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February 10, 1998

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The Valdosta Daily Times

Vol. 93 — No. 117

Valdosta, Georgia

50 cents

City schools confronted with failure rates

By E. RANKIN SCOTT
Times Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — A study examining failure rates in the Valdosta City School System is the first step in putting the school system back on track, two administrators told the Valdosta Board of Education at its regular meeting Monday.

"We can't fix our problems unless we know what they are," said Curriculum Director Gayle Golden, who compiled the study with colleague JoAnna Bridges. "We cannot ask our administration and teachers to work any harder than they are already working. We must all learn to

work smarter, not harder."

System-wide, 13.8 percent of all students failed English during the first semester of the 1997-98 school year, while 11.9 percent failed math.

Golden identified kindergarten, fourth grade and ninth grade as "benchmark" years — grades in which the highest number of students did not meet promotion criteria. Promotion criteria are the requirements which must be met for a student to be promoted to another grade.

Promotion criteria varies at different grade levels. Children in grades K-5 are not promoted if they fail one or more

subjects. Middle school students (grades 6-8) are required to pass three of four academic subjects, while high school students (grades 9-12) are not promoted if they fail two or more subjects.

Board members winced as Bridges read the failure statistics for ninth-graders. Almost one-third of ninth-grade students failed English or math during the first semester. Forty percent of ninth-graders failed two or more subjects.

Failure rates gradually improve through grades 10, 11 and 12, and by grade 12, only eight percent of students failed two or more classes. But Bridges pointed out that senior class enrollment

is more than 250 students lower than in the ninth grade.

"It may be that we lose the students who are not performing well after the ninth grade, or that we have more students repeating that year," Golden said. She added student performance may improve in grades 11 and 12 as students prepare to apply for higher education.

Absences may also affect high school performance, Golden said. According to the study, approximately half of students in grades 9-12 who did not meet promotion criteria missed more than 10 days of school.

"We cannot place all the responsibility

for what happens in the ninth grade on the high school administration," Bridges told the board. "What happens in grades K-8 greatly affects high school performance. We are all responsible."

The system enrolls approximately 650 kindergartners, and of that total, 15 percent would not qualify for promotion based on reading and language arts skills. Ten percent do not meet math criteria. Failure rates are much lower in the first, second and third grades.

"What that tells us is that our kindergarten students are not developmentally prepared to begin school," Golden said.

see FAILURE, page 2-A.

Failure

Failure

from page 1-A

"We've got to look at preschools."

The Valdosta City School System does not offer its own pre-kindergarten program.

The failure rate peaks again at the fourth-grade level, according to the study. About a quarter of all fourth-grade students failed reading first semester, while 18 percent failed math. In fifth-grade, the numbers decline slightly, staying relatively low through

the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Transitional class enrollment at the eighth-grade level far exceeded transitional enrollment in grades K-7. About 33 percent of all eighth-graders attend the lower level classes.

Business and industry in the community say the system is sending ill-prepared students into the workforce, Golden said. The students have difficulty with

basic communications and math, she told the board.

"In order for Valdosta to entice world-wide business and industry, we must develop a world-class educational system," she said. "Otherwise, Valdosta will be unable to compete. We must address this issue. We need a plan."

According to Golden, the system also needs a plan to address parents' desires for their children

to be challenged.

"This desire comes from parents of students who are high achievers, but it also comes from those parents whose children are working below grade level," she said.

Golden and Bridges are now working on a second survey that requests teacher input. Golden said she hopes it will provide recommendations for improving student achievement.

WEDNESDAY

February 11, 1998

The Valdosta Daily Times

Failing grades probed

By E. RANKIN SCOTT
Times Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — At least 40 percent of all ninth-graders at Valdosta High School failed two or more subjects during the first semester of the 1997-1998 school year.

As administrators examine ways to improve student achievement at the school, they are taking a long, hard look at who is failing and why, according to Gayle Golden, Valdosta City Schools curriculum director.

A study of failure rates in the school system released Monday shows poor, black males are most at risk of academic failure.

