

State digs deeper to pinpoint poisons

By MARGARET COSTELLO
and HEATHER DUNCAN
Star-Gazette
mcostello@stargazette.com

CONCERN on the
SOUTHSIDE

State environmental experts will begin testing the soil at Southside High School in Elmira within two weeks for chemicals and contaminants similar to those found on an adjacent industrial site.

The test is one of several being conducted at the school following concerns about reportedly high student cancer rates there.

Up to this point, soil samples taken on the South Main Street campus have been tested only for petroleum contaminants, said Scott Rodabaugh, an environmental engineer with the state Department of Environmental Conservation. The conservation department determined several years ago that fuel oil was seeping from underneath the campus into a nearby pond.

The conservation department and county and state health departments are involved in the broader investigation at the school, which was built in 1978 on a former factory site. Representatives from those agencies and the school will explain their plan of action and answer questions from the public at a Tuesday

Public meeting

Health and environmental officials will explain their investigation of pollution and cancer cases at Elmira's Southside High School on Tuesday during a public meeting at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium, 777 S. Main St.

Inside

■ State will start new tests, cleanup efforts/TC

night meeting at the school. The most recent steps include:

■ Recent radar tests to find the location of fuel oil tanks beneath the school determined that none remained there, though the oil continues to flow underground.

■ New air tests for petroleum fumes within the school have been conducted. Test results might be back this week.

■ Tests will begin the week of May 8 for metals in the soil of the Southside campus.

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