

Danville Register & Bee

Danville Police Department hosts Virginia Rules Camp for kids

PAGE A3



Data centers blamed as 3 gigawatts briefly vanished from grid

PAGE A5

Saturday, August 1, 2026

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FUTURE OF THE PIEDMONT FOUNDATION

Group: Debate ‘facts, not fear’

Business leaders takes on issues brought up at data center listening tour

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

A foundation that includes business and community leaders in Danville and Pittsylvania County is renewing its call for the state to honor its sales tax break for data centers after a listening tour event

last week exposed raw emotions from Southside residents firmly against tech giants coming nearby.

The statement comes as data center development becomes a point of contention in communities across Virginia and the United States.

The Future of the Piedmont Foundation also took aim at low job figure claims by Senate Finance Committee Chair Louise Lucas, D-Portsmouth, and state Sen. Mamie Locke, D-Hampton, at a July 23 session in Danville.

The senators hosted the seventh

stop as part of a statewide data center listening tour to gauge feedback from residents. Lucas is against an exemption on sales tax for data center equipment, an issue that delayed Virginia’s budget.

The Future of the Piedmont Foundation was founded in 2000

Please see **DEBATE**, Page A6

DANVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORY ON HOLD



REGISTER & BEE, REGISTER & BEE

A part of the brass gas lamp from the engineer car of the “Old 97” train sits in a case Aug. 23, 2023, at the Danville Historical Society. The artifact was picked up by J.W. Yarbough the day of the famous deadly train wreck – Sept. 27, 1903 – and eventually given to Edwin Booth.

Nonprofit still closed; roof campaign launched

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

More than a year after what’s described as the “big explosion” with a staff exodus, the Danville Historical Society remains closed to the public, its roof is in dire need of replacement, and more volunteers and board members

are wanted to turn things around.

Between March and April of last year, two part-time employees and the executive director were no longer with the nonprofit organization that has nearly a million artifacts and historical documents.

Few details were disclosed

about the situation.

At the time, Lee Smallwood, the secretary for the board, confirmed that Robin Marcato, who had been executive director for the previous three years, was no longer with the organization.

Please see **CAMPAIGN**, Page A6

Drought severity slightly lowered

Even with recent rainfall, water problems persisting

CHARLES WILBORN
Danville Register & Bee

For the first time since May, the United States Drought Monitor slightly downgraded the drought level for Pittsylvania County in Thursday morning’s update.

Bouyed by recent rainfall, 88% of Pittsylvania County is out of the extreme designation, leaving only a sliver of the western and southern parts remaining in the next-to-highest tier – extreme – along with the city of Danville.

While an optimistic measure, it’s no reason for a celebration just yet. The Dan River Region is still considered to be in at least a severe drought.

The national report uses different metrics to determine a drought’s impact. Virginia’s Department of Environmental Quality still had Danville and Pittsylvania County recommended for a drought emergency, according to a map updated Thursday morning.

Virginia’s Drought Advisory Task Force met Tuesday to evaluate the current situation, but has yet to release findings.

Weedon Cloe, manager of the agency’s office of water supply, confirmed to the Register & Bee the latest report should be loaded online sometime Friday.

While the full report was not available as of Friday morning, the agency

Please see **DROUGHT**, Page A6



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Weather

Shifting clouds and sun
High: 88 **Low:** 68
Forecast: A8

Inside

ADVICE	D8	COMICS	D3-D6	SPORTS	B1
BUSINESS	C5	OBITUARIES	A7	TELEVISION	D8
CLASSIFIEDS	B7	OPINION	A4, A5	WEATHER	A8



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