



# Round 'n' round construction goes



New roundabouts take some getting used to for students and construction continues into the new school year

By **Jessica Schreifels**  
editor-in-chief | *The Signpost*

Classes started with a crash on Tuesday morning when a vehicle entering campus on the east roundabout failed to yield the right of way to a southbound-traveling vehicle. WSU Police Sergeant James Wagner said it was a very minor accident, and no injuries were reported.

This was the first accident of the school year on the new roundabouts, located on 3850 S. and 3950 S.

The roundabouts have been confusing to some students,

but Cassi Githens, a visual communications freshman, said she made it through the roundabouts for the first time on Monday without any problems.

"It was pretty OK," she said. "The people in front of us couldn't figure it out though."

Derek Tolman, a freshman who just returned from a mission he served with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, said he didn't think the roundabouts were hard to use.

"I don't think too many people were confused," he said. "It's pretty obvious."

Allan Neira, also a freshman, was on campus over the summer

taking classes while the roundabouts were being worked on.

"It was terrible," he said. Now, he's enjoying the completed road.

"I like the new roundabouts," he said. "There's new space on the street to park."

Along with the new roundabout, a new "W" parking lot was supposed to be built where Edvalson Street, the north entrance to campus, once was.

"We're trying to open that lot with the road (Dixon Drive) on the first day of school," Bruce Daley, with facilities management, said in July about the proposed parking lot.

The road that will become a parking lot is now sitting unfinished, and there's no plan to get it converted into a lot anytime soon.

"It (the parking lot) wasn't

in the budget," said Jim Harris, campus development manager. "We needed to get the road (Dixon Drive) open. It would have impacted the completion date."

The proposed parking lot will be a 60-stall "W" lot, but Harris suspected it won't be worked on until next summer.

"It's probably a three-month project," he said. "It would take a bunch of reworking. We haven't designed it yet either. We wanted to see how the rest of the project worked out."

But the rest of construction is right on schedule.

"The Bell Tower is probably a month ahead of schedule right now," Harris said. "But it still won't be finished until the first of November."

The construction projects rerouted some students on their way to their classes, but Neira

and Githens said they had no problem getting around the construction going on around them.

Tolman said he had a more difficult time with the construction zones.

"The construction is really bad," he said. "It's rough and confusing."

Harris said he thought the first day of school went smoothly for students trying to get to their classes and around the campus.

"I walked with students, and I only found a couple people who didn't know quite where they were headed," he said. "But I don't think that had anything to do with the construction."

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Two cars with expired parking passes sit at the A9 lot on Monday afternoon.

## Pay to park here

Many cars were parked in incorrect parking lots on the first day of classes.

If students have a W pass, they may park in any parking lot labeled with a W.

If students have an A pass, they must park in their respective A lot or in any lot labeled with a W.

If students do not have a parking pass, they may not park on campus, except for in the pay lot.

# Homeless share life experiences at WSU

Panel discusses being homeless with WSU students as part of Circle of Service

By **Heidi LeBaron**  
news editor | *The Signpost*

Derek had it all. He was a straight-A honor student from a private school and an all-state athlete. He received a full-ride scholarship to the University of Utah and a hefty savings account. But in six months it was all gone.

A spiral of stress that started with 21 credit hours of class and five hours of running, led to drugs and dropping out. He said he went from cigarettes to Loratab to OxyContin to methamphetamines. The six-foot running star was reduced to a 125-pound drug dealer and eventually Derek, whose last name won't be printed to protect his privacy, had no money, no scholarship and no home.

"I lived six years of a complete nightmare on the streets," Derek said. He described how he alienated

his parents and lived on the streets. When he decided he wanted to change he wasn't sure how because of the high cost of rehab centers. He eventually turned to the free rehab program offered at the Ogden Rescue Mission, at first because they offered him free cigarettes. That was back in February of 2007. One year later he said he had rebuilt his life. He said he has family and a productive life because of the regiment the center was able to rebuild. Derek was one of three people helped by the center who spoke at Weber State University as part of a homeless panel during welcome week on campus.

Ariana Escalante is the WSU Volunteer Program director, and has been working with the center for several years.

"I think the homeless panel is poignant and really powerful," Escalante said, "because their direct focus is university students. They

want to prevent others from making decisions that will land them on the streets in five years."

She said they have a good message to share with students.

"We heard about it down in the union," said WSU freshman Audree Thomason, "and we were curious about what they had to say. I thought it was great. I've been through a lot in my own life, I like to hear about people who have gone through stuff like that and came out on the other side."

Tim Casey, the director of operations at the Ogden Rescue Mission, was also a graduate of the program. He manages the center and the programs it runs, which are kept afloat mostly on volunteer support.

The center is in need of twin-size bed sheets and men's pajama bottoms, so WSU students decided to hold a drive for the mission, in combination with the panel, as part of a "circle of service" day.

"It's a simple thing, but it means a lot," said Brandon Flores, vice president of Campus and

Community Development. "It's a great opportunity. We wanted students to get involved in service but we also wanted to give students a service in return, hence the 'circle of service day.'"

In addition to the opportunity to listen to the panel, students were offered a free manicure service provided by Stacy's Beauty College. Beauty technicians donated their time to support the university efforts.

"Community service is all around us," Flores said. "There's a lot you can do locally."

Flores said the value of community service extends through, and that WSU will recognize 300 hours of community service on student transcripts

"Everyone knows about the inside-the-classroom education," Flores said, "but this is the education outside the classroom, the chance to make a difference."

Those interested in helping the center can take donations to the



PHOTO BY BRICE KELSCH | THE SIGNPOST

Stacy's manicurists serve WSU students as part of the Circle of Service on Tuesday.

See **Service** page 6

## WELCOME WEEK EVENTS

### Wednesday

#### Fun Food Fundraiser by the Social Science

Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. a fundraiser will be serving snow cones and cotton candy by the Social Sciences Building.

#### Blood Drive in Gallery

Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., cats can donate blood in the Gallery in the Union Building.

### Thursday

#### Serving the students

Free hair cuts and manicure will be offered by the Social Sciences Building from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Friday

#### Purple PANDAmonium

This year's Block Party theme is Purple Pandamonium, featuring booths working into that theme. Booths include departments, clubs, and organizations from around campus and outside vendors like Costa Vida.

Events kick off at 8:30 a.m. with a free pancake breakfast served up by WSU's own administration. Booths officially open at 10 a.m. and will close at 2 p.m. A pep rally will take place during the Block Party at noon in the center of campus.

#### Concert in Browning

Ryan Shupe and the Rubberbands will be performing in the Browning Center starting at 7 p.m. The group is sponsored by LDSSA.

#### House Party in Union

The new Shepherd Union Building is celebrating its opening this week with the Open House House Party. The party will include a number of freebies and activities. The event will start after the Browning Center concert at 9 p.m. and will end at 1 a.m.

Activities include: DJ Dancing, mechanical bull, free bowling and billiards, caricature artists, karaoke, sushi bar, tea lounge and massage parlor, Wii tournament, Rock Band tournament, and an inflatable playland.