



SEASON PREVIEW

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IN SPORTS

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2014



## PUMPED ABOUT NATURAL GAS CARS?

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### SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

# DNA TESTS DIG UP FAMILY ROOTS



Technology offers a whole new way of probing the past

By Tony Gonzalez  
tgonzalez@tennessean.com

Dave Dowell likes to say he can "dig up" old ancestors with genealogical research.

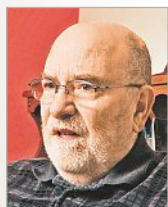
But thanks to sudden gains in DNA testing, a rapidly evolving field of scientific discovery that Dowell has helped push forward, he recently stumbled on something much closer to home — a living, breathing relative he hadn't known about before.

Out of nowhere, a DNA match introduced Dowell to an 81-year-old cousin, living in Missouri, who had been adopted at birth and unknown to many in the family. The cousin's sudden appearance in November added a whole new limb to Dowell's own family tree, and then introduced a tantalizing new mystery:

Could Dowell apply his own expertise to help his cousin learn, for the first time, who his biological parents were?

It's the kind of pursuit that has long motivated family history researchers. But now, armed with DNA testing, there's new promise for solving riddles that elude traditional methods. Breathtaking advances in genetic coding near the end of the last

» DNA, 14A



*"It's all coming together to give us tools we couldn't even have dreamed of three or four years ago."*

DAVE DOWELL

### HOW TO TEST YOUR DNA

Three companies offer commercial DNA testing: Ancestry.com, 23andMe and Family Tree DNA. For those thinking of getting tested, Tennessee experts offered these tips:

- » **Research the companies** and types of tests they offer to choose the right one. For example, different tests are used to examine paternal and maternal family lines.
- » **Join a group** already looking into your family name, so your results can be compared and interpreted.
- » **Don't ignore** old-fashioned research, records, migration patterns and other clues. "You cannot know enough geography or history," Dowell said.
- » **Be patient.** Databases used to find DNA matches are constantly growing. "Whatever you know for sure today, next week or next month, it may not be true," Dowell said.

### CHATTANOOGA VOTE

# VW workers reject union

Vote is blow to UAW bid to unionize foreign-owned automobile plant in South

By Erik Schelzig and Tom Krisher  
Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA — Workers at a Volkswagen factory in Tennessee have voted against union representation, a devastating loss that derails the United Auto Workers union's effort to organize Southern factories.

The 712-626 vote released late Friday stunned many labor experts who expected a UAW win because Volkswagen tacitly endorsed the union and even allowed organizers into the Chattanooga factory to make sales pitches.

But the union faced stern opposition from Republican politicians who warned that a union win would chase away other automakers who might come to the region. Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee was the most vocal opponent, saying he was told that VW would not build a new SUV in Chattanooga if workers approved the union. That was later denied by a VW executive in Tennessee.

The UAW for decades has tried without success to organize a foreign-owned plant in a region that's wary of organized labor. The loss now makes it even harder for the

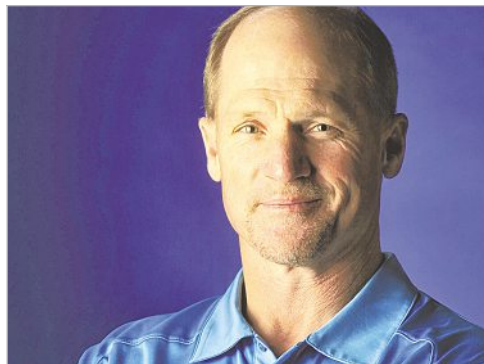
» UNION, 14A

*"If this was going to work anywhere, this is where it was going to work."*

KRISTIN DZICZEK  
Center for Automotive Research

### coming sunday

Read these stories & more in Sunday's Tennessean



### WHAT DID HE SAY?

Titans beat writer Jim Wyatt sits down with new coach Ken Whisenhunt for a Q&A session. **Sports**

