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suggested that Lon should use a cover crop on his land. The County Agent, Mr. Woods, also suggested using commercial fertilizer and hybrid corn seed. Lon's average yield in 1930 was 18-20 bushels per

acre. Lon figured the County Agent's comments were good sense, so, Lon asked about what type of seed should be used for a cover crop. They decided upon vetch. So, that fall Lon over seeded his cotton crop with vetch before the

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the water droplets that actually reach the ground. Then the decaying leaves and natural plants filter out nutrients, slow the runoff rate because more and more water is soaked up in the soil, and allows for a healthy atmosphere for micro-organisms in the stream, that also play a vital role in preserving water quality downstream.

Q. Can there be flooding in part of the county different from other sections of the county?

A. Absolutely. Our coun-

ty is made up of many large and small watersheds. Sometimes we have a heavy rain in Choestoe which may cause flooding in that part of the county, and the rest of the county may escape flooding. Suches is also prone to having larger than average rainfall and snow. It does seem that Choestoe traditionally receives more rainfall than other parts of the county. Unfortunately, we have no accurate data available for rainfall in all different parts of the county.

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treatment (not adequate treatment) of the afflicted and ends prolonged institutionalization, even for those who require it. Though a solution was in dire need for the wrongfully committed, the act, maybe not intentionally, also led to extreme homelessness and lack of proper treatment for ill individuals who could no longer, by law, receive the support their health required.

It seems society's philosophy on the matter has traveled from one end of the spectrum to the other extreme. So, yes, the system is flawed and state mental health laws should undergo a revolution that we as a society, somehow, in the past 50 years have still failed to accomplish. Perhaps this is in part due to the huge misconceptions surrounding mental health and the idea that it is not of equal importance as par with physical or chronic illnesses which doctors and pharmaceutical companies seem so eager to treat.

Furthermore, speculating that the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooter suffers from paranoid schizophrenia and that all mass spree shooters fit this exact mold is a biased and broad generalization; based on my knowledge of schizophrenia, these individuals are far more likely to self-injure than act violently toward others though this may come as a surprise to some of you.

Such a statement also

seems mighty bold from someone lacking credentials or prior education specializing in said illness. We cannot deny that people who commit such atrocities usually do suffer from an incapacity in some form, but that could also include trauma, incoherence, or just plain stupidity and evil.

Every wrongdoing that occurs in our society does not occur at the hands of the mentally ill. Sensationalist media and the cinematic industry take advantage of society's lack of knowledge or concern for those they do not understand or fear by repeatedly portraying the ill as sinful deviants who will inevitably react uncontrollably or violently.

This misconception has to stop. The Sandy Hook event was indeed a terrible monstrosity and it is truly unfortunate how it played out regardless of if the perpetrator suffered from a mental illness or not.

If you take anything from this, please refrain from wrongly stigmatizing all mentally ill individuals as societal pariahs based on hearsay, misunderstanding, or the acts of others. In closing, according to the National Institute of Mental Health, 26 percent of Americans, or 1 out of every 4 adults has a diagnosable disorder.

It seems you might be surrounded Mrs. Ramsey. **Kayce Ledford**

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Under Obamacare, medical practitioners have begun asking their patients about gun ownership as a safety issue. The KGB performed "background checks" and found that any and all societal "deviance" had to be curtailed. There is certainly at least that much power vested as well in the BATFE, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services. Obama is certainly capable of curtailing individual and collective freedoms for our own good. Let's not forget that this is the same President who said, "The Constitution is a Document of 'negative

liberties.' It says what government CAN'T DO TO YOU. It doesn't say what government CAN DO ON YOUR BEHALF." (emphasis mine).

There are 30,000 anti-Second Amendment laws in force in the 50 States -- an average of 600 per State.

There are laws against harming children in every State. It isn't about the children of Sandy Hook Elementary, it isn't about "public safety," it isn't about 10 round clips, and it isn't about "assault weapons."

It's about control. **George Mitchell**

cotton was harvested.

So, the next spring Papa and his brothers were sent to break up the vetch in preparation for planting corn. Papa said, "The vetch on that ground was knee deep and it took us 4-5 days to break up that ground." The field was planted to corn and that summer the family harvested 87 bushels of corn per acre. That harvest was four times the average amount of the past. This vetch increased the wealth of Lon.

Because he could now sell excess corn instead of having to use all of it to feed his livestock and family. However, Lon's brothers were worried about him. Uncle Riley and Uncle Will told Lon, "You better not use that vetch again. It'll make your land grow stuff so good that the land will wear itself out". Uncles Will and Riley were wrong. Lon's land never wore out. Actually, his land became richer with time and Lon became richer as well.

