

# \$3.6 million project launched at park

## First business aims to be operational in a few months

by Roger Mannon  
Staff Writer

Floyd's Regional Commerce Center will attract the industries of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, according to U.S. Representative Rick Boucher. Boucher participated in the groundbreaking for the industrial park Monday morning.

"Southwest Virginia's highest priority is the expansion of our economy and the creation of new job opportunities for our region's residents," stated Boucher, who was joined at the ceremony by members of the Board of Supervisors and the Industrial Development Authority.

During the past two years, Boucher has announced \$3.6 million in federal funding for the development of the Floyd Regional Commerce Center. In 2000, \$2.2 million in federal funding was provided by the Rural Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for extending water and sewer lines to serve the Commerce Center site.

"Earlier this year, I was pleased to return to Floyd to announce the provision of \$1.4 million provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the development of Phase One of the industrial park," Boucher said.

This phase includes the development of 37 of the 169 acres in the park, construction of an access road, grading of two industrial sites and installing 5,900 feet of water and wastewater lines within the park.

Boucher said Floyd has "tremendous assets companies are looking for, including a work ethic second to none and a



Among those attending the ground breaking for the Floyd Commerce Park were: (from left) Industrial Development Authority members Bob Smith, Vernon Baker, and Jack Russell; Franklin Wagner and Gary Crouch of Anderson and Associates, IDA members Leon Moore, Laurence Wood and Jim Shortt, Congressman Rick Boucher, and Supervisors David Ingram, Diane Belcher, Fred Gerald and Kerry Whitlock.

Press Photo--Mannon

low cost of doing business."

Jim Shortt, chairman of the Industrial Development Authority, said he recently attended his high school's 20<sup>th</sup> reunion.

"People from all over say they want to return to Floyd, but they can't afford to. This will be the kind of thing to bring some of them back."

Gary Crouch, engineer for Anderson and Associates, said it has been "a long process, requiring patience. Now it is finally moving forward."

The Center's first business, Dreaming Creek Timberframe, hopes to have a shell building erected and ready to use within a few months.