### TWO PATHS TO SUCCESS

Country singers Scotty McCreery and Eric Paslay take different paths to similar success. **Portfolio**

### ACCESS BLOCKED

TennCare Choices, launched to help the elderly at home, is blocking access to nursing homes for some who really need it, families say. **News**

### MAKING THE PITCH

Veteran radio promoter Joe Schuld describes his battle to get country-rap song on air. **Business**

## Local News: Deadly deception?

Contrasting views emerge from those who know accused Wilson County bomber Richard Parker. **On 3A**

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# Most want medical pot

MTSU poll also finds opposition to gay marriage

The latest installment of a poll conducted by Middle Tennessee State University faculty and students found support for the legalization of medical marijuana but opposition to same-sex marriage and enforcement of federal gun laws. Nearly two-thirds of

those surveyed said marijuana should be legally sold for medicinal purposes, according to data released Friday. Only 33 percent of people supported decriminalizing marijuana entirely.

"It's hard to say whether proponents of allowing general marijuana use and proponents of allowing only medical marijuana use would be willing to join forces politically," poll director Ken Blake said. "But one

thing is clear: Proponents of continuing the absolute ban on marijuana use are substantially outnumbered in Tennessee."

The poll also found 64 percent of respondents opposed same-sex marriage, with the large portion of that support coming from evangelical Christians. Seventy-seven percent of evangelicals polled were against marriage equality, while a majority of nonevangelicals supported it.

A majority of those surveyed were in favor of tightening pseudoephedrine sales, allowing wine in grocery stores and banning the enforcement of federal gun laws in the state. Bills concerning each of those issues have been filed in the Tennessee General Assembly this year.

The MTSU poll was conducted Jan. 23-26 and included 600 people.

— Brian Wilson  
The Tennessean



Dave Dowell speaks in January at a meeting of the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society. He has written books about genealogical research and embraces new technologies, including DNA testing. JAE S. LEE / THE TENNESSEAN

## Cousin found through DNA tests

» DNA FROM 1A

century have opened up a whole new way of probing the past.

"It's all coming together to give us tools we couldn't even have dreamed of three or four years ago," he said.

But even an expert like Dowell attaches caution to what he does.

Test results can be perplexing. Old methods can't be replaced altogether. And, he said, DNA has the potential to reveal sensitive subjects, like the one involving the parents of his cousin.

Sometimes people prefer not knowing.

### From paper scraps to apps

Dowell, who lives in Nashville, does DNA-based research that looks radically different than his first forays into genealogy as a college student in the 1960s.

He began with deep dives into records at the Library of Congress. His own family tree consisted of six or eight pieces of paper taped together.

Dowell, 71, became something of a super researcher by earning degrees in history and library science. He worked as a university librarian for three decades and has written books about how to do genealogical research.

He has been quick to embrace emerging technologies — good and bad. Using computers in the 1980s, for example, he lost everything when data he was working on was corrupted.

He picked up the pieces a decade later.

"Since then, probably a 24-step program couldn't faze me," he said.

Dowell remains about as cutting-edge as a genealogist can be. That means he's into DNA and explores new software as it emerges. He's a beta tester for one company's family tree mobile app.

All of it feeds his curiosity about the lives his ancestors lived, whether in Kentucky in 1813, as a defendant in a witch trial in Salem, Mass., or in England and Switzerland in the 1600s.

Much of what he knows comes from fam-

### Mysteries beyond mysteries

If Dave Dowell can solve mysteries, he also has a knack for creating new ones, especially among those around him.

At a recent meeting of the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society, the expert in family research showed off his work on DNA, which he'll soon publish in a book.

Listening that day was Josephine Stanley, 65, of Hendersonville.

Stanley, who has been looking into her African-American heritage for more than a decade, said DNA is new to her this year.

She took a DNA test as a birthday gift from her daughter. Like many first-timers, she found the results intriguing but limited — and daunting.

