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### Grimes was among four finalists for Mississippi State Department of Education's top position

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

When the Mississippi State Board of Education named Dr. Lance Evans its new state superintendent of education December 20th, he was the board's top choice among the four finalists for the state's top public education job. Also among the final four was Russellville City Schools Superintendent of Education Heath Grimes.

each went through in-person interviews with the State Board of Education on December 11th. The State Board of Education hired the firm McPherson & Jacobson, LLC, to lead a national search to find its next state superintendent. Grimes said he was contacted by the search firm and asked if he would be interested in interviewing for the job. "We had a deep conversation about whether this was a realistic opportunity and are they really wanting someone with my skill sets?" Grimes said. "They said they were

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### Russellville City Schools once again going thru accreditation process

John Pilati  
 Franklin Free Press

After not going through the process last year, Russellville City Schools administrators are once again in the process of reaccreditation that would also apply to the previous school year as well. According to Russellville City Board of Education President Greg Trapp, reaccreditation is underway for the current school year. "Up until last year, this is something we've done each year, so we're going back and getting last year and this year done," Trapp said. "At the end of the school year, we'll be accredited for 2023 and

2024 for all four schools and the system." In Alabama, accreditation is done through Cognia, a non-profit organization that accredits primary and secondary schools across the United States. Cognia accreditation and certification help schools meet high standards and to publicly display their dedication to excellence. Cognia was formed 17 years ago when the pre-college divisions of two accreditation organizations, the Councils on Accreditation and School Improvement of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and

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**Tommy Richard Oliver, 75, of Muscle  
Shoals, passed away Wednesday,  
December 20, 2023. Spry Memorial  
Chapel assisted the family.**

**Alvin Harold Nix, 87, of Phil Campbell,  
passed away Friday, December 22, 2023.  
Pinkard Funeral Home assisted the  
family.**

**Velma Irene Smith Payne, 95, of  
Russellville, passed away Friday,  
December 22, 2023. Graveside service  
will be at 3 p.m., Wednesday, December  
27th at Knights of Pythias Cemetery.  
Spry Memorial Chapel is assisting the  
family.**

**Sinai Ojendiz, 47, of Russellville, passed  
away Wednesday, December 20, 2023.  
Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m.,  
Thursday, December 28, at Spry  
Memorial Chapel. Prayer vigil will begin  
at 8 a.m., with a funeral mass following  
on Friday, December 29, at Good  
Shepherd Catholic Church. Burial will be  
at Franklin Memory Gardens.**

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't  
forget to check us out on the web at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!

# 'GRIMES,' From Page 1



excited because my skill sets matched what the Mississippi State Department of Education was looking for." Grimes was one of around a dozen candidates selected from the initial pool of applicants to participate in video interviews. After that, he was contacted and told he was one of four finalists for the position, which pays \$300,000 annually.

Grimes said he did notify the Russellville City Board of Education about applying for the job, something he had done previously each time he applied for a position since he became RCS Superintendent in 2015.

"Since my contract is ending (in June 2024), the board has already made a decision on my contract, so I did not believe it was necessary to notify them, which is something I have always done in previous instances," Grimes said.

Earlier this year, Grimes and the board reached an agreement about his future with Russellville City Schools, whereby he would resign on June 19, 2024 and would be compensated approximately \$20,000 on top of his annual salary.

Additionally, Grimes said the new Mississippi State Superintendent of Education won't start his new job until July 2024, so he would not have been required to resign from his current position.

Although he wasn't offered the job, Grimes said it was an honor to have been selected among the four finalists after a nationwide search.

Evans, who most recently served as superintendent of the New Albany (Miss.) School District, was named the 2023 Mississippi Association of School Administrators' Superintendent of the Year.

He will have to be confirmed by the Mississippi State Senate when it convenes for the 2024 legislative session

Please send your guest columns and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

## Franklin Free Press

113 Washington Ave. NW  
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The Franklin Free Press is published weekly by Pilati Investments, Inc.  
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### Publisher

John Pilati

### Executive Editor

Michael Rice

E-mail: franklinfreepress@yahoo.com

### Sales Representatives

Michael Rice, John Pilati

### Content Contributors

Gail Motes, Willodean Davis

### Graphic Design

Jason Hill

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The Franklin Free Press strives for excellence and accuracy, and we will be pleased to correct any error in our newspaper. To request a correction or clarification, call or e-mail our office.

