Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Expo nearly doubles in size

Written by By Beth Blakeman Associate Editor
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The Ninth Annual Business Expo put on by the Gallup McKinley County Chamber of Commerce was a four-hour event that attracted between 500 and 600 people Aug. 24.

Bill Lee, the CEO of the the Gallup-McKinley County Chamber of Commerce, says more than 25 businesses participated this year and the turnout increased from the traditional numbers of 300 to 350 people. Asked what he attributes the larger headcount to, Lee says, “It takes time to finally get goin.’ People are beginning to recognize that there’s something happening with the Chamber in August that’s a good event.”

He also underscores the entertainment, including the Gallup Martial Arts Academy and high school dance teams. And then there’s the food.

Lee says the business expo is tied to the mission of the chamber, in that it seeks to promote businesses in the Gallup-McKinley County community through advocacy and opportunities that have a positive impact on the cash register. It gives the area a chance to exhibit what’s available locally, from car dealers to eye care providers, all in one place.

“You don’t have to necessarily go out of town to get what you need.” he says.

What’s on tap for next year? Well, Lee says that planning hasn’t begun yet. But there is a twinkle in his voice that says he’s got a dream. He wants to combine the expo with the farmer’s market and get people coming from the walkway to Courthouse Square.

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