"A lot of information about African-Americans has been lost or not documented," she said. "This DNA has sparked my interest again."

Thanks to Dowell, Stanley has new motivation to learn about her family, especially on her mother's side, where what she knows hit a wall in 1865.

"I felt that using the DNA would be an alternative to what I'm unable to find in writing.

"Maybe," she said. "I'll find out something that I don't know."

ily stories bolstered by census records, court filings, property deeds and historical accounts.

Now DNA testing has introduced a whole new level of science to the pursuit of composite identity. Dowell first had his genes examined in 2004, as soon as tests were available.

But knowing only about your own genes isn't particularly valuable.

The key is to compare them with other results — whether against family members invited to take similar tests, or through public databases, which constantly grow as more people submit to DNA testing and share their results.

Dowell estimates that 1 million people have done DNA tests, the pace rapidly accelerating in the past three years.

His newly discovered cousin, Jim Jones, rode that wave.

By phone from his home in rural northwest Missouri, Jones said he was surprised to have a close relative find him so quickly after he posted his DNA to Ancestry.com.

"When I did it, I thought it was a shot in the dark," Jones said.

What he hit on was Dowell, a cousin with real expertise. A DNA success story. And he found someone with a similarly strong desire — if a bit different in his motiva-

tion — to pinpoint Jones' parents.

### 'Not who we think we are'

Yet Dowell has found success where many others have not.

Take Mark Lowe of Springfield, a full-time genealogical researcher and expert on Southern recordkeeping.

Lowe got his first DNA test around the same time as Dowell, but a decade later he has little to show for the few hundred dollars he has spent on each new type of DNA test.

"It'd be perfect if it could come up and tell me exactly what the person's name is, but it doesn't work that way," Lowe said. "DNA — it needs the support of other historical research, documents and knowledge."

For Lowe, DNA tests have proved most useful in disproving hunches or putting research on the right track. While helping another man explore his roots, a DNA test revealed that his grandfather wasn't who he thought he was. That replaced one branch of the man's family tree with another that he hadn't encountered before.

"For him that was a major change. He had studied those surnames and everyone who had come over to America," Lowe said. "We all face the possibility of finding

out we're not who we think we are."

### Final puzzle piece

In some ways, Dowell's cousin has lived his whole life without knowing who he is.

Jones said he was a teen when he first learned he was adopted, but he never asked much about his birth parents out of fear of embarrassing someone.

"I got the feeling that in some cases, birth parents would just as soon put it all behind them," he said.

Jones dabbled in "armchair genealogy" over the years, and at one point learned from a neighbor that his birth parents probably lived within 25 miles of where he has spent most of his life.

But only in recent months, with the Dowell connection, have some answers seemed within reach.

"I'm not afraid of what I might find," Jones said. "I'm comfortable with who I am. I'm very fortunate with who my adopted parents are. I'm lucky. I've always been lucky."

Nevertheless, with the emotions of other relatives in mind, Dowell has moved forward cautiously with research into who Jones' mother was. He said some cousins want to reflect on the possible outcomes.

"As much as it would be satisfying to solve this and to help Jim know who at least one of his parents is, I also need to respect the feelings and desires of other family members," he said.

The same combination of technological advance and human decision-making — which got Dowell and Jones together in the first place — now has them weighing whether to drop in the final puzzle piece connecting him to his birth parents.

"In genealogy, there is no end of questions," Jones said.

In that moment, without even knowing it, he flashed an uncanny resemblance to his researcher cousin.

Reach Tony Gonzalez at 615-259-8089 and on Twitter @tgonzalez.



Nashville Ballet's "Attitude" continues through Sunday at TPAC's James K. Polk Theater. KARYN KIPLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

## Nashville Ballet's 'Attitude' is daring, romantic

By Amy Stumpf  
For The Tennessean

### IF YOU GO

Looking for a little more romance this weekend? Nashville Ballet's "Attitude" provides plenty of sizzle — along with a stunning showcase for contemporary dance.

