CRIME IN THE PARADE

WHO’S TO BLAME?

Drunks lighting with police. Unruly and we in the streets. Adults forming wedges in crowds to prevent their children from being crushed.

Is this what organizers of the South Side Lindsy St. Patrick’s Day Parade envisioned when they began the yearly gathering? Statistics show this year was the worst in terms of crime statistics. Fifty-five people were arrested, 15 officers violently reacted, and more police officers were harmed than in any other year. So organizers have decided no more parade.

“Every year more people come for the wrong reasons, less families want to bring their children and that creates a vacuum where more people who want to get drunk come,” Sgt. Mike Casey said. “It reached a breaking point.”

• KIM JANSSN REPORTS, A5

Unconventional wisdom in Tinley

Tinley Park wants to significantly reduce the village’s dependency on the Chicago metropolitan area’s transit system by using funds from service to save money. Is this a wise choice? Other Southland towns weigh in.

• KRISTEN SCHORCH REPORTS, A8

MVCC hopesfuls on taxes, education

Voters will decide if a Cook County assistant state’s attorney who wants to bring “South Side family values to the village board room” belongs on the Moraine Valley Community College Board to save money. Is

MVCC hopefuls on taxes, education

Show us your drawings

Hey kids, want to see your artwork in the paper? Send your drawings to Bob Bong at the SouthtownStar, 6901 W. 139th Street, Tinley Park, IL 60477. Or e-mail them to bbounding@southtownstar.com. Please include your name and school or hometown.

‘OUR HERO’

Sgt. Christopher Abeyta came home to a hero’s greeting Thursday. As his flag-draped casket made its way from Midway Airport to Midlothian, the 23-year-old lost to the war in Afghanistan was surrounded by those who loved him best, by those who, like him, swore to serve America and by those who found themselves touched by his death March 13.

• READ MORE IN LAUREN FITZPATRICK’S REPORT, A3

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