

# Southwest Virginia

## For the Record

**Advance Auto Parts Inc.**, a Roanoke-based retailer of auto parts and accessories, raised \$2.2 million for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in 2008. Over the last 15 years the company has raised \$16.5 million to support research for a diabetes cure. *(News release)*

**Carilion New River Medical Center** donated \$500,000 in medical equipment to the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. Carilion moved to a new computerized pharmacy and donated its old system, with automated storage and dispensing units, to the college. *(The Roanoke Times)*

**Dominion Inc.**, a Richmond-based power provider, and BP Wind Energy North America are exploring wind power opportunities in Tazewell and Wise counties. Size and scope of the projects have not been determined, but the companies bought 2,560 acres in Tazewell. The companies are partners in Indiana's 750-megawatt Fowler Ridge Wind Farm. *(Richmond Times-Dispatch)*

**Draper Aden Associates**, a Blacksburg engineering company, ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> in the latest survey of the Top 50 Trenchless Technology Design Firms, as chosen by Trenchless Technology News. Draper was ranked 45<sup>th</sup> in last year's survey. *(News release)*

**FedEx**, a package delivery company, will invest \$4 million to build a 37,000-square-foot facility in Pulaski County to replace its center in Radford. The expanded operation will mean 60 new jobs over three years, in addition to the 50 which will transfer from Radford. The move is part of a nationwide program by FedEx to upgrade its capacity for daily package volume. *(The Roanoke Times)*

## People

**Brian Brown** resigned as economic development administrator for Roanoke. Brown joined Protos Security, a Botetourt County-based provider of security services. *(The Roanoke Times)*



**Ali Butt**, named a recipient of an IBM Faculty Award. Butt is a member of Virginia Tech's computer sci-

ences department and was honored for his work on application-tailored distributed computing. *(News release)*

**Jack Davis**, named among 26 Most Admired Educators in the country by Design Intelligence. Davis is the dean of the College of Architecture at Virginia Tech and is Urban Studies and Reynolds Metals Endowed Professor of Architecture. *(The Roanoke Times)*

**Kevin Dempsey**, named vice president for global sourcing, Advance Auto Parts, Roanoke. He was senior vice president with Test Rite International Co. LTD. *(News release)*

**Robert Dunay**, named among 26 Most Admired Educators in the country by Design Intelligence. He is the director of the Center for Design Research and T.A. Carter Professor of Architecture at Virginia Tech. *(The*

*Roanoke Times)*



**Wu Feng**, named a recipient of an IBM Faculty Award. He is a member of Virginia Tech's computer sciences and electrical and computer engineering departments and was honored for his work on large-scale bioinformatics and computational biology. *(News release)*

**Kevin Freeland**, named COO,

Advance Auto Parts Inc., Roanoke. Freeland joined Advance in February 2008, most recently serving as executive vice president for merchandising, supply chain and information technology. *(News release)*

**Jim Wade**, named president, Advance Auto Parts Inc., Roanoke. Wade joined the company in 1994 and was executive vice president, customer development officer, commercial. *(News release)*



Photo courtesy Wikipedia

# Bristol recognized as technology leader

**P**roving that small communities can be sophisticated, Bristol, Va., is one of seven cities and towns from around the world to be named finalists for the 2009 Intelligent Community of the Year award.



Rosenbalm

Four hundred fifty localities competed for the award, which will be presented in May by the New York-based Intelligent Community Forum. The award program recognizes communities' innovation in building "prosperity and social inclusion" in the emerging broadband economy.

Bristol was the only U.S. city to become a finalist this year. The city was picked because of its deployment of OptiNet. The fiber-optic

network was conceived as a broadband backbone serving government agencies and schools. It has been expanded to serve businesses and residents throughout the city and several neighboring counties.

"It's about as future-proof as you can get in today's world," says Wes Rosenbalm, CEO of Bristol Virginia Utilities. The city-owned public utility partnered with Cumberland Plateau Co. to implement OptiNet.

While other broadband systems use a mix of shared fiber and cable, OptiNet's fiber-to-the-premises network offers a dedicated, point-to-point connection, allowing lightning-fast service on applications such as telemedicine, video-on-demand and telework.

"We literally run fiber from our office all the way to

the home or the business, so we don't have any limitations in our infrastructure other than what our electronics can handle, and those can be upgraded easily as needed," Rosenbalm says.

