

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021

\$1.00



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Beyond the Books: Tails and Tales



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Arts and Crafts show needs exhibitors



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Today in North Carolina history

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## A Rising Star: Bhatia Wins Biggs Classic

BY MALCOLM SHIELDS  
For the Perquimans Weekly

In the seven editions in which the Biggs Cadillac Buick GMC Golf Classic has been held, there have been notable performances by competitors.

Akshay Bhatia added his name to the list of memorable moments in the tournament's history this week.

Bhatia posted a 9-under-par 63 during the third and final round of the Biggs Classic on Saturday.

He finished the classic at 24-under-par 192 to win the tournament by four strokes.

"It took a lot," Bhatia said after the tournament. "I had to play well. Everyone was chasing me."

Bhatia, a resident of Wake Forest, needed every stroke as Lukas

### ONLINE

Go to this story at [www.DailyAdvance.com](http://www.DailyAdvance.com) to view a photo gallery of the final round.

Euler had a final round charge.

Euler, who began the final round tied for fifth place, matched Bhatia with a 9-under-par 63.

Bhatia had a strong finish. He birdied six of the last nine holes, including birdies on No. 16, No. 17 and No. 18 to secure the victory, a payout of \$20,000 and 750 points towards the GPro Tour's Race to the Albemarle Player of the Year competition.

Euler, of Scottsdale, Arizona, finished second at 20-under-par

196. His round was highlighted by eagles on nine and 12 and six birdies, but gave back shot with a bogey on the sixth hole.

Bryson Nimmer was third at 19-under-par 197, Carson Young was fourth at 18-under-par 198 and Mookie DeMoss finished fifth at 16-under-par 200.

One of Bhatia's standout shots of the round occurred on the par 4 13th hole.

On his third shot, Bhatia was just off the green on the short rough to the bottom of the hole and about 30 feet away. He chipped the ball onto the green and watched the ball roll and into the hole for a birdie.

Before that shot, Euler was within three shots of Bhatia.

See **BIGGS**, A6



MALCOLM SHIELDS/THE DAILY ADVANCE

L-R: Akshay Bhatia, of Wake Forest and Rick Durren, vice president of Biggs Cadillac Buick GMC auto dealership in Elizabeth City, after the third and final round of the Biggs Cadillac Buick GMC Golf Classic on The Sound Golf Links at Albemarle Plantation, Saturday, May 29, 2021 in Hertford. Bhatia, 19, won the event at 24-under-par 192 by four strokes.

## Town Hall Prepares Annual Budget

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Town Hall has released a proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 that does not raise property taxes, but increases water/sewer rates.

"While the budget adoption occurs annually, the budget process is continuous as we all monitor performance, spending and review priorities." Town Manager Pam Hurdle said in her budget message to Town Council. "Unlike previous recessions which affected town revenue for one or two fiscal years and could be addressed by short term measures, the recovery by COVID-19 is projected to be gradual. The recovery requires that we make adjustments to our programs, rates and limit new expenditures for the projected future."

Hurdle's recommended budget is around \$6.935 million - up more than \$200K from fiscal year 2020-21 budget at around \$6.7 million. She said the recommended budget includes the general fund, water, sewer, electric, stormwater and other infrastructure investments to keep the town running smoothly. Hurdle said funds are set aside for one-time capital purchase and how the budget aims to improve a healthy fund balance.

Budget must be approved by June 30, although council seeks final adoption sooner.

Property taxes remain the same at \$0.555 of value per \$100 per value. Perquimans Weekly reached out to learn more about a proposed wa-

See **BUDGET**, A2



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PHOTO BY KEN ROMINGER

Color Guard is part and parcel of any Memorial Day observance.

## 'Freedom Isn't Free'

Wreaths laid in tribute to fallen heroes

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

Memorial Day in our small town represents patriotism, civic pride and serves as a tribute to those heroes who gave their lives to preserve the American legacy of freedom.

Rather than wax poetic like some pontificating poppinjay liberal journalist, this country editor is going to take a different tact, as always, by just telling it like it is.

More than a hundred patriotic

See **FREEDOM**, A3



PHOTO BY KIM BRINN

Flags stand as sentries at Monday's Memorial Day service.

### ROUND-UP

## Pirates' Val and Sal

BY MILES LAYTON  
Editor

A round-up of all things Perquimans County...

Reminder: **Pirates' Commencement** takes place at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 5 at the athletic complex.

Pirates' Class of 2021 valedictorian is **Grayson Belle Pierce** and the salutatorian is **Maci Denson**.

Pierce played basketball for the Pirates. She plans to attend ECSU to pursue a degree in aviation. Her dream of becoming a pilot and entering the military is within reach thanks to a scholarship from the Albermarle

See **ROUND-UP**, A3



PIERCE



DENSON

## Big Pop Up: Anti-poverty Event Draws Hundreds

Organizers gave away produce, chicken, canned iced tea

BY CHRIS DAY  
For the Perquimans Weekly

Landon Mason arrived at the Perquimans County Recreation Center Tuesday morning (May 25) and checked his watch.

It was only 7:15 a.m. and people were already lined up in their vehicles for a free food giveaway event that wasn't scheduled to start for another three hours.

"I am extremely surprised," said Mason, who is executive director of the Edenton-based Economic Improvement Council. "We knew there was a need, but the volume

of traffic speaks volumes."

Mason was commenting shortly after the 10 a.m. start of the Big Pop Up, a community free food distribution organized by the EIC. The event served residents throughout the region, among them a van filled with residents from nearby Tyrrell County. Some people also made the drive from Virginia to receive the food and household products that various agencies and organizations were distributing.

As the event unfolded, traffic backed up from Granby Street, where the recreation center is located, onto Harvey Point Road. At the center, traffic was divided into

See **POP UP**, A3



CHRIS DAY/THE DAILY ADVANCE

William Sawyer, a volunteer and the vice president of the Economic Improvement Council's board of directors (center), passes free diapers and other infant supplies through the window to an Edenton woman who was attending the Big Pop Up drive-through community benefit at the Perquimans County Recreation Center in Hertford.