Opinions

Everybody has one...

Letter Drive

It's that time of the year again, time for the annual volunteer fire station letter drive. Each property owner should receive a letter from their local volunteer fire station/district sometime in the first weeks of April. Every year, the volunteer fire stations send out a letter to the home, business, and property owners who are protected by these local volunteer stations.

The letter serves several purposes. It informs the people of the operations of the stations. The letter provides information including the number of members; the number of calls; any changes to the stations; any equipment purchases; and any needs that the station may have. They also



provide information on the future goals of the station to better respond to emergencies and serve the community.

The letter also provides dates and times for each fire station's annual open house. This is an invitation for the people to visit the fire station. The volunteer firefighters display the station, the apparatus and the equipment. They are available to answer questions. Often there are educational displays and demonstrations of fire and

The main purpose of the letter is to ask for donations. Although the fire department's budget pays for utilities and maintenance, most of the volunteer's purchases and operations are made possible through donations. The annual letter drive is the main source of donations for the volunteer stations. The volunteer stations survive on the generous donations provided by the citizens and business owners of their coverage area.

They use the donations to purchase radios, turnout gear, wildland gear, and various other firefighting and rescue equipment. They also use the funds to purchase fire apparatus, rescue trucks, and to make improvements to the stations.

Every donation is needed to keep the volunteer stations operational; to achieve future goals; and to respond to emergencies throughout the county. The volunteers do not ask for a dollar amount. They ask citizens and business owners to donate what they can to assist the stations in serving their community. The continued support from the citizens, business owners and the community is greatly appreciated by the dedicated volunteers and the department.

See **Dver**, page 5A

Time to Laugh

Long ago, he grew up on a farm nearby. He lived most of his life elsewhere. On the day of his memorial service, something happened. Let's just say I hope he liked dogs! I didn't know the family. Their patriarch had passed

months prior. They wished for a simple memorial service before they scattered his ashes near the old home place. Ours was a suitable country church.

It was a sunny, Spring morning when they arrived. About twenty family members entered quietly and sat near the front. As I began the service, I could hear birds singing outside



- and noticed someone assumed the front door was selfclosing. It wasn't. A few minutes into the service I noticed movement at the door. It was that stray black dog that had been trying to convince us to keep her. She entered and casually strolled down the aisle toward me, tongue laughing I was horrified! How undignified. I hardly had time

to react before someone noticed. A murmur swept down the pew. Heads turned. Then came the smothered chuckles! It was one of those "they-don't-teach-this-in-seminary" moments. Someone jumped up to exit the interloper saying, "Dad would have loved to know a dog came to his funeral!" Everyone laughed! After that unplanned interlude, we returned to the business at hand feeling just a bit more human. Jesus predicted His own death. But even as He did, He

connected it with laughter because of what would happen just days later. "I will see you again," He promised, "and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you" (John 16:22). His resurrection and its implications for you are reasons to be joyful.

I hope people have a chuckle at my funeral! I'll be rejoicing and I don't mind others joining in. How do I know? Because Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26). That's the question of eternity.

OPENING DAY!

From Your Commissioner

The Commissioner's Office receives calls about many things. Some are County related, but some are not. Most of the time, we can forward the call to the correct office or provide the phone number for the right place.

These are some of the calls we receive: If you are looking for a Union County marriage license, birth certificate, a Weapons Carry License or to pay a traffic

Union ticket, you'll want to contact Probate Court at (706) 439-6006. County Commission If you would like to speak with

someone about your property assess-Harold ment, you will want to contact the Tax Assessor's Office at (706) 439-6011.

Collins If you have a question about your car tags or paying your property tax bills, you will talk to the

Tax Commissioner's Office at (706) 439-6017. Sometimes people seek a copy of a property Deed or Plat These are maintained by the Clerk of Court and these documents can be pulled by the public. The phone number for the Clerk of

Court is (706) 439-6022. The Geographic Information System Office that maintains all the geographically referenced data for Union County (printouts of maps or of various infrastructure) can be reached at (706) 439-6082. All of these offices are located at the Union County Courthouse at 65 Courthouse Street - along with Offices for Superior Court and the District Attorney.

Building permits or building codes enforcement is handled by Building & Development at (706) 439-6045. They are located The Road Department and the local Transportation System

are run out of the Road Department facility located at 311 Industrial Blvd. and they can be reached at (706) 439-6050. Election activities and Voter Registration meetings are

handled out of the Elections and Voter Registration Building at 33 Roscoe Collins Drive, across from the Union County High While Union County does not have a landfill, the primary

Transfer Station can be found at 348 Transfer Station Lane. Questions about the Transfer Station can be directed to (706) 487-4910.

