



THE LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

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Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

Judge Executive George Sparks, right, and County Attorney Benjamin Harrison unveil "The Handshake," a framed print by Oregon artist Steve Ludeman, prior to last week's Lewis Fiscal Court meeting. Harrison was instrumental in obtaining the artwork, which depicts the historic meeting of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark at the beginning of the Corps of Discovery Expedition. The print, dedicated to Lewis County by Ludeman and the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance, will be permanently displayed on the third floor of the Lewis County Courthouse.

Nuclear Ready certification effort underway

By Dennis K. Brown

Lewis County Fiscal Court unanimously approved a resolution last week beginning the county's participation in Kentucky's Nuclear Energy Ready Community certification process, launching what officials emphasized will be a public education effort rather than approval of any nuclear facility.

The resolution was approved on a motion by Judge Executive George Sparks and a second by Magistrate Mark Horsley.

Before the vote, Magistrate Woody Underwood questioned whether the resolution should be tabled to allow additional discussion. No motion to table was made, and the court later approved the resolution unanimously.

Kevin Cornette, executive director of the Buffalo Trace Area Development District, told magistrates Lewis County is the first of the district's five counties to begin the certification process. He stressed repeatedly that Monday's action does not authorize a nuclear power plant or any specific project, but instead begins a public education and community engagement process designed to help residents make informed

decisions about future economic development opportunities.

"Our goal is simple," Cornette said. "We want to ensure that Lewis County's citizens, elected officials, businesses, educators, and community organizations have access to factual information so they can make informed decisions about the future of their community. This initiative is about education, transparency, and engagement."

Cornette said state officials are expected to visit Lewis County during the first part of August to conduct the first required public educational meeting. He said he wanted Fiscal Court to act now so there would be adequate time to advertise and promote the meeting.

The Nuclear Energy Ready Community program, administered through the Kentucky Nuclear Energy Development Authority, encourages communities to evaluate future opportunities involving advanced nuclear energy, manufacturing, workforce development and supply chain industries. Participation is voluntary.

Communities seeking certification must conduct public educational meet-

ings covering advanced nuclear technology, safety standards, economic impacts, workforce opportunities and the nuclear supply chain. Documentation of those meetings, along with public notices and attendance records, must be submitted before certification can be considered. Any future nuclear project would also remain subject to federal oversight by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, including environmental reviews, licensing requirements and additional public input.

Cornette said residents should not view the vote as approval of a future reactor project.

"This effort is not about recruiting or approving a specific project. Rather, it is about ensuring our community is informed and engaged before projects are ever proposed. Too often, communities find themselves reacting to opportunities after they have already developed. We believe the best approach is to educate our citizens early, answer questions openly, and invite everyone to participate throughout the entire planning process. An informed community is an empowered community."

The resolution adopted

by Fiscal Court states Lewis County wishes to position itself for potential long-term economic opportunities, including workforce training, skilled trades employment, manufacturing, supply chain participation, infrastructure invest-

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Adkins to launch campaign for governor

By Dennis K. Brown

Former State Rep. Rocky Adkins, who represented Lewis, Rowan and Elliott counties during his more than three decades in the Kentucky House of Representatives, is expected to officially launch his campaign for governor Tuesday in Lexington.

Adkins announced on social media that he will unveil "his vision for our future and what's next" during an event from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday at The Burl in Lexington.

"I've never stopped fighting for Kentucky or the people who call it home," Adkins said in announcing the event. "I hope you'll join me and be part of my vision for building a better Kentucky."

The Lexington announcement will be fol-

Free spay/neuter clinic is next month at Tollesboro

By Dennis K. Brown

The Kentucky Humane Society's CARE-a-Van will come to Lewis County next month, offering free spay and neuter surgeries for cats and dogs to residents of Lewis and Fleming counties.

The mobile clinic will be set up at the Floral Hall at the Tollesboro Lions Club, 97 Lions Club Road, with cat surgeries scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 11, and dog surgeries on Wednesday, Aug. 12. The CARE-a-Van team will arrive Monday, Aug. 10, to prepare the site before the two-day clinic begins.

Appointments are required and are expected to fill quickly.

Residents may schedule appointments online by visiting the Kentucky Humane Society CARE-a-Van webpage and selecting Floral Hall at the Tollesboro Lions Club as the clinic location. If the Tollesboro location does not appear during the booking process, all appointments for that category have been filled.

Although the booking page displays the standard



surgery price, Lewis and Fleming County residents pay only a refundable deposit of \$25 per cat and \$35 per dog. The deposit is refunded when the owner brings the pet to its scheduled appointment.

Each pet must have its own appointment and refundable deposit.

Dogs must weigh 50 pounds or less to qualify for the clinic.

Appointments cannot be made by telephone and deposits must be paid with a credit or debit card.

Kentucky Humane Society officials said surgery appointments, particularly for female animals, often fill within a few days of registration opening. Cancellations occasionally create new openings, but no waiting list is maintained.

Residents who do not receive an immediate confirmation email should allow up to one business day while appointments are reviewed by Kentucky Humane Society.

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Rocky Adkins

lowed by a second event Wednesday in Louisville, according to published reports.

Adkins, a Democrat from Sandy Hook, served in the Kentucky House of Representatives from 1987 until 2019, representing the 99th House District, which included Lewis, Rowan and Elliott counties. During his legislative career, he served as House Majority Leader

and later as Minority Floor Leader.

Following Gov. Andy Beshear's election in 2019, Adkins joined the administration as senior advisor, a position he held until July 10. Gov. Beshear announced earlier this month that Adkins had concluded his service with the administration after helping guide Kentucky through the COVID-19 pandemic, multiple natural disasters and a period of historic economic development.

"Rocky has been an invaluable part of Team Kentucky and our success, and I am grateful to him for his leadership and his friendship," Beshear said in announcing the personnel change. "Every day, Rocky shows up ready to serve the people of our commonwealth, Please see page 8

Brown earns CKEM designation

Herald Report

Emergency Management Director Dennis Brown has earned the designation of Certified Kentucky Emergency Manager (CKEM), one of the Commonwealth's highest professional credentials in emergency management.

The certification is awarded by the Kentucky Emergency Management Association following a comprehensive review of an applicant's education, training, emergency management experience, professional contributions, exercise participation and documented service, to the profession.

Applicants also must meet extensive training



and experience requirements and demonstrate a commitment to all phases of emergency management.

Brown received official notification of the certification in a letter from KEMA President Greg Buckler, informing him that the association's Certification Committee had approved his application after reviewing his credential packet.

Judge Executive George Sparks said the certification reflects years of dedication to emergency management and

public service.

"I had the privilege of working alongside Dennis for nearly five years while I served as Lewis County Emergency Management Director and he served as Deputy Director," Sparks said. "During that time, I saw firsthand his dedication to emergency management, his willingness to learn, and his commitment to serving the people of Lewis County."

Sparks said Brown has continued to build on that foundation since becoming director through advanced training, emergency deployments, planning, public education, and partnerships with Please see page 8



Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD

Judge Executive George Sparks, right, presents a Lewis County Certificate of Appreciation to Alex Halsey, BSW, CCHW, during a recent meeting of the local Salvation Army chapter. Halsey was recognized for his dedicated service to Lewis County through his work in community health, harm reduction, tobacco cessation, diabetes management, the Bridge Program, and the Salvation Army.

\$1.00

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