

Blackjack, Oktoc drivers learning their way around

A type of intersection new to the area is speeding up traffic flow through the busy junction of Blackjack and Oktoc roads near the Mississippi State campus.

Officials said conditions along the southern edge of the central university campus are expected to improve more as drivers become accustomed to the recently installed “roundabout” or traffic circle.

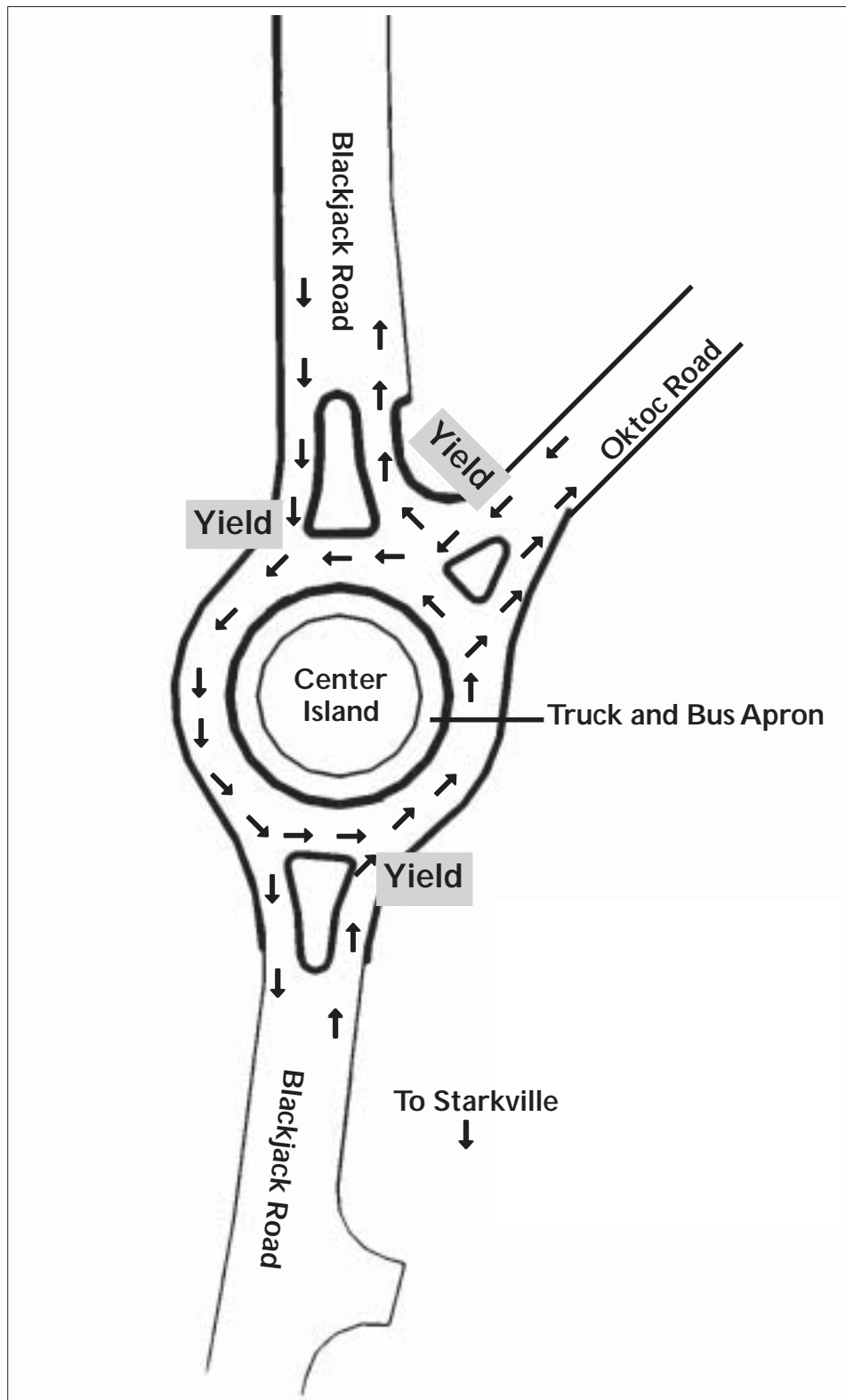
The circle is designed to slow down—but not necessarily stop—traffic entering the intersection, said Bob Johnston, interim director of the MSU physical plant department.