The Union County Parks & Recreation Department is large.

See Collins, page 5A

The Myth of Small Decisions

It started as a casual conversation between two old friends at their weekly coffee meetup. Between sips of their preferred brew – one black, one with enough cream to make it barely recognizable as coffee - they stumbled upon a truth that extends far beyond their corner booth at the local diner.

"My wife handles all the little stuff," one friend declared with a self-satisfied smile, "while I focus on the



big things." His companion's raised eyebrow prompted elaboration. "She just manages the budget, pays our bills, makes decisions about major purchases, and plans for our retirement,' he explained, stirring his coffee with studied

'And what exactly do you do?" his friend inquired, already struggling to suppress a know-

"Well, I contemplate the really important stuff," came the reply. "Like whether pickleball See **Hambourger**, page 5A

Letters to the Editor

Closer Together Again Dear Editor,

In America, we don't unite our country by labeling and calling other Americans names.

We have been a strong nation where our veterans have fought to preserve and fight for Freedom, Equality, the Constitution and Democracy during many wars and conflicts.

In the last decade we have seen a change. Instead of Americans agreeing to disagree and be respectful of different beliefs, they have come up with names to call Americans such as the far left It's even sadder to see our Congressional

Representatives use these catch phrases in a derogatory way towards some of their own constituents. In our great country, which has been an example in the past of decency, dignity and respect, this is unacceptable.

We are now seeing more billionaires taking important roles in our government, includ-

See Shirkey, page 5A

Notes on "A Terrible Idea"

"Despite having more than 4,000 federal employees and spending roughly \$268 billion in Fiscal Year 2024 alone, the Department of Education doesn't operate a single school, hire a single teacher, or educate a single student." -U.S. Congressman Andrew Clyde from Georgia.

That's a Quarter Trillion Dollars, folks. A year. World War II only cost Americans \$4 trillion. The Department of Education ALONE cost a quarter trillion dollars in fiscal 2024. Amazing. The federal government is not a jobs pro-

vider; it robs consumers of their money that would otherwise create actual productive employment.

And I doubt our Leftist U.S. Senators Warnock and Ossoff will vote for shutting down this scam. Their party is the one of "Big Government." Al Gore in a different lifetime was the last

See **Tarter** page 5A

Re: Senior Center

Dear Editor,

Kenneth West

As a new resident of Union County and a senior citizen, I read your front-page story regarding the Senior Center facing budget and staffing shortages with great interest.

I have toured the Center but have not participated in the programs. Needless to say, I don't know how the Center is run or how decisions are made. But, as a retired business consultant, a few things in your article did jump out at me.

The Center is facing some difficult chal-

See Whittington, page 5A

Shawn Jarrard

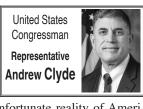
Publisher/Owner General Manager/Editor Advertising Director Sports Editor

Department of Education

Dismantling the Department of Education

Since its founding in 1979, the Department of Education has spent over \$3 trillion of Americans' hard-earned tax dollars. During this period, per-pupil spending has increased by more than 245%

Folks, you might expect that this pricey investment translates to academic success - but you'd be sorely mistaken.



Here's the unfortunate reality of America's education system: Math and reading scores for 13-year-olds are at the lowest level in decades; 6-in-10 fourth graders and nearly threequarters of eighth graders are not proficient in math; 7-in-10 fourth and eighth-graders are not proficient in reading, while 40% of fourth-grade students don't even meet basic reading levels; standardized test scores have remained flat for decades; U.S. students rank 28 out of 37 OECD member countries in math.

Clearly, the status quo is failing American students. Despite having more than 4,000 federal employees and spending roughly \$268 billion in Fiscal Year 2024 alone, the Department of Education doesn't operate a single school, hire a single teacher, or educate a single

We simply shouldn't keep throwing taxpayer dollars into this bloated bureaucracy and hoping for better results.

The Trump Administration knows we can - and must - do better. That's why last month, President Trump took bold action to dismantle the Department of Education. His executive order returns education back to the states where it belongs, helping ensure that parents are the primary stakeholders in their children's schooling.

