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unioncountygga.gov) under news and will be advertised in the *North Georgia News* or you can call our office at 706-439-6000. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors. We will provide the flyers if you want to post them at your place of business, church or other location. Let's make this an even more successful event than last year.

Q. You may have told us before but what is the North Georgia Resource Management Authority and what exactly do they do?

A. This is a solid waste authority made up of North Georgia Counties for the purpose of promoting safe solid waste handling through education, recycling and composting. The NGRMA was created in 1994 by Towns, Union and Lumpkin counties. This Authority allows us to work regionally to handle existing solid waste issues, to provide for solid waste to be properly and economically diverted from landfill waste streams, to explore potential opportunities, to maximize resources and to expand existing programs. In

1997 Banks County became a member and in 2000 the Authority became the second regional Keep America Beautiful Affiliate in the State of Georgia under the name "Keep Our Mountains Beautiful". We are very grateful to Leslie George, Executive Director, for all that she does for us. If you would like more information on the authority, go to their website, www.ngrma.org.

Q. What are the benefits to the county of being a member of the NGRMA?

A. Being a member of this Authority has many advantages, among those are that they provide educational and promotional materials for the county and they help support our recycle and litter volunteers.

They also provide literature and instruction for school children with different environmental programs and workshops. They negotiate our recycling contracts and apply for and receive hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants, such as the one that assisted us in starting our neighborhood recycling program.

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prepare the fields for the following season. A farmer's work is never done, though it may ease up a tad.

The folks at the Market start coming bundled up on Saturday morning, adding a flannel shirt under those bib overalls. The canned goods boast pumpkin and apple butters, talk turns from gardening to college football, and a young adult church group will be fundraising selling hot cider and donuts. The vendor's tables are filled with the late crops of cabbages, greens and root vegetables as well as a myriad of late season squash and pumpkins.

It's time to get out new soup recipes, and bone up on your date nut bread recipe handed down through three generations. It's that time of year where your home is graced with friends visiting from down South to see the "colors". This year, make the Union County Farmers Market one of your destinations while they are here. They'll love it.

The first big event of the Autumn Season to be held at the Farmers Market is this Saturday, Sept. 27th. The Mountain Shelter and Humane Society will be rockin' the place, presenting "Puttin' On The Dog" from 5 till 8 p.m. I'll be the emcee for the evening, and I'd love to invite you to join me, auctioneer Mark

Mote (amazing live auction and silent auction), all the staff and volunteers at the shelter and thrift stores and main sponsor United Community Bank. We will be working hard to try to break all fundraising records this year, and to insure that those attending have so much fun, they won't want to leave. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at the shelter or either of the shelter thrift stores. This is a catered affair, with scrumptious food, wine tasting hosted by The Wine Shoppe and this year, craft beer tasting hosted by the Bearding Bottle Shop, fun golf games and the incredibly enjoyable jazz music of the Vintage Notes. I look forward to seeing you there. Helping our furry friends relocate to loving homes is something that rings true in all our hearts.

I'll close with a clarification that was missed by many in last week's paper. Above my column was a note from me introducing my guest writer, Pat Gray. Pat has been a friend for 30 years and she and her husband Tom introduced me to Blairsville. She is a talented artist and writer, and it was my privilege to share my column with her last week. Many readers did not see the intro and were confused by her story. Hope this helps clear that up!

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The Sawmill Place. Stock up on Sorghum Syrup to enhance your morning biscuit or make your way to our local winery or craft beer shop for a sip of the season.

Smell – Stop by a local retailer and pick up your favorite scented candle. The smell of apple or pumpkin pie will lift your mood. Step foot into one of our local bakeries and inhale autumn yumminess!

Hear – This is a great time for music in the mountains. Visit one of our many upcoming festivals – the Indian Summer Festival in Suches, the Sorghum Festival at Meeks Park, and the Fall Hoedown at Vogel State Park. There are concerts

each Friday night at the Historic Courthouse on the square or check out our online events calendar for local music events around town.

Be sure to pick up a copy of the North Georgia Farm Trail guide in the Chamber of Commerce/Welcome Center and explore all of the agritourism sites in the area. This is the perfect time of year to get up, get out, and get happy!

For additional shopping, dining, lodging, and attraction information, contact the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce at 706-745-5789, online at www.VisitBlairsvilleGA.com, or me directly at President@BlairsvilleChamber.com.

Moore... continued from Page 4A

believed God was on their side.

We then gained our Independence and freedom. And then America gained great economical status, mainly by trading our goods and commodities with England and other Europeans. And at what sacrifice? By slave labor. Our American economy and richness from the start was based on slavery. We captured African-Americans from their own countries and made them our slaves. We degraded them, tortured them, enslaved them to work our fields with no pay or dignity, and separated their families so that we could become a prosperous nation. Where was God when the slaves were tied to a tree and whipped to a bloody mess near death, and relegated to so much pain, just for trying to speak up to their masters? How did our nation help the orphans when the black slave children were sold away from their mothers at such a young age and were never able to see their mothers or fathers again? I question where God was then? Does he still get credit? We then had another great war that cost many, many lives, and black people finally got their independence.

At the end of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln was murdered. How was his widow treated? She lived in a mental institution and then a poor house. There was no help for widows at that time, not even a president's wife.

