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Fortune 500 company to purchase 147 Pamida stores

The Hoopeston Pamida, along with 146 other Pamida stores, is expected to have a new owner in July.

ShopKo Stores, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, and Pamida Holdings Corporation have signed a definitive agreement for ShopKo to acquire Pamida. Under the agreement, ShopKo will assume Pamida's \$265 million in debt and capitalized lease obligations.

The agreement will mean few changes for the Hoopeston Pamida store, said manager Tim George. The store's name will remain the same and the same people will work there, he said.

Employees were told of the planned acquisition Tuesday morning. "They seem to be fairly positive," George said. "They think it's good."

Stores that Pamida had previously decided to close

will be probably be closed under the new deal, but that will not affect the local store. "They had no plans to close this store because it's profitable," George said.

The combination of the two companies will be "a good fit for each other," George said. Pamida operates in smaller markets, with 92 percent of stores in areas with trade populations of less than 20,000. ShopKo has 158 stores in areas of 20,000 to more than 300,000.

"We have identified more than 500 small rural markets that could support a Pamida retail store, said William J. Podany, ShopKo president and chief executive officer. "The Pamida retail strategy of convenience is a natural fit for these rural markets.

Pamida will continue to be headquartered in Omaha, Neb. ShopKo's headquarters are in Green Bay, Wis.

Dignitaries gather for medical center groundbreaking

Local dignitaries gathered Tuesday afternoon for the ceremonial groundbreaking for Hoopeston's new medical center.

Members of the Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home board of directors, city officials and members of the Hoopeston Health Care Foundation executive committee wielded shovels at the ceremony.

"This is a new journey for the hospital and the community of Hoopeston," said Frank Caruso, hospital chief executive officer.

"This is a very proud day for the hospital," said hospital board president Russ Leigh.

The hospital plans to build a \$1.5 million medical center east of the hospital and a \$2 million renovation of the hospital.

Most funds will be received from a \$9 million bond

issue, but \$1 million will come from foundation fundraising over the next three years. To date, \$175,000 has been raised, said foundation chairman Steve Margevich.

Construction on the medical center is expected to begin this summer.

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225 E. Main, Hoopeston (217) 283-5253

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Briefly

Concert winner

Brenda Weinard is the concert winner in the Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing. Weinard will receive \$100.

The name of another \$100 winner will be drawn Thursday night at the Fine Arts Festival at Hoopeston Area Middle School.

Sale a success

Saturday's garage sale sponsored by FMC employees was a success.

The sale netted nearly \$1,300, up from \$1,000 last year, for the Vermilion County Relay for Life in support of the American Cancer Society.

Sale coordinator Joan Johnson had special thanks for

Obituaries

COMBS – Eleanor J. Combs, 67, of Hoopeston, died at 7:44 a.m. Monday, May 10, 1999 at Provena United Samaritans Medical Center, Logan campus, Danville. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Mann's Chapel Cemetery, Rossville. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home.

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

1	V	2	A	3	L	4	I	5	D	6	B	7	E	8	L	9	T	10	S
11	A	B	A	T	E	12	C	A	V	E	I	N							
13	P	U	P	14	F	15	L	A	Y	E	D	16	O	17	F				
18	I	S	19	M	E	A	G	E	R	20	H	O	E						
21	D	E	22	M	A	N	D	E	D	23	F	A	Z	E					
		24	A	D	D	E	R	25	C	O	M	E	T						
		26	B	I	D	E	S	27	C	O	R	P	S						
28	S	I	D	E	D	29	R	A	N	G	E								
30	E	V	E	N	31	S	U	B	V	E	R	32	T	33	S				
34	E	O	N	35	G	U	L	L	E	T	36	W	E						
37	M	U	38	C	A	R	E	E	R	39	T	I	E						
		40	A	41	M	A	Z	E	D	42	T	43	H	I	C	K			
		44	C	A	T	E	R			45	S	A	L	E	S				

Dave Ervin, who donated bath and kitchen cabinets to the sale, and Andy Braden who donated items.

FMC employees who donated items or time for the sale include Charlotte Kennett, Jeanette McCann, Sherry Hayn, LaVonda Sherrill, Fred Zemke, Shirley Wagoner, Cecelia Dixon, Tony Gress, Mark Eighner, Sharee Wax,

Woman died of natural causes

A Hoopeston woman found dead Saturday died of natural causes.

Cathy Cooling, 45, of #12 Parkview Court, was found dead at 7:48 a.m. Saturday at her home.

An autopsy showed Ms. Cooling died of natural causes, said a representative of the Vermilion County Coroner's office.

There will be no funeral services or visitation for Ms. Cooling. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
May 10

Admitted: Florence Goodrum, Nancy Furrow, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather



Showers, thunderstorms today, tonight and tomorrow. High today 73, low 58. High tomorrow 68, low 55.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

Wolfe Funeral Home

907 W. Main St.
 Hoopeston, IL.
 (217) 283-5088

Cindy Boardman, Marj Krueger, Karla Coon, Teresa Hedgecock, Randy Branch, John Osborne, Bill Stockton, Bill McLean, Brian Bretz, Bill Henk, Kevin and Deb Tyler, Richard Price, Karen Harrell and Jack Blank who allowed employees the time and space at FMC to host the event.

Cemetery Arrangements

Live & silk Monument saddles Urns Vases
Schuler's Flower Shop & Garden Center

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Classifieds

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