

Meeting to explain soil test methods

By MARGARET COSTELLO
Star-Gazette
mccostello@stargazette.com



Officials from the state Department of Environmental Conservation will explain at a meeting Monday evening how they conducted environmental testing at Southside High School.

The officials are also expected to present the latest results of soil samples collected from the school's athletic fields to the Southside Advisory Committee, a community panel that is reviewing the state's investigation.

The meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. in the school's library, 777 S. Main St. It is open to the public.

The school's fields, and nearby McNaught Field, have been closed since Aug. 29 when Elmira school board members said they needed more information before declaring the fields safe for students. Since April, several community members have expressed concern about a perceived high rate of cancer among Southside students and graduates being linked to environmental contamination at the school. Southside is built on a former industrial site.

Fall sports are over for Green Hornet athletes, who had to practice and host home games at various fields in the area. The school's fields won't be used by student athletes again until spring.

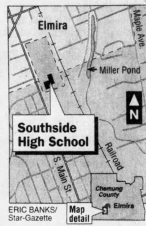
However, all testing needs to be completed before winter arrives if the fields are to be opened for the spring sports

If you go

■ **What:** Southside Advisory Committee meeting.

■ **When:** 6 p.m. Monday.

■ **Where:** Southside High School library. The school is at 777 S. Main St., Elmira.



ERIC BANKS/Star-Gazette

season, committee members said at their Oct. 23 meeting.

Even if those tests indicate the fields are safe, the school board will not vote to reopen the fields until the advisory committee makes a recommendation, said board president Walter Badeau.

The results of the latest tests will be reviewed by an independent environmental engineering firm. If the firm or the advisory committee recommend additional testing be performed at

See MEETING/3C

Clipped By:



apatros

Tue, Apr 16, 2019