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Nat'l Wholesale to liquidate on LI

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West Hempstead-based National Wholesale Liquidators will begin going-out-of-business sales at all six of its Long Island stores on Monday.

The result of this week's auction in bankruptcy court, the store-closing sales are part of a wider liquidation encompassing 35 locations of the family-run discounter's 45 stores, according to court documents. The Rosen family will continue to operate the

Lodi, N.J., store. And a company called NSC Wholesale Holdings Inc. won the bid to purchase and operate nine other stores. The court documents did not provide further information about NSC Wholesale Holdings.

A hundred people will lose their jobs immediately, said Robert Pidgeon, National Wholesale Liquidators director of personnel. It's unclear how many of those layoffs will be on Long Island. He did not have a tally of all the jobs that will be lost following the

store closings. The company has said it employs 700 people on Long Island and reported in court documents that it has a total of 1,948 employees in stores throughout nine states.

The nine stores NSC Wholesale Holdings purchased and will continue to run under the National Wholesale Liquidators name are in Flushing, Long Island City, Bay Parkway in Brooklyn, Co-Op City in the Bronx, Yonkers, Newark, Langley Park, Md., Washington, D.C., and Bridgeport, Conn., Pidgeon said.

Court filings also include the Dorchester, Mass., store as among the locations with inventory, intellectual property and leases NSC Wholesale Holdings has agreed to purchase.

"There is a chance that as things progress, NSC will be able to make deals to reopen stores at a later date," Pidgeon said.

National Wholesale Liquidators' parent company, NWL Holdings Inc., filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Nov. 10 after its main lend-

er sharply decreased its line of credit and the company had little cash resources to continue operations.

Jerome Reisman, a Garden City attorney specializing in bankruptcy cases, said the family and NSC apparently cherry-picked the stores with the best locations and most favorable leases.

"They buy them free and clear, so they are starting with a very clean balance sheet," Reisman said. "This could be very profitable for them if managed correctly."