

July 2021

Brenham Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association

The Informant



Left: **Det. Ashley Burns** was named **Police Officer of the Year** by Buddy Wright Post No. 48 of the American Legion. She is pictured with the other award recipients of this year's First Responder Awards. More on page 3.

Gary Wayne Buchanan

October 13, 1953 - July 4, 2021

Gary Wayne Buchanan led the Brenham Police Department as its Chief from 1995 until his retirement from law enforcement in 2005. A very well written and interesting obituary can be found on page 4.



Left: **Ofc. Jason Kasprowicz** has his new Corporal badge pinned on him by his commanding officer **Lt. Kelvin Raven**. **Cpl. Kasprowicz** received his promotion in Council Chambers at the July 1st City Council Meeting with family and friends on hand for the milestone. More on Page 3.



Left: At the July 1st City Council Meeting, **Lt. Kelvin Raven** is recognized for his 25 Years of Service to the Brenham Police Department. **Mayor Milton Tate** presented Lt. Raven with his 25 Year Service Award in a crowded council chamber filled with colleagues and friends. More on Page 3.



July P. D. Birthdays

- Jimmy Ka 7-8
- Steven Eilert 7/18
- Jonathan Phipps 7/20
- Armando Guerra 7/22
- Michael Alston 7/26
- Curtiss Schoen 7/28
- Crystal Buckner 7/28

Citizens on Patrol

Thanks to the following COPs for their help on:

6-12-21 Summer Sip and Art Walk: Tex Davis, Richard Jares, Juanita Gockel, Frank Nowak.

6-18-21 First Friday Farmer's Market & Artisan Event: Tex Davis, Richard Jares, Frank Nowak.

6-24-21 Drive-Thru Parade at Silver Sage: Frank Nowak, Tex Davis.

6-28-21 Safety Day at the Aquatic Center: Tex Davis.

7-1-21 Floats and Flicks at the Aquatic Center: Tex Davis, Chris Brown, Frank Nowak.

7-2-21 First Friday Farmer's Market & Artisan Event: Tex Davis, Richard Jares, Frank Nowak.

June COP Hours

Rob Aguilar	23
Dorothy Antkowiak	12
Patricia Badough	18.5
Sue Braun	8.5
Chris Brown	5.5
Bob Cothorn	11.5
Michael Cowan	14
Tex Davis	154
Doug Feist	28
Stan Ford	10
Juanita Gockel	7.5
Dale Green	12
Jerry Jares	8.25
Richard Jares	21.25
Mary Claire Moloney	2
Frank Nowak	138
Sherry Parker	2
Kay Reichwein	4.5
Kathleen Siemsgluz	2
Mark Smith	2
Tony Smith	12
Clarence Steinfeld	2
Annette Tiemann	19
Julie Wilson	2

TOTAL 519.5

Below: Lt. Rob Aguilar presents COP Frank Nowak with his Radio Call Number as Sgt. Steven Eilert gives his seal of approval. Frank has been racking up the COP hours in record time. He is now known as 4108.



Below: New COP Juanita Gockel has completed the Ride-a-Long phase of her COP Training and was presented with a COP Cap by Lt. Rob Aguilar with Sgt. Steven Eilert looking on. She says she is enjoying the program and her CPAAA/COP friends.





Awards and Presentations



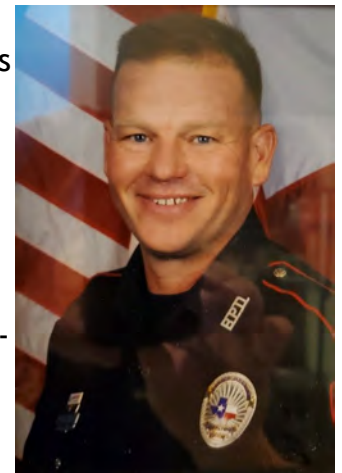
Every year the Buddy Wright Post #48 of the American Legion hosts its Responder of the Year Awards for our local heroes here in Brenham and Washington County. They annually recognize a Police Officer, Firefighter, EMT and Sheriffs Deputy. This year, Det. Ashley Burns was honored by being named their Police Officer of the Year. Firefighter of the Year honors went to Asst. Chief Ronald Bentke. Paramedic Jennica Slater was the EMT of the Year, and Corey Himebaugh was the Sheriff's Department recipient. All of these awards were well deserved and I would like to formally congratulate this years winners.

