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Judge hospital chiefs by their fruits

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"By their fruits ye shall know them."

That Biblical phrase has served me well when I have to make a judgment about a person or an organization.

My interpretation of the aphorism is that good people usually bring forth positive contributions to others. While this isn't always a hard and fast rule, I do believe people and organizations can usually be evaluated by looking at the contributions they make to their community over time.

ADVERTISEMENT This is the test I have used to decide how I should evaluate the Quincy Valley Medical Center's board of directors and its administration.

The leaders of the hospital are facing intense criticism and scrutiny by a group of individuals who are making puzzling demands and hurtful accusations. (See story on front page). While constructive criticism of elected officials and government administrators should be encouraged, the onslaught of accusations facing these men and women is personal, troubling and, in a few cases, very harmful to innocent people.

As someone who has closely observed the work of the hospital board, administration and staff, both as a newspaper publisher and as the family member of patients, I know they bring forth good fruit. That fruit is many satisfied patients, increased services for the community and an ever-improving financial outlook. Are they perfect? No. But I do believe they are doing a good job.

If you also believe the hospital is doing a good job, now is the time to speak up and let them know it.

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