



The CCPS All-Points Bulletin

Mission: To reduce crime, enhance public safety and assist victims throughout North Carolina.

November 2009

Message from the Secretary



During the past year, as I've gotten to know many of you, I have been impressed with this department's efforts to provide quality service to our fellow North Carolinians. Gov. Bev Perdue and I appreciate that effort and look forward to continued productivity.

With the holiday season upon us, I hope you will keep our military personnel serving away from home in your hearts and prayers. They are making a tremendous sacrifice to protect our way of life and help bring freedom to other parts of the world.

Let's also not forget those employees stateside who have to work or be on call over the holidays. State Highway Patrol troopers, Alcohol Law Enforcement agents, Butner Public Safety and State Capitol Police officers and the 24-hour Emergency Management operators are providing a needed layer of protection to our citizens during this season.

Thank you for those who have volunteered to help those less fortunate. I ask that you remember them in your prayers as well.

I wish each CCPS employee an abundance of peace and joy as you gather with your family and friends during these festive times. Happy holidays to you.

Reuben Young



Congratulations!



The following employees were promoted:

Administration: **Marvin Waters**

Alcohol Law Enforcement: **Richard “Alan” Page**

State Highway Patrol: **Duane Banks, Christopher Goodson,**

Maylon Kirby, Christopher Owens, Don Owens, Anthony Parrish and Jonathan Whitley

The following employees celebrate significant service milestones in their state careers:

25 years

State Highway Patrol: Capt. **William Pendleton** and Trooper **Bernie Freeman**

20 years

Alcohol Law Enforcement: **Kendall Pike, Michael Yates, Jeffrey Lasater, Ronald Gilliard and Shon Tally**

State Highway Patrol: First Sgt.s **Gerald Burton, William Evans** and **Charles Johnston**

Sgt.s **James Allred, Jimmy Burns, William Humphrey, Kenneth Snead, Benson Stalvey** and **Randy Moreau**

Troopers **Jeffrey Archer, Christopher Day, Marvin Shadday, Thomas McCoy, Raymond Battle, James Faulk, Stevie Joe, Michael Jones, Shawn Riley, Lester Burns, Gregory Shuffler, Kevin Morgan, John Tabet, Jason Spence, Kelly Rhodes, John Martin** and **John Tribble**

Telecommunicator **Sharon Smith**



Comings and Goings



Welcome to our new employees:

Administration: **Casandra White**

State Capitol Police: **Shawn Matthews**

Governor’s Crime Commission: **Patricia McDonald**

Best wishes to our recent retirees:

State Highway Patrol: **Barry Adams, Joseph Rankin** and **Michael Rivenbark**

A Special Thanks for Highway Help

A citizen letter

A special thanks to Patrolman Henry for all his help on Nov. 6. I was on my motorcycle on US 441 a few miles outside of Franklin NC and hit something that caused me to have a flat tire.

Patrolman Henry stopped and helped me locate the cause of the flat and then helped me get the tire to where I could get the bike into Franklin to which he located a bike shop that would fix the tire for me and followed me there to insure I found the place.

Being a ways from home, Columbia, South Carolina, his help was absolutely invaluable and he certainly did not have to spend all that time helping me.

Although I did thank him profusely I would like your office know how helpful he was also. Also just him having his blue light going helped keep cars away so I could fix the problem. My hat is off to the Patrolman Henry and the North Carolina Highway Patrol. Thank you.

CCPS LOGO APPAREL FOR SALE Through December 15



Order form attached

We've extended the deadline for ordering CCPS apparel one more month.

We have included some new items this year! To see pictures and colors available, go to:

<http://www.nccrimecontrol.org/Index2.cfm?a=000002,001839>.

Mail your check and the order form, including your name, mailing address, phone number, item, color, size, and quantity to Kathy Mason, CCPS Public Affairs, 4701 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, 27699-4701.

Please make checks payable to "CCPS Employee Appreciation Fund." Tax is already included in price.

The deadline for orders is Tuesday November 15th, so mail your check now!

Employee Spotlight

Steve Yount is a grants manager for the Homeland Security Section of the Division of Emergency Management. It may seem an odd place for an accomplished novelist, but Yount, grateful for the grants job, said that unless a book is a best seller, writing isn't the best way to feed a family.



In 1994, Yount's book, *Wandering Star*, was published. A North Carolina native, Yount was living in Texas when he wrote his first historical novel after finding what he calls a mother lode of oral histories that were recorded during the Great Depression. Based on those descriptions, Yount wrote from the perspective of 12-year-old street-fighting, hooky-playing boy who finds work with a newspaper man just setting up shop in the dusty little town of High Plains, Texas, in 1910. At the same time, a preacher holds the town in the grasp of his wild-eyed prophecy that Halley's Comet will ignite Armageddon.

