Southwest Virginia

For the Record

Blacksburg, Loudoun County, Norfolk and Roanoke were chosen for a pilot program to develop energy efficiency in municipal operations and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The program is a partnership between the Virginia Municipal League and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA. The localities were picked based on demonstrated commitment to good environmental practices. (The Virginian-Pilot)

Cumulus Media, an Atlanta-based media company, laid off 10 people from six New River Valley radio stations, citing budgetary pressures. The stations operated out of a shared building in Radford. Both on-air personalities and off-the-air staff were affected. (The Roanoke Times)

ITT Corp. received a $19.9 million order from the Army for advanced aviator night vision goggles and equipment to be filled from the company's Roanoke manufacturing center. (Business Wire)

Kroger plans to build a 7,100-square-foot retail structure beside its Rutgers Street store in Roanoke. The grocer intends to lease it to four as-yet undetermined retailers to create a shopping hub and increase traffic at its store. (The Roanoke Times)

Radford University leased about 7,900 square feet of space for its doctoral program in physical therapy in Carilion Roanoke Community Hospital, the building that houses Carilion Clinic's Jefferson College of Health Sciences. The move is seen as a first step to cultivate partnership opportunities between Radford, Carilion and the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. (The Roanoke Times)

Virginia Tech approved an agreement with Carilion Clinic to create a division of health sciences at the university. The move would bring Tech's science and engineering programs into collaboration with its health programs, as well as the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. One expected benefit would be an easier application process for major funding sources, such as the National Science Foundation. (The Roanoke Times)