Under President Trump's leadership, we can transfer appropriate and necessary functions to different receiving federal agencies, with the ultimate goal of returning the Department of Education's main objective back to the states. After all, parents, states, and local communities are best positioned to meet the needs of individual schools and students.

I fully support President Trump's actions to dismantle the Department of Education, and I hope Congress moves forward in codifying these critical changes. In fact, I'm a proud cosponsor of Rep. Thomas Massie's legislation to abolish the Department of Education altogether. Rest assured, Republicans are working to eliminate unelected Washington bureaucrats' control over America's classrooms, empower parents, and expand educational freedom and opportunities for all families.

Derek Richards Todd Forrest Lowell Nicholson

Willie the Billy

My Granny, Glenna Mae Cummings, was quite the horse trader. She didn't trade horses, but, she traded other things. She was good at trading with the local peddler for things needed around the home. She carefully managed the hen house so there was always plenty of eggs

with which to barter for popsicles for her sons. She had a select group of friends she trusted and she would trade her time in helping them in their cotton



fields which resulted in the ladies coming to her house to help in Papa's cotton. But, she was especially good at trading for animals.

She could just look at a shoat (young feeder pig) and decide if it would yield adequate meat and lard when it was finished out at 260 pounds. She had an uncanny sixth sense that would tell her if a hog would get sick or remain healthy. She could tell by looking at a heifer whether that female would give adequate milk for her family. She could also tell if the animal would turn out to be mean or cantankerous. My Grandmother was fond of farm animals and she never got beat in a trade. If she had been born in today's world she probably would have majored in Animal Science and maybe even practiced Veterinary Medicine.

Granny and Papa were still living at the weaning-off house next to Lon Cummings when they purchased the farm I grew to love as a little boy. Each day the young family would make the trip to the newly acquired property. Clearing the property of trees was a sun-up to sun-down job, and their young boys tended to get into things when their parents weren't watching them. One day before they left for the farm a peddler stopped by the house. This peddler had all kinds of things to trade, like popsicles, cast iron pots and pans, tin cups and plates. But, he also had something quite exceptional. Behind the main wagon of the peddler was a smaller wagon which was pulled by a big white Billy Goat. The old goat must have weighed 300 pounds. It had massive horns which were very intimidating to Granny. However, her two sons were not intimidated. Upon seeing the goat her sons, Paul and Bud, ran to it and began petting and hugging the

Granny looked at the old peddler and asked him about trading for the goat and small wagon. Unknown to Granny was the fact the old man wanted to get rid of the goat because it didn't like grown men. The old man looked at Granny and smiled. He traded the goat and wagon for a couple of setting hens. Granny thought she had got the best of the old peddler. Paul and Bud thought the old goat was the grandest thing

See Cummings, page 5A

Chamber 2025

There has been a lot of conversation lately regarding Festivals in Union County, so I would like to share the information we know. While the Scottish Festival was started by the Chamber and citizens of Union County, it has now been moved to a different venue. As mentioned before, festivals have Blairsville

an economic impact on our Community. Tourism is a strong economic driver for local businesses and the jobs they provide, which is why we are excited to announce new events. We now

County Chambei Steve Rowe



have the North Georgia Hot Rod Reunion and the GM Truck Invasion coming to Meeks Park on May 2nd & 3rd, which should be a fabulous event. We have worked with the organizers in the past and are fortunate to have them bring their I guess most of you have also heard talk of

not having the Sorghum Festival this year. However, we are happy to announce that we will have a festival this year on the 2nd and 3rd weekends

See Chamber, page 5A

<u>Snakes</u>

As the temperatures continue to rise, plants are blooming, leaves are expanding, and life is rustling in woods again. Some of the life includes snakes. I've already heard a few stories of encounters that people have had with snakes early this spring. Snakes are a natural part of

the landscape that we're going to have to learn to live with. So, it's not going to be possible to completely eliminate all encounters with them. There



are some things that you can do to make those encounters less frequent and safer for you and

Most of the snakes that live in Georgia are non-venomous. There are 46 species of snakes in Georgia of which 6 are venomous. Of those 6, we have 2 of them in Union and Towns counties. Copperhead and Timber Rattlesnake are the

2 that we have in our area. Copperheads can grow to be 4.5 feet long. They are usually light brown with dark brown hourglass shapes on the back. The narrow part of the hourglass is along the spine with the wide base on either side. They are mostly found in forested areas. They like spots with logs, leaf, and rocks for cover. They are capable of living in suburban areas with people around.