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The Franklin Free Press is published by hometown people, for hometown people. We urge contributions of all kinds, including guest columns, picture submissions, cartoons or letters to the editor. Send any letters to our office via U.S. Postal Service or e-mail, and we will gladly publish them. Letters must be signed and contain the hometown and phone number of the author. The Franklin Free Press reserves the right to edit letters for style, length and content.

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# How Are You Inspired by America?

(The following essay was written by Phil Campbell High School 7th grader Melodie Riley as an entry in the Veterans of Foreign Wars' annual Patriots Pen Essay Contest. Congratulations to Melodie for winning the local contest and finishing fourth in the District Contest. She is the daughter of John and Rachael Laynan. We are proud to publish Melodie's essay in the FFP)

Submitted

As an American, I have realized there are many things to truly be inspired by.

Personally, I believe that one of the greatest things about being an American is the freedoms that come with being part of this great nation.

Our freedoms offer endless opportunities to become great and achieve greatness. Those in America have what others only can dream about.

Imagine what it must be like to be told what to do, when to do it, how to think, how to feel, how to believe, where to live, to whom one can marry and whether or not you can become educated. To live with so many restrictions, one's individuality would become nonexistent and life would truly be miserable.

Personally, I believe everyone should be able to live his/her life to the fullest without fear or worry of what might happen if you decide to think for yourself.

The freedoms I was born with have shaped me into the young person I am today. I am able to dress how I like, be friends with those of my choosing, discuss what I am most passionate about, and express my feelings on a daily basis.

When thinking about those freedoms, I must direct my attention to the brave men and women who selflessly gave some or all their lives to ensure that my freedoms would remain intact and that I would never have to live in fear of losing them.

To think of those brave souls standing guard for my freedoms is the most inspiring aspect of the American dream.

Daily, those heroes risk their lives to promote and protect our basic God given rights and freedoms and too often their sacrifices go unnoticed. From teachers to doctors and nurses to law enforcement officers and other first responders, our freedoms are protected, appreciated and ensured for another day.

These individuals are eternal symbols of hope and freedom, and because of them, I will forever be grateful.

Because I am an American, I get to be me—for me. I have so many opportunities to express my individuality and play a small role in the direction of the greatest country on earth.

So let me ask you this. If given the choice, why would you want to live anywhere other than America?

For me, I love America and everything about it and the people in it.



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# Council approves purchase of dump truck for paving

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Council approved the purchase of a 2024 Kenworth dump truck to be used by the Russellville Street Department for paving.

The council approved the purchase at its December 18th meeting. The Kenworth T880 truck was purchased through a Sourcewell quote in the amount of \$234,857.48, to be paid from the City of Russellville General Fund.

Other agenda items approved by the council included:

--declaring a 1999 Custom MF D firetruck surplus property in the Russellville Fire Department and authorized posting it on GovDeals.com.

--a contract amendment with First Due software for the Russellville Fire Department.

--rescheduled the first Russellville City Council meeting of the new year to Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 12 p.m.

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  - T**he Foster Grandparent Program is seeking volunteers ages 55 and older to help tutor and mentor children in day care, head start and schools. Volunteers will receive a tax-free stipend and travel reimbursement. We have openings for several schools for the coming school year. Please call 256-332-6800 for an application.
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  - T**he Senior Center of Phil Campbell is under new management. Everyone age 60 and over are invited to come join us and be part of the group. This is for men and women. We meet at the Phil Campbell Community Center Monday thru Friday from 8-noon. A delicious lunch is served at 11 a.m. Meals are \$1 donation. Some come and play Rook. We also do Bingo when we have enough people. There are several games to play or just sit and socialize with other seniors.
  - P**astor Bro. Eric McKinney and the congregation of Crestview Missionary Baptist Church, 24131 Hwy. 24, Russellville, invite you to worship with them. Sunday morning Bible Study is from 10-Noon and Sunday morning worship from 11-Noon. All are welcome to our services! Call 256-324-0179 for more information.
  - T**ennessee River Bass Club is seeking members for our 23/24 season. Club fishes monthly on Tennessee river and Bear Creek lakes. We welcome boaters or non-boaters 16 or older of all experience levels to join. Club is based in Sheffield. For more information, contact Tommy 256-627-5662.
  - T**he Frog Pond Volunteer Fire Department is holding a fund raiser Gun Raffle with proceeds going to benefit the Frog Pond VFD. Tickets are \$10 or \$25 for 3 and may be purchased through Cash App or PayPal. Call 256-263-0825 for more information. One AR-15 and one Glock 19 Gen 5 will be given away. 16" AR-15 5.56/223 with 15" MHR. And Glock 19 Gen 5 9mm. Drawing will be held at the Fire Department on February 23, 2024, at 6 p.m.
  - M**Y FATHER'S HOUSE MINISTRIES, RUSSELLVILLE, AL, 104 E. Lawrence St., Pastor Pearl Shelton, would like to invite you to our weekly Prayer Meeting every Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. Come join us as we pray together in unity and power! Anyone needing prayer please be sure to join us! Everyone is welcome!
  - N**ew Ground will be in concert at North Russellville Baptist Church on Sunday, January 21, 2024, at 4 p.m. Everyone is invited. A love offering will be taken up. Church is located at 1401 Waterloo Road.
  - T**he Church of God on Mars Hill Road in Phil Campbell will have a New Years Eve service starting at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited. The Believers, Paul Mishue and others will be singing. Everyone is welcome!

