
News

Fences go up, Fox to come down[Print Page](#)**By CARRIE HADERLIE**
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By the end of the week, fences should be up around the old Fox Theater downtown so demolition of the decrepit building can begin next week.

Several weeks ago, the city council unanimously approved a contract with ESA Inc., of Denver, for the demolition of the old Fox Theater, 112 S. Second, for \$986,482, plus a 20 percent contingency. The building is structurally unsound, is filled with pigeon feces and debris and will require asbestos abatement.

"We're looking forward to finally removing this dangerous building," Peter Wysocki, community development director for the city, said Monday. "Although this is a complicated demolition, all safety precautions are being taken and we are trying hard to have minimal impacts to the businesses."

In fact, Wysocki said only the Cowboy Saloon, located next to the theater at 108 S. Second, will be closed during the demolition. Other surrounding businesses, including Jeffrey's Bistro on the theater's other side, will remain open.

Lissa Hostetler, who owns Sweet Pickles, a children's clothing store downtown, said she's exited for the summer and expects business to run as usual.

"We are anticipating a great summer," Hostetler said. "The air quality is going to be better than ever, because it is going to be monitored daily. It is going to be kind of exciting."

Hostetler said she has even toyed with the ideas of drawing a streetscape of Second Street with a "blank" spot where the Fox "once" was. She said she thought it would be fun to let children fill in the space with whatever they'd like to see downtown when they visit her store.

"We have continually communicated with the surrounding businesses and let everyone know ... that it is safe to occupy and it is safe" to visit the shops and restaurants in the area, Wysocki said.

The area will be constantly monitored during the demolition.

"ESA, Inc., (is) experienced in this sort of demolition," Wysocki said. "And they have been working with the city for over a year now on the demolition planning."

Wysocki said demolition work will meet OSHA standards for the workers and for adjoining properties, and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will monitor the site.

"We have hired consultants to do (air quality) monitoring on our behalf," Wysocki said. "They will be taking air samples during the demolition and will test those for any airborne particulates. Those will be monitored and properly reported to Wyoming DEQ, and Wyoming DEQ will have, I'm sure, their inspectors on site. I don't know how frequently they will be there, but I am sure quite frequently."

The entire job site will be watered down to control demolition dust.

"The (debris) will be carried, excavated from the building, out into big-bellied dump trucks. Those trucks will be lined with plastic material, wrapped and sealed, and will be taken to a hazardous waste landfill in Colorado," Wysocki said.

The Cowboy Saloon will require asbestos abatement and shares a common wall with the theater. Other neighboring buildings do not.

"The Cowboy Saloon will be closed through the duration of the demolition," Wysocki said. "We need to erect the scaffolding through the bar portion of the Cowboy Saloon, and that is where the restrooms are. There are also safety issues with debris falling down through the roof."