In the ninth grade, 88 percent of all students who failed two or more subjects were black. The number does not mirror population distribution: Only 69 percent of all ninth-graders are black. While there are an almost equal number of male and female students in the ninth grade, 61 percent of students who were failing were male.

According to Golden, socio-economic status and the education level of students' mothers affect student achievement much more than ethnicity.

"We're certainly not blaming these kids' mothers for the problems they are experiencing in school," Golden said. "But if the nurturer, the person who puts the most into a child, cannot read and had had an unsuccessful experience with education, it greatly impacts the child."

At least 80 percent of ninth-graders failing two or more subjects are eligible for free or reduced lunches, the indicator used to measure poverty in the study.

Tenth- and eleventh-grade statistics are similar. Though the total percentage of students failing two or more classes is smaller in tenth grade than in ninth grade — 28 percent as opposed to 40 percent — black males continue to be at high risk.

At least 81 percent of failing tenth-graders are black — about 14 percent higher than the total tenth-grade population. Fifty-four percent of failing tenth-graders are male, and 59 percent are listed as poor.

In eleventh grade, twenty-four percent of eleventh-graders are failing two or more subjects. Of those who are failing, 84 percent are black and 58 percent are poor. Failures by gender reverse in the eleventh grade — more females failed two or more subjects than males.

By twelfth grade, student achievement appears unaffected by poverty or gender, but the percentage of black students failing is still 15 percent higher than would be expected based on population distribution.

February 12, 1998

Levi Strauss program honored by president

By DEAN POLING
Times Staff Writer

Two Valdosta men were in Washington D.C. Wednesday as part of a presidential ceremony honoring a Levi Strauss organization dedicated to easing racial discrimination.

Local Project Change members Frank Morman Jr., executive director, and Dr. Jerry Hardee, past chairman, were present for the presentation of President Clinton's first Ron Brown Award for Corporate Leadership to Levi Strauss & Company, according to the Project Change's Valdosta office.

Levi Strauss sponsors Project Change organizations in four cities where the company has plants: Valdosta, Albuquerque, N.M., El Paso, Texas, and Knoxville, Tenn.

The company started Project Change in 1991, investing \$8.6 million, to:

- identify and end institutional practices that promote racial discrimination in healthcare,

housing, education, banking and other key areas.

- ease racial tension and inter-ethnic conflicts in target communities.

- promote fair representation of community diversity in local government and other institutions.

- prevent overt acts of racism and cultural prejudice.

Valdosta's Project Change has focused on increased minority access to "financial credit and housing for people of color, strengthening leadership in the African-American community, and developing and advocating a multicultural curriculum in the public schools."

In receiving the Ron Brown Award for Corporate Leadership, winners were selected from 488 programs submitted by 120 companies. The winners received the award based on a company's "sustained and passionate commitment to employee and community relations," according to Levi Strauss. IBM was also a recipient of the award.

School holds workshop for parents

By E. RANKIN SCOTT
Times Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — Though Lowndes Middle School typically focuses on its students, twice a year it educates parents.

The school held its Second Winter Workshop Thursday for parents, featuring sessions on sixth, seventh and eighth grade math, computer basics, the Internet and encouraging children to read.

The school began its biannual parent workshops in 1996 as a middle grades math review for parents.

"Some of the students told us they asked for help with their homework, but their parents couldn't remember how to do the

math," said Jodi Foster, workshop coordinator. "When we show them how to find a common denominator again, or divide fractions, it triggers their memories."

The computer workshops were added this year to help parents catch up with their children's computer skills and to show parents who don't have computers at home what their children are learning.

Future Focus, a workshop introducing students and parents to local colleges and technical schools, was also added this year for eighth graders who will soon register for high school. New graduation requirements mean that eighth graders must decide if they will follow a college, preparatory

or technical curriculum.

About 70 parents attended the various workshops. The school provided dinner and held a contest with door prizes. Foster said attendance increased this year because students were given a chance to win prizes if they brought back a workshop form signed by a parent.

