

www.stargazette.com      Wednesday, June 7, 2000      New York Edition  
 The first Gannett newspaper      Elmira, New York      50 cents

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**Inside**  
Twin Tiers Life



Sculpture of Glenn H. Curtis  
**N.Y. honors**

# Reports detail years of spills

■ Pollution near Southside High School called typical of industrial sites.

By **JIM PFIFFER**  
Star-Gazette  
jpffier@stargazette.com

spills, leaking storage tanks, open burning and transformer explosions. No evidence exists, however, to suggest that the land is still a health risk to the community despite its environmental record. State health and environmental officials say that the

**CONCERN on the SOUTHSIDE**

obtained by the Star-Gazette. State environmental conservation reports detail years of pollution, and an environmental analysis by a private Ithaca firm has tracked a number of the spills near the school.

In April, news about those years of contamination made headlines when the state Health Department launched an investigation into seemingly high rates of cancer among

students at the school. At least 25 students have developed cancer since the school opened in 1979.

Toxics Targeting, an environmental mapping and consulting firm in Ithaca, profiled and mapped all toxic spills, tank leaks and pollution within a one-mile radius of the school at 777 S. Main St. in Elmira. The mapping included information from federal, state

and private sources. Highlights from the reports by Toxics Targeting and the state Department of Environmental Conservation include:

■ 1976: A salvage company emptied four electric transformers of 900 gallons of oil — laden with polychlorinated biphenyls, known as PCBs, a suspected carcinogen — onto the ground at the former

See SPILLS/4A

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Sun, Apr 14, 2019