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ADELLE ACKERMAN

Inside

Twin Tiers Life



Kids pay price for moms addicted

CONCERN on the SOUTHSIDE

Inside

- Key players/10A
- Meeting tonight/10A

Few criticized site in 1970s

■ Contamination wasn't much of an issue when choosing location for high school.

Industrial Development Agency that was a suitable size and location.

All the district had to do was demolish vacant factory buildings on Remington's South Main Street site to the tune of \$80,000.

Fast forward to today: The school, now with 1,100 students, sits on a 113-year-old industrial site contaminated with fuel oil. An investigation is under way on a possible link between environmental contamination and a purportedly high incidence of cancer among current and former students at the school.

Health, environmental and school officials will brief residents about the investigation at a public meeting tonight at the school. These officials emphasize that the school does not pose a public health hazard.

The issue of fuel oil contamination was discussed before the school was built in 1977, said Paul Zaccarino, superintendent of schools in Elmira from 1970 to 1979.

"It seems to me there was some concern about contamination of some kinds," Zaccarino said in a recent phone interview from his home in Glen Ellyn, Ill. "There might have been something about chemicals or whatever, used in manufacturing, but that was not what was known to be contaminated land."

See SCHOOL/10A

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