"A lot of the parents who come are already involved in their children's educations, but we hope that we're reaching some parents who aren't so involved," Foster said.

Thirty local businesses provided food and door prizes.

Moody general appreciates sacrifices made by fellow African-American airmen

By **SHELBY G. SPIRES**
Times Staff Writer

MOODY AIR FORCE BASE — Brig. Gen. Claude M. Bolton Jr. believes deeply that were it not for the sacrifices of other African-American airmen, he would have never been able to achieve what he has for himself and for America.

Like all fighter pilots, Bolton is sure of himself, especially with 232 combat missions under his belt — 40 of those flown over North Vietnam. But what the general seems most sure of is not so much a combat record but his heritage and the respect he has for those who came before him in the Air Force and the mil-

itary.

Earlier in the history of American military aviation "there were few blacks flying," Bolton said.

"Had it not been for public law 18 and the Tuskegee (Airmen) experiment, then we may have been delayed even further," he said. "There was a thought then that blacks could never learn how to fly ... The Tuskegee (Airmen) experience changed all that."

The Tuskegee Airmen were trained in Alabama during World War II. Because of the feelings in the American military and society in general at the time that blacks were not skilled enough to handle complex machines like aircraft they had been kept out of the

cockpit as fighter and bomber pilots. However, the needs of war changed that, and the Tuskegee Airmen were trained as a unit to fly and fight the war raging in Europe.

Bolton pointed out that very good, competent African Americans were sent to be trained as fighter pilots during the war.

"They had an outstanding leader, and they did some incredible things that have not been duplicated by anybody," Bolton said. "They escorted our Allied bombers with P-47s and P-51s on something like over 1,500 missions, 16,000 sorties, and not one Allied bomber was lost to enemy fire as long as they were escorted by Tuskegee Airmen. That record has

see **BOLTON**, page 4-A



BRIG. GEN. BOLTON

Bolton 4-A Sunday, February 15, 1998

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never been bested."

In the past half century, attitudes have changed. Today the military is integrated and minorities play a key role in the defense of the United States.

"Society has changed, we've moved forward," Bolton said. "But all of that is due, in some part, to what came before. The integration of the military by President Truman and other steps. We've had very effective, well integrated operation doing a good job. We've had a number of aviators in all branches of the service."

Bolton was at Moody to address the annual African-American Heritage Ball, held at the base Friday.

A command-rated pilot, Bolton has been a fighter and a test pilot — flying the F-105, F-4, F-111, FB-111 and some 30 other aircraft. Bolton entered the Air Force in 1969. He served a tour of duty in Vietnam flying with the 497th "Nite Owls" Tactical

Fighter Squadron at Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand from June 1971-June 1972.

In his career, Bolton has cut a few new paths himself. In Thailand during the Vietnam War, he was among the first group of pilots to use laser-guided bombs extensively in combat. Also, later in his career, he was the first program manager for the Advanced Tactical Fighter Technologies Program, which was the forerunner of the F-22 fighter program.

Even as Bolton pays homage to the black airmen who came before him, the general does not feel that the fighter pilot cockpit should be an all-male fraternity. There is room for all those qualified, regardless of color or gender.

"My first instructor was a woman, my backseater in test pilot school was a woman ... I have no problems with women in the cockpit," Bolton said. "Given the airplanes that we fly, a woman can fly that airplane as well as anybody else."

Bolton added, however, women must meet the same physical and mental standards set forth to be a fighter pilot.

"They have to meet the same requirements that we have of anybody who goes into the cockpit," he said. "If you go through the training and if you meet the standards, then you might as well go out and fly the mission. Many women are very capable of doing just that."

Bolton points out the similarities between the struggles of black pilots and women who have worked to strap on a G-suit and call themselves fighter pilots.

"A lot of the arguments I have heard for women not being in the cockpit are the same excuses that I see (in) the history books given for the Tuskegee Airmen," the general said.

A plethora of excuses were fielded to keep blacks, and subsequently women out of the cockpit — not aggressive enough, not capable, not mentally aware, no staying power.

