

Pollution blamed for most cancer

By Emy Sigler
Staff Reporter

SHELTON — Patti Stiewing worries about the effect of hazardous wastes.

Stiewing, who has researched the subject for 2½ years, maintains that 80 percent of all cancer is caused by the environment so 80 percent of cancer can be "cleaned up."

Stiewing was one of the speakers at an informational meeting Thursday night at the high school when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported that it has concluded its probe into the landfill. The EPA's decision came after it decided that a significant hazardous waste problem does not exist based on the data from test samples.

Stiewing presented a brief color

slide show, which focused on the life of her daughter Amber, who was a victim of cancer. Her death led Stiewing on a crusade.

"I'm using Amber's life, her experience with cancer and her death to educate people," she told the audience. She has written a book, "The Story of Amber," and compiled a 50-minute slide show/lecture presentation about her child, tracing her life through the illness and death.

The slide presentation touched the hearts of some as they wiped away tears.

In August 1979, Patti Stiewing discovered a small lump behind her daughter's right ear, which turned out to be cancer. She traveled Connecticut, the Bahamas and Canada for cancer treatment, but Amber died at home.