

# Capitola gets new police chief

For the third time in its 36 year history, Capitola has a new police chief.

Donald E. Braunton, 42, now the police chief of the San Joaquin Valley city of Patterson, was named to the job Tuesday morning by City Manager Steve Burrell.

Braunton will take over as police chief Sept. 23 from Bob Allen, who is retiring at the end of this month.

Burrell said there will be a one-week overlap period for Braunton and Allen.

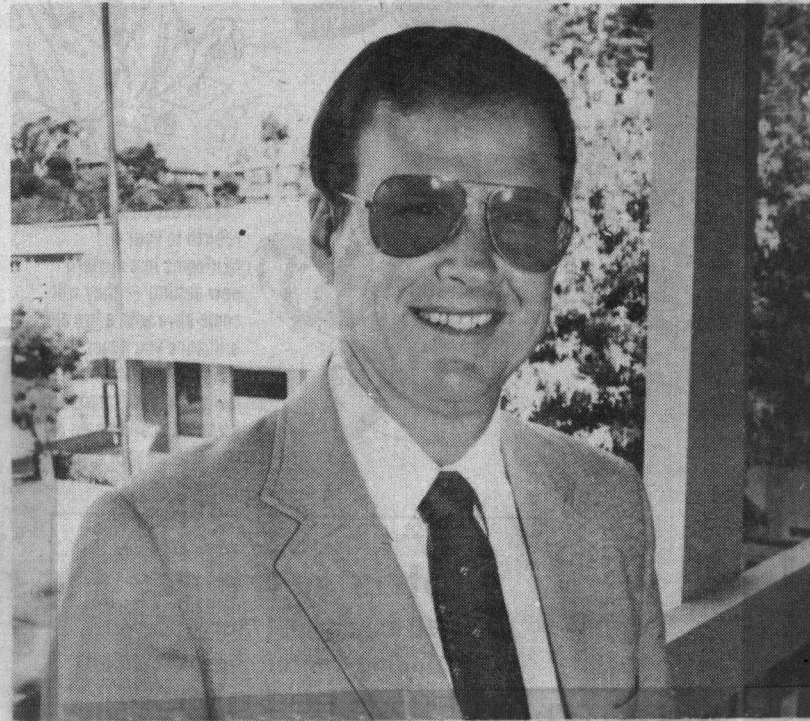
Starting salary for Braunton will be \$44,256.

Braunton was chosen by Burrell from a field of 108 applicants, which was narrowed to 10 finalists.

An assessment team recommended Braunton and one other candidate to Burrell as the top finalists. Braunton was the assessment team's first choice, Burrell said.

The new chief has a degree from the University of Redlands in police science and management. He's been police chief in Patterson, a small but rapidly growing city on Highway 33 east of Interstate 5, and south of Stockton, since 1981.

Braunton is married and has four children. He's worked for police departments in the city of Orange and Pasadena in Southern California and for the Lakewood, Colo., department, Burrell said.



Donald E. Braunton

Sam Vestal