"The list goes on and on and on," he said. "All you have to do is take out women and substitute black, and the excuses are the same. My view of history is that it's only a matter of time and then that is totally disproved. I think this will be the case (with women as fighter pilots)."

For men and women, and minorities alike there are opportunities in the military, especially the Air Force, Bolton said.

Bolton said 6 percent of the U.S. Air Force officer corps is black; 15 percent of the enlisted corps is black.

"When I look at the chief master sergeants in the Air Force, 19 percent out of 520 plus are black.

"Should it be better? I don't know. Some say yes, and some say no. But the opportunity is there for those who want to take advantage of it."

Bolton pointed to trend watchers and their data, which he said indicates that by the middle of the 21st century, over half

the population in the United States will be composed of minorities.

"If you want the country to continue as a viable, strong nation well into the future, then you must make sure those who are coming along to run the country to be the mayors, congressmen, senators, state legislators, and those to run schools, police force, to run the newspapers and do all the things that are important to us, then we must make sure those are well educated and supported. If we don't do that then we are on a death spiral," the general said.

Unlike the scourge of polio, racism, discrimination and other so-called scourges of the mind may never be completely wiped out. Bolton feels there is much to be gained in trying.

"(Eradicating racism is) an age-old question. History says 'No,' but there is no reason why we shouldn't try to get there. As the good Lord said 'The glory is in the journey.'"

MONDAY

February 16, 1998

The Valdosta Daily Times

Fire Department seeks more minority applicants

By JODI M. SCOTT

Times Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — The Valdosta Fire Department plans to spread the word this year about openings and hold training seminars to attract more minority applicants.

"We want to make sure we do all we can to give everybody a fair shot at getting a job with the Valdosta Fire Department," Chief J.D. Rice said.

Of the department's 95 certified employees, less than 30 are black and none are women, according to Rice. He wants to see those numbers reflect a more accurate representation of the city's population. Valdosta is the only station of its size or larger in Georgia that does not have women firefighters, Rice said.

To encourage minority applicants, the department will target high schools, vocational schools, colleges and universities to inform students about the benefits offered by the fire service. Career packages will be mailed to area churches for posting and announcing. Rice said the city already mails job announcements to some churches.

Rice said during the last test, there were 57 applicants and less than 10 were black. The department averages three or fewer women applicants per test. Prior to the last test, three women picked up applications but none returned them.

Medium and smaller fire stations across the state are experiencing similar problems, Rice said. The chief thinks some would-be applicants may not be aware of the benefits offered by the department, and wrongly assume a college degree is required. Firefighters are required to be at least age 18, have high school diplomas or equivalent, have no felony convictions in the last 10 years, pass a drug test and have a valid Georgia driver's license.

Applicants are required to pass a written aptitude test and a physical agility test. Rice said blacks have had problems passing the written test, but says he does not know why. He also recently had two women fail the physical agility test.

He plans to give all applicants an edge on testing through training seminars. A California company has sent him information on its training program, which is used by a Louisville, Ky., department. He hopes to have the system in place by next summer.

"What we hope to get out of it is better minority participation," he said. "It's not designed to target them but for anyone who has difficulty taking tests."

Another goal of Rice's is to develop a career path program for fire personnel to advance from entry-level firefighter to chief. He said promotions are made based either on seniority and testing, which is used in Valdosta.

"The downfall of that system is that there is no training for personnel to handle the job except on-the-job training," he said. "They learn as they go. That is a severe handicap to individuals. That was a severe handicap to me."

For example, a sergeant who was promoted to lieutenant suddenly finds himself in charge of running a station, keeping up

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Minority

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with training hours, incident reports and initial commands. As a sergeant, his job may have been driving a truck, Rice said.

Under the new program, which should begin in June, educational courses will be offered outlining responsibilities involved in advancement. Rice said firefighters can take the courses in order to prepare them for the position they hope to obtain.

"It will make them feel more confident in doing their jobs," he said.

