

Love's holds concrete pouring ceremony

By: Royce Armstrong

Construction is underway and proceeding rapidly at the Love's Travel Stop and Country store being built at the intersection of Hwy 98 and Hwy 198. A concrete pouring ceremony was held on Tuesday, March 7, with a number county and corporate dignitaries present.

Fuel tanks have been installed and canopies erected. Pouring the concrete base for the new store is the next construction step.

The \$9 million facility is scheduled to open this summer and will employ 35 to 40 local people, according to Michael Love, a district manager for the nationwide firm. In addition to catering to auto and truck traffic on Hwy 98, the facility will include an Arby's restaurant, grocery items, and a convenience store.

Plans to build the new facility were announced in June 2022.

At that time George County Community Development Director Ken Flanagan presented the Board with a letter from Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores stating the company's intention to build the travel stop featuring separate auto and truck entrances, RV parking stands and hookups, truck and auto fueling, a large convenience store, a franchise restaurant, a dog walking area, showers, and a laundry.

Flanagan said the highway traffic on Hwy 98 is about 10,000 vehicles per day and one of the deciding factors for Love's to locate in George County is the anticipated truck traffic serving the new Enviva wood pellet mill.