

Valdosta Plant Closing Idles 100

VALDOSTA, Ga. -- More than 100 employees of Hood Packaging Corp. in Valdosta will be idled by a surprise announcement of the plant's closing.

Hood Packaging's Lesley Kinney said the workers were notified Friday was their last day. Kinney said "there is no chance the plant will reopen even if the economy improves" and said the Valdosta location is the only one of 18 closing.

Kinney says all employees will retain full benefits and pay for 60 days, though the plant, which supplies multiwall paper packaging, will be closed.

Mayor John Fretti said the sudden closing "is a shock to our community at a time when the economy was beginning to show signs of recovery."

The plant was Patria Packaging before it was bought by Southern Bag in 1992. In 2001, the company was renamed Hood Packaging.

Source: Valdosta Daily Times, June 2, 2009