

# Update on the Abatement and Demolition of the Retired High School

April 9, 2018

Phase II abatement resumed last October and continued non-stop throughout the winter months. This phase focuses on the removal of all cinder block primer that has up to 3% asbestos fibers in the material. This is a tedious process, with regulations from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) that require all areas of abatement zones to be sealed off and air monitoring each hour of the day.

A high-powered blaster shoots ground up glass material (similar to a sand blaster, but of much higher pressure) into the block material to remove all paint and primer material. The workers are required to be in protective gear throughout this process and must shower each time they finish a shift.

All safety precautions are closely monitored by the abatement company, with CDPHE oversight and regulations closely followed. While this process is tedious, it is a very safe method to use to protect all workers and the neighborhood from any contamination.

At this point, approximately 50% of the block primer coating has been removed from the walls in the building and the material is transported to an asbestos landfill in southern Utah. All abatement of cinderblock asbestos will be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The west end of the building has been fully abated, inspected, and is cleared for demolition.

The demolition contractor is scheduled to begin removing the west end of the building in early to mid-May, and will follow the progress of the

asbestos abatement contractor. Once the asbestos abatement is completed, and inspected, the remaining building will be free of any hazardous waste. All demolition material from the remaining building will be transported to an approved recycling facility or the Montezuma County Landfill. The completion date for the removal of the entire building is August 31, 2018. The site will be graded and reseeded as per demolition plans. As many trees as possible will be preserved.

The 14 acre site will be sold to the City of Cortez and developed into a large park for community use. For more information, call Jamie Haukeness at 565-3737, extension 4121.