We love to hear from you! Please send your guest columns, cartoon panels, letters to the editor, recipes and other creative submissions to franklinfreepress@yahoo.com.

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# 'PROCESS,' From Page 1

Schools.

Trapp explained that Russellville High School students can benefit from the school's accreditation when it comes to scholarships, federal loans and college applications.

"College admissions officials will often look to see if you are from an accredited school. If you transfer from a non-accredited school to an accredited school, not all of the course credits may be accepted," Trapp said. "This is one of those things that's been a part of Russellville City Schools for a long time and it's something you need to have."

Accreditation may be earned for school systems as well as individual schools.

According to [www.cognia.org](http://www.cognia.org), Russellville High School was initially accredited in 1953. Russellville Middle School, Russellville

Elementary School and West Elementary School each received their initial accreditation in 1977.

As a system, Russellville City Schools' initial accreditation came in 2008.

Russellville City Schools Superintendent of Education Heath Grimes said once the board asked him to move forward with accreditation, the system was already accredited for last year.

The system completed a five-year reaccreditation in 2019, and once the payment to Cognia was made current, it reactivated that accreditation for the previous school year.

Trapp said board members felt it was important not only to be reaccredited this year, but for the previous year as well, as accreditation exemplifies that RCS schools are constantly working to improve and help their students, teachers and administrators grow.

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## Commission approves reimbursable salary increase for EMA Director after CLEM certification

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Franklin County Commission approved a number of personnel moves at a short business meeting held December 18th. Most of those came in the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, including the transfer of Amye Clay to the vacant office clerk position. Clay was working as a Corrections Officer/ Dispatcher prior to the transfer.

Other agenda items approved by the commission included:

- hiring Maddie Harrell as a temporary Corrections Officer/Dispatcher.
- amending the resignation of office clerk Samuel Cosby from November 17th to November 22nd.
- promoting Corrections Officer/ Dispatcher Matthew Waldrep to Sergeant.
- hiring Casey Carter as a permanent Corrections Officer/Dispatcher.
- the resignation of Rikki Tharp as Corrections Officer/ Dispatcher.
- hiring Lucas Stonecipher as permanent Corrections Officer.
- advertising for the position of Corrections Officer/Dispatcher.
- accepting the high bids of \$577.77 for a Ford F150 and Ford F250 truck previously declared surplus property by the County Commission. The bid amount of \$577.77 was for each vehicle.
- an increase of \$16,627.52 in the salary of Franklin County Emergency Management Agency Director Mary Hallman-Glass as a result of her earning Certified Local Emergency Manager certification. The State of Alabama will reimburse Franklin County for the increase.
- extended advertising for Roadway Maintenance Technician I in the Highway Department and Heavy Equipment Operator in the Solid Waste Department.
- purchase of the Assurance software program for the Franklin County Probate Office. The cost includes a \$25,000 initial installation fee and a monthly cost of \$1,800. The Franklin County Revenue Department uses the same software program, which will facilitate tying information into the mapping department.
- heard an update from County Administrator Leah Mansell about the University of North Alabama job study for the Franklin County Commission. Mansell said UNA has sent out the first round of job questionnaires to the Highway Department and will send to the other departments soon. This is the first phase of completing full job descriptions for all county positions as well as salary ranges and guidelines.

Send your guest columns, recipes, cartoon panels, letters to the editor and other creative submissions to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com). For updates on news and sports throughout the week, don't forget to visit us online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net)!





