



JV Lady Panthers win home opener: 1C

# UNION SENTINEL



Drew Williams awarded scholarship: 1C

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## Internet Safety Awareness Training



It's midnight somewhere on the Internet. Do you know who your children are talking to? Every time your children are online someone else - a stranger - is with them. Do you also know that anyone with an Internet connection has access to your children whenever and wherever they go online?

43 percent of 7th grade girls and 45% of 7th grade boys visit Internet chat rooms.

66 percent of all solicitations happen in Internet chat rooms.

77 percent of Internet victims are 14 - 17 years old.

Union County Middle School has partnered with I-SAFE, the worldwide leader in Internet safety education, to educate and empower Union County school system youth to make their Internet experiences safe and responsible. UCMS I-SAFE parent board members will be conducting free one hour training sessions throughout the school year. Classes will start at 6:00 pm. Free daycare will be provided and refreshments will be served.

You do not want to miss this opportunity to learn how to protect your children from becoming a victim of on-line predators. The FBI states that child pornography and the sexual exploitation of children through online means is the most significant crime problem it faces today.

UCMS I-SAFE parent board is currently gathering information from all middle school parents. Stay tuned to further announcement of these internet safety awareness training dates. Any questions, please call parent board member Bob Williams at 706-745-2483 (email bwilliams@ucschools.org) or Mellissa Wallis at 706-299-3775 (email wallis@etcmail.com).

To learn more about I-SAFE, visit them on the web at www.isafe.org.



Towns County Sheriff Rudy Eller prepares to make a statement after leaving the courtroom.

## Eller pleads guilty, resigns

By JOAN CROTHERS  
Towns Sentinel Editor

"Do you fully understand the charges brought against you?" Judge Lynn Alderman asked Towns County Sheriff Rudy Eller as he stood in the courtroom Tuesday afternoon, August 21, 2007. Receiving a "yes" she asked, "Are you entering a plea of Guilty because you are guilty of them?" Again she received a "yes."

The Judge then asked Eller to tell her what happened and he told much the same story he had told the GBI at their investigation. He was trying to help his friend and Chief Deputy Eddie Osborn when Osborn asked him to

clean and hide the barrel of his gun he had allegedly used to shoot up Garry Dean's house. Eller said he lied to investigators about the whole incident.

Eller has been charged with making false statements, tampering with evidence, hindering and obstructing law enforcement officers and violating his oath as a public officer. He has had a GPS monitoring system since his arrest and asked that it be removed, which the judge granted. But the Judge did not set a sentencing date.

Coming out of the courtroom and standing outside in front of cameras, Eller read a statement to TV Channels 2 and 32, and all the others who had

been in the courtroom. He said that he thanked everyone for coming, and he was sorry it was a "sad and shameful day." He said he confessed that he had failed Towns County citizens and asked them to forgive him.

"Jess Gibson was a dear friend and I'm sorry I couldn't attend his funeral. I want to say to Martha [Gibson's wife] my thoughts and prayers are with you.

"No one is above the law. I will resign as Sheriff. People of Towns County I'm sorry I let you down!"

His statement finished, Eller shook hands with a number of citizens present and then left.

## Burning banned again

By RICHARD SCOTT  
Wolfcreek Broadcasting

With the continuing high temperatures and drought conditions, the Georgia Forestry Commission is again imposing restrictions on outdoor burning.

While stopping short of imposing a total burn ban, the Forestry Commission has halted the issuance of outdoor burning permits in Towns, Union, Fannin and Gilmer Counties, effective immediately. Yearly burn permits are also being rescinded until further notice.

Chief Ranger Tony Harkins at the Georgia Forestry Commission Office in Blairsville says the area will need to receive as least an inch of rain before burn permits will be issued again. According to Harkins, the forestry commission is short staffed at the moment, having sent workers to battle forest fires in other parts of the country. As a result it could have a tough time dealing with any serious wildfire outbreak.

The North Georgia Mountains had been under a total burn ban earlier this summer, but that order was lifted after some significant rainfall in late June. While burn permits aren't being issued, campfires, cooking fires and small recreational bonfires are still permitted in the region. But the Georgia Forestry Commission urges extra caution with campfires, because of the current extreme fire danger.

## Gunter appointed to Prosecuting Attorneys' Council

The Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia has named its council members for 2007-2008.

Tommy Floyd, District Attorney of the Flint Judicial Circuit, will lead the Council as Chairman. Benjamin Richardson, Solicitor-General for Muscogee County, will serve as Vice-Chair; and Kelly Burke, District Attorney for the Houston Judicial Circuit, has been named Secretary.

New council members

include Peter Skandalakis, District Attorney for the Coweta Judicial Circuit and Barry Morgan, Solicitor-General for Cobb County.

Other members of the Council include Stan Gunter, District Attorney for the Enotah Judicial Circuit; Denise Fachini, District Attorney Cordele Judicial Circuit; Stephen Kelley, District Attorney for the Brunswick Judicial Circuit; and Charles Spahos, Solicitor-General for Henry County.

Under Georgia law, the Council consists of nine members, six of whom are District Attorneys and three of whom are Solicitors-General. All members serve four-year terms on the Council. Officers include a Chair, a Vice Chair and a Secretary. The announcement was made on Saturday, July 21, 2007 at the 47th Annual Summer Conference held at the Jekyll Island Convention Center on Jekyll Island, Georgia, and sponsored by the Prosecuting

Attorneys' Council.

"I am truly honored by having the opportunity to serve such a dedicated group of prosecutors from all different communities here in Georgia," said Council Chairman Tommy Floyd. "I believe the Council's number one responsibility is to continue the work of supporting District Attorneys and Solicitors-General in their pursuit of justice against criminal activity around this State."



Stan Gunter, District Attorney of the Enotah Judicial Circuit.

## Serving in the War Between the States

### Nix Connections—Part 5

Before I launch on this week's topic of Nix men (and boys) who served in the War Between the States, I want to clarify items from last week's article on Aunt Jane Nix Wilson Hood.

Betty Jane Shuler called my attention to the caption under the picture. Thanks to her keen observations, the caption should have identified the picture as taken in 1905 (the year Jane's husband, Isaac

Thornton Wilson died). The baby Sophronia Jane Nix Wilson holds on her lap is Estelle, last born of her children, not Garnie, who lived only about two years and died in 1900. Seven children of Jane

Nix Wilson and Isaac Thornton Wilson are shown in the picture. The second girl from the left, standing, is a neighbor and friend who was visiting in the Wilson home and wanted to "get in" on the picture

(Callie Clark?). To properly identify the Wilson children in the 1905 photograph, they are Tom (1902), Estelle (1904) in Jane's lap, Benjamin (1894), Granny Evaline (1894), and Isaac (1894).



By Ethelene Dyer Jones

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### YOUR WEEKEND WEATHER

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Isolated T-Storms High 91° Low 67°	Scattered T-Storms High 88° Low 66°	Scattered T-Storms High 85° Low 64°