

Marcia Rae speaks to Brownsville Chamber

The Calapooia Food Alliance has received a \$44,000 Department of Agriculture grant to expand services in the Brownsville area. Marcia Rae discussed the grant with the Chamber members during the meeting of October 13 at the Brownsville Community Center. She discussed the concept of growing more of the food we eat locally, rather than shipping the food here. She believes more people are interested in raising their own food and eating local produce, which the Farmer's Market promotes. Marcia is also pursuing another US Department of Agriculture grant to improve the kitchen at the Community Center so it can be used for food preparation locally. The two grants will be complimentary. "We need to educate the public to care about where their food comes from," says Marcia. "We want to shorten the distance between producer and consumer."

Chuck Cook of the Junction City/Harrisburg Lions Club spoke to the group about the effort to organize a Central Linn Lion's Club and discussed the ways the Chamber and the Lions can assist one another. The next Lions Club organizational meeting is next Monday, October 19 at the CL Elementary School in Halsey.

Rick Dominguez, the leader of the local American Legion post, discussed the organizational activities and the gathering of 35 members to the new Chapter here. Their next meeting is Tuesday evening, November 10.

Linda McCormick presented information on the 25th celebration for Stand By Me, the movie that featured in Brownsville site. She is promoting a big event for next summer, on July 24th. "We need more involvement from the community," she said. The organization meeting is this Friday evening at the Community Center at 7 pm.

Mandy Cole chaired the meeting in the absence of President Sharon McCoy and Vice President Dave Furtwangler. Scott McDowell announced, for the nominating committee, that the slate of officers being offered to the Chamber next meeting will be Mandy Cole for President, Dave Furtwangler for Vice President and Nell Hanft for Secretary/Treasurer. If elected they will begin serving on January 1, 2010.

Mandy then discussed the planning for the Storytelling event that is being held on the last weekend in February. The Chamber is responsible for the event. She also announced that later this month, on Friday, October 30, a storytelling event featuring Joyce Greiner, will be held at the Corner Café from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. The event will feature family-friendly ghost stories, which will go well with dinner.

The next Brownsville Chamber of Commerce meeting will be held at the Brownsville Community Center at City Hall on Tuesday, November 10 at 7:30 am.