

Around Town

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By Billy Ray McKelvy

De Queen Mayor

After months of work, the west end of the Hwy. 70 expansion project has been completed.

While the preparation took months, the final paving and painting of lanes was accomplished in just a few days. The new highway surface was opened to traffic about two weeks ago.

Drivers enjoying the new road surface are reminded of a couple of rules of the highway. The new road is smoother and may tempt drivers to go faster than before. Please watch your speed in order to avoid getting a ticket.

The speed limit on Hwy. 70 through De Queen is 35 miles per hour. The speed limit increases to 45 miles per hour at 13th Street at De Queen Medical Center. It does not increase to 55 miles per hour until you reach Industrial Park Road west of town.

Even though the new road is wider, drivers are still required to stop for school buses. If a school bus stops in the outside line, drivers in both lanes on the other side of the lane are required to stop. As always, drivers are prohibited from passing a stopped school bus.

The pace of work will be increasing on the east end of the project. Drivers can expect delays on the east end of the project near Wilson Creek as the road is relocated and raised with fill material. If possible, you might want to plan trips to that area and go in the evening hours when construction crews are not working.