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**Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>**  
Friday, January 6, 2012  
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication  
P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 [www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

**Pamida stores to become Shopko Hometown in merger**

Hoopeston's Pamida store will have a new name and owner this year.

The Hoopeston store, along with ones in Monticello, Sullivan and Tuscola, will become Shopko Hometown stores, according to a press release from Shopko and Pamida.

According to the release, the merger will "create one of the largest U.S. retailers focused on serving smaller and rural communities." The new entity will have nearly 350 locations in 22 states and plans for new store growth in the second half of 2012 and beyond.

Financial details of the merger, which is expected to close in mid-February, were not disclosed.

With annual revenues of \$2 billion, Green Bay, Wis.-based Shopko operates 149 stores in 13 states located throughout the Midwest, Mountain and Pacific Northwest regions. Omaha, Neb.-based Pamida operates 193 stores in 17 states, primarily in the Mountain, North Central and Midwest regions, and has revenues of approximately \$1 billion. Pamida and Shopko are highly complementary in terms of locations and communities served, as well as a shared focus on brand-name selection, personalized service, outstanding values every day, pharmacy services and strong community involvement. Customers will benefit from their combined resources, buying power and merchandising expertise, which will also set a solid foundation for future growth.

The combined company, which will be headquartered in Green Bay, will use the Shopko name and be led by Shopko President, Chairman and CEO W. Paul Jones. Pamida President and CEO John Harlow will serve on the leadership team and help direct the integration process. There will be no change to Shopko's stores, and approximately \$80 million will be invested over the next 12 months in the conversion of most of

Pamida's locations to the Shopko Hometown store concept and brand.

"Merging Pamida and Shopko is a great move for our businesses and our customers given our complementary strengths, store networks and consumer-centric retail models," said Jones. "The Shopko Hometown store format, featuring our unique merchandising strategy and improved store design, is an ideal fit for the smaller communities that Pamida serves with its exceptional service and community-minded approach. We intend to be the leader in this category by combining the best of Shopko and Pamida in our aggressive new store growth plans."

The Shopko Hometown retail format, developed over the past three years to augment Shopko's larger store model, offers a differentiated and financially successful merchandising strategy. Shopko Hometown combines pharmacy services with a broad and dynamic offering of

**See PAMIDA on other side**

**Hearing set on wind turbines planned in local townships**

A public hearing will be held at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, on an application from International Power GDF-Suez to site wind turbines in Grant, Ross and Butler Townships and a request for a building/special use permit for that purpose.

The hearing will be held on the second floor of the Vermilion County Annex, 6 N. Vermilion St., Danville. Written comments may be submitted to that address. All statements at the hearing will be made under oath.

The company's application may be viewed in the Vermilion County Board Office on the third floor of the Annex Building.

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**Pamida** continued from other side

strong national brands and high-value private label brands of apparel, toys, consumer electronics, seasonal items, and lawn and garden products – all in attractive, well laid out, easy-to-shop store formats that range from 15,000 to 35,000 square feet.

Over the past two years, Shopko has purchased seven stores from Pamida and successfully transitioned them to the Shopko Hometown format. These locations have delivered an improved customer experience and have seen a significant increase in store traffic, sales and prof-



**Flea Market**  
Hoopeston American Legion  
**9 a.m.-2 p.m. January 14**  
16 booths! 2 tables just \$10  
To reserve your space, call  
**Frank Rutledge**  
**(217) 495-2287**

itability, affirming the potential of the merger.

Once Pamida's chain-wide conversions are complete, the company plans to accelerate the addition of new Shopko Hometown stores in the second half of 2012 and into 2013. Both companies are owned by affiliates of Sun Capital Partners, Inc., a leading private investment firm focused on leverage buyouts, equity, debt, and other investments in market-leading companies.

