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# The Exponent Telegram

## **Lewis Co. officials strive to diversify local economy**

Hardwood, oil and gas industries seen as potential engines for future growth

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by **Roger Adkins, Staff Writer** | **0 comments**

WESTON — Lewis County is looking to the hardwoods and oil and gas industries for future economic growth, officials said this week.

Mike Herron, economic development director, has been working on enticing businesses from these sectors into Lewis County. He recently took a trip to Texas to network with businesses and meet with potential investors.

“The trip went well. A lot of it is exploratory. It’s initial contacting. It was very productive for the time spent,” Herron said.

The West Virginia University College of Business and Economics recently published the West Virginia Economic Outlook 2014. The report was authored by John Deskins and colleagues. In the report, Deskins and his colleagues wrote that the hardwoods industry is expected to see more than 3 percent growth annually between 2013 and 2018. That’s the most of any manufacturing sector.