

Danville Register & Bee

Standout Galileo student Sophia Li heading into medical field

PAGE A3



South Boston native Jeff Burton among 3 elected to NASCAR Hall of Fame

PAGE B1

Thursday, May 21, 2026

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DANVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Members steer to tax relief

Latest pitch to help residents by lowering rate, fees on vehicles

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

With an anticipated increase in real estate taxes due to rising reassessments, Danville City Council

appears ready to provide other relief to residents.

No one spoke out during a public hearing on the issue during the regular council meeting.

While the current rate of 83 cents per \$100 of assessed value is expected to stay the same, homeowners will end up paying more since projections show there will be an increase of up to 7% with a

reassessment underway, which is performed every two years.

By Virginia code, whenever a reassessment results in an increase of more than 1%, it must be advertised as a tax increase, even if the rate stays the same.

During a work session that followed the regular meeting, council members talked about ways to provide relief to residents of Danville.

Lowering the real estate tax rate wouldn't benefit people who rent homes or apartments. However, lowering what's known as the car tax would.

Danville City Manager Ken Larking said he provided council members with alternatives to give relief to residents and also balance the

Please see **TAX RELIEF**, Page A5

SOUTHERN VIRGINIA MEGASITE AT BERRY HILL

DIGITAL FUTURE



CHARLES WILBORN, REGISTER & BEE

Matt Rowe, the economic development director for Pittsylvania County, speaks at Monday's meeting.

Landmark deal for Southside — one of largest in US — hinges on Va. data center tax break

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

The Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority inked a landmark local performance agreement with a digital campus developer to come to the Southern Virginia Megasite at Berry Hill during a special-called Monday meeting that will, at a minimum, bring \$100 billion in investment over three decades and create 2,500 jobs in a 20-year span.



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Leaders stressed that those numbers are only the floor, and likely both investment and employment would be higher.

It marks the largest investment in the commonwealth and is one of the "most lucrative" single economic development

projects for a locality in the nation. It's also one of the largest single-site investments ever announced in the United States.

Danville and Pittsylvania County aren't providing any discretionary monetary incentives.

However, the deal is contingent on Virginia keeping its tax breaks for data centers. The retail sales and use exemption

Please see **FUTURE**, Page A5

Site pivoted from manufacturing to data centers

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

When the Southern Virginia Megasite at Berry Hill was envisioned, leaders saw it as a comeback to manufacturing to power jobs for a region seemingly lost after the exodus of tobacco and textiles.

That was the focus of economic development leaders. Over the years, they courted many of the larger names.

In 2022, the area lost a \$5.5 billion Hyundai plant that would have brought 8,500 jobs. The plant opted to locate in Savannah, Georgia, where it was called

the largest economic development plan in Georgia's history.

In late 2023, a \$3.5 billion manufacturing project by Ford — at the time — would have brought about 2,500 jobs to the region. Gov. Glenn Youngkin removed Virginia from contention, citing the project's

partnership with a Chinese company.

"When we lost Hyundai, and when we lost Ford ... I think looking at the national implications of data centers, just an easy thing to do was to sort of open up the

Please see **DATA CENTERS**, Page A5

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Weather
Shower and thunderstorm
High 85 • Low 56
Forecast • A8

Inside

ADVICE	D5	COMICS	D3, D4	SPORTS	B1
BUSINESS	C5	OBITUARIES	A7	TELEVISION	D5
CLASSIFIEDS	B6, B7	OPINION	A4	WEATHER	A8

