



Wednesday, December 16, 2009  
 Current Weather for NWA:  
 Fair 40 F  
 (more weather)

Welcome **Jeff Cooperstein**  
 Edit | Help | Logout

 Search

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Media](#)
- [Weeklies](#)
- [Blogs](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Classif](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [NIE](#)



## FAYETTEVILLE LOCATION: T.G.I. Friday's Suddenly Closes

### ABOUT 100 PEOPLE LAID OFF

By [Lana Flowers](#)

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

[Print item](#)

About 100 employees are out of work as of Monday afternoon after the T.G.I. Friday's in Fayetteville suddenly closed.

"Economic circumstances are pretty dire right now," said Jeff Truitt, a manager who answered the phone Monday afternoon. He wouldn't give other information about why the restaurant closed, but said more information would be available today.

The local T.G.I. Friday's is owned by Tricorp Management Co., based in Chesterfield, Mo. The management company owned 11 other T.G.I. Friday's franchises as of late 2005. The Fayetteville restaurant opened in early 2006.

Tricorp Management representatives did not return voicemails left at their Missouri office before 5 p.m. Monday.

The T.G.I. Friday's chain as a whole is owned by Carlson Restaurants Worldwide, a privately held company with more than 1,000 restaurants in 60 countries.

"This closure was done without our consent," read a statement by Amy Freshwater, vice president of communication and public relations for Carlson Restaurants.

T.G.I. Friday's has a 5,900-square-foot building on two acres at 3619 N. Mall Ave. in Fayetteville, adjacent to Logan's Roadhouse and Olive Garden.

The restaurant opened with more than 100 employees, with about 20 to 25 working full-time and the rest part-time, a Tricorp Management employee said in May 2005.

Consumers tightening spending have hit casual dining restaurants' bottom lines hard, said Kathy Deck, director for the Center for Business and Economic Research at the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas.

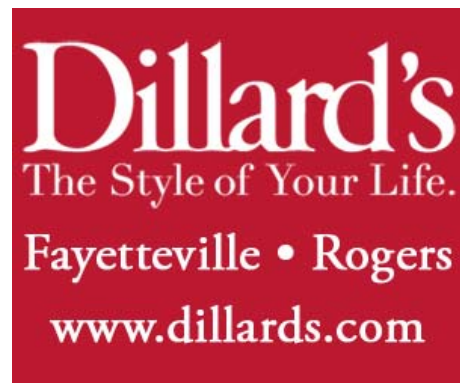
"Even restaurants with a strong corporate brand like T.G.I. Friday's have to figure out a way to set themselves apart from the four or five similar venues located within a few blocks," Deck said.

She said the job losses hit hard near the holidays, but corporations often want to close out their books by year-end.

Deck predicted other restaurants would close as the economic recovery drags through next year, because some businesses won't have the wherewithal to stay open until

#### Today's Most Popular Stories

- BANK SHOOTING: Review Clears Detective (23 comments)
- FAYETTEVILLE LOCATION: T.G.I. Friday's Suddenly Closes (1 comment)
- BANK HOLDUP: Veteran Officer Fired Shots (19 comments)
- Creators plot coursework for zealous students of Lost (1 comment)
- Shiloh Revels In Victory (2 comments)
- UA explaining photos to SEC (1 comment)



#### December events

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

[Previous month](#) [Next month](#)

times are more prosperous.

T.G.I. Friday's in October paid \$1,398 in restaurant taxes to the Fayetteville Advertising and Promotion Commission, the lowest amount in taxes that T.G.I. Friday's paid for the year.

T.G.I. Friday's paid a total of \$20,271 in restaurant taxes from December 2008 through October, according to the Advertising and Promotion Commission. That places T.G.I. Friday's 8th on the list of restaurants paying the most in taxes.

Fayetteville collects a 2 percent tax on hotels, motels, restaurants and prepared foods.

T.G.I. Friday's is not the only chain restaurant with a local closure this year. Chili's Grill & Bar at 4101 W. Sunset Ave. in Springdale closed in February after being open since April 2007. The Chili's closing left about 55 people out of work.

Kim Souza contributed to this report.

---

## Comments

To report abuse or misuse of this area please hit the "Suggest Removal" link in the comment to alert our online managers. Please read our [comment policy](#).



**tamerashreve\_yahoo\_com says...**

My family & I are very disappointed that this has happened. This was the one restaurant that we could all go to, including our 3 year old son, & all find multiple things we liked to eat. My son will be VERY disappointed as he always asks for pizza & mandarin oranges. Not sure where we will go on a regular basis now...nothing really compares.

December 16, 2009 at 8:51 a.m. ( [permalink](#) | [suggest removal](#) )

## Post a comment



Jeff Cooperstein (screen name: *jcooperstein\_walton.uark.edu*)

[Change your User information](#)

[Change your avatar](#)

[Preview comment](#)

## Copyright © 2009, Northwest Arkansas Newspapers, LLC.

All rights reserved.

This document may not be reprinted without the express written permission of Northwest Arkansas Newspapers, LLC. Please read our [Terms of Use](#) or contact us.

Material from the Associated Press is Copyright © 2009, Associated Press and may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. Associated Press text, photo, graphic, audio and/or video material shall not be published, broadcast, rewritten for broadcast or publication or redistributed directly or indirectly in any medium. Neither these AP materials nor any portion thereof may be stored in a computer except for personal and noncommercial use. The AP will not be held liable for any delays, inaccuracies, errors or omissions therefrom or in the transmission or delivery of all or any part thereof or for any damages arising from any of the foregoing. All rights reserved.



**Little House**  
on the **Prairie**  
*The Musical*

**January 5-10**  
479.443.5600  
waltonartscenter.org  
littlehousethemusical.com

Liberal arts work by Margaret Umack

The banner features a central illustration of a log cabin on a prairie with tall golden wheat stalks. The background is a light blue sky with a yellow ground. The entire banner is framed by a decorative yellow and orange border.