Timber Rattlesnakes can grow to be about 5 feet long. They have a color range from yellow to black. Their backs are covered in brown or black chevron shaped crossbands. They like to live along wooded streambanks. They like old debris piles, old burrows and rock crevices. They will also have the iconic rattle on the end of their

Most people will talk about being able to tell if a snake is venomous from looking at the shape of its head. Generally speaking, venomous snakes will have a triangular shaped head. However, this can be difficult to determine in the wild without getting close and handling the snake, which is never advised. Non-venomous snakes can flatten their heads and appear to have more triangular heads too. Some of the markings on non-venomous snakes can be confused with copperheads.

To lessen the chance of having snakes around your home make sure that your dryer vent is covered with a screen to prevent snakes from wandering inside. Remove piles of debris. leaf piles, or wood piles, because those create habitats for snakes. Thick ground cover like tall grass or ivy can create hiding spots for snakes or the rodents, frogs, and insects that snakes like to eat. Keeping the space around your house clear will decrease the likelihood of a snake being

See Williams, page 5A

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North Georgia News

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CummingS...continued from Page 4A

The old goat must have thought he'd died and gone to heaven. Those two boys were always feeding the goat an apple or fresh green onions. The two young'uns loved the goat. They hugged and petted the goat constantly. They could hitch the wagon to the goat and ride it anywhere. They rode the wagon through the woods to their farm every day, and the goat never faltered. He loved pulling the wagon as much as the boys loved riding the wag-

However, one day Poggy came for a visit. He was my grandfather's fun-loving brother who drank too much. As usual he was drunk when he showed up at the farm and he decided he wanted to ride the old goat. Without Granny's knowledge he got on the old goat and started spurring the goat's sides. At first the goat complied, but, soon grew weary of the man's prodding. The goat began running full speed while Poggy was laughing at the top of his lungs when all of the sudden the goat stopped. But, our Uncle didn't. He sailed over the head of the goat and into a ditch. Paul said, "Uncle Poggy climbed from the ditch and his entire face was bleeding." He told the boys he was going to kill that goat as my Granny walked up to the scene. The boys began crying while Granny walked over to her brother-in-law with her hoe handle extended. He was scared of Granny. All she

did was look at him, which prompted him to leave. But, I guess the goat was still angry.

Later in the day Papa drew some water from the well and poured it into a big wash tub so his sons could take a bath. For some reason Papa bent over the wash tub to move it and the old goat noticed the target of his rear end. Without any hesitation and before anyone could stop it, the goat lowered his head and rammed Papa's butt, sending my Grandfather head-first into that water. He must have been stunned because it took him a minute to recover. When he popped out of the water he turned and pointed his finger at the goat and said, "I will take care of you tomorrow." Paul and Bud knew exactly what that meant.

The next morning Lon Steele showed up at the house to trade a fresh cow for Granny's old milk cow. After they had negotiated, Lon told Granny, "Okay, I will trade with you." Granny then told Lon, "Okay, now what will you give me for the goat?" Lon was surprised, but he quickly said, "I will give you 2 dollars for it." Granny smiled and agreed to

Once again Granny had used her wiles to save the day. Although her boys were not happy about giving up their goat, they knew their Daddy would have taken care of the goat when he got home. Besides, each boy had a dollar to spend the next time the peddler came by their house.

WilliamS...continued from Page 4A

Most of the time people are bitten when they try to kill a snake. Non-venomous snakes are protected by state law. If you are bitten 1) stay calm; 2) Get competent medical help as quickly as possible; 3) Keep the affected limb level with the body; 4) Do not cut, suck, or apply ice or a tourniquet to the wound. Wear closed toed shoes when walking in areas where snakes might be present.

There are no chemical

poisons or effective repellents for snakes. Mothballs are not registered for use as snake repellent. They also can't hear, so any kind of repellent that uses sound isn't going to work. Make sure that the area around your house is kept clear and your house is sealed to that snakes can't enter your home.

If you have any questions about snakes please contact your local Extension Office or email me at Jacob. Williams@uga.edu.

${f Shirkey}$... continued from Page 4A

ing 14 billionaire U.S. Cabinet members, and an un-elected trillionaire making many dayto-day decisions about Veterans, Scientists, National Park workers, Air Traffic Controllers and more. Americans that speak out are being harassed and threatened with legal ac-

I hoped to see a better America as we moved into 2025, however, prices are still getting higher, more people are losing their jobs and tariffs have become a threat to farmers, auto workers and more.

