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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "CLEANUP MAY BE COMPLETED BY FALL" NCBC GULFPORT MS  
1/12/2005  
SUN HERALD

# Cleanup may be completed by fall

By **CARLIE KOLLATH**  
THE SUN HERALD

**GULFPORT** — Agent Orange contamination continues to be cleaned up at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, officials at a public meeting Tuesday night told about 30 people in attendance.

The current cleanup phase began in November with the clearing of areas affected by the leakage of Agent Orange.

Drums of Agent Orange stored on the Seabee base in the 1960s and 1970s were found to have leaked and contaminated the surrounding soil. The soil was then incinerated in 1987 and 1988.

Yet, Art Conrad, of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, said the soil is still contaminated with tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, or TCCD, a harmful chemical

found in Agent Orange.

Prashant Khanna of Environmental Chemicals Corporation said the company began cleanup late last year. Workers are currently conducting small-scale tests on the contaminated soil on the base to ensure the cleanup methods are effective.

Khanna said that in future phases the contaminated soil will be excavated and taken to the base, where it will be mixed

with concrete to stabilize the dioxin. The concrete-soil mixture will be poured to form a parking area, which will then be capped with 12 inches of concrete.

The cleanup process is expected to be completed this fall, Khanna said.

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# Starkville cuts deal for MRI research facility

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**STARKVILLE** — Mississippi State University and an independent physician group that provides services for area doctors have signed an agreement to conduct research

involving neuroscience, biomedical engineering and veterinary science.

Premier Radiology of Tupelo will build a facility in Starkville to use a magnetic resonance imaging machine bought through a \$3 million grant the university received,

officials formally announced Tuesday.

The university plans to rent part of Premier's facility to conduct research.

Premier will use the MRI for clinical work for about a third of the time.

A site has not been located.

# Accused boyfriend skips out on trial

By **QUINCY C. COLLINS**  
THE SUN HERALD

**JACKSON COUNTY** — Jackson County sheriff's investigators are searching for a man accused of helping his girlfriend hide her dead son's body in early March.

Willie Thomas, 44, failed to appear at his trial Tuesday morning in Judge Robert P. Krebs' courtroom, according to officials with the District Attorney's Office.

Thomas was charged with

accessory after the fact in connection with the death of 5-year-old Kendrick Broadhead.

Thomas' girlfriend, Towander Broadhead, faces one count of felony child abuse and one count of capital murder in connection with the boy's death.

Thomas' attorney Richard Conant said he does not know where Thomas is, but said he had been living in Mobile. A missing person's report for Thomas, who has contacted family, has been filed with the Mobile Police Department.

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# otel holdup

said, wife ined ster. hotel rooms to call for help. No serious injuries were reported. The robber is a light-skinned black man, in his 40s and about

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