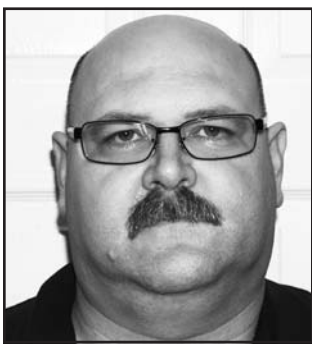


# Administration...continued from Page 1A

man overseeing Union County Animal Control Unit, Doug Loyd will oversee the Sheriff's Office Patrol Division, and Pat Williams will be supervising crimes against persons investigations and managing the registered sex offender list within the Criminal Investigations Division for the Union County Sheriff's Office.

The following are complete biographies of Sheriff Mason's new administrative staff members.



**Craig Davenport**

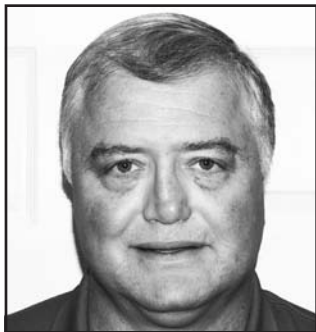
Davenport will be working in the Courts and Warrants

sections for the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Davenport was born and raised in Union County where he resides with his wife of over 20 years and has a grown child in college. He started his law enforcement career with the US Marine Corps as a Military Police Officer. After his service with the Marine Corps, Davenport worked with the Georgia Department of Corrections. After briefly working within the private sector, Davenport returned to law enforcement in 2002. Since then, Davenport has been a deputy sheriff with the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office.

In his 18 years of law enforcement service, Davenport has held detention and uniformed patrol posts. While working with Cherokee County, he also served as a field training officer and in Criminal Investigations as a property crimes investigator. He also served on the Cherokee County SWAT Team as a hostage negotiator.

Additionally, Davenport has a total of 2,479 specialized training hours. He is a graduate of the Columbus State College/Law Enforcement Command College Professional Management/Professional Supervision Program.



**Tim Derflinger**

Derflinger will supervise property crime investigations in the Criminal Investigations Division for the Union County Sheriff's Office. Derflinger, who resides in Union County with his wife and daughter, started his law enforcement career in 1989 with the Hallandale Beach, Florida Police Department. He has more than 23 years of law enforcement experience. As an officer, Derflinger held a wide variety of assignments and positions which included uniformed patrol officer, crime scene officer, field training officer, marine patrol, and narcotics investigator.

After his promotion to supervisor in 1996, Derflinger held several management positions within uniformed patrol, traffic, vice, intelligence, narcotics and marine units, the Training and Recruiting Division, and also included serving as the forfeiture officer for more than a decade. During his career, Derflinger completed more than 2,000 hours of law enforcement related training. He is a 2002 graduate of the Criminal Justice Executive Leadership Institute and holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Florida International University.

Derflinger has been recognized numerous times during his career. These citations include three lifesaving awards, numerous citations for community involvement and the 1999-2000 Animal Rescue Award from the Humane Society.

After retiring from the Hallandale Police Department in March 2010, he relocated to Union County and began working for the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, where he served as a uniformed patrol officer.



**John George**

George will oversee the administrative and operational functions of the Union County Sheriff's Office. George is a resident of Union County, where he currently lives with his wife of 20 years.

He began his law enforcement career in 1977 with the Davie, Fla. Police Department, where he served more than 30 years.

During his 30 years of service, George held many positions which included public safety officer (fire/police officer), patrol officer, motorcycle/traffic officer, mounted patrol officer, field training officer and criminal investigator.

He also held the rank of sergeant, lieutenant and captain where he supervised

many of the police department's units, divisions and operations, including patrol, special operations, criminal investigations, task force operations, mounted patrol and K-9.

Additionally, as division commander, his responsibilities included personnel, training, asset forfeiture, fleet operations, purchasing, property and evidence, technology programs, budget management, grant writing and other command level duties.

In his 21st year of service, he was appointed as the Chief of Police of his department, overseeing more than 250 employees and serving a community of more than 90,000 residents.

George served as police chief in Davie for just under nine years.

After retiring from the Davie department, and prior to relocating to Union County, George served as a director in the public safety department at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

His role at the university included supervision of public safety personnel, along with oversight and contract management of NSU's eight offsite college campuses for public and student security. Additional responsibilities included the university's parking system and safety and security of special events held on campus.

Along with a bachelor's degree in Administration from Nova Southeastern University, George is also a graduate of the University of Louisville Southern Police Institute (76AOC), the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy (FBINA189) and the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Program.

George also has obtained more than 2,500 hours of law enforcement training through professional development courses, education, leadership and in-service training programs.

During his career, George was recognized numerous times. He was awarded the David Police Department's Outstanding Service Award and has also received several awards for community service.



**Melanie Harris**

Harris will oversee GCIC operations, report retention administrative support staff, Uniform Crime Statistical Reporting and various other functions.

Harris comes to the Union County Sheriff's Office after serving, most recently, as the Director of Victim Services for Office of the District Attorney in the Appalachian Judicial Circuit, overseeing offices in Fannin, Gilmer and Pickens Counties.

Along with courtroom assistance, Harris also was responsible for grant administration, restitution assistance and crime victims compensation.

Prior to her position at the District Attorney's Office, Harris served as the executive assistant to Sheriff Dane Kirby in Fannin County.

Along with overseeing daily administrative operations related to incident report maintenance and file retention, she also was responsible for open records, Uniform Crime Reports, and GCIC operations.