Tourists are no longer coming to America because of the change they see in our attitude and lack of respect towards people. I can only hope we begin to realize our Democracy and Love of Country are better than this. Even the Bible reminds us, "Do to others as you would have them do to you," and "Love your neighbor

May America's empathy, decency, honesty and strong desire to help others bring us closer together again.

Kristie Shirkey

Whittington...continued from Page 4A

lenges requiring immediate attention. Per your article, and thanks to private donations and government subsidies, the Center has experienced a prolonged period of expansion. Specifically, it has served a growing number of seniors with more programs and services that have satisfied their needs and wants quite well. Unfortunately, the resources required to support those programs are no longer available. Declining donations, reduced staffing, and disappearing subsidies are not a time for sustaining current operations, much less continued growth. This will no doubt be a bitter pill to swallow on the heels of success, but not as bad as sacrificing quality and perhaps jeopardizing the entire future of the Center. No matter the value of each program, maintaining the status quo is not a sustainable strategy.

When things change for a business, as they have for the Center, resulting in a significant shortfall between resources and needs, taking steps to understand and adapt quickly is essential. To that end, I would strongly suggest that Senior Center management immediately undertake a complete business review to balance this year's budget and reexamine its core mission and program priorities going forward. As difficult as it will be to curb enthusiasm and support for individual programs, some hard decisions must be made. The Center needs to cut back on its programs and services until budgets can be balanced and not restore eliminated programs or add new programs until funding is in the bank and

This is the responsibility of Senior Center Leadership. Continuing to ask a significantly reduced staff to manage a list of ever-expanding programs for even more seniors, while they find time to solicit donations and manage a long list of ad-hoc fundraising efforts to make up for the significantly

staffing is identified.

reduced budget is a recipe for

Before the situation further deteriorates, resulting in an even greater budget shortfall and causing even more staff to resign, I suggest an immediate fact-based program review to balance the budget for the remainder of this fiscal year, establish program priorities going forward, and implement process controls, so this can't happen again. Participants should include decision makers (not delegates empowered only to make recommendations but no decisions). Inputs required for the review will minimally include knowing budget details for this year, cost details for each program, and the wants/needs of the Union County senior popu-

lation for their Senior Center. I have facilitated and participated in many of these types of business reviews during my career. They can be completed quickly and provide immediate clarity and relief to everyone involved. If the facts required for the review are available and participants clear their calendars, this review could be completed in a week or two. If not, then the meeting(s) should be scheduled as soon as these facts can be gathered and distributed to the participants... but the review should be completed and decisions taken within a month so that seniors and staff know what to expect going forward. Regards,

Dick Whittington

Dyer... continued from Page 4A So, when you receive a

letter from your volunteer fire station, we ask that you read it to stay informed. We also ask you to come to the open house of the fire stations. But most important, we ask that you please make a donation to your local volunteer fire station.

Union County Fire Department ~Our Family Protecting Your Family~

Hambourger... continued from Page 4A

is actually better for my knees than tennis, if aliens built the pyramids, and whether my neighbor's new bird feeder is attracting too many squirrels to our block.'

This exchange, while humorous, mirrors a perspective that many people hold about life's bigger picture. It's remarkably easy to convince ourselves that we're focusing on what truly matters while overlooking the actual foundations that support our daily existence. We often relegate the seemingly mundane details to others - or assume they're beneath notice altogether - while we occupy ourselves with grand philosophical questions or entertaining distractions.

Consider how this plays out in the spiritual realm. Many people of faith maintain

Collins... continued from Page 4A

and its properties are spread out all over the County - but the Offices for Parks & Recreation can be found at 519 Industrial Blvd, and the phone number is (706) 439-6074.

I hope you find these department explanations and their phone numbers to be helpful.

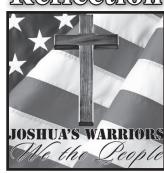
Last week we mentioned calling E-911, and we need to correct an error in the information provided. We stated that calls made to the nonemergency number are not recorded. This is incorrect. The correction is: All E-911 calls are recorded - whether the call comes in on the 911 system or on the non-emergency number.

Chamber... continued from Page 4A

in October at Meeks Park. The Chamber, along with a group of individuals from different organizations and the County, have been working to ensure there will be a 56th annual festival at Meeks Park with a downtown parade and square dancing. We hope the community will continue to come together to help make the festival and parade a success. Thanks to our members that have stepped up and volunteered to help, we look forward to working with everyone in the community to share our heritage with others.

