

Inquiry uncovers 'dirt' on mound

**Students,
teachers
question plan
for piles of dirt**

BY KYLEA GARDNER
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"It's going to be a new school!"

"No, it's going to be a softball field!"

"It's definitely going to be a new practice field for the football players."

Opinions have varied widely about a growing mound of black fill located behind the junior high building. Dump trucks have been unloading all semester with an occasional timeout to level

what appears to be the ever-expanding pad of topsoil.

"Guesses have ranged anywhere from a new school, to a swimming pool, to a shooting range," Superintendent Shane Fields said. "But as of right now it's nothing more than a mound of dirt."

Speculation has been running rampant through the halls as the mounds of dirt began to pile up, and though many people believe that they have the answer to the mystery, there really isn't a mystery at all.

"The dirt is not being used for anything," Fields said. "It's just landfill. That area has a rather large drop off and we used the dirt to level the space to reduce the chances of flooding



Superintendent Shane Fields poses in front of the mysterious dirt mounds located behind the high school. Speculation has continued to pile up among students and teachers since the mounds began arriving last spring. PHOTO BY KYLEA GARDNER

near the baseball field and batting cages."

Although people have heard the reasoning behind why the soil has been dumped, they still ques-

tion where it came from.

"The school administration has always been good friends with the City of Albany, and this past summer they dug out a

tank at the golf course and needed somewhere to dump all of the dirt, so we agreed to let them dump it

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on our land," Fields said. "The city has been doing all the work, as far as dumping and leveling the ground."

Many people, including teachers and students, have found themselves wondering what the growing mound of fill dirt will be used for.

"Lots of people have been talking about it being used for a new school or a softball practice field," high school coach and special education teacher Sara Wilson said. "But I don't know anything

about it, that's just what I've heard."

Junior Alexis Munden has also heard theories as to what its use will be.

"Lots of people were walking around saying that our school was going to start a soccer program and that was going to be the field," Munden said. "I knew that was just a rumor from the second that I heard it because there would be no reason for a small school like Albany to have a soccer team."

Science teacher Andre Raymond had a more comical take on the situation.

"When they first started dumping the dirt, all of the kids in my classes kept ask-

ing me what it was being used for, and I told them that it was just dirt that was leveling out the ground, but they wouldn't accept that answer," Raymond said. "Anytime I answered them, they would say something like, 'but what do you really think it is?' and so I told them what they wanted to hear."

Raymond had his own spin on the soil that isn't quite as typical as assuming that it's a new school.

"It is the makings of the 'Norton-Raymond Science Lab'," Raymond joked. "There will be a Norton Wing and a Raymond Wing, and the center will be used for storage.

There is also no reason for the children to fear bad weather because the Norton-Raymond science lab will have escalator stairs leading to an underground tram where the kids will be able to get to the science lab without having to go brave the weather."

Raymond laughed stating that is the answer he gives when the truth isn't good enough.

Although many people still question the purpose of the fill and will continue to for a while, Fields has finally provided an answer. It is just a pile of dirt that there is no real use for right now. Or so he says...