

No health threat in school building

■ State urges more tests for nearby sites.

By MARGARET COSTELLO
Star-Gazette
mcostello@stargazette.com

Soil, air and water at Southside High School pose no apparent threat to public health or to the environment, according to information released Tuesday by the state.

However, the state Department of Environmental Conservation is now looking at two other sites near the school for potential contamination.

The specific results of testing done at the school will be presented at 7 p.m. today during a public meeting in the school's auditorium, 777 S. Main St., Elmira. Officials from the conservation department and the state Department of Health will explain what was found, where it was found, what it means and what will happen next.

State engineers collected 135 samples from more than 46 soil borings between May and August. The samples were tested for a wide range of contaminants including metals, volatile chemical compounds and pesticides.

Results from samples taken in July and August were not included in the information released Tuesday. Data from those tests will be released at a future date.

The results of (the state's) investigation show that there are no consequential amounts of hazardous waste and there is no significant threat to public health or the environment at Southside High School," said Thomas Kump, director of environmental health for Chemung County, in a written statement Tuesday. Kump is also president of the Elmira City School Board.

Tuesday's report included full air sample test results that showed the air inside and outside the school does not pose a health threat. Additionally, all water used in the school meets state standards.

The information released Tuesday indicates that more
See CANCER/4A



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CONCERN IN SOUTHSIDE If you go

■ What: The Elmira City School District will sponsor a public meeting on the results of the state's investigation of cancer cases at Southside High School. After the presentations, members of the public will be invited to ask questions or make comments.

■ When: 7 p.m. today.

■ Where: Southside High School auditorium, 777 S. Main St., Elmira.

Robert D. Long Jr., with the state Department of Environmental Conservation, checks a core sample taken from the northeast corner of the Southside High School athletic field in May. About 135 samples were taken at various locations around the school grounds.



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Robert D. Long packs a container with soil from a core sample taken at Southside High School in May.

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