Thank you to all who contribute to making Life Better in Blairsville.

Your Patriot Reflection



Mortal Enemies of Freedom

We often think of the mortal enemies of our republic as those from foreign lands who wish us harm and seek to limit or destroy the freedoms of this great land. In recent history we find that many of those same nations have decided to bring their fight to our homeland, often with devastating demonstrations of hatred and destruction. We are alert to their intentions, and have built-in safety and intelligence measures in place to thwart

and stop their intentions. But there is another class of enemy, more cunning, crafty and powerful than those I just mentioned. They are the ones who want more and more government control and less opportunity for "We The People" to speak and exercise the freedoms established by our Constitution and Bill of Rights. Over the course of the last 75-100 years these enemies of the Republic have chipped away the foundation of our legal documents, placed new interpretations of law and have relegated our freedoms to the United Nations. Those who were elected to public office have far exceeded the bounds they were entrusted to preserve. We have allowed the mortal enemies of freedom to ravage and plunder the most sacred of values, our oneness, freedom, liberty and justice.

George Washington said, "When a people shall have become incapable of governing themselves and fit for a master, it is of little consequence from what quarter he comes." We have got to be on guard and vigilant to those who would seek to destroy us from without and within. Our

freedoms must be preserved! A Patriot Reflection is presented weekly by www. joshuaswarriors.org.

a curious disconnect in their worldview: they believe in an omnipotent force capable of orchestrating magnificent events natural wonders, historic moments, unprecedented coincidences – yet somehow doubt this same force would concern itself with their daily challenges, hopes, and decisions. It's a mindset that separates life into convenient categories: the

meaningful versus the mun-

dane, the significant versus the

This tendency to dismiss life's details shows up everywhere, from spiritual beliefs to business leadership. Consider Richard, a successful business owner who always prided himself on "seeing the big picture" while delegating the details to others. A health scare forced him to pay attention to the small daily choices that ultimately shaped his wellbeing – what he ate, how much he moved, when he rested. He came to understand that these "minor" decisions were, in fact, the very substance of life itself.

The truth is, life doesn't actually divide neatly into "big stuff" and "little stuff." Each moment connects to the next in an intricate web of cause and effect. The daily choices we make - how we treat others, manage our resources, care for ourselves - create the foundation for everything else. Just ask any financial advisor: it's not the occasional windfall that typically builds wealth, but rather the consistent, thoughtful management of regular income and expenses.

Margaret, who recently celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary, puts it this way: "People always ask about the secret to a long marriage, expecting some grand revelation. But it's not about the big romantic gestures or how you handle major crises. It's about all the small moments - how you speak to each other over breakfast, whether you remember to pick up their favorite snack at the store, if you really listen when they tell you about

This perspective invites us to reconsider what we classify as significant. The Almighty operates not just through dramatic interventions and major events, but through the subtle interplay of countless small interactions and choices. True wisdom lies in recognizing the profound importance of life's

seemingly ordinary moments. For those seeking deeper meaning in their lives, this understanding offers a powerful shift in perspective. Instead of waiting for big moments or dramatic signs, we might find more satisfaction in embracing the sacred nature of daily life – in recognizing that every interaction, every decision, every moment carries weight and

meaning The next time you're tempted to dismiss something as "just the little stuff," remem-

Tarter... continued from Page 4A

one to pare government.

If the Deep State interferes with President Trump's plans for the Department of Education, he should move all employees and consolidate all of the plush offices over to the Anacostia section of D.C. (which needs the revenue), eliminate all individual office spaces, eliminate all new hires, eliminate all promotions, eliminate all travel expenses and Metro Train subsidies. Plus offering a bonus for quitting within a certain timeframe.

Just a suggestion. J. Murray Tarter

ber the man in the coffee shop. While he pondered life's entertaining diversions, his wife was quietly shaping their future through attention to the very details he'd overlooked. In the end, perhaps there is no little stuff – only building blocks of different sizes, all essential to the structure of our lives. y@tasteoftorah.org.

Yonatan Hambourger is a rabbi and writer dedicated to serving spiritual seekers of all backgrounds on behalf of Chabad of Rural Georgia. Tzali Reicher is a rabbi and writer who supports communities throughout the regional South. You can contact them at