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Girl Scout cookie sales are in high gear

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# MONTICELLO Times

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## Wanted: A few stuffed animals

*Monticello Boy Scout collects toys for child victims of crisis situations*

BY JEFFREY HAGE  
MONTICELLO TIMES

A Monticello Boy Scout hopes to bring a smile to young victims of traumatic situations.

Bryce Lozinski, an eighth grader at Monticello Middle School, is working towards a rank as an Eagle Scout with a project designed to comfort young children who have become victims of a traumatic situation.

His Eagle Scout project was in full swing Saturday, March 9, where Bryce and about 30 fellow Scouts and their parents from Troop 270 manned the two entrances of Walmart collecting stuffed animals.

By late afternoon, Bryce estimated more than 300 stuffed animals had been collected through his project. The stuffed animals, Bryce said, will be donated to the Wright County Sheriff's

Department. Children can be left scared and feeling alone for a number of reasons. They could be removed from their homes because of abusive situations, or they can be the victims in custody disputes. They can also be victims of fires of vehicle crashes that often times leave the child terrified.

"On a crisis call, children can be scared or upset," Bryce said. The Wright County Sheriff's Office has an inventory of toys in its squad room, Wright County Sheriff Sean Deringer said. These toys are given to children by Deringer's deputies.

"It does make a big impact," Deringer said of the toys.

Bryce said he got the idea for his Eagle Scout project from a story his mom

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Jeff Hage / Monticello Times

Bryce Lozinski (Center in Boy Scouts uniform) is pictured with some fellow Scouts from Troop 270 holding stuffed animals that were collected as part of Bryce's Eagle Scout project.

## A feeding frenzy...



Jeff Hage / Monticello Times

Trumpeter swans gathering for their daily feeding at Swan Park on Wednesday, Mrch 6. The swans were being fed that day by Jim Lawrence, Jr. The feeding of the swans was started nearly 30 years ago by Lawrence's mother, Sheila, who was known in local circles as the Swan Lady. Jim Lawrence and his son Jim Lawrence, Jr. feed nearly 2,000 swans daily. They consume about 1,100 of corn on a daily basis. The swans are fed daily at 10:30 a.m. during the winter months. The swans arrive in Monticello in November and usually stay through mid-March.

## County preparing for implications of the Spring thaw

BY JOHN HOLLER  
MONTICELLO TIMES

Minnesotans pride themselves on their winter resiliency, but 2019 has been the "Neverending Story" of misery – complete with a Polar Vortex in January and the most February snow in recorded history. But, as the inevitable spring thaw comes, there are legitimate concerns being voiced that the worst may be yet to come.

As of March 4, the underground frost depth was 55 inches at the county's monitoring station in Otsego. The term "po-

lar vortex" hit home late in 2013 when temperatures dropped to record lows for extended periods and never let up despite a general lack of snow. The spring of 2014 was the worst Wright County has seen in years, when frost depth reached 72 inches – six feet. At this time last year, the frost depth reached 48 inches. In both 2016 and 2017, the maximum frost depth was 36 inches.

2019 has broken new ground. As a result, the combination of late-season snow and significant frost depth is increasing the potential for short-term and long-term flooding problems, according

to Wright County Highway Engineer Virgil Hawkins.

"It's really hard to gauge at this point, but it is concerning," Hawkins said. "Historically, when we've had roads that are prone to being flooded over, when we make improvements on them, we factor that in and include that in the reconstruction process to raise the grade. The concern is that, if it gets really warm and the ground is still frozen or we get a big rainfall, that would be the Perfect Storm of potential problems."

When flooding takes place, often times roads need to be closed to traffic. For

most drivers, that is an inconvenient truth. For those who are in the emergency response field, that can be critical. Every minute lost due to detours can be the difference between tragedy and saving a life. Sheriff Sean Deringer said his department has identified annual problem areas – Delano and Rockford are typically in harm's way on the Crow River and Mississippi River takes on the majority of upstream water – and pre-emptive, coordinated efforts are taken as problems arise so emergency responders

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