



# NEWSLETTER

July 31, 2010

**Our Fall Farm Festival will be Saturday, September 18, 2010**  
and we invite you to participate in our annual event.



Pioneer Senior Citizens **Pancake Breakfast** 7:00 am – 10:00 am

The **BW School Running Club** 5K (3 miles)  
8:00 to 9:00 am  
Entry fee includes free T-shirt and breakfast!



**Parade - 11:00 am**

Farm equipment, floats, cars, music and more!



**Mariachis**

**Deep-Pit BBQ lunch**

Served from Noon to 3:00 pm  
Tickets \$8 each  
Call Chamber to order your tickets  
now!

**Car & Bike show**  
11:30 am



**Games, crafts, merchandise and information service booths**

Open at 11:00 - Our festivities will conclude at 5:00 pm.

This is *our* opportunity to thank the community for their support and provides a setting for *you, your* business or special group to highlight *yourselves* and *your* products. For vendor, parade or car show entry applications, please contact our office at 661-764-5406 or [buttonwillowchamber@bak.rr.com](mailto:buttonwillowchamber@bak.rr.com). We hope to see you there.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

*The Buttonwillow Park recently underwent a major renovation. There are newly planted trees, shrubs and grass, new baseball & soccer fields and an All-Purpose building. All of this comes with new rules, regulations and restrictions. We have changed the setup area for our attractions. NO VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED ON THE GRASS.*

Congratulations to **Cyrus Parsons**. He was selected as pitcher for the Central Valley Elite baseball team. The 14U (age 14 & under) team is made up of Kern County players and qualified to participate in the United States Travel Ball World Series held in San Diego this week. Cyrus is the son of John Parsons and grandson of Alene Parsons.



**Tyler Torigiani**, grandson of Michael & Sandy Torigiani, is currently playing with the Bakersfield Northwest All-Star 8U (age 8 & under) team. This team won the Buchanan Invitational in Clovis in June, then won the Clyde Sodo Invitational in Visalia, the Cal Ripkin District qualifier in San Luis Obispo, the Central California State Tournament in 5 Cities near Pismo Beach which then qualified them for the regional tournament to be held in Scottsdale, AZ this last week of July.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



The **Kern County Waste Management Department** will be holding a public meeting regarding closure of the **Buttonwillow Disposal Transfer Station** and to discuss options available for refuse service on Wednesday, August 4, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Buttonwillow Recreation Center located on 133 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street. *For information regarding this meeting, contact Aurora Rush at 661-862-8980- or 800-552-KERN, option 6, during normal business hours.*

The **Old Farts Car Club** will host the Bill Brannon Memorial Car Show on Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. For more information contact Cindy Brannon at 764-5498.

School bells will ring for classes to begin at **Buttonwillow School** on August 18. The Grand Opening of the new Buttonwillow School Media Resource Center was held June 14. The beautifully decorated center houses a computer lab, library and meeting rooms. Construction of this project and new asphalt was made possible by voter approved Bond Measure I.



The **American Legion Post 674** in Buttonwillow has patriotically lined our local streets with American flags for many years on all national holidays. If you would like to assist these veterans, please contact Art Ghilarducci. (Pictures by Chamblee Photography – L to R, Joe Alvidrez, Gilbert Flores, Jesse Alvidrez and Art Ghilarducci)



Greetings from **Buttonwillow Recreation and Park District...** We are wrapping up our summer programs. This year our Summer Day Camp Program enrolled over 70 children ages 4-12, concluding with a trip to the *Islands Water Park* in Fresno. The pool was a big splash for all of our swimmers with additional Night Swims along with Movie Swim Nights.

We hope you enjoyed the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual fire work show. *PYRO SPECTACULARS* did a “Bang” up job!

The Board of Directors and staff are very excited to see the progress of the new Multi Purpose Facility. Although construction will be completed by the Fall Farm Festival date, we will have limited use of the north side of the park with newly planted grass. The festival staging area will be moved to the new parking lot by BBQ seating area, with games & attractions utilizing the entrance driveway and south side grass area. There will be a preview showing of the facilities the day of the festival. The official “Open House” will be announced at a later time. Information will be available soon.