When Papa began farming he had to clear 100 acres by hand. Papa and his brothers used a crosscut saw to cut the trees from the land. After the trees were removed, Papa plowed around the stumps until the stumps rotted. This process took about five or six years. Papa is now nearly 98 years old. He doesn't farm anymore. But, he has a very beautiful farm that was hand cleared with an ax and a crosscut saw. Papa farmed for nearly 60 years and he always depended upon his County Agent to provide sound advice backed up by research from his Land Grant University. Papa said it was all possible because Mr. Woods suggested using vetch as a cover crop in 1930.

As you can see Papa's generation went from riding horses and subsistence farming to landing on the moon. Truly this generation has experienced more technological change than any other generation.

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It dates back to the Puritans. More specifically, the Pennsylvania Dutch, hence the location of Punxsutawney Phil, circa 1841. In case you still believe the conspiracy theory that Hallmark had something to do with this Feb. 2 squirrely dedication, Hallmark was founded in 1910.

And if we really want to investigate conspiracy theories, there's still talk that the concept of global warming was a bi-product of a latent re-occurrence of a 1970s collegiate LSD trip Al Gore took while attending Harvard.

I don't know about you, but our weather has been like a re-occurring bad drug trip for the past few years. And if the clover and dandelion patches that these groundhogs ingest by the tons are laced with any of this chemical, how do we know that the groundhog's prognostication senses aren't totally bamboozled?

So, today we don't really know any more about the length of winter than we

did on Saturday. Farmers still read their Almanac. Robins are building nests. Canada Geese seem to be in the area practicing the formations they learn from studying YouTube videos of the Blue Angels.

And while we think that the whistle pig is lying dormant, she has been burrowing. The average groundhog has been estimated to move approximately 710 pounds of soil when digging a burrow. Groundhog burrows usually have two to five entrances, and are particularly large, with up 46 feet of tunnels buried up to 5 feet underground. Who knew? And North Korea has a hard time hiding their nuclear warheads from us.

What we can prognosticate is that there are only 17 more weeks till the Union County Farmers Market officially opens for the 2013 season. I don't know about you, but I can't wait!

Sheriff to speak at Republican meeting



Sheriff Mack Mason

Union County Sheriff Mack Mason will be the featured speaker at the Union County Republican Party's monthly meeting on Saturday, February 16th, at the Lodge at Copperhead, 171 Copperhead Pkwy., Blairsville. There will be an optional breakfast available beginning at 8:30 AM. Come and bring a friend, and let Sheriff Mason know that you're standing with him in keeping Union County safe. If you need further information, you may call UCRP Chair Billy Turnage at 706-745-5125, or email Chairman@UnionGOP.org. NC

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the opportunity.

Myth 10: If you've seen one Chamber, you've seen them all.

Reality: As I travel the State meeting other Chamber Execs and learning about the operations of various Chambers of Commerce, I have found one thing to be certain - no two Chambers are alike. Chambers differ in their organizational structure, their staff's personalities and experiences, their programs and services offered, and their ability to positively impact their local community and members. I am proud to say that the Blairsville-Union County Chamber is made up of a dynamite staff of knowledge employees, a Board of Direc-

tors who is in touch with the needs of the local community, and a membership of close to 600 entrepreneurial individuals who care about the greater good. Many times we have received compliments from others who have experienced a variety of Chambers and are overwhelmed by the involvement and activity of our local Chamber and its members.

I hope that this series has better equipped you to understand and utilize the services of the Blairsville-Union County Chamber.

Should you have questions, please contact us at (706) 745-5789, online at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com or me directly at president@blairvillechamber.com.

Chamber of Commerce events	
For details and future events see events calendar at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com	
Wednesday, February 6	
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
6 pm	Village Boutique 2 & Premier Designs Jewelry Fashion Showcase - 307J Cleveland Street
6 pm	Women's Issues - NGTC
Thursday, February 7	
8 am	Mountain Networking Referral Group Meeting - Cook's Country Kitchen
9 am	Senior Day at Nelson's ACE Hardware
12 pm	Rotary Club of Union County - Cadence Bank, 2nd Floor
4 pm	Ribbon Cutting for Premier Designs Jewelry by Alysia Hargus
Friday, February 8	
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
Saturday, February 9	
9 am	Arts & Crafts Fair - All Saints Lutheran Church, 83 Earl Shelton Rd.
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
6 pm	Hearts Ball IV - The Copperhead Lodge
Monday, February 11	
12 pm	Blairsville Kiwanis Club Monthly Meeting - Steve's Cookie Jar Restaurant
6 pm	Puppy Love Special - The Copperhead Lodge
Tuesday, February 12	
8 am	Tri-State Business Women's Meeting - Cook's Restaurant
Wednesday, February 13	
2 pm	Tour Misty Mountain Model Railroad-16 Misty Mountain Lane
6 pm	Women's Health Issues - NGTC

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