

Walls come crashing down to make way for Restaurant Depot in downtown Fresno

By Carmen George

Building that once belonged to Best Cash & Carry at 1550 E St., Fresno THEFRESNOBEE

Major demolition work occurred Tuesday at the site of a planned Restaurant Depot in downtown Fresno.

After two weeks of interior demolition work, walls were ripped down on a roughly 22,000-square-foot building next to The Fresno Bee at Stanislaus and E streets.

“Some of the biggest stuff is happening today,” said Bill Matthews, owner of H.D. Matthews Demolition & Excavation of Fresno. “Today we took down the exterior walls. We’ll have that all done by the end of the day, then we start on the slab.”

An adjoining 75,000-square-foot structure will remain standing and be renovated to house the new restaurant supply company, along with an indoor parking lot. A 174-space outdoor parking lot will take the place of the structure demolished Tuesday.

Restaurant Depot is a wholesale seller of food, drinks and restaurant equipment with stores in 31 states. The Fresno location will be the company’s first in the central San Joaquin Valley.

Anyone who runs a business or nonprofit involving commercial food service can get a free membership, but the business is not open to the general public.

During construction, more than 5,000 tons of concrete will be removed and recycled. About half of it will be pulverized and reused for the new parking lot.

Of the recycled concrete, project superintendent Jason Nightingale with PacifiCore Construction of Irvine, said, “That’s kind of important in this day and age.”

Construction is expected to continue over the next five months. The large, rectangular buildings were last home to a Best Cash & Carry.

Around a dozen workers were on the property Tuesday, along with three excavators and two front-end loaders.

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