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lation?

A. Yes there are and they involve not only a financial penalty but can also require some reforestation as part of the penalty.

Q. Is a mountain protection permit required?

A. Yes. This permit is issued by the Building Inspection and Development Department. Before the permit is approved all trees that are going to be removed must be marked and a drawing provided showing trees that will be removed. The inspector will compare what trees are marked to what is going to remain on the property to make sure the 50% limit is not exceeded.

Q. When do I need a land disturbing permit?

A. If grading over one acre, a Land Disturbing Permit and a design (Erosion & Sediment Plan) from a Georgia licensed surveyor or civil engineer is required. If you are

building in a subdivision developed after August 1, 2000, and the primary permittee has filed a Notice of Termination with Georgia EPD, an addition (tertiary) permit is required. It also requires a design (Erosion & Sediment Plan) from a Georgia licensed surveyor or Georgia civil engineer. If in a subdivision where the developer has a current Notice of Intent, then a secondary permit with additional paperwork is required, but no Erosion & Sediment Plan.

Q. Does Union County ever fine owners or contractors for not getting permits?

A. Unfortunately, they do have to fine owners and contractors. Fines are issued to ensure that fairness is placed evenly throughout every property owner.

Q. If I build or grade without a permit who is going to know?

A. Most of the com-

plaints to the Building & Development Department come from neighbors in the area. Odds are if you are doing something that requires a permit and you have not obtained one your neighbors will probably report you, especially if they went through

the correct permitting process to do any building or grading on their own property.

Q. What is the contact information for the Building and Development Department?

A. 706-439-6045.

Cummings... continued from Page 4A

out the poster. He grinned as we walked away with it rolled up under my arm.

All of us soon met as a group to be counted before going home. My mother was helping to chaperone the trip, and she met us along with the other kids on the trip. As she counted all of us she noticed the poster and asked if I had bought something. I explained proudly, "No, I had won a poster at the shooting gallery." It never occurred to me that I had won a \$5 poster by spending \$10. Mom smiled and asked to see the poster.

I was reluctant to show Mom this poster. You see my Dad was a pastor and we lived in the parsonage of the church. All of a sudden I was in a bad way. I looked to my friend Mark for some support. He only grinned and said, "Show her the poster." The poster was so big that it took both of us, my friend and I, to fully unroll. Needless to say Mom was not pleased. She said, "Oh no. I can just see Billy Bowman coming into our house and seeing that poster." Billy was the Chairman of Deacons in our church. She wanted to know where I intended to hang this poster. She did not like the idea of hanging it on my bedroom wall.

I was forced to take the poster back and exchange it for something else. I cannot even

Williams...

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Wasps include paper wasps and potter wasps. They are important pollinators for certain plants like rattlesnake master. Flies are pollinators too. They will only have two wings and large eyes. Some flies have coloring to make them look like a bee or wasps to avoid predators. In nature, this is called mimicry.

Butterflies are usually pretty easy to identify because of their wings and variation of colors. The other category includes all other insects that may land on the plant while you're watching it. This could be beetles, dragonflies, lacewings, or ants.

After you've done your count for 15 minutes go to ggapc.org to enter your results. You can do the census as many times as you'd like on the 21st and 22nd. If you see an insect leave your plant and come back count that as a new visitor.

If you have questions about the pollinator census contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Fire...

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of any possible thunderstorms or severe weather. Be ready for lightning, heavy rain and possible flash flooding that may be associated with these thunderstorms.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family

Hancock...

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but he has brought them on himself.

So, what's a body to do? I recommend, assuming that the increased budget needs are real, he call for a quorum vote asking for an increase of 5 percent to deal with challenges at hand. If 5 percent is not enough, then deal with people and programs as the one who must take Sole Responsibility, taking the heat like any professional manager/leader would. But passing his inability to observe and forecast the monetary needs of the county, rather waiting until the budget has hit a square corner and choosing to pass a major property tax increase is a breach of public trust.

Honestly Lamar, I know you to be a fine man, but I'm a bit disappointed. In the real world of hard calls not backed up by the public coffers, you would not be the chosen one. Respectfully yours,

Bob Hancock

Fowler...

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"God saves sinners."

You may like sitting on the porch and pondering the world's problems. But life is experienced as a journey, and the Bible offers you practical help along the way. So taught Dr. Packer, who left the land of the dying for the land of the living in July 2020. He was 93.

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cantile and Lala's Kitchen in the Mountains on the day of their ribbon cuttings, Thursday, August 27, and welcome them to our community. To keep gatherings small, we ask that you visit these businesses throughout the day as we celebrate their official debuts. Shop safe. Shop local.

Another tradition evolving over the last years is one of remembering 911. While the events of this day were horrific, it brought our nation together as one.