The recreation department looks forward to serving the community. If you have a program idea or you want to volunteer, just give us a call at 764-5205.

*“Parks Make Life Better”*

*Marie Parsons*, General Manager

## A bit of Buttonwillow History ...



In 1917, the USDA began to investigate growing long staple Pima Cotton... important in making wing fabric for WWI aircraft. This research jump-started the cotton industry in California, eventually standardizing on the Upland Acala 442 variety. In an area that became known for quality cotton and inspiring the marquee, “*Heart of Cotton Country*”, a diverse mix of hand pickers, including migrant Dust Bowlers soon descended on Buttonwillow.

In 1934, the Bakersfield Exchange Club sponsored a Cotton Picking Contest with Luis Castaneda of Buttonwillow winning the cash prize. This event was first held in Buttonwillow and had 30 contestants. The following year, directors of the Kern County Farm Bureau sponsored a similar event. They selected a 40-acre field located one mile north of Shafter High School. The field was estimated to have a high yield (a bale and half per acre) allowing the pickers an opportunity to set a new daily record.

The nine hour contest began at 7:00 am. All pickers would be paid the regular picking rate of \$.90 per 100 lbs. regardless of any prize money won. Pickers must “pick the rows clean” which meant clean cotton with no green bolls



Photo of Tom Ramos 1946

and no clods. Each picker could bring a helper to carry the sacks to the end of the field for weighing and dumping into the trailer, but the helper could not assist in any way with the picking.

By noon, Luis Castaneda had picked 368 lbs. with another bag waiting to be weighed. His brother Trinidad was close behind with 352 lbs. Bets were being taken as to which brother would win by the estimated 1000 spectators, all cheering for their “favorite son”. Sixty contestants finished the full nine hours. The first prize award of \$125 went to Luis Castaneda picking 792 lbs. Winning fourth and fifth were Pete Soza and Mike Martinez, both of Buttonwillow. The average picked for the nine hours of work among contestants who finished was 647.17 lbs.

Luis Castaneda of Buttonwillow held on as State champion by winning the 1936 contest with 688 lbs and the 1937 contest with 764 lbs. Even so, his brother Trinidad continued to keep the pressure on, coming in only 22 lbs behind in 1936.

Welcome to Buttonwillow... “*Heart of Cotton Country*”.

**The Buttonwillow Chamber & Buttonwillow Lions Club** recently awarded \$12,500 in scholarships to area high school graduates. This year’s recipients are Alexander Luis Alvidrez, Jose Leon Sanchez, Evan Joseph Hernandez, Lamberto Ramon Samaniego, Jacob Julian Milam, Fernando Tejada, Cosme Villa, Jr., Vanessa Moreno, Marcos Magdaleno Martinez and Francisco Ramon Zendejas. The **Buttonwillow Raceway** awarded Cosme Villa, Jr. and Uriel Ramirez each with \$1000 scholarships for pursuing studies in Industrial Auto/Diesel Technology. Pursuing a career in Nuclear Engineering, **Hydrogen Energy** awarded Jacob Julian Milam with \$2500. The **Pioneer Senior Citizens of Buttonwillow** awarded Cosme Villa, Jr. and Vanessa Moreno with \$250 each.



Submitted by *J.B. Selvidge*

References: Shafter Historical Society  
with outside research by Stan Wilson

The **Chamber** presented Certificates for Scholastic Achievement to Buttonwillow School eighth grade graduates Guadalupe Lopez and Jose Vieyra.

Congratulations to **ALL** graduates, scholarship recipients, **AND** the community for their continued support of our scholarship programs.

## **2010-2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President – Cindy Banducci**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Andrew Houchin**  
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**Michael Torigiani**

**2010 Honorary Mayor – Travis Morrison**  
**Secretary/Office Manager - Gloria Selvidge**

**104 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street /P.O. Box 251, Buttonwillow CA 93206**  
**661-764-5406 [buttonwillowchamber@bak.rr.com](mailto:buttonwillowchamber@bak.rr.com)**

If you have any questions or comments concerning this Newsletter or if you would like to include information in our next Newsletter, please contact our office.



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