

Meeting aims to turn up answers

■ Safety fears, tests at school will top discussions Tuesday night.

By **HEATHER DUNCAN**
Star-Gazette
hduncan@stargazette.com

Countless questions ready to be asked at Tuesday's public meeting at Southside High School will boil down to this: Is Southside High dangerous?

Tests to answer that question began several weeks ago after several parents and two Elmira City Council members asked the Elmira school board to examine why 13 current or former students at the school of 1,100 have been found to have cancer since 1997.

Southside is located on a former industrial site next to a factory last operated by American LaFrance, which made

CONCERN on the SOUTHSIDE

fire engines and other emergency rescue equipment. The state Department of Environmental Conservation is finishing a hazardous waste cleanup at the factory. In addition, a plume of fuel oil seeping into Miller's Pond was traced to storage tanks once located on the Southside property.

A panel of health and environmental experts will share what they know about the site and its risks at a 7 p.m. public meeting Tuesday in the Southside auditorium. They also will answer questions from the audience about cancer, chemicals and the school site, said Thomas Kump, the county health department's director of environmental health and a school board member.

See MEETING/4A

Clipped By:



apatros

Fri, Mar 29, 2019