And what about the American Indians, who were in America first before the Europeans arrived?

We had wars with them and then made them move further and further out west. We

took away their pride, dignity and land. And made them walk The Trail of Tears.

I have to mention the fact that many Jewish people live in and substantiate our country as well in our current day and age.

They are not Christians yet they are the backbone of the entertainment industry in Hollywood. The majority of agents, producers, studio executives and many entertainers are Jewish. I know for a fact because I lived and worked there. Many of their relatives and ancestors were executed and exterminated by the Nazis. Jews also help make our country what it is.

At this point and time we may live in the greatest nation on the face of the earth, but please let us not forget the history of the price that was paid, the people who actually made and make our country what it is, and the sacrifices those people made, just as Jesus sacrificed his life on the cross.

The people who helped build our nation were not all white American Christians. I believe in God, but questions occupy my mind as to why he would allow such tragedies and sacrifices of the past in order for America to become the greatest nation on the face of the earth. We did not get where we are today so easily and not without bloodshed and human sacrifice. Perhaps columnist Danny Parris is in a better theological position to provide some answers, input and feedback on this topic of why God would allow such circumstances to happen. Let God back in? Was he always there for all of us?

Jess Moore

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make us fearful of the future.

For example, recently, a little snack bar was established at the Farmer's Market and our own JoAnne Leone is cooking at the snack bar. She took a chance by beginning this venture and it's working. The food is outstanding. The biscuits and bagels are wonderful first thing each morning and the chicken salad sandwiches at lunch time will make a puppy pull a freight train. So, come on out to the Farmers Market to shop and to have a meal at the new snack bar. Also, remember the "Beans and Greens Day" will be held on October 4th. You can try some of our soup beans

with a side of greens from the snack bar. Also, our "Taste of Appalachian Sweetness Day" will be held on October 11th and on October 18th we will hold the first annual "Butternut Creek Big Pumpkin Contest". For more information please visit our web site at UCFarmersMarket.com.

Please remember the Union County Canning Plant will be open each Tuesday and Thursday until October 16th. So, if you want to can something for the winter come and see us at the Canning Plant located at 148 Old Smokey Road, Blairsville, GA.

Cheeves...continued from Page 4A

of commissioners, whose members may disagree and take longer to reach decisions. That's true. A dictatorship is more efficient than a parliamentary system. A sole commissioner is a dictator who, in the privacy of his office, levies taxes, makes appropriations, incurs debts, enters contracts, and enacts county ordinances. At his brief monthly "county commission meeting," he may disclose what he's been doing. Or he may not. Compare this with the board system. The board publicly receives citizens' comments, consults experts and staff members, debates alternatives, and the majority sets tax rates, decides what contracts to enter, what property to buy, and what laws to adopt. Less efficient? Per-

haps, but vastly more democratic.

A sole commissioner, who transacts business and adopts laws in private, may be an honest benevolent dictator, but that depends on the character and wisdom of the commissioner. I have disagreed with some of his decisions but I am not suggesting that Paris is dishonest. But it cannot logically be denied that the system facilitates corruption and makes corruption extremely difficult to detect. Union County may be less fortunate with a future commissioner.

Paris would be doing a great service, leaving an important legacy, by promoting a change to a board system while he is still in office.

Charles Cheeves

Parris ...

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So let's "get up" and "get at it" telling the world that to "get the best out of life" one must "get to the very heart" of life which is found in Christ Jesus. Now is the time to get life!

Adams ...

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be believes in God? A man who has studied both sides of the climate change issue and questions both? A man who clearly and openly stands for equal pay for equal work regardless of gender. A man who is willing to discuss minimum wage increases that make sense and would not have a negative impact on the economy? A man who has seen and understands that Obama's "Changing of America" has had very negative impacts to our economy, our world standing, and too many other things to list in this newspaper. Obama is a talker not a leader and many of the people who voted for him have buyers remorse which are showing in his approval ratings.

Mr. Cheves then went on to try and create, in the minds of the reader, a distorted, biased and comedic view of history, science and political agenda as if it were Mr Collins' own. Shameful! It was straight out of the Anarchist hand book on how to destroy your opponent, blame Bush for all the Ill's in the world and proclaim Obama as the worlds savior.

Mr. Cheves' letter may have convinced others with a similar mindset to vote against Mr. Collins in November but he only convinced me otherwise.

Sincerely,
John Q. Adams III

Hunter ...

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light of current events in Iraq George Bush has been proven to be right and Obama's failed policy to be dead wrong. I do wonder why the writer did not mention Obama's failed border crisis and immigration policy, or lack of policy. Obama failed the diplomats in Benghazi, he has failed the Veterans Administration and he has failed to uphold the Constitution and has even boasted about breaking the law and going around Congress to get his way. I will not take issue with the writer's comment about Charles Darwin because he is probably more aware of his ancestors than I am. I am going to go out on a limb and guess that he is not originally from this area and that is fine, I am fairly new myself. However, I do wonder why some Liberals choose to move to a conservative area. Is it because they are fed up with the failed policies of liberalism elsewhere? These policies have resulted in many predominantly Liberal Democrat cities being bankrupt. One thing I am fairly sure of Liberals by and large need Conservatives to defend their freedoms and fund their liberal social programs, Conservatives on the other hand can survive very well without Liberals.

Keith Hunter