As part of the promotion program, the department will establish ranks that must be accomplished prior to promotion. Firefighters will also be required to spend set amounts of time in each rank before becoming eligible for promotion. The rank system is firefighter, sergeant, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief, assistant chief and chief.

Rice said the courses are now being developed, and the program should start in July.

Feb 17
1998

GEORGIA NEWS

The Valdosta Daily Times

Another racially divisive column hits House floor

By **JOAN KIRCHNER**
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA — In the latest racially divisive column by a Georgia House member, a black Atlanta Democrat wrote that most jobs in America go to “undereducated and under-qualified whites” who have connections.

The column by Rep. Tyrone Brooks, president of the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials, comes on the heels of a column by Rep. Bill Clark, a white Republican who wrote that blacks in Atlanta support drug use.

Brooks' column, written under the title “Fatal Distraction,” appeared in a newsletter sent to GABEO members. It was dis-

tributed on the House floor Monday.

In it, Brooks called the political climate in Georgia “cold and calculating” because of the push by Republicans to ban affirmative action. He said whites outnumber blacks by 10 to one in almost every work environment.

“That’s because the jobs are mostly filled with undereducated and under-qualified whites who happen to be either a relative, friend or acquaintance of someone in charge,” Brooks wrote about a week ago.

“Do the words nepotism, cronyism and sexism ring a bell? Since the inception of this nation, the system of racism has been the automatic door opener for white people.”

No lawmakers spoke out against the column on the House floor but House Minority Whip Earl Ehrhart, R-Powder Springs, distributed it. Ehrhart has led the fight to ban affirmative action.

“What a racially bigoted, divisive statement,” Ehrhart said in an interview. “We spent one or two weeks talking with righteous indignation about Bill Clark and here comes the head of this black organization making the same kind of intemperate, inappropriate statements.”

Black lawmakers lashed out at Clark two weeks ago for a column he wrote in January in The Catoosa Tribune saying that blacks in downtown Atlanta want to legalize marijuana and view Sen. Ralph David Abernathy III's drug bust as “no

more important than you or I exceeding the speed limit.”

Abernathy, D-Atlanta, was caught with a quarter ounce of marijuana in his underwear Dec. 1 at the Atlanta airport.

Brooks said he sees no comparison between his column and Clark's.

“They are trying to find a way to criticize African-Americans who have been very hard on Mr. Clark and other Republicans,” Brooks said of his critics.

“The message I was trying to make is that many of those who have screamed and railed against minority set-asides are often the ones getting employment because of their good ol’ boy connections and the color of their skin.”

Investigators send fire samples to crime lab

By DEAN POLING
Times Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — Fire investigators sent samples Monday gathered from the remains of Goodyear Auto Service Center for testing in the Georgia State Crime Lab.

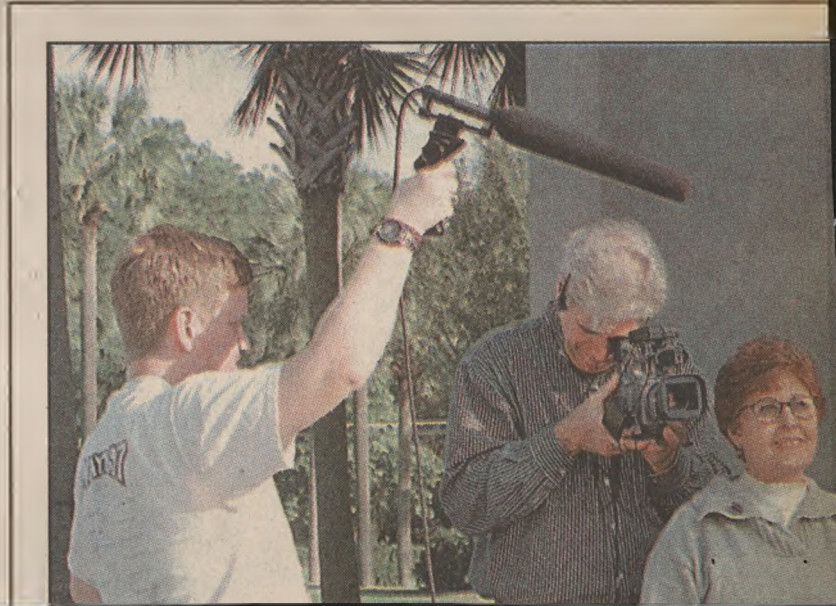
Valdosta Fire Chief J.D. Rice would not publicly speculate on what these samples might be, adding there is no change in the status of the investigation — “Foul play has neither been ruled out nor confirmed.”