Congratulations Guys!!



Left: Rep. Ben Leman's Office wanted to recognize Det. Ashley Burns for her accomplishments and being named Police Officer of the Year, so Ms. Leigh Linden dropped by with a Special Resolution from the Texas House of Representatives. Police Chief Ron Parker also recognized Ashley with a Chief's Commendation.

Right: Jason Kasproicz was promoted to Corporal. It should be noted that Jason recorded (and tied) the highest score on Brenham's Corporal Exam. WOW that's great, Jason!



Left: Det. Kejan Mehlhorn is presented with his 5 Year Service Award by Chief Ron Parker.



Left: It bears repeating, Lt. Kelvin Raven has given 25 Years of Service to the Brenham Police Department and the citizens of our area. He has done so with unwavering dedication and a pleasant and professional attitude.

Chief Gary Wayne Buchanan

Gary Wayne Buchanan rode off into his final sunset on July 4, 2021. The lifelong horseman, former police officer and police chief, police rodeo champion, rancher, locksmith, husband, father, son, friend, mentor, and protector lost the last of several fights with cancer. He was a fighter, never gave up, and didn't know the word quit until it wasn't his choice.

A memorial service will be held for Gary at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, July 10, 2021 at Memorial Oaks Chapel officiated by Harvey Abke.

If you were fortunate enough to know him, it was clear Gary packed several lifetimes into his 67 years. He was born October 13, 1953 in Shreveport, Louisiana, to former soldier-turned-preacher Robert Buchanan and his wife Sammie. The family left the south with their other son, Grady, and daughter Claudia (Crislip) to build churches in Alaska and then settled in Austin, Texas by the mid-1970s. Gary learned commercial building skills by working with his father but always wanted to follow his dream of becoming a police officer.

He graduated from Austin's Lanier High School in 1972 and attended Southwest Texas State University on a rodeo scholarship. He went on to graduate from the Austin Police Academy in December, 1976 and carved a name for himself during his 17 years on the force. He started Austin's mounted patrol unit and worked mounted patrol, motorcycle unit, and special assignments. In his free time, Gary pursued his rodeo passion and participated in all events for the police rodeos, winning countless bruises, broken bones, and belt buckles for his efforts – All Around Cowboy in 1982 at the Houston Police Rodeo and All Around Cowboy in 1983 with the Texas Police Officers Rodeo Association (TPORA).

Gary considered himself a Horseman, not a cowboy, because he knew horses. He said he knew nothing about cows.

He left Austin to become the Chief of Police in Ft. Stockton, Texas, where he led the force from 1993 to 1995. He moved on to become Chief of Police in Brenham, Texas, in 1995 and led until his retirement in 2005.

Gifted with a lifelong sense of curiosity, Gary pursued his Bachelor of Science degree from Sul Ross State University and graduated in 1993. A year later he added a Master of Arts degree. Then he became a Certified Public Manager in 1998.

Gary loved helping people in countless ways. With his police service behind him, Gary started Buchanan Locksmith Services as a professional locksmith and gained a reputation as the guy to call, especially in a bind. He continued his education and became certified in all areas of locksmithing.

The Horseman fit the profile and persona of what the rest of us know as a cowboy. He loved spending time on horseback, whether for pleasure or competing, never walked away from a good Western book or movie. He could be found at Cowboy Poetry gatherings and Chuckwagon cookouts, working leather or wood, or admiring the craftsmanship of others.