The performance opens with a marvelous revival of guest choreographer Brian Enos' "And Legions Will Rise." First presented as part of Nashville Ballet's 2012 "Emergence" series, this engrossing piece features music by Kevin Puts, performed live by the Alias Chamber Ensemble.

There's a wonderful athleticism to Enos' work, which is performed by a cast of six dancers — including Damian Drake, Alexandra Meister, Mollie Sansone, Brett Sjoblom, Katie Vasilopoulos and Judson Veach. It's fascinating to watch patterns emerge, marked by striking silhouettes and the constant ebb and flow of both movement and music.

The second portion of the program presents "Time/Return/Memory," with choreography by Nashville Ballet Artistic Director and CEO Paul Vasterling. Inspired by the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice — and set to a mesmerizing solo piano score adapted from Philip Glass' Orphée Suite — this segment explores themes of love and loss.

**What:** Nashville Ballet presents "Attitude"

**When:** 7:30 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Sunday

**Where:** TPAC's James K. Polk Theater, 505 Deaderick St.

**Tickets:** Starting at \$28

**Contact:** www.nashvilleballet.com; www.tpac.org

Jon Upleger anchors the piece as Orpheus, conveying as much with his expressive face as with his exquisite form. Kayla Rowser enchanted the audience at Thursday evening's final dress rehearsal as Eurydice, and Nicolas Scheuer showed off great technique as Time/Death.

But the highlight of "Attitude" is surely "Under the Lights," an original ballet set to the music of Johnny Cash and performed by Nashville's own Sugar & The Hi-Lows. Choreographed by current Nashville Ballet company dancer Christopher Stuart, "Under the Lights" features a host of familiar tunes, including "Ring of Fire" and "I Walk the Line." And while there's no specific story line, this engaging sequence captures the depth and spirit of Cash's music quite well.

Highlights include a gut-wrenching interpretation of "Hurt," with Sansone demonstrating tremendous strength and agility.

## UAW official hints at NLRB challenge

» UNION FROM 1A

union to recruit members at another Southern factory, a key priority of outgoing UAW President Bob King. He has said that the union has no long-term future if it can't organize the Southern plants.

"It is pretty devastating" for the union, said Kristin Dzikczek, director of the labor and industry group at the Center for Automotive Research, an industry think tank in Michigan. "If this was going to work anywhere, this is where it was going to work."

Gary Casteel, a UAW regional director who led organizing efforts at the plant, hinted that the union may challenge the results with the National Labor Relations Board.

"We think that it's unfortunate that there was some outside influence exerted into this process," Casteel said Friday night. "There are still some issues that have to be sorted out about this election, and we'll let the people

that do that evaluate the impact of others and whatnot further down the road."

Dzikczek said the union may have to change its tactics in future organizing efforts, because King's strategy of the union and company working together to help each other did not work.

But she does not expect the union to give up on organizing Southern factories. "I think they will continue to push everywhere they were pushing and see if they get more traction," she said.

Many viewed VW as the union's only chance to gain a crucial foothold in the South because other automakers have not been as welcoming as Volkswagen. The vote means the union may be quarantined to its base with the Detroit Three automakers in the industrial Midwest and Northeast.

King, however, stuck to his earlier statements that the union would seek a vote and respect any decision made by workers.

## LOTTERY RESULTS

**Cash 3**  
4-3-8 Morning  
9-2-8 Midday  
3-4-0 Evening  
Prize: Up to \$500

**Cash 4**  
2-5-5-4 Morning  
2-6-0-8 Midday  
2-9-6-5 Evening  
Prize: Up to \$5,000

**Tennessee Cash**  
14-19-21-22-35—5  
Estimated jackpot: \$565,000

**Mega Millions**  
20-28-35-71-72—7  
Megaplier number: 3  
Jackpot: \$139 million