

# DNA Day: Students learn of life's building blocks

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Students count lots of different items in school. The number of taste receptors on tongues is usually not one of them. Recently, however, more than 70 science students at Perquimans County High School participated in DNA Day and engaged in several activities associated with studies involving DNA including creating their own mock case study counting the number of taste receptors (better known as taste buds) on each other's tongues.

Science teacher Celeste Maus and her students, as well as other science students in school, enjoyed presentations by two graduate students from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill on pharmacogenetics-the study on how genes affects

drug efficiency and toxicity. The graduate students talked to the students on how research is working towards finding out why some people react to certain medications while others don't.

The biophysics graduate students, Karen Plevock and Johnathan Leano, are working under Professor Dr. Kevin Slep on Xray crystallography and cell biology to help in cancer treatment.

"I applied to participate in DNA Day and was fortunate enough to host two graduate students from UNC-Chapel Hill to come to Perquimans High School to teach about genetics and pharmacogenetics with interactive activities. Students were engaged with real time research that demonstrates the importance of a brand new and extremely effective means of determin-



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Jonathan Leano, a biophysics graduate student from UNC-Chapel Hill, was one of two graduate students teaching local students about DNA.

a piece of paper containing Phenylthiocarbamide (a non-toxic substance known as PTC). PTC tastes bitter to some people but is tasteless to others.

Some students immediately reacted to the bitter taste (supertasters), while others had delayed responses (tasters). Students who didn't taste the PTC at all were nontasters.

The students then licked blue lollipops which stained the tongues and highlighted the taste receptors. Other students looked at the receptors with magnifying glasses and counted.

Their mock case study compared their numbers

with how the students reacted to the PLC.

"In addition, students took a look at common dominant and recessive observable physical traits and utilized their individualized information to plot and create their own genetic wheel code that allowed for students to analyze and evaluate the genetic variation within their class," Maus added.

Students looked at human traits including dimples when you laugh, tongue roll, crossing thumbs (either left or right), pinkies (either straight or bend away), ear lobes (either attached or free), widow's peak and bending thumbs while considering their own genetic makeup.

Students also questioned the graduate students on career goals, class schedules, and higher education expectations.

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## Get out and vote: Election Day is Tuesday

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Voters will decide several state and national primaries as well as a constitutional amendment and one local race when they

turn out next Tuesday for the May primary election.

Three candidates are seeking three seats on the Perquimans County Board of Education. Incumbents Arlene Yates and Susan Cox are vying to keep their

## Decision 2012

seats while newcomer Steven Magaro is expected to fill the third seat since only three candidates are running for three seats.

Yates, chairman of the board of education, is seeking her second term of office. She is currently completing her first four-year term and has previously served as vice chairman of the six-member board. She is self-employed as owner of The Learning Center of Perquimans County, a local daycare center.

Cox is currently serving her first four-year term on the board. She is a retired educator and owner of Carolina Trophy in Hertford.

Magaro is a retired military veteran with advanced degrees and certifications in adult learning, leadership, and business. He combines his academic accomplishments with over 30 years of professional, high energy, goal-driven experience in leadership, project management, adult learning, and training.

Partisan primaries on

the May 8 ballot include U.S. president, U.S. House of Representatives for Districts 1 and 3 (Hertford and Parkville lie in District 1 while Bethel, New Hope, Belvidere and Nicanor lie in District 3); North Carolina-governor, lieutenant governor, auditor, commissioner of agriculture, commissioner of insurance, commissioner of labor, secretary of state, superintendent of public instruction, treasurer; State Senate District 1, State House of Representatives District 1.

Also on the ballot is the state constitution amendment providing that marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that's valid or recognized in North Carolina.

To see sample voting ballots, visit [www.ncsbe.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov) and click View your Sample Ballot. To see which district you vote in, visit [www.ncsbe.gov/VoterLookup](http://www.ncsbe.gov/VoterLookup). Click on My election information tab at the top of the page, type in your name and county of residence and the site will list the voter's district, sample ballots, and polling location.

### Perennial Day

Saturday, May 5th  
9:30 - 5:00

Door Prizes & Refreshments  
Combination Planters  
Hanging Baskets  
Bird Houses  
Flags  
Unique Mothers Day Gifts & More!

Hours: Thurs & Fri 9:30 - 7:00  
Wed & Sat 9:30 - 2:00

### SANDRA'S GARDEN

446 Gliden Rd./ Hwy. 37, Hobbsville, NC  
221-8238

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Perquimans County will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, May 7, 2012, in the Commissioners' Room of the Perquimans County Annex Building located at 110 North Church Street, Hertford, NC. The Public Hearing is scheduled to start at 6:50 p.m. and will be held until 6:55 p.m. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive citizen's comments concerning the rescission of Ordinance No. 32 - Sewer Use Ordinance. Since Perquimans County elected not to establish a Sewer District in 2001, Ordinance No. 32 is no longer necessary.

Frank Heath, County Manager

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## RE-Elect Susan B. Cox

### Perquimans County Board of Education

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## RESOLUTION OF THE PERQUIMANS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS CONCERNING THE COUNTING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS

On April 17, 2012 the Perquimans County Board of Elections met at the Board of Elections Office, Hertford, North Carolina and adopted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Perquimans County Board of Elections that:

- 1 The Perquimans County Board of Elections shall meet at 2:00 PM on Election Day, Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at the Board of Elections Office at 601-A S. Edenton Road Street to count absentee ballots.
- 2 Any voter of the county may attend this meeting and observe the count.
- 3 The results of the absentee ballot count will not be announced before 7:30 PM on that day.
- 4 The Perquimans County Board of Elections will meet at 5:00 P.M May 14, 2012 pursuant to G.S. 163-231 (b)(ii) if absentee ballots are received pursuant to this sub section.

Vera Murrill  
Secretary, Perquimans County of Elections

## Hertford man hurt in wreck

From staff reports

A Hertford man was injured in a single-vehicle crash early Monday morning at N.C. Highway 37 and Gliden Road in Chowan County.

Derwin Saunders, 25, was airlifted to Vidant Medical Center in Greenville after he was thrown from his overturning pickup truck around 4:05 a.m., according to N.C. Highway Patrol trooper J.F. Bray.

A hospital spokeswoman said Monday afternoon that Bray remains in serious condition.

Saunders' '97 Ford apparently veered off a sloping shoulder of N.C. 37 before flipping multiple times before the truck came to a rest in a ditch, Bray said. Saunders, who was not wearing a seat-belt, was ejected during the crash.

Bray said Saunders travels the road weekdays en route to Gates County where he carpools to work at a shipyard in Virginia.

Speed is not believed to have been a factor, Bray said. While the trooper does not why Saunders left the roadway, he added that the truck's large tires hitting a sloping area contributed to it overturning.

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## THE PERQUIMANS COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners will convene as the Board of Equalization and Review. The purpose of this meeting is to hear from all citizens who request a hearing on property tax assessments. Appeals will be received by the Perquimans County Tax Department. The Board of Equalization and Review will meet May 7, 2012. You must have an appointment to appear at this meeting. Appointments may be arranged by contacting the County Assessor on or before May 4, 2012. Our office hours are 8:00-5:00, Monday-Friday. Telephone numbers are 252-426-7010 or 252-426-5564.

Expected adjournment date: June 4, 2012.

Debbie T. Stallings  
Interim Tax Assessor and Clerk to the Perquimans County Board of Equalization and Review