Known for being real and caring. While he had a big reputation, he had an even bigger heart. He would listen without judging and stay present with whomever he talked with. He was led by his faith and convicted to make the world a better place than he found it. In this he overachieved.

Gary reluctantly left behind a loving wife Stephanie (Monroe) Buchanan, sons Ty Buchanan and Robert Buchanan, mother Sammie Alvern (Smith) Buchanan, brother Grady Buchanan, sister Claudia Crislip, and numerous others in a loving larger family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Buchanan, Father-in-law, Mark A Monroe, and Mother-in-law, Barbara Monroe.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made in Gary's memory to Hospice Brazos Valley, the City of Brenham Police Department, or a charity of your choice

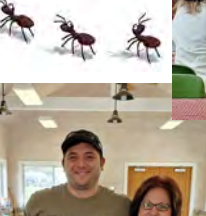
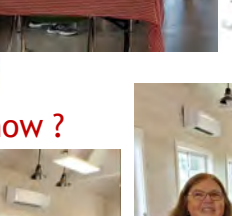


Thanks to everyone that made this year's BPD/CPAAA Picnic a success. Especially those that set-up, cleaned-up and brought food and drink items. It may have been pouring down rain outside, but we were enjoying ourselves indoors at this great facility.





See anyone you know ?

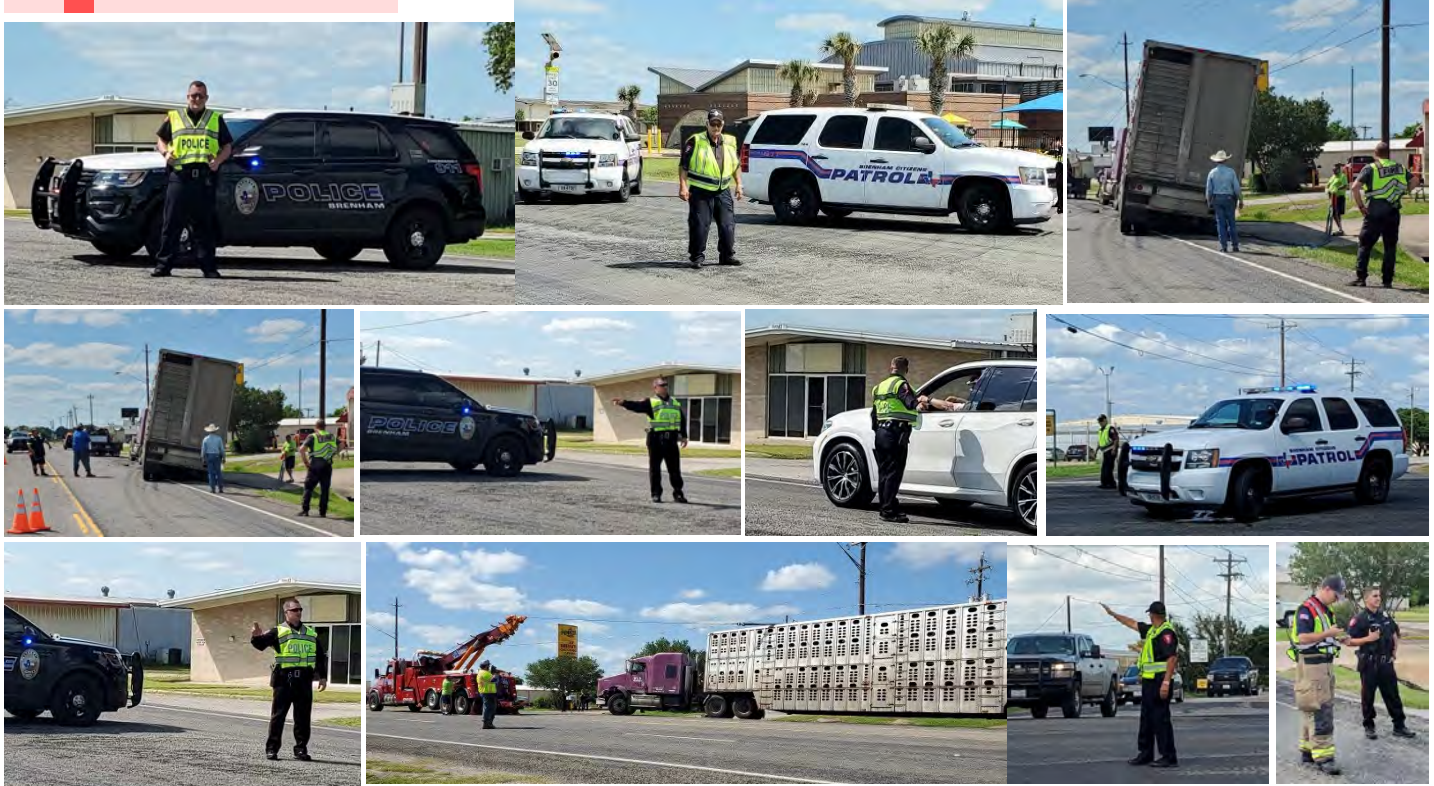


An Aunt perhaps!!





This incident involved a cattle hauler that was teetering on the brink of disaster. If you look closely at the photos you can see that the trailer portion is in a ditch; and when the cattle moved around in the trailer it swayed almost to the point of toppling over. This happened on Blue Bell Road across from the Middle School, thus traffic control was a must. We had 2 COP's Tex Davis and Frank Nowak on the northside of the accident and Ofc. Connor Caskey and Cpl. Zack Greig on the south end. We thought the trailer might topple at any time, but the cows cooperated and the wrecker did its job well. Cpl. Jose Perez and Ofc. Armando Guerra were handling the actual scene, but later got help from Dep. Constable William Shepard. Everyone did their jobs well and we had a good outcome. A BIG THANK YOU to Frank and Tex for their traffic control in the sweltering heat. BFD members on scene were: Ronald Bentke, Ryan Swor, Michael Draehn, Chase Jones, Garrett Casada, John Hardt, Steven Draehn, Marshall Mohr, and Rob Aguilar. More photos on page 8.



