

# More airing out needed before returning to air

By MELINDA J. PAYNE  
Staff writer

**W**ROV owner Burt Levine stood at the window of his Southwest Roanoke radio station and watched the flood waters come closer and closer.

Like hundreds of others who stood warily doing the same thing Monday, Levine thought the water would stop before it reached his recently renovated studios on Cleveland Avenue. But it didn't.

"It hit us all of sudden like a fire hydrant opening up," Levine said.

"I'm just thankful we followed our instincts and moved what transmitting equipment we could to higher areas in the building."

Most of the station's machinery that is used to get the signal to the tower was turned off Monday at 2

p.m. after runoff from the Roanoke River filled the studio.

Levine is hoping to resume broadcasting in a few days, but that depends on the condition of the equipment.

In the 40 years WROV has been broadcasting, this is the first time it has been off the air more than four or five hours. WROV even weathered the ice storm of 1979 that ripped down power lines and knocked out transmitting capabilities of television and radio stations in the Roanoke area.

"No other station in town has a better record than that," Levine said.

"So when something like this happens, it hurts because you're not able to broadcast the biggest stories of the year, especially when under normal circumstances you have the capabilities to do a top-notch job."

Please see **WROV**, Page **C6**