On Friday, September 11, at 9:00 a.m., Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a special time to remember those who lost their lives or were injured as a result of the 911 attacks and to pay tribute to the first responders who sacrificially and courageously came to aid. This special day should not be forgotten. Join us as we gather briefly on the upper ball field at Meeks Park for 911 Remembrance

and recognize the day with a few words from Commissioner Lamar Paris and Union County EMA Director, David Dyer.

The last few months has seen our already tight knit county come together for the good of everyone. We appreciate the dedication and tireless efforts of Union County Schools in taking steps to balance the needs of students and community. Congratulations to our students, teachers and administrators that began the 2020-2021 school year both on-site and virtually. Please pray for our schools and for everyone's safety as we continue to do all we can to protect our community from further threat of the coronavirus. Be mindful of others as we navigate the remainder of 2020 and take necessary precautions by wearing face coverings, washing hands and sanitizing surfaces. Soon we will see the other side of this pandemic as we stand Union Strong.

Delosh... continued from Page 4A

This product is available for purchase over the counter. How does someone with an addiction problem know how much is the right amount to take?

In a study conducted by the FDA, they analyzed 30 different kratom products (yes, there are that many) for heavy metals. Their findings were significant lead and nickel levels at concentrations that far exceed safe exposure for safe oral intake. My loved one had several seizures, and he wasn't willing to give up kratom. He said he was lowering his intake but realistically stayed on the herbal "drug" for four-plus years. He couldn't break away from it.

In my findings, there have been several cases of psy-

chosis resulting from kratom use. The subjects in these cases exhibited psychotic symptoms, including hallucinations, confusion and delusional episodes.

Kratom has been banned in at least 13 countries and six states (Alabama and Arkansas included). However, Georgia is not on the list. We live in a beautiful community. I wish we would rethink offering this herbal "drug" to our community members. My loved one said coming off kratom was much harder than coming off heroin. As a person who loves this community, I wanted to voice my concern and hope you never experience this with your loved ones.

Sherry Delosh

Crawford... continued from Page 4A

nessed any abuse to anyone, white or black, I stopped it.

The United Colonies were indeed united, but America wasn't mentioned until it became a union in spite of my critic saying, "...it was still America." More Africans sold other Africans than any Colonists did. The first Africans sold were sold by the people of now Angola to the Portuguese. There were 50 on board their ship. Their ship was then captured by two British pirate ships, the White Lion and the Treasurer. Twenty were sold to John Rolfe, husband of Pocahontas. The remaining 30 went to then the British Isle of Bermuda.

I agree with the answerer to my letter that "we should be standing 'united' in the push for social justice and an end to racism." However, riots, looting,

burning and destroying businesses (many minority owned), murder, and blinding federal agents with lasers is not the way to do it. I worked with other officers in the poorest neighborhoods (yes, mainly black), and if you want to "defund or abolish police," those neighborhoods will be hurt the most severe. If you think the Black Panthers or BLM will answer 911 calls, you are sadly mistaken.

One more thing: Don't you or anyone else dare accuse me of a political or racial bias. Yes, I'm a conservative, and the man most admired by me is so black, he looks like it could rub off. According to other letters written by my critic, if they want to look at someone with a bias and agenda, they need look no further than the mirror.

Chris Crawford

Plunkett... continued from Page 4A

toward recovery from the current COVID-19 recession. So, what appears to be a tax gift from the president is actually a time bomb waiting to explode. Compounding the corruption of his vote-buying scheme is his claim that, if reelected, he will defuse the bomb by forgiving the taxes due. After manufacturing a crisis in order to buy votes, he is saying the only solution for its aftereffects is to vote for him based on an iffy promise. To forgive taxes he will need to have the cooperation of Congress, the branch of government constitutionally authorized to alter the tax code. Considering that Congress has been in bipartisan opposition to a payroll tax holiday, he probably won't be able to deliver on that promise, and that's assuming he is reelected.

The danger we face doesn't stop there. The president in remarks during his signing ceremony said he will propose doing away with the

payroll tax if reelected. He did not say what he would replace it with. Since the payroll tax supports payment of Social Security benefits, unless another source of funding is found, the only outcome possible from ending the payroll tax is ending Social Security. I, like many seniors, paid into the program with the understanding that Social Security would pay me back in retirement. Sixty-three million Americans rely on Social Security. Their income is now threatened by the president's ill-conceived and incomplete proposal to wipe out their Social Security.

Working families and senior citizens have plenty of reasons to worry about the president's recent executive order and to call on the president to rescind it. If his blatant vote-buying scheme is allowed to stand, I am afraid all of us, Social Security beneficiaries present and future, will be the losers.

David Plunkett