On 6-14-21 Beto O'Rourke came to speak at Fireman's Park. The supporters and protesters alike were safe thanks to our officers on the scene. Capt. Lloyd Powell, Lt. Kelvin Raven, Lt. Curtiss Schoen, Ofc. Marley Mayo were there in their uniforms, I understand that we had a couple of plain clothes too.



Above photos: Sgt. Terrence Johnson, Cpl. Andrea Guerra and Trooper Kraus assisted BFD on E. Tom Green and Allyn Streets. BFD members: JC Knipstein, Jeff Paul, Stacie Obberender, Lt. Justin Schroeder, Kyle Bentke, John Divine and Lange Flisowski want to thank the officers for traffic control on this busy street. We always work together quite well, which is an added bonus.



Police cadet Angelica Puente is completing her hiring process for police officer. She will start the police academy at TEEX Relis campus in Bryan on July 29 and is scheduled to graduate from the academy on December 10, after which she will be assigned to field training in the patrol division. Cadet Puente attended Sam Houston State University where she majored in Criminal Justice, and also has work experience as a Corrections Officer with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. We look forward to her joining our department and our community. Please join me in welcoming her to the Brenham Police Department!

Sergeant Joseph Merkley passed his required licensing examination with the Federal Aviation Administration in June. The licensing is required to serve as an operator for a drone, which is being added to the assets of the Brenham Police Department. Sergeant Merkley and Detective Melhorn are being designated as drone operators/pilots. The drones will be a valuable addition to our resources which can be utilized for search and rescue missions, planning for search/arrest warrants, large scale events, reconnaissance for major weather events such as damage assessment, etc.



