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Try mutton bustin'. PAGE 22



LAKE COUNTY NEWS-SUN

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RAIN POSSIBLE

**HIGH 85°
LOW 69°**

Today's forecast drawing is by **Kate Berryman**, a fourth-grader at Woodland Intermediate School.



A decade of asbestos inaction

Illinois Beach State Park near Zion is the state's most visited park. The presence of asbestos there is hardly a secret. Visitors are met with signs warning of asbestos-containing materials that have washed up and scattered along the beach.

State officials first became aware of asbestos in the state park in 1997. Little has been done over the past decade to correct the problem.

APRIL 2007: New asbestos dump found at the north end of the park known as the Camp Logan area, just east of Sand Lake, and about 150 yards from Lake Michigan.

JULY 2006: Illinois Dunesland Preservation Society files a complaint with the U.S. Attorney's Office accusing Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan of "rigging" tests to conceal extensive contamination of Lake Michigan beaches.

JULY 2006: Dunesland files federal suit against state DNR, asking the federal courts to force state officials to allow them to pass out fliers warning of asbestos dangers at Illinois Beach State Park.

MAY 2006: Workers for a testing firm at Illinois Beach State Park were building sandcastles, playing volleyball and dragging cyclone fencing through the sand Wednesday searching for asbestos. The method is called activity-based testing that tries to simulate how the public might be exposed to asbestos while playing at the beach.

MAY 2006: Dunesland files a complaint with Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office after accusing the IDNR of making false statements to the press and alleging that IDNR consultants have been removing friable asbestos material without following state regulations.

SEPTEMBER 2006: The Illinois Attorney General's Asbestos Task Force finds microscopic asbestos at other Illinois beaches south to Chicago, like Oak Street Beach.

JULY 2005: A Dunesland researcher found a number of pieces of material suspected to contain asbestos on Waukegan's lakefront.

JUNE 2005: A two-year state study gave a clean bill of health to asbestos-strewn Illinois Beach State Park but revealed new questions about the carcinogen turning up at one of the Chicago's most heavily used beaches.

OCTOBER 2004: Dunesland files complaints with state and federal agencies charging conservation officials have purposely allowed piles of asbestos-contaminated sand to be washed into Lake Michigan.

JULY 2004: IDNR spokesman Tim Schweizer e-mailed The News Sun to chide the reporter for publishing a front page story on July 3 — just before the busy Independence Day weekend — that said material suspected of containing asbestos was found on the beach. A follow-up story

quoted Schweizer saying there was no asbestos-containing material found, but the story also quoted the park superintendent, who said asbestos-containing Transite pipe was found there. Schweizer later apologized, saying he did not have the complete report.

JULY 2004: Two areas of Illinois Beach State Park were closed after asbestos-containing material was found.

OCTOBER 2003: An evaluation of the health hazards associated with asbestos contamination at Illinois Beach State Park will be undertaken, the Illinois Attorney General's office announced.

JULY 2003: Dunesland helps stop the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from taking dredged sand from Waukegan Harbor and using it for beach replenishment at Illinois Beach State Park. Dunesland said the dredged sand contained asbestos.

JULY 2003: Dunesland asks the IDNR to close Illinois Beach State Park because of concerns about microscopic asbestos.

JULY 2003: Attorney General Lisa Madigan and state Sen. Susan Garrett, D-Lake Forest, called for a task force of state agencies to investigate whether asbestos along the Lake Michigan lakeshore at Illinois Beach State Park is a public health threat.

JUNE 2003: Dunesland urged that all beaches at Illinois Beach State Park, along with the Greenwood Avenue fishing pier in Waukegan, be closed because of possible exposure to asbestos.

JUNE 2003: Dunesland called for a criminal investigation of asbestos materials found anew at Illinois Beach State Park after a wildfire bared the materials that apparently have been lying around for years.

AUGUST 2002: The EPA conducted more chemical tests of asbestos-laced land at the lakefront. The EPA's earlier tests yielded no high readings.