Last week, firefighters answered a call about smoke from the downtown business on the corner of

in the business’ tire storage area. Something did explode and flames shot through the roof.

Firefighters escaped injury during this initial flare up, but three suffered minor injuries in the ensuing attempts to extinguish the fire. Lowndes County volunteer firefighters also responded to relieve city firemen.

Though the fire was considered contained and in control within hours, the tires continued burning throughout the night and next day. What was left of the storage area and garage’s walls were bulldozed for safety purposes. This delayed an investigation into the fire’s cause more than a full day after it



Weed and Seed update planned for March 2



AREA UPDATE

VALDOSTA — An update on the federal community revitalization Weed and Seed program will be provided at 7 p.m., March 2 at Valdosta City Hall.

Police Chief Frank Simons expects to hear if Valdosta has been named a Weed and Seed site by the end of the month.

The meeting will be hosted by the Valdosta Police Department, United States Attorney's Office, Middle District of Georgia, the District Attorney's Office, Southern Judicial Circuit and the city.

Work to continue on Central Avenue

VALDOSTA — The contractor will continue work next week on the south side of Central Avenue installing irrigation, electrical, curb, gutter and sidewalks as part of the Streetscape project.

According to the Main Street program and the city engineering department, work will continue on the east and west sides of Patterson Street between Hill and Central. The storm drainage on Hill Avenue has been redesigned so the crossing will be installed

west of Park Avenue Bank. All driveway work will be done after 4:30 p.m. in order to allow the drive-through windows to remain open.

The contractor is scheduled to complete the work on the south side of the courthouse this week. Work on the south side of Central Avenue between Ashley and McKey streets will continue with concrete installation beginning. The property owners along East Alley have been notified about utility hook-ups for their buildings. The alley cannot be repaved until the work is done.

Weed And Seed

From Press Reports, Other Sources

The Valdosta Police Department, the United States Attorney's Office, Middle District of Georgia, the District Attorney's Office, Southern Judicial Circuit, and the City of Valdosta will hold a community meeting for Operation Weed and Seed.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, March 2, in the Valdosta City Hall Council Chambers.

Operation Weed and Seed is a community-based, multi-agency approach to combating crime in high-crime neighborhoods.

Under the leadership of the U.S. Attorney's Office, communities are providing grant funding to implement comprehensive strategies to "weed out" violent crime, drug dealers, and gang activity and "seed" the community through coordinated social services, economic revitalization, and neighborhood restoration.

The purpose of the meeting will be to update residents on the progress of the Weed and Seed program.

All residents from the Designated Area are urged to attend the meeting.

Local Levi's plant spared

■ Lowndes facility not among 11 to be closed by clothing manufacturer

Staff, wire reports

VALDOSTA — A local Levi Strauss manufacturing plant should not be adversely affected by the company's announcement it will close 11 U.S. plants and lay off 6,400 workers.

The company announced the closures were due to competition from designer labels and bargain blues; however, the Valdosta plant's approximately 700 employees may have more work heading their way.

Linda Butler, a Levi-Strauss Co. spokesman in San Francisco, said it's too early to know how other plants will be affected by the closings. Yet, "most facilities are not at full capacity. The goal will be to load the remaining facilities more fully," she said.

The closings at the world's largest brand-name clothing maker will take place in four states.

The cutbacks represent one-third of its manufacturing work force of more than 19,000 in the United States and Canada.

