

McCracken’s Jones finds purpose through nursing

BY MAX DAVIS
FOR THE TRIBUNE-COURIER

Addison Jones hopes to become a nurse so she can help people live happier, more comfortable lives.

A senior at McCracken County High School, Jones has been selected as the Murray State University Teen of the Week. She has been around nurses for many years while visiting her grandparents. She saw the kindness they showed people and was influenced by it.

“My grandparents, ever since I was little, have been in rehab facilities like the one I work at now, or nursing homes, and so I’ve just kind of grown up going there and seeing the nurses and the assistants take care of them,” Jones said. “I’ve just always known that I wanted to be that person and take care of the people like they’re my family as well.”

Her mother is also part of the hospital system and influenced her decision to pursue nursing from high school onward. She took a spe-



cial class that allowed her to become a certified nursing assistant and found she enjoyed it more than she expected.

“At first, I didn’t really know what that was about until I got in the class and saw what I was going to be doing,” Jones explained. “And that really piqued my interest a lot. If nursing school is going to be the same way, I’m really excited for it.”

Jones likes being able to put smiles on many people’s faces at Charter Senior Living of Paducah, where she works as an assistant.

“I just like being able to put a smile on their face whenever I’m the one to get them ready or just take care of them and help them with the activities of their daily life that they’re not able to do on their own any-



Contributed

ADDISON JONES

more,” Jones highlighted. “I know that, obviously, they all have their own kids, and they’ve taken care of people their whole lives, and they deserve somebody who can help them with

their things.”

Jones said she is committed to attending Murray State’s Nursing School, where she will be able to pursue her passion and future in nursing.

HOSPITAL

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started two practices last year, which probably was a mistake, but when you have two opportunities with two qualified individuals you don’t want to put that off.”

Even after the losses, the hospital still has 210.9 days of cash on hand, which both Kelley and Board Chair Lauren Mann considered to be a “very good” amount.

Following the approval of the financial report, Mann stated for the record that she believed some board members were asking questions they usually would not due to the presence of the media. Board member Heather Davis then stated that “the facts and the numbers are just the facts.”

Mann did not disagree, but stated that much of the information was shared at previous meetings and no questions had been asked.

“The numbers have been there every single month, and for some reason the questions are being asked when a reporter’s here,” said Mann. “We do have 210 days cash on hand.”

Mann also previously stated that she had been informed that board members had been using their position to intimidate employees, which she called “completely inappropriate.”

“I also want to make note, there are board members that are trying to use their position to intimidate hospital employees,” said Mann. “That is completely inappropriate. Just because you are a board member does not mean you can do anything to get your way.”

Davis stated that she had similarly had employees approach her and share that Fuqua often used intimidation to manage staff.



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“Well, I would say that there are people at this table — our CEO, number one — who use intimidation for our employees,” said Davis.

Fuqua told Davis she was wrong, to which Davis responded that was his opinion, but “people” had come to her with that concern.

“The truth of the matter is, I don’t intimidate anyone,” said Fuqua. “Now, if you’re referencing the directors’ meeting, we can talk about that.”

Davis said the concerns brought to her extended past the directors’ meeting.

“Well, that’s just one of many employees that have come to me that are scared that they would lose their job if they told me how the hospital’s run,” said Davis.

Mann told Davis that she should have brought those concerns to her as the board chair and they could have addressed Fuqua together. Davis said she did not feel the need because Fuqua has already set a retirement date and a new CEO has been hired to replace him. Porter echoed Davis’s concerns, and stated that he had also had providers contact him with similar concerns, wishing to remain anonymous.

Mann said she had had providers come to her, not only expressing concerns, but

wanting to have board members removed for their actions.

Board member Randal Scott referenced the special called Jan. 7 board meeting, during which Porter presented a motion to table the discussion of a request for proposal in a lengthy statement. During Porter’s statement, Mann repeatedly spoke over him, stating that the board would stick to the agenda.

