



By Jan Schultz
The Imperial Republican

The Southwest Nebraska Entrepreneurs is branching out.

Last Saturday, the group of home-based businesses hosted its first "Summer Splash" on the lawn of the Chase County Courthouse in Imperial.

According to member Kathy Johnston of Lamar, they decided to host the summer event to add to the other three sales events held in the spring, fall and pre-Christmas season.

On Saturday, 27 vendors were set up on the courthouse lawn, which included 10 to 12 vendors from outside the group's membership.

Johnston said they decided to open up the summer event to non-members since they had the entire courthouse grounds. They advertised locally and on Facebook.



Other vendors participated from Kansas, Benkelman, McCook, North Platte and Lincoln, selling crafts, household items, floral designs, clothing, jewelry, bags and more.

The Southwest Nebraska Entrepreneurs was organized three and a half years ago by a group of women who had home-based businesses. By organizing, they are able to do joint sales events in addition to their own individual sales efforts.

It currently has about 25 members from Imperial, Champion, Lamar, Wauneta and Holyoke, Colo.

Saturday's "Summer Splash" filled in where the summer Celebration on the Square, and the earlier Art in the Park, had been held. Those events have since disbanded.

Johnston noted they also hold a spring festival in March at the Imperial city gym. They coordinate a fall event on the Saturday of the pumpkin patch weekend in Champion and set up then at the Champion Community Center. In December, it's held the same Thursday as the Chamber's Christmas Festival in Imperial.

Anyone with a home-based business is invited to be part of the Southwest Nebraska Entrepreneurs, Johnston said. She can be contacted at 882-4452 for information.