

BLUE RIDGE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Serving Roanoke Valley/Lynchburg/New River Valley

VOL. 20, NO. 1, JANUARY 14, 2008

bizjournal.com

50 cents

IN MY OPINION

Smoking law: Once again into the breach

What is becoming an annual battle in Virginia—to smoke in public or not to smoke in public—is looming on the horizon as the General Assembly goes into session this month. During the most recent two sessions, Sen. Brandon Bell of Roanoke/Botetourt heroically pushed through legislation that would have banned smoking in restaurants, but it was killed in the House by Majority Leader Morgan Griffith of Salem.



Dan Smith
Editor

Between sessions, Griffith helped replace Bell in the Senate with a man more to his liking, Ralph Smith, the former Roanoke mayor. Griffith, meanwhile, has become the smokers' best friend, the man who believes their rights out-

weigh the rights of those of us who choose not to smoke (smokers are addicts and, thus, have little choice in the matter)...

The (continued) greening of business. Stan Breakell at Breakell Inc. in Roanoke, a construction company that is taking "green building" to new levels, is offering a \$500 incentive to employees who buy hybrid vehicles that get more than 40 mpg (that would eliminate the

hybrid SUVs, which sound like an oxymoron, in any case). Stan plans to convert his Prius fleet of six cars to plug-in hybrids in the spring or summer.

He says that the remodeling of the company's offices "using green products/techniques from various suppliers in the project so clients can see the actual items installed and be encouraged to make wise decisions in their construction projects" is "going well."