JUNE 2000: Dredged sand from the mouth of Waukegan Harbor was being dumped in Lake Michigan off Illinois Beach State Park. Zion Mayor Lane Harrison said the city had received "detailed" answers from the Illinois EPA to 10 questions he and the City Council raised about the Waukegan sand. One question — about comparative levels of asbestos in samples — remained unanswered.

MAY 2000: Asbestos from contaminated sites near Illinois



Paul Kakuris, president of the Illinois Dunesland Society (left) and Jeff Camplin, a health and safety engineer, point out some asbestos materials discovered in April of this year at Illinois Beach State Park near Zion.

Beach State Park may be dumped into the same lagoon being considered for disposal of PCB-laced sediment, a federal official said.

APRIL 2000: Saying there was no threat to public safety, the Illinois EPA defended its decision not to notify other agencies that it discovered pieces of asbestos pipe fragments in 1990. Eight years after that, when pieces of asbestos-containing material washed ashore at Illinois Beach State Park near Zion, a triad of agencies cleared the beach and a massive amount of testing was done.

JUNE 1999: Divers hired by the U.S. EPA scoured the lake bottom 250 feet off the Lake Michigan shore in the hopes of finding a source of the asbestos fragments that have been washing ashore along the lakefront in Illinois from Winthrop Harbor to North Chicago. They didn't find anything.

JUNE 1999: A so-called "summit" meeting on asbestos debris

washing up on the Lake Michigan shore, from the north end of Waukegan to Illinois Beach State Park in Zion, reached no decisions.

JANUARY 1999: Despite discovery of asbestos-containing debris along the Lake Michigan shoreline, Illinois Beach State Park set an attendance record in 1998. Attendance was up a solid 4.1 percent, hitting 2,753,865 and surpassing the mark of 2,644,889 set a year earlier.

SEPTEMBER 1998: Signs posted at each park entrance warned of asbestos-containing material. The Illinois DNR produced an educational sign with small boxes to show the difference between what a natural rock looked like and the asbestos material.

MAY 1998: Less than 10 people showed up for an "availability session" where government officials made themselves available for public questions concerning the asbestos found on the Lake Michigan shoreline of

Illinois Beach State Park.

MAY 1998: The state health department announced Illinois Beach State Park is free and clear of any asbestos danger, with only a handful of beach samples showing any detectable asbestos.

MAY 1998: A man alleging he picked up a half-dozen pieces of asbestos-containing debris while working off public service hours at Illinois Beach State Park, has prompted park Superintendent Robert Grosso to call for an investigation into abuses of park policy.

MAY 1998: Park personnel were assigned to periodically pick up the asbestos debris as it washed ashore and store it near the park office.

APRIL 1998: An official with the Illinois EPA announced that asbestos had been found on shore at ComEd's Waukegan coal plant. The material was in a large sand pile between the plant and the lake and in large pipes used as car stops in an abandoned parking lot.

MARCH 1998: "Moon suits" were jettisoned this week by workers gathering the asbestos-containing debris found along the shoreline of Illinois Beach State Park after tests results came back showing no danger from airborne asbestos.

MARCH 1998: Officials found two more areas containing asbestos debris — at the far southern end of Illinois Beach State Park and in Waukegan on the Greenwood Avenue extension, next to the Johns-Manville Superfund site. The Illinois DNR also unveiled its plan for air, water and sand testing at the state's most popular park.

MARCH 1998: Several hundred chunks of asbestos-containing concrete pipe have been collected over the last two months at Illinois Beach State Park.

FEBRUARY 1998: A "first of its kind" study is in the planning stages for the Illinois Beach State Park that will test the water, air, and beaches to gauge the extent of asbestos contamination and possibly find the source of the asbestos debris.

FEBRUARY 1998: The problem of asbestos-containing debris is no longer confined to Illinois Beach State Park. It spreads as far south as Abbott Laboratories in North Chicago and as far north as Alfred Park in Kenosha.

FEBRUARY 1998: Wash-ups of asbestos debris at the park were first disclosed by state officials

JULY 1997: State officials said they were aware of the presence of asbestos debris at the state park.

Source: News-Sun Files