

Cause of collapse

Experts say a variety of factors combined to cause Sunday's collapse at Summit Country Day School.

- 1** Workers at the school dug too deep and too close to the existing foundation. This compromised the lateral support of the building.
- 2** Soil was saturated with rain Saturday and froze, which shifted the foundation, causing further destabilization.
- 3** Workers apparently didn't know there were two different foundation depths and did not heed recommendations in a pre-construction soils report that called for support to relieve the weight of the downward load.

Above-grade basement —

Below-grade foundation —

Clay earth —

1

Lateral support

2

3
Downward load