While at Fannin County, she served as Fannin County Sheriff's Office Primary Terminal Agency Coordinator, assisting with the agency's transition to become a self-sufficient GCIC agency.

Harris also was directly involved with the training of law enforcement personnel in their response and service to victims of domestic violence.

She has chaired Fannin County Domestic Violence Task Force for more than three years, which strives to increase awareness of domestic violence within Fannin County.

Prior to moving to Fannin County, Harris was employed by NOA (No One Alone) as a legal advocate for victims of domestic violence.

As the advocate for Dawson County, she was directly partnered with the Dawson County Sheriff's Office, through a grant provided through VAWA (Violence Against Women Act).

This partnership served at that time as a pilot program

for the state. NOA, or No One Alone, the battered women's shelter which serves residents in Lumpkin and Dawson Counties, has since been nationally recognized as a model program for assisting victims of domestic violence.

Along with her TAC certification, Harris has completed numerous hours in specialized training in the areas of domestic violence, victim services, grant administration, UCR reporting, open records and HIPAA regulations.

In 2012, Harris was appointed by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal to serve on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

She and her family reside in Mineral Bluff.



**Darren Jones**

Jones will supervise the department's School Resource Officers.

Jones is a lifelong resident of Union County where he lives with his wife and daughter.

Jones began his law enforcement career in 1993 with Union County Sheriff's Office and is presently at the start of his 20th year in law enforcement.

When he first joined the Union County Sheriff's Office he was assigned to Uniform Patrol.

In 1996, Jones attended D.A.R.E. officer training and began teaching the program in the Union County School System.

Jones has spent most of his 20 years of service working as a School Resource Officer and D.A.R.E. instructor for both Union and Towns County Sheriff's Offices.

In recent years, Jones has been employed with Towns County Sheriff's Office.

He served on the Georgia D.A.R.E. Board of Directors as the Executive Assistant as well. Jones has more than 1,500 hours of specialized training, including advanced School Resource Officer training, Georgia Gang Investigators Course, Georgia Drug Interdiction for patrol officers, standardized field sobriety, criminal apprehension for patrol, basic communication officer, radar, police supervision, tazer, advanced traffic law and several hours of school-related safety training, including several classes pertaining to the prevention of school violence.

During his career, Jones has been recognized numerous times. Along with a letter of commendation for assisting in apprehending suspects that were involved in a burglary, Jones also received the Deputy of the Quarter Award, Outstanding Service Award from M.A.D.D., the Children's Empowerment Award, the Law Enforcement Golden Award from VFW Post 7807, as well as the Employee of the Month from the Towns County School System.



**Michael Lerman**

Lerman will oversee the Animal Control Unit for the Union County Sheriff's Office.

He also will serve in a supervisory capacity when the need arises, Sheriff Mason said.

Lerman, who resides in Union County, started his law enforcement career in 1975 with the Broward County Sheriff's Office in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and has served as a professional law enforcement officer for more than 33 years.

During his 33 years of service, Lerman has held many positions including corrections officer, deputy sheriff, motorcycle officer, field training officer, traffic homicide investigator, training officer (teaching radar and police motorcycle operation).

Also during his career, he served as an investigator within Major Crimes Units, Street Crimes and the Crime Suppression Units, which target burglaries and vice. To compliment his experience, he

has specialized certificates in U.S. Drug Enforcement Marijuana Eradication, Organized Crime Investigations and Hostage Negotiations.

In 2004, Deputy Lerman retired from the Broward Sheriff's Office and moved to Union County. In 2009, Lerman joined the Gilmer County Sheriff's office where he worked as a Deputy Sheriff and was Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Officer.



**Doug Loyd**

Loyd will supervise the department's Patrol Division.

Loyd was born and raised in Union County where he currently lives with his wife and 3 sons.

He started his career in law enforcement in 2002 with the Union County Sheriff's Office.

While working in Union County, Loyd served as a corporal and supervised a patrol shift.

He has specialized training in SWAT, crisis intervention, standardized field sobriety, radar, and has attended many other in-service training courses. Loyd also is a Certified Field Training Officer.

In 2008, Loyd began working for the Towns County Sheriff's Office. After working with Towns County for a short time, he was assigned as the officer in charge of his patrol shift and then promoted to sergeant, supervising the Road Patrol Division.

As the division sergeant, he was responsible for the scheduling of patrol shifts, management of time sheets, and assignment of extra off-duty work. Loyd also was a member of the command staff.

In addition to his patrol division duties, Loyd assisted with purchasing equipment and patrol cars, held staff meetings, was part of the hiring board for the agency and also conducted employee evaluations.

While Loyd's responsibilities and career path have primarily been in patrol operations, he has developed a high level of experience in law enforcement management which will be an asset to the Union County Sheriff's Office.

In addition to his broad base of experience, Loyd also has received more than 885 hours of law enforcement training.



**Pat Williams**

Williams will oversee crimes against persons investigations and managing the registered sex offender list within the department's Criminal Investigations Division.

Williams is a resident of Towns County where she resides with her husband.

In 1998, after raising 3 children, she began her career in law enforcement with the Towns County Sheriff's Office and graduated with honors from the Northeast Georgia Police Academy.

She has worked for the Towns County Sheriff's Office for approximately 15 years. During her tenure, she served as a road patrol officer and later served as the commander over road patrol, jail administration and Criminal Investigations.

During her career, Williams received training in the areas of advanced traffic laws, radar operation, standardized field sobriety testing, domestic violence, child abuse, search warrants and affidavits, sex offender supervision, burglary suppression and apprehension, interviews and interrogations, survival Spanish for law enforcement officers, deviant criminal behavior, criminal investigations, and jail management which consists of approximately 1,400 hours of training.