Traffic studies have shown that when roundabouts replace stop signs or signals, backups are reduced and accidents decline. Unlike traffic signals, roundabouts require no mechanical maintenance or electricity.

Popular for years in Europe, roundabouts are increasingly common across the United States. The basic rule of negotiating such an intersection is to yield on the way in, drive counterclockwise, then turn right to get out. If a turn is missed, the driver simply circles around and tries again.

Johnston said the roundabout opened last month in conjunction with the widening of Blackjack Road. Although some roundabouts are fed by several roads radiating like spokes from the central circle, the Blackjack-Oktoc connection has only three entrance or exit points.

Blackjack Road joins the circle from both the east and from the west, while Oktoc Road veers off to the southeast. Magruder Street, which formerly entered Blackjack from the north at the same intersection, now is closed.



Two at RRTC are honored

A researcher and staff member from the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision are being

honored by an international organization.

B.J. LeJeune received the Alfred Allen Award for outstanding contributions to direct service delivery for

persons who are blind or visually impaired; Paula R. Warren was presented the Joyce Arend Honor for her accomplishments and educational goals in the field of rehabilitation counseling.

Both were recognized in Toronto at the International Conference of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

LeJeune is a senior training associate at RRTC, where she has worked for the past 11 years. She also directs the Internet communications of the center in information and referral, distance education and Web design. She holds rehabilitation teacher certification and is a certified rehabilitation counselor. LeJeune also serves as founder and executive director of CARE Ministries Inc., an international agency serving persons with vision-related rehabilitation needs.

Warren, the first recipient of the Joyce Arend Honor, is a research assistant at RRTC and an Anne Sullivan Macy Fellow. In addition, she is a full time doctoral student in the Department of Counselor Education and Educational Psychology. The Shreveport, La., native holds degrees from both Louisiana State University and Louisiana Tech University.



LeJeune

MSU to host 'Celebrations' floral conference

An Oct. 5-6 floral workshop at Mississippi State will provide a variety of design and home decorating ideas for the coming holidays.

Sept. 25 is the deadline to sign up for the 2002 Celebrations Conference, which features presentations by Jim DelPrince and Lynette McDougald. Both are faculty members in the university's retail floristry program.

The \$200 registration fee includes supplies and flowers, as well as a Saturday evening dinner and Sunday continental breakfast. Participants are asked to furnish their own knife, scissors, pruning shears, and notebook.

Sessions beginning at 9 a.m. on the 5th will focus on the care and handling of materials, as well as holiday specials and designs. A 9 a.m.-noon workshop the following day will highlight holiday weddings.

For more information, telephone 325-1965.

Faculty meeting scheduled Sept. 16

The fall meeting of the general faculty is scheduled for Sept. 16 at 3:30 p.m. in McComas Hall theater.

The agenda will include a report on various topics of general interest to the university community, followed by a time for questions and discussion.

Also, the Post-Tenure Review Policy recommended by the Holland Faculty Senate in April 2000 will be presented for review and discussion and a vote by the general faculty. The proposed policy is available for review at www.msstate.edu/org/FS/draftpolicy.html.

According to the Faculty Charter, a quorum consists of 250 faculty members who are present and eligible to vote. In the absence of a quorum, business requiring a vote may be conducted by a mail ballot.

Theater program releases schedule

The works of Eudora Welty, a groundbreaking 17th century French writer and several Mississippi State students are among the sources of six theatrical productions planned by the university's Department of Communication during the new school year.

