

Cape Girardeau Radio Shack in First Wave Of Closures

By Kayla Gaffney

The Radio Shack in Cape Girardeau's West Park Mall will be among the first to close its doors after the electronics retailer filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy last week.

The Cape Girardeau store is now holding a "going-out-of-business" sale and will be in the first wave of 162 stores to close by February 17. The company plans to close at least 1,784 stores by March 31.

Cherie Henson, a shopper at West Park Mall, said she's sad to see the store close and remembers the times she would go there when her children were young.

"Kinda sorry to see it go, it's been an iconic store for years. I can remember when my children, who are now in their 40's, were young I used to get some really cool electronic type learning things from there," Henson said. "And they haven't had that kind of stuff in recent years."

Rachel Ives, an employee at West Park Mall, said it's sad to see any of the stores close in the mall.

"I went there occasionally," Ives said. "We usually stop by there if we ever needed batteries or anything like that. I'm sad to see any stores in the mall close because I work here and I don't want anybody to close."

Ives believes more people tend to shop at Best Buy rather than Radio Shack.

"There's a big Best Buy and a Best Buy Mobile in the mall as well, it seems like everybody went to those stores instead," Ives said.

Radio Shack has more than 4,000 locations in the U.S. According to reports, Radio Shack has agreed to sell between 1,500 and 2,400 locations to Sprint, the nation's third-largest telecommunications company.