

Version:1.0 StartHTML:0000000228 EndHTML:0000003572 StartFragment:0000002917  
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SourceURL:file:///localhost/Volumes/SERVER/EDITORIAL/11-01-11/COLUMNS/Rural%20View  
points%20by%20jimmy%20cook%2010.31.11doc

@font-face { font-family: "Times New Roman"; }@font-face { font-family: "Comic Sans MS"; }p.MsoNormal, li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal { margin: 0in 0in 0.0001pt; font-size: 14pt; font-family: "Comic Sans MS"; }p.MsoNormalIndent, li.MsoNormalIndent, div.MsoNormalIndent { margin: 0in 0in 0.0001pt 0.5in; font-size: 14pt; font-family: "Comic Sans MS"; }table.MsoNormalTable { font-size: 10pt; font-family: "Times New Roman"; }div.Section1 { page: Section1; } There are elected officials from the local community to Washington, D.C. who foolishly believe that if they maintain the status quo that they exercising real leadership and that no voter would dare not return them to another term in their present position. Dream on, brother! Time is running out for this kind of reasoning. The world has changed and the status quo can't compete. Though many changes are bad, others are changes that can't be ignored, and will not be ignored by people of wisdom.

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@font-face { font-family: "Times New Roman"; }@font-face { font-family: "Verdana"; }@font-face { font-family: "Comic Sans MS"; }p.MsoNormal, li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal { margin: 0in 0in 0.0001pt; font-size: 14pt; font-family: "Comic Sans MS"; }p.MsoNormalIndent, li.MsoNormalIndent, div.MsoNormalIndent { margin: 0in 0in 0.0001pt 0.5in; font-size: 14pt; font-family: "Comic Sans MS"; }table.MsoNormalTable { font-size: 10pt; font-family: "Times New Roman"; }p.Crosshairsstyle, li.Crosshairsstyle, div.Crosshairsstyle { margin: 0in 0in 0.0001pt; text-align: justify; font-size: 14pt; font-family: Verdana; }div.Section1 { page: Section1; }

There was a time, for example, when Macon County had a population of 12,000 people, but today there are approximately 22,000 living in the county. There was also a time when the school population of Macon County was 1600, but today there are about 3800 students being served by the Macon County school system. When Macon's schools grow by about 100 more students per year, and the school system has operated on the same budget for four straight years, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the difficulty involved in operating the school system.

While other departments in the county are buying 30 to 40 thousand dollar trucks with four doors, the Macon School System is buying a 10 thousand dollar used truck with two doors for its maintenance department. This is not jealousy, but simply a wish that others would be more careful in their expenditures and that the children of Macon County would claim a larger share of the county's revenue. Macon County has one of the top school systems in the Upper

Cumberland and it must not be ignored by those who think that the status quo is good government.

I'm glad to see there are those in Macon County who are reaching for the stars by exhibiting real leadership in their attempts to support every phase of Macon County life. What a great place to live, and what potential is locked up in the minds of her younger citizens. At least they've not locked up the future and thrown the keys away. This is what the status quo mentality has done. Granted, there are imperfections in almost every aspect of county life, but holding the line doesn't make for a better future for Macon's youth. I salute Marcus Smith and the Macon County Chamber of Commerce for their efforts to grow our county.

Tony Ferguson in Red Boiling Springs has worked hard and his business, Performance Feed, is spreading throughout the South. Thanks, Tony, for providing many jobs and for your great ability in helping the fine RBS High FFA group.

And thanks, John Cook, for your continued efforts to bring a second industry to RBS and Macon County. I pray the Call Center will become a reality and hundreds of people will be able to get jobs.

These men dreamed and worked hard—no status quo in them. May the rest of us do the same.

# Status quo vs. Competent Leadership

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

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