“He finally finished what he said, made a motion, everybody agreed on it, the motion was passed,” said Scott. “So, you liked it. But, the reason we may feel like we can’t say anything, or we want to put executive session on the agenda, or something, is you want to stick to the agenda. But, if he hadn’t been persistent, that would have never come out, what he said.”

Mann said if anything needed to be added to the agenda, any board member could approach her to have things added to the agenda.

Porter’s motion was not on the agenda for the Jan. 7 meeting, and state statute KRS 61.823(3) states that special meetings shall be limited to the items listed on the agenda.

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In addition to the budget and intimidation discussions, the board also heard the monthly management and financial

reports. Chief Clinical Officer Tiffany Tubbs presented the Community Health Needs Assessment. She described the 2025 assessment as having focused on a “root cause analysis.”

“As Mr. Fuqua said, we’re mandated to, as a critical access nonprofit, to actively participate in a needs assessment every three years,” said Tubbs. “It’s also a very resourceful process.”

Tubbs shared that the hospital works with the health department to conduct the assessment. The identified priorities for the 2025 assessment were family resiliency, low income and poverty, engaging with aging populations, and education and health literacy.

In order to address those priorities, Tubbs said three goals had been set. Those were family resilience, encouraging education, and strengthening community connection. The hospital is working to focus on goals two and three by reporting data, and co-sponsoring community events. Tubbs personally sits on the Marshall County Senior Citizens board, serving as a connection from the hospital to the community’s aging population as well.

The board regularly meets at noon on the first Tuesday of the month. The next regular meeting is set for March 3.

COURT

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sidewalks. Spraggs also thanked Sheriff Matt Hilbrecht and Benton Police Chief Stephen Sanderson for their departments assisting shuttling dispatchers to work amid the conditions.

Spraggs later asked Road Department Superintendent Roy Wadkins if he would like to say anything in regard to his crew’s work. Wadkins thanked the parks and maintenance departments for their assistance.

“I would like to thank all the guys at the road department and the park,” said Wadkins. “They sent three or four guys over there to help us plow, and that helps us get over our roads a whole lot quicker. All in all, the guys did a good job.”

Wadkins also said that, while he had not added up exactly how many miles were put on the department’s trucks through the storm, he did know that some of the employees had averaged 220 to 250 miles per day in the county.

As the court moved into new business, Spraggs asked for approval to surplus “a couple” leaf blowers from the parks department, as new ones had been purchased to replace them. The court unanimously approved the surplus to GovDeals.

Spraggs then shared that a few months ago, a compressor stopped working in one of the HVAC units at the county judicial building. The unit has continued to work with only one of the two compressors functional.

Spraggs said he had contacted the Administrative Office of the Courts, but that it had taken no action yet. In

an attempt to prepare for replacing the unit when the AOC does take action, Spraggs requested the court begin advertising for bids for the unit.

“It’s a big unit that services the district courtroom, and we reached out to AOC multiple times,” said Spraggs. “We’ve told them it has two compressors. One compressor’s burnt up, so it’s completely useless. The other compressor is keeping up, but barely. I monitor it constantly. If that compressor goes out, there will be no heat in the district courtroom. So, I’ve made that very clear to AOC. So, we’re trying to get ahead of this a little bit. They haven’t requested anything or approved a change out.”

Spraggs also stated that he wanted to go ahead and request bids so the court would have them, should AOC ask for any. He also noted that the units are made to order and take a minimum of six weeks, meaning that if the remaining compressor stops working, there will be no heat or air conditioning in the district courtroom for a minimum of six weeks.

The court approved the advertisement for bids.

For the second consecutive meeting, the court tabled a discussion of bids for the Buckhorn Bay boat dock to the next court meeting.

The court then entered executive session to discuss litigation and personnel. The only action taken upon the return to open session was the approval to pay the bills.

The court regularly meets at 9 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month. The next regular meeting is set for Feb. 17.

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THE TRIB

HISTORY

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