Local officials credit OptiNet with attracting more than \$50 million in new investment. City leaders think the Intelligent Community recognition and a recent Gold Award from the National League of Cities will attract the attention of more companies.

"This is publicity that you just cannot buy," says Bristol City Manager Bill Dennison. "Having this type of technology available, along with the quality and performance we've demonstrated that we can provide, is, I think, going to be a tremendous asset in terms of attracting industry, not only to Bristol but to the entire region." **VB**

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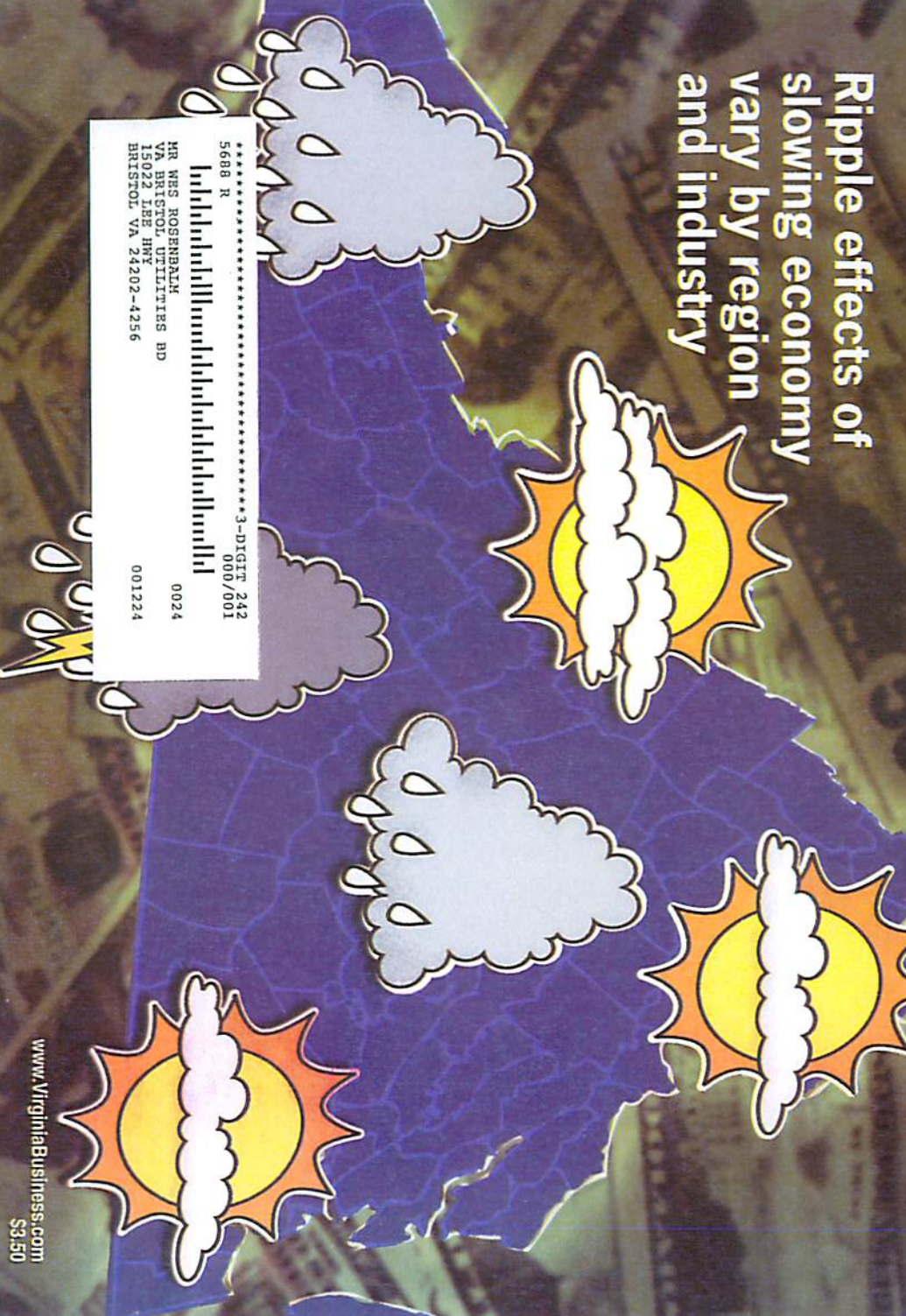
# VIRGINIA BUSINESS

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## WEATHERING the RECESSION

Ripple effects of  
slowing economy  
vary by region  
and industry



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