"Despite how well it was known, Levi's is having problems competing in the very competitive jeans market," said Kurt Barnard, a retail consultant and president of Barnard's Retail Trend Report. "A lot of people can buy jeans for less than Levi's is offering them at and get the same quality."

Not only have designers like Ralph Lauren and Tommy Hilfiger cut into sales, but shoppers have been buying less expensive private-label jeans at stores like Wal-Mart and Sears.

"During the past few years, it has become obvious that we have more production capacity than we need to supply our U.S. denim market," said Bob Haas, Levi's chairman and chief executive.

In February, Levi's eliminated 1,000 jobs.

Plants slated for closing include one each in Fayetteville and Harrison, Ark., Albuquerque and Roswell, N. M., and Centerville, Tenn. A sewing plant and finishing center in Knoxville, Tenn., will be closed as well as four plants in Texas: one in San Angelo and three in El Paso.

Workers will get eight months' notice and up to three weeks' severance pay for every year of service, in addition to other benefits.

Levi Strauss & Co. had 1996 sales of \$7.1 billion. But the privately held company did not release earnings figures.

It owns and operates 32 clothing manufacturing plants and finishing centers in the United States and five in Canada.

'Granny's Place' for kids part of Weed and Seed proposal

By JODI M. SCOTT
Times Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — Children who have nowhere to go after school could stay at "Granny's Place" under a proposal made in Valdosta's Weed and Seed funding application.

As part of the application, which was submitted Friday, the city submitted two proposals — "Granny's Place" and jobs and asset-building for at-risk youth and adults — for the \$50,000 special emphasis initiative category.

According to the city, a needs assessment shows that "there are no safe, nurturing and enriching environments in the neighborhoods for children of elementary school age whose parents/guardians work past school hours. The result is children without any supervision in the afternoons."

To combat this problem, the city hopes to create 10 centers in

homes to be known as "Granny's Place," to provide places for children to go when school is not in session.

Chief Frank Simons said the idea stemmed from suggestions made by residents during four public hearings. Several comments were made regarding lack of after-school care, and one resident said, "We need something like grannies for kids."

Women who agree to allow centers in their homes will be screened for criminal and drug activity and provided with training to become licensed child care providers. When possible, women in the "Welfare to Work" program will be selected. They will be paid weekly stipends.

Their homes will be inspected for compliance with licensing for child care, and assistance will be given to bring the homes up to standard. People working in other community training and mentor projects will make the repairs.

Homes will be stocked with first aid kits, fire extinguishers and smoke detectors.

The Valdosta City school system will have its buses drop the participating children at the sites. The "Weed Task Force" will ensure their safety through neighborhood patrols.

According to the proposal, tutors will assist children with homework and learning activities. Tutors, who will be paid stipends, will be residents of the Weed and Seed neighborhoods and Valdosta State University students.

Monthly programs will be held for parents and guardians to educate them about topics such as voter participation, community opportunities, services and budgeting.

The expenses include \$10,000 for a project coordinator, \$9,000 for snacks and materials, \$11,500 for stipends for the "grannies,"

\$650 for supplies, \$5,500 for tutors stipends and \$2,600 for field trips, for a total of \$39,250.

The other special emphasis project is for jobs and asset-building for at-risk youth and adults. A mentor bank will be created to increase the skills of mentors and those being served. A Weed and Seed neighborhood resident will serve as the part-time coordinator, and recipients of Temporary Aid to Needy Families in need of work experience will take part.

The coordinator will find people with skills, and parents of school-age children will be trained to tutor students. Due to lack of public transportation, a share-a-ride program will be established. Vouchers will be issued for transportation to asset-building and job-related activities. Matching money and interest free loans for vehicle down payments or repairs will be made available. Driver's education will be provided.

Another problem in trying to find employment is lack of affordable child care, according to the proposal. A haven and donated apartments from the two public housing developments will serve as sites for children care for sec-

ond- and third-shift child care needs.

Expenses are \$5,000 for vouchers for transportation and \$750 for driver's license fees, for a total of \$5,750.