The 2002-03 season playbill includes:

—"June Recital," Sept. 26-28. An adaptation of extracts from, among others, Welty's "Losing Battles" and "Why I Live at the P.O.," Brenda Currin's one-woman show also features the direction of David Kaplan and music of Phillip Fortenberry.

—"The Imaginary Invalid," Oct. 17-19. Moliere's classic farce follows a hypochondriac's attempt to avoid high medical bills by matching his daughter with a doctor. The pen name of Jean-Baptiste Poquelin (1622-73), Moliere is considered the father of modern French comedy.

—The annual children's play, Nov. 21 and 22. The title will be announced later.

—"A Raisin in the Sun," Feb. 20-22. Winner of the 1959 Drama Critic's Circle Award for Best Play, playwright Lorraine Hansberry's portrayal of the generational struggle within an African-American family has been called "a milestone in the American theater."

—"It's Only a Play," April 10-12. The send-up by dramatist Terrence McNally takes dead aim at show business and its often bizarre practitioners.

—Student Showcase 2003, April 24-26. The concluding presentation is a festival of student-directed one-act plays, many also student written.

Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. for the September, October, February, and early April productions. The children's play in November and the student showcase in late April begin at 7.

Performances take place in either the 477-seat McComas Hall theater or the department's laboratory theater, which comfortably accommodates 80.

For information about individual/season ticket prices or additional details on the performances, contact the department at 325-9810 or theatremsu@comm.msstate.edu.

Exercise may aid students' academic efforts

While it's widely recognized that regular exercise promotes better fitness and health, a recent campus survey shows it also may be an indicator of academic success.

Beginning with the first class to use the Joe Frank Sanderson Center when it opened in 1998, Mississippi State's Department of Recreational Sports conducted a random sampling of 900 first-time freshmen to determine if use of the Sanderson Center affects grade-point average.

Survey data was compiled and processed by the Office of Institutional Research, with samples divided among three groups of 300 students each. The groups included non-users of any Sanderson Center recreational activity; less-frequent users with 15-74 visits; and frequent users with 75 or more visits.

According to Laura Walling, director of recreational sports, the survey found that those in the middle category (15-74 visits) fared best with an overall GPA of 2.85 at the end of the 1998 fall semester. Frequent users earned an overall GPA of 2.83 and non-Sanderson users scored the lowest with a 2.54 GPA.

"We also tracked graduation rates for the three categories," Walling said. "The middle category of periodic users again led the way with 26 percent of the 1998 freshman class earning bachelor's degrees in May 2002. This compares favorably to the frequent users' graduation rate of 22 percent and the non-users with 19 percent."

The study also found that among:

—Non-users, 70.7 percent returned for fall 1999 semester, ending semester with 2.74 GPA; 61.3 percent returned for 2000, ending semester with 2.86 GPA; 56 percent returned for 2001, ending with 2.88 GPA. Non-users had an overall high school GPA of 3.21 and a composite ACT score of 23.62.

—Less-frequent users, 85 percent returned for fall 1999 semester, ending semester with 2.96 GPA; 78 percent returned in 2000, ending with 3.02 GPA; 72.7 percent returned for 2001, ending

semester with 3.01 GPA. Less-frequent users had an overall high school GPA of 3.32 and an ACT composite of 23.59.

—Frequent users, 87 percent returned for fall 1999 semester, ending semester with 2.93 GPA; 74.7 percent returned for fall 2000, ending semester with 3.02 GPA; 71.7 percent returned for 2001, ending with 3.05 GPA. Frequent users had an overall high school GPA of 3.27 and an ACT composite score of 23.41.

"While the results between the frequent and occasional users were close, they

Roundabout—continued from page 1

The new roundabout is designed to accommodate traffic traveling at about 10 miles per hour. A reinforced apron around the center island is designed to accommodate large trucks, buses, or other vehicles that must make wide turns.

For decades, vehicles entering the intersection from Oktoc Road or traveling west toward Starkville on Blackjack Road encountered stop signs, while eastbound traffic on Blackjack continued through the intersection without stopping. Now, all traffic approