



# Crete-Monee runs past Bloom Township 51-45 in SICA South clash.

ELSEWHERE: TINLEY PARK 57, ARGO 34 | RICHARDS 59, OAK LAWN 48

READ ABOUT IT IN SPORTS, B1

# SOUTHTOWNSTAR

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# SEARCH AND SEIZURE

## Federal agents spend all day at Harvey's police department carting away evidence

Federal agents barged into Harvey's police station Friday morning armed with a search warrant.

Nearly eight hours and at least one pizza delivery later, they rolled out into the freezing cold with a collection of large white cartons and not a word about what was inside.

Could this evidence grab be related to charges against four Harvey officers who were charged this week along with Cook County sheriff's office correctional officers and a Chicago police officer? The ones accused of taking money to protect people they believed were drug dealers doing business in Tinley Park, Oak Lawn, Homewood and Matteson parking lots? Or does U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, whose office sought the warrant, have something else in mind?

It's not the first time in recent years outside law enforcement officials have gone looking inside the Harvey station and dragged out evidence, though this likely was the first time Harvey officers were rounded up and held in a room together while the sweep was completed.

Lest you think Harvey's a world away, consider how the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force won't work with the city's police.

And that the law enforcement officers rounded up in this week's sting were covering drug deals in your own back yard.

» **READ LAUREN FITZPATRICK'S STORY, A3**

**Federal investigators load boxes of files they pulled from Harvey's police station into a car on Friday. Agents spent eight hours at the police department after serving a search warrant.**

JASON HAN — SOUTHTOWNSTAR



## New Lenox honors soldier

While on tour in Afghanistan, Jacob Lowell's final actions saved the lives of his comrades, paratroopers with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. When their Humvee was ambushed on June 2, 2007, Lowell continued to protect his unit despite already being shot in the leg. He did his duty until the end, when he was fatally shot in the chest during the attack.

More than 100 people came out to honor him, as the U.S. Post Office in New Lenox was renamed after the 2003 graduate of Lincoln-Way Central High School.

» **SUSAN DEMAR LAFFERTY'S STORY, A3**



**Bernadine Lowell (right) receives a hug from family friend Cathy Ducharm on Friday at the unveiling of a sign renaming the U.S. Post Office in New Lenox after Jacob Lowell, a soldier who was killed in Afghanistan.** JOSEPH P. MEIER — SOUTHTOWNSTAR

## Advocate exploring merger with Rockford

### Letter of intent is sign both want to move talks along

BY MAURA POSSLEY  
STAFF WRITER

The Chicago regional health care giant Advocate Health Care announced Friday it is exploring a potential merger with Rockford Health System.

The company that has hospitals based in the Southland would not elaborate on what options were on the table between the two. A letter of intent signed by both was "definitely a signal that both organizations are committed to moving these talks along," said Kelly Jo Golson, Advocate vice president of communications.

Details on the merger talks and when a decision would be made were not released.

"It's just putting confidential perimeters around it because we're at a point where talks are going to advance," she said. "A

partnership would benefit not only Rockford, their patients and the community as a whole, but ultimately the Advocate system."

It's the second such exploration for Advocate. Last month, the company confirmed it was in partnership talks with BroMenn Healthcare System, based in Normal.

Advocate is a nonprofit company affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the United Church of Christ.

It owns and operates hospitals throughout the region, including Advocate Christ Medical Center and Advocate Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn and Advocate South Suburban Hospital in Hazel Crest.

Those hospitals are included in its more than 200 sites that provide an array of services, according to the company.

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## Cold, frosty wonderland

Homewood rings in the holiday season with annual lights event downtown. » **STORY, A7**

## Slashing prices, again

Bettenhausen Dodge has decided to improve its own deal. Now, you can get a second car for free. » **BUSINESS, A5**

## EJ&E deal set for vote

A federal panel issued a report finding no major flaws to reject the sale to Canadian National Railway. » **STORY, A3**

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