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# RCS Board approves 19 personnel moves at short meeting

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

The Russellville City Board of Education approved 19 personnel moves at a short meeting held December 19th.

Two new employment in positions were filled by Cory Moody, Russellville High School custodian, effective January 3, 2024, and Jade Bragwell, hired as 10-month counselor at RHS.

Other personnel moves and agenda items approved by the board included:

--Temporary Employment in Position: Sommer Jackson, Cortney Green, Giovana Ambrosio and Addison Fuller, Teachers for Afterschool Tutoring and Enrichment Program, Anna Skidmore and Kaitlin Speck, Aides for 21st CCLC, Heather Godwin, Teacher for 21st CCLC, Addison Fuller, temporary employment as Pre-K Auxiliary Teacher to fill Hannah Cummings' leave of absence, Maggie Fowler, temporary employment as First Grade Teacher to fill Jenna Harrison's leave of absence and Madeline Mitchell Gwin, Temporary Teacher at RMS from January 3 thru May 24, 2024.

--Athletic Volunteer for 2023-24: Aaron Page, RMS Baseball Volunteer.

--Athletic Pro-Consult for 2023-24: John Seal, Pro Consult for RHS Golf Team. Maximum payment for athletic consultant at the high school level shall not exceed \$280. Paid by Golf Booster Club.

--Retirement in Position: Allen Young, RHS Custodian.

--Resignation in Position: Grace Kummer, RMS Teacher.

--Voluntary Transfer in Position: Jacob Ayers, from Part-Time Manufacturing Welding Teacher at RHS to Full-Time Manufacturing Welding Teacher at RHS.

--Leave of Absence: Hannah Cummings, Pre-K Auxiliary Teacher at WES, from January 8-April 1, 2024, and Caitlan Swinney, RES Teacher, from January 17-May 24, 2024.

--Facility Use Request for RHS Auditorium for Addie's Flip, Tip and Tap's annual Dance Recital on May 18, 2024, with practice date May 14, 2024.

For updates on news and sports throughout the week, visit us online at [www.franklinfreepress.net](http://www.franklinfreepress.net).



# Heath Ayers

## Franklin County Commissioner District 2

### In The March 5, 2024

# Republican Primary

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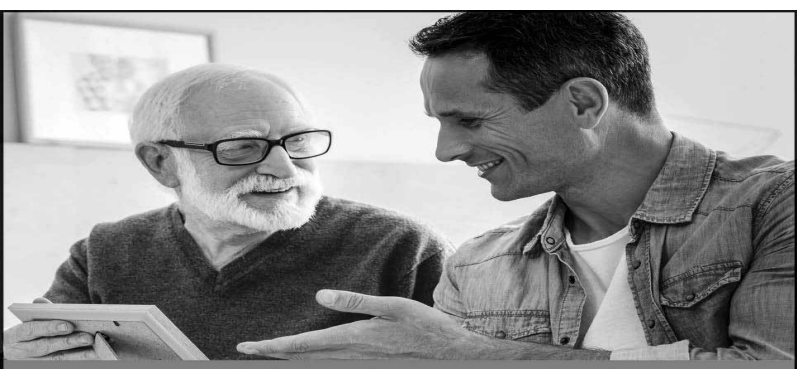


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## A Christmas to Remember for three local families

*John Pilati*  
*Franklin Free Press*

More than 25 nominations were made for the 2023 Christmas to Remember holiday promotion sponsored by Russellville attorney Jamie Sumerel and the law firm of Bedford, Rogers, Bowling & McReynolds, P.C., and the Franklin Free Press.

The nominations were reviewed by a panel of three people who were not connected with any of the sponsors.

Three families were selected to receive a \$500 Christmas to Remember award to be spent however it would best benefit each family.

There were so many heartwarming nominations for families dealing with different life issues. And because someone close to them chose to tell their story and nominate them, we were able to make a small difference in their holiday seasons.

We want to thank Jamie Sumerel and his firm, Bedford, Rogers, Bowling & McReynolds, P.C., and each of you who nominated a Franklin County family to receive a Christmas to Remember.

Please remember someone or some family who could use an extra hand this holiday season. It can be something as simple as preparing them a meal or a special holiday dessert. Let the people you care about know you love them.


And say a prayer for those in our community who are struggling with electric bills, increasing food costs or any other life challenges. There's power in prayer. And it doesn't cost a thing.