Reviews of Yount's book, printed by major book publisher Ballantine Books, gave Yount and the book high praise.

"Rarely does a book come down the pike as colorful and so thoroughly entertaining as Steven Yount's debut novel, *Wandering Star*," wrote a reviewer with the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*. The novel was compared to the works of Mark Twain and Erskine Caldwell by another reviewer, and the *Dallas Morning News* wrote, "Mr. Yount's style is crisp and delightful. The narrative sparkles with well-turned phrases and chuckle inducing observations...."

Ballantine Books flew Yount first class to Amarillo, Dallas and Ft. Worth, Texas for book signings to promote his book. He rode in limousines and stayed in posh hotels.

"For about two weeks, you get treated like a rock star," Yount said. "Then, it's over."

Normally, if a first book sells 5,000 copies, it has done well. *Wandering Star* sold 12,000 copies.

Despite the book's success, Yount said very few writers can make a living writing books. He spent what he called two grueling years writing the book for little financial return. In addition, Yount admitted, "I hate writing. It's the hardest thing that I ever do. It's always on your mind. I loved research – hated writing."

Yount also wrote a second book, *Blue Suede Shoes*, a novel set in 1956 in western North Carolina when rock and roll had just penetrated the nation's airways and the souls of teenagers nationwide. The second book is waiting for a publisher.

Yount is a native of Granite Falls, a small town in Caldwell County north of Hickory. After he graduated from Granite Falls High School in 1966, he joined the Air Force, working as an intelligence analyst for four years. He was sent to Vietnam for a year and spent his time on base in Da Nang.

After the Air Force, Yount attended Appalachian State University, graduating in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and a minor in English. He loved the outdoors, and while he was at ASU he spent a lot of time traveling the Blue Ridge Parkway, getting to know it "like the back of my hand."

Yount worked for a time as a timber-cruiser in North Carolina's foothills with a private forester. In his spare time, he became an actor in the historic outdoor play, *From this Day Forward*. He was a freedom fighter in the first half of the play, and a hillbilly drunk in the second half.

After his forestry job, Yount worked with economically disadvantaged youths. He spent two years in Lenoir with the Division of Social Services. Then, he decided to go to the University of Texas in Austin where he received a Masters of Art degree in film and screenwriting. His book, *Wandering Star*, originally started as a film script. When he finished writing the book, he took a job as a film archivist at the University of Texas, and in 1988, he became a historical archivist for at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library.

By this time Yount was married with a young son. The family wanted to come back to North Carolina to be closer to his parents and nine brothers and sisters. Yount and his wife arrived in Raleigh on Christmas day 1990. He worked temporary jobs for several years before going to work at the Walter Davis Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1993.

When Hurricane Floyd flooded North Carolina in 1999, Yount signed on as a technical writer for the Division of Emergency Management. For one month he was working 12-hour days seven days a week, writing reports about the recovery effort and tracking the public assistance, individual assistance and hazard mitigation claims. The reports were sent to the governor's office and the counties. Yount also collected data, distilling it so that newspapers could understand the information. He spent five years with EM as a technical writer.

In December, 2005, Yount began working for the grants management section of Homeland Security. Federal grants are awarded to local governments, primarily first responders, and Yount's job is to write up the agreement to determine how the money is spent and what kind of reporting is to be done on approved projects. His section also works with reimbursement grants.

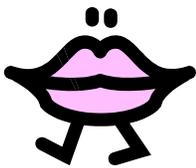
After work hours every spring and fall, he teaches a course at Duke University's Continuing Education program on *Beginning Your Novel*.

Yount said that, "Writers have to be self-absorbed, compulsive and you spend all your time in your own head. Good writers are never satisfied. It can always be better. I love the aha moments in research and writing. You work and work, and then it just clicks. The writing itself is just a grind."

Yount loves to play tennis and reads fiction, non-fiction, magazines and newspapers – anything with print on it. His 22-year-old son, Jim, is studying computer technology at Wake Technical Community College. "He doesn't write," Yount said, "and I'm not trying to talk him into it."

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A new monthly feature: Employee bulletin board chuckles:



Spotted on Human Resources Chariss Jones bulletin board:

There is one God.
Stop trying to apply for His position.

The *All-Points Bulletin* is your newsletter! If you have information you would like included, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 919-733-5027 or send e-mail to pmcquillan@nccrimecontrol.org before the 15th of each month.