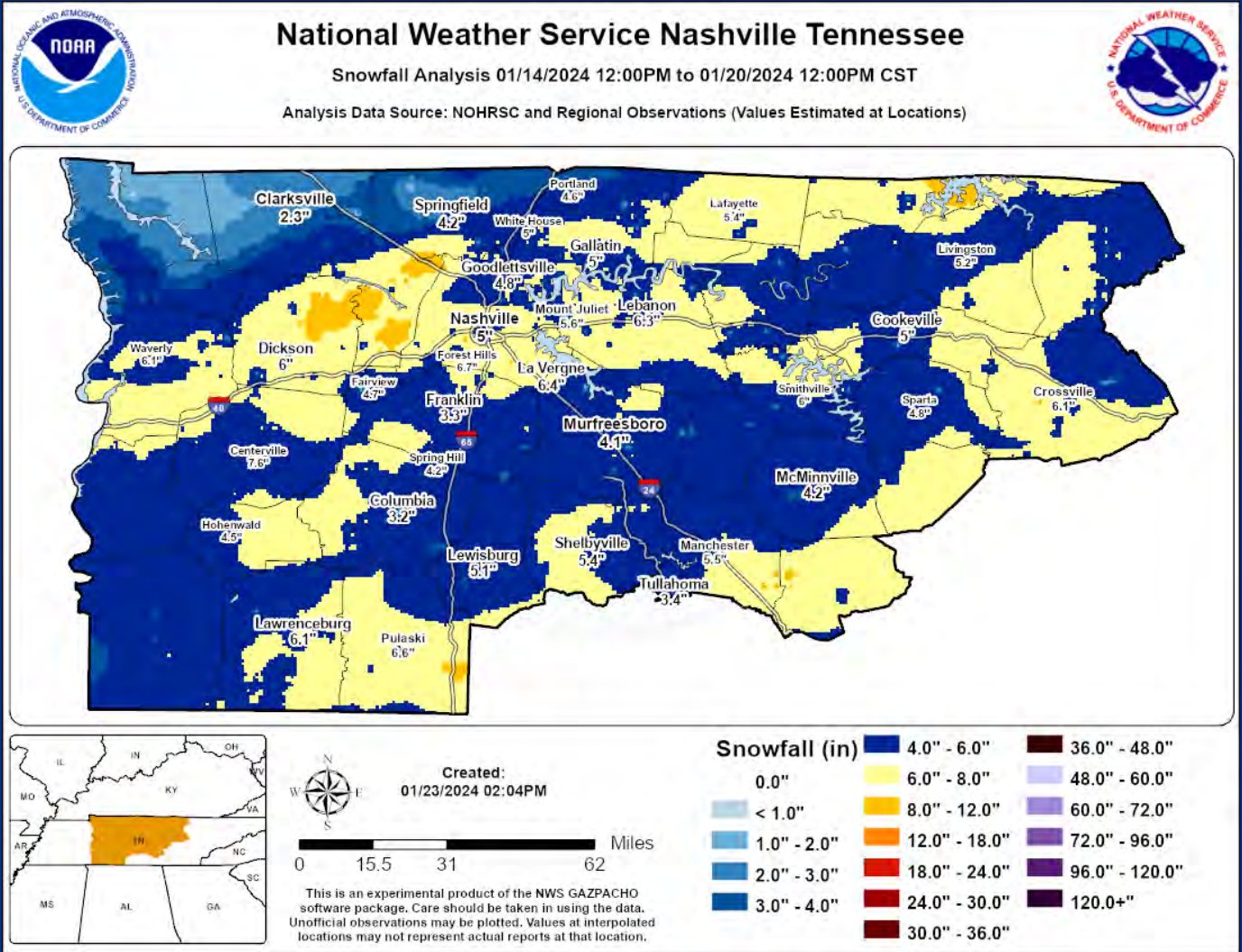
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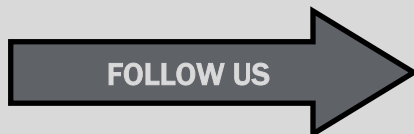
January's Winter Storm

Our January winter storm brought more snow than many had seen in a long time. In fact, Nashville's official climate site measured 7.6 inches of snow which is more than we typically receive in just one season. A big THANK YOU to all of you for sending in your reports.



Congratulations of CoCoRaHS TN-WR-10 (McMinnville 8.5 ESE) whose 9.5 inches of snow is the highest CoCoRaHS snow report in NWS Nashville's area!

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The More You Know



Why Do We Need a Leap Year?

Every four years, an extra day gets added on to the month of February. Humans have been practicing leap years since the Roman Empire, but why?

In most of our calendar years, there are 365 days. But during that time it takes for our Earth to orbit the sun, it actually spins 365 and nearly a quarter times. But why do we care about this quarter?

Because there's an extra quarter of a day in the year, it means we have to periodically reset our calendar. If we didn't, the start of our seasons would gradually drift. After 40 years, we would be 10 days off. Eventually, it would get to the point that summer in the northern hemisphere would be starting in November.

So adding an extra day every four years just helps to make sure our seasons stay consistent!

Happy Groundhog Day!

Groundhog Day began as a Pennsylvania German custom in southeastern and central Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries. Its origins are in the medieval Catholic holiday of Candlemas as well as the Pagan festival of Imbolc. Candlemas was observed on February 2nd, the mid-point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. According to an old English folklore, if the day was "fair and bright, Winter has another flight". If the day "brings cloud and rain, Winter will not come again." So clear skies on Candlemas meant a longer winter was ahead while a cloudy day foreshadowed the end of winter.

When the Germans settled in Pennsylvania, they brought their tradition of Candlemas as well as introduced the tradition of using an animal seeing its shadow. In Germany, that animal was a badger, but in America, the suitable replacement was the groundhog.

In 1886, Clymer H Freas, the city editor of the Punxsutawney Spirit Newspaper, was inspired by this tradition and used his editorial clout to proclaim Punxsutawney Phil, the local groundhog, to be the one and only official weather forecasting groundhog. He issued this proclamation on February 2nd, and Groundhog Day and Punxsutawney Phil's fame only grew.

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Meet
Theo!

Theo is a long-time CoCoRaHS observer near Goodlettsville, and first signed up thanks to her son Nathan who left her with the rain gauge when he went off to college! Theo loves citizen science, and says that CoCoRaHS is one of the best examples of it as it is real science being done by thousands of others together. Theo also has a lifelong interest in astronomy and is a member of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society along with being a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador. As astronomy & meteorology go together, she finds all of the CoCoRaHS information useful! Theo is also passionate about the need to combat rampant light pollution and is a member and advocate for the International Dark Sky Association. She also enjoys telescopes, night & day cameras, and anything outdoors!

I would love to recognize and highlight YOU in these newsletters! If you're interested, tell me about yourself via [this form](#).

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