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## RHS girls varsity basketball team opens play in West Morgan Holiday Tournament

*John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press*

The Russellville Lady Golden Tigers fell to Decatur Heritage Christian Academy 57-44 in the team's final game before the Christmas break.

Coach Jermaine Groce's team fell behind 14-8 after one quarter and was never able to put together a rally against a talented DHCA team.

Ella Copeland led Russellville with 19 points. Jacey Moore had nine, Laila Hill seven, Sadie Odom five and Blevyn Sappington four.

Russellville, 5-6, will begin play Wednesday, December 27th in the West Morgan Holiday Classic. The Lady Golden Tigers' first game is set for 1:30 p.m., vs. Ardmore High School.

Russellville will host Belgreen on Tuesday, January 2nd, with a 6 p.m., tipoff. Area games begin Friday, January 5th as the Golden Tigers' girls and boys varsity travel to West Point.

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## Golden Tiger boys' varsity basketball team playing through stout December scheduling

*John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press*

Coach Patrick Odom's Russellville Golden Tigers are playing the kind of schedule that toughens up a team before it gets into area play and the post-season.

And even with the difficult schedule, Russellville had a winning record at 5-4 entering its December 22nd game against Deshler in the Times-Daily Tournament.

Those wins include a December 8th 99-61 win over A.P. Brewer in Russellville's first area game. The Golden Tigers' area also includes Lawrence County and West Point High Schools.

Seemingly at every turn, Russellville faced another juggernaut in the month of December, and that's okay with Odom, who has a senior-laden team six seniors among his nine players.

"These last couple weeks we've been challenged in every way possible," Odom said. "We have a home and home with Jasper, a Top 10 5A team. Austin was a big challenge as a top-ranked 7A team. Then we turned around and best Tanner. Even though Tanner is 2A, it's a ranked 2A opponent.

"Northridge is another Top 6A team, so our competition has been really good. But we won the one game that matters (against A.P. Brewer). The rest of the month has been about preparation. We had opportunities in a lot of these games, but we need to get to the point where we finish out those games by playing cleaner and better. But we wanted to expose our guys to what they'll see later on this season," Odom added.

Russellville began the season 3-0 after wins over Red Bay (76-71), Deshler (85-80) and A.P. Brewer (99-61). That was followed by a three-game losing streak, including Jasper (50-69), Florence (66-71) and Austin (52-73).

On December 12th, the Golden Tigers led Florence by 12 after the third quarter but the Falcons outscored Russellville by 17 in the final eight minutes.

"Florence turned up a lot of pressure late in that game," Odom said. "We had some self-imposed mistakes and they made a fourth-quarter run after our third-quarter run and that's what you expect from two good teams.

"They hit a three-pointer inside the final minute to take the lead. It was crazy, but that's high school basketball and when you play good people, you've got to learn how to put good teams away. So it's something we learn from and evolve from," he added.

Russellville's 2023-24 varsity boys roster includes seniors Malachi Duncan, Amir Williams, Bralynn Vincent, KJ Murray, Mike Young and Gavin Hyde. The team's three juniors are Jah Williams, EJ King and Rylan Pratt.

Russellville began play in the annual Bracy Invitational at Deshler High School and Middle School with a December 26th game against Marion County.

Additional opponents and game times will depend on how the Golden Tigers do in the tourney.

After a road game at East Limestone High School on January 2nd, 2024, Russellville begins area play Friday, January 5th against West Point High School in Cullman.



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# 'A Salute to Conway and Loretta' coming January 12th to Florence

John Pilati  
Franklin Free Press

When Tre Twitty and Tayla Lynn take the stage at the University of North Alabama's Norton Auditorium on Friday, January 12th, they'll bring to life the music of their legendary grandparents, Conway and Loretta.

Far from an impersonator show, the 'Twitty and Lynn: A Salute to Conway and Loretta' takes fans back to an era of traditional country music where the unique sound of Conway and Loretta helped push the duo to the top of Nashville's elite.



The show begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available through the website [www.twittyandlynn.com](http://www.twittyandlynn.com). Click 'Tour' and the Florence show will be at the top of the list.

The show includes a host of Conway and Loretta's timeless duets with a mix of solo hits from each. Conway and Loretta stopped touring together full-time in 1981, and Twitty died 12 years later.

