

# Ski-Hi Drive-In demolished



PHOTOS BY MICKEY SHUEY/THE STAR PRESS

A crew member picks up scraps during the demolition of the former Sky-Hi Drive-In on the corner of Ind. 3 and Ind. 28, north of Muncie.

## 64-year-old theater showed last movie in 2005, efforts to save it failed

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**MUNCIE** - The remains of Delaware County's last local drive-in movie theater have been razed.

Demolition crews began work late in the week on the former Ski-Hi Drive-In, north of Muncie at Ind. 3 and Ind. 28. The screen tower was toppled quickly as demolition began Friday.

Delaware County's building commissioner had targeted the drive-in for demolition for two years as the Ski-Hi deteriorated.

Building commissioner Steve Minnick told The Star Press in January that the screen tower — for decades emblazoned with the name of the drive-in, with letters falling away in recent years — and projection/concessions building needed to come down because of deterioration. Metal panels from the screen tower had fallen away, allowing wind to get inside the tower, Minnick said. He said that might lead to de-

bris blowing onto the busy state roads nearby.

Ski-Hi owner Michael Chalfant told The Star Press in the days before razing began that he had hired a crew to do the demolition because Minnick — who had levied fines against Chalfant for failing to act in the past two years — was adamant that the drive-in come down.

The Ski-Hi was built in 1952 and screened its last movie in 2005. Since that time, occasional calls for its revitalization have been sounded but Chalfant, who bought it in 2011, said he didn't have the money to rehab and reopen it.

An online petition asking the Delaware County commissioners to save the drive-in from demolition had 915 signatures as of Friday, short of a goal of 1,000.

But Commissioner James King had said in January he thought the drive-in needed to be razed.

Contact Keith Roysdon at 765-213-5828 and follow him on Facebook and Twitter.



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The former Sky-Hi Drive-In — Delaware County's last remaining theater of its kind — was demolished Friday.