**Briefly**

**Nominees sought**

Anyone who has had an experience with an exemplary Hoopeston EMT is asked to nominate that person for the EMT of the Year award. Emailed Tanya McVicker, [Tanya.mcvicker@hoopestoncmh.org](mailto:Tanya.mcvicker@hoopestoncmh.org) or call (217) 283-5531, ext. 255. The award will be presented at the Community Awards Night January 25.

**Coaches sought**

Hoopeston Area Softball Association is accepting coaching applications for the coming summer season. Forms are available at [leaguelineup.com/hasa](http://leaguelineup.com/hasa). Click on "handouts" or calling Leah, 304-4369. Applications will be taken through January.

**ART auditions**

Artistic Repertory Theatre will hold auditions for "Annie Jr.," and "Little Shop of Horrors" Sunday, Jan. 8 at Academy for the Performing Arts, 203 E. Main,

**Obituaries**

**MADISON** - Agnes S. Madison, 78, of Danville, formerly of Hoopeston, died at 2:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31, 2011, at Danville Care Nursing Center. She will be cremated, with services to be at a later date. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is in charge of arrangements.

**Weather**



Mostly sunny today and tomorrow. High today 51, low 32. Tomorrow's high 44, low 27. Sunday, partly sunny. High 41, low 27.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

"This is an exciting move for Pamida, and the Shopko Hometown format will offer our customers an even better retail experience and a new and differentiated product offering that is not currently available in the smaller communities we serve," said Harlow. "Pamida's great associates, store locations, focus on personalized service, and commitment to giving back in our local communities are all ideal complements to Shopko."

Hoopeston.

For information leave a message for director Kathleen Margevich at (217) 283-5216.

**New chiropractic office, in the Hoopeston area, is seeking team oriented, multi-tasking, energetic and dependable assistant. Computer experience a must along with customer service, and phone skills. Position involves assisting with therapy, x-rays, and patient care. Previous experience with insurance/collections desirable but not necessary. Attention to detail and a positive attitude are essential. Send resume to: Office Manager, 7 Boiling Springs Rd., Danville, IL 61832**

**Classifieds**

**HELP WANTED**

Greene Galvanized Stairs is seeking qualified applicants for full-time Production and Packaging positions. Fabrication and/or order fulfillment experience is a plus. Send resume to PO Box 191, East Lynn IL 60932 or [jobs@greenebinstairs.com](mailto:jobs@greenebinstairs.com).

**HOUSES FOR RENT**

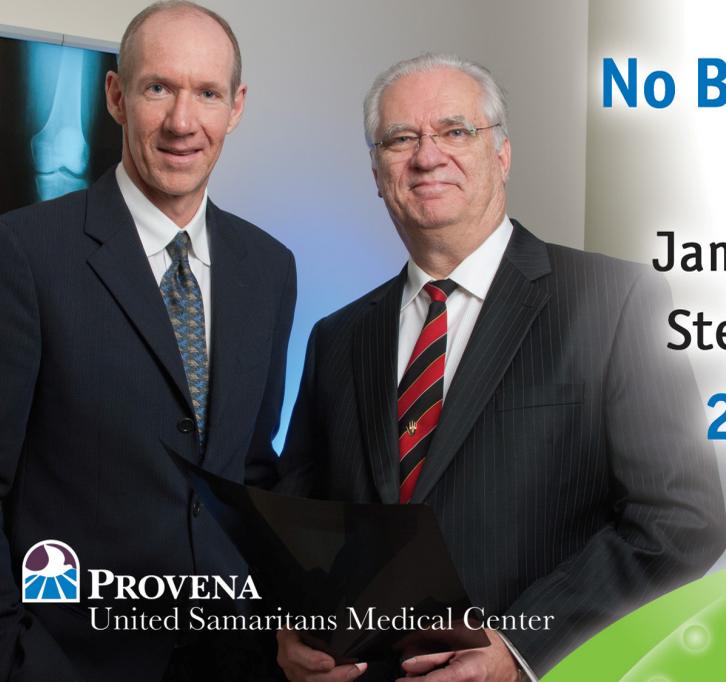
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