"Conway has been gone 30 years. Had Poppy (as Tre called his grandfather) lived, I think there would have been a great second act for him and Loretta. There's a lot of people who wanted to see that and we're able to let them hear those songs and stories again."

The foundation of Conway and Loretta's success as a duo came from the natural chemistry between them. And Tre and Tayla share their own chemistry on stage while carving out their own version of those Twitty and Lynn names.

"I think of us as the ambassadors of the Twitty and Lynn names," Tre Twitty said. "We're just the new version of what they already established. But we also want to be caretakers of the past. At our shows, we get generations of fans because country music is passed down."

Before her passing last October, Loretta Lynn herself was one of the duo's biggest fans. She worked with Tre and her granddaughter to build their show in their own image.

"Memaw (as Tayla called Loretta) just loved it. It brought up so many memories of Conway for her and took her back to a place in her life when they were building their careers," Tayla said. "She'd always say that Tre has Conway's heart."

As a young girl, Tayla often toured with her grandmother. On Lynn's Tennessee ranch, where Tayla now calls home, she watched Tre perform some of his grandfather's songs during a concert and the idea for the show soon followed.

More than five years later, they have toured across the country as well as internationally and they have a full dance card for the coming year. Last year, Tre and Tayla debuted at the Grand Ole Opry, performing 'Louisiana Woman, Mississippi Man' on the same wood circle their legendary grandparents once stood.

The show both entertains audiences while honoring Conway and Loretta, while capturing some of the passion the duo was known for.

"Conway and Loretta used to do everything with so much passion—the way they dressed, the way they recorded, the way they performed. We want to bring that to fans who were lucky enough to see our grandparents before and to those who are just learning about them," Tayla said.

"Our show gives people an idea of what Loretta and Conway were like through their grandchildren's eyes. It's a special gift to keep that flame burning," she added.

# Six ways to discuss mental health with others

Stan Popovich  
For the Franklin Free Press

It can be frustrating to struggle with your mental health and to get your family and friends to understand where you are coming from.

Although most people may be understanding, there is usually one or two people who will make things more challenging for you.

As a result, here are six suggestions on how to deal with the people you know regarding your mental health situation.

1. Listen to the professionals: Your friends may mean well, but when it comes down to it, the professionals are aware of your circumstances more than anyone. It is important that you listen and follow the advice from your doctor or medical professional rather than following the advice from your friends and other people you may know.

2. Don't argue with others: It is important that you do not get into arguments with those who are giving you a tough time. It is not your job to worry about how others may view your circumstances. Focus on managing your mental health rather than trying to get everyone's approval.

3. Choose your friends wisely: Distance yourself from those who won't make an effort to help understand what you are going through. You need to surround yourself with positive and supportive people. If you have problems or issues with a particular person, then its best to keep your distance and hang out with those people are more supportive.

4. Attend a mental health support group: There are many mental health awareness support groups in any given area. Many hospitals, churches, and counselors in your area will be able to provide you with a list of these organizations. These groups will be aware of your situation and can give you additional advice regarding your concerns.

5. You are not alone: There are millions of people around the world

who struggle with their fears, anxieties, and depression. Many of your relatives and friends more than likely struggled with anxiety and stress sometime in their life. Do not feel that you are alone when it comes to your mental health situation because there all kinds of people around you who can relate.

6. Your goal is to get better: Focus on how you can handle the anxieties and stresses in your life rather than arguing with others who are giving you a difficult time. This isn't a public relations event where you need

to get approval from everyone. This is your life, and you need to be more concerned about getting your life back on track rather than pleasing everyone else.

## BIOGRAPHY

Stan is the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear" which covers a variety of techniques that can drastically improve your mental health. For more information, please visit Stan's website at <http://www.managingfear.com>



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An application and job description may be picked up, faxed or emailed upon request from the Franklin County Commission Office, located at 405 N Jackson Avenue, Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, by calling (256) 332-8850 or applications are available at [www.franklincountyval.org](http://www.franklincountyval.org) under the Careers tab.

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Congratulations to 'Ramblin' Rodney McCarley, our Week 15 winner in the FFP Football Contest with 9/10 correct. It's now Bowl Season, and everyone's invited to submit your picks for a chance to win a \$100 grand prize along with a \$25 Pilgrim's BBQ Gift Certificate. Simply email your predictions by December 23rd at 10 a.m., to [franklinfreepress@yahoo.com](mailto:franklinfreepress@yahoo.com). Include your name, phone number, game selections and tiebreaker.

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