Left 3 photos: COPs at a First Friday Farmers Market and Artisan Event. Frank Nowak chats with a vendor. Tex Davis gives directions to a visitor. Dorothy Antkowiak checks in with Tex to see how the event was going. By all accounts the event went very well; looking forward to the next!!



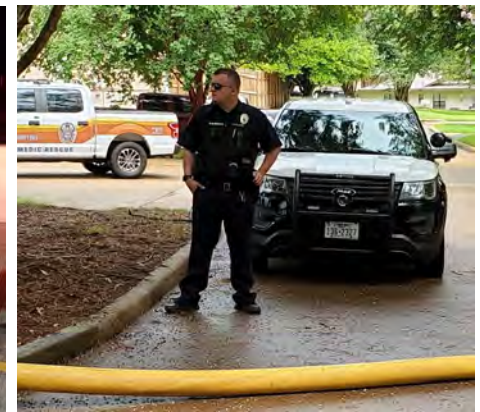
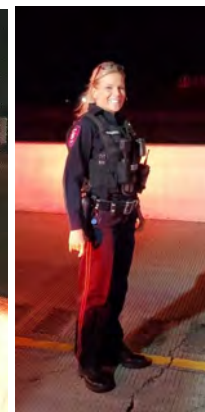
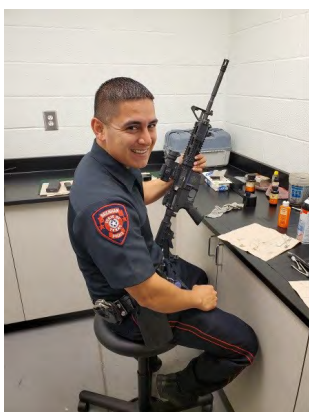
The Washington County Leadership Class of 2021 dedicated a Bench and Plaque to the Volunteer Firefighters of Washington County in a ceremony held at the Brenham Fire Museum on July 7th. John Durrenberger stated that July 7th will henceforth be deemed Volunteer Firefighter Day in Washington County, as per a Proclamation from Commissioner's Court. Our own, Sgt. Seth Klehm is a member of that graduating class and is in the middle of the photo above. Congratulations to Seth and the other graduates; and Thank You for your wonderful gift to firefighters. A reception followed, across the street at 30 North where I ran into Chief Ron Parker, his wife Debbie and Sgt. Seth Klehm; as seen in the other photos.



Below: Ofc. Armando Guerra takes time out after his shift to make sure that his weapons are clean and working properly. Good Job!!

2 photos below: Ofc. Tina Bruno and Cpl. Edward Ortega took time out to pose for these shots. They were waiting for a wrecker at an accident scene they were working on Hwy 290 East. I usually can't get Eddie to look anywhere near my camera when he's working.

Below: Ofc. Connor Caskey is vigilant in not letting motorist run over a 5" fire hose stretched across the roadway at a structure fire on Stone St. Firefighters do appreciate it when Officers make the scene.



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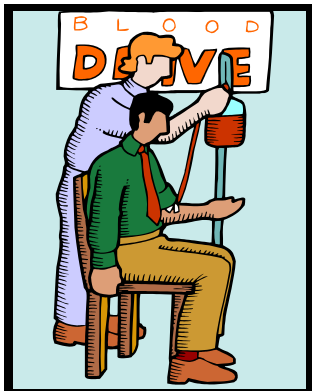
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The next Guns and Hoses Blood Drive 2-Day Event will be held on Friday August 20th and Saturday August 21st. The Fireman's Training and Event Center will be the location of both drives; and both drives will be from 9 am to 3 pm. We will need volunteers to man the front desk at the Training and Event Center and possibly help with the food preparation and distribution. If you can help, please call Rob at 451-2612. And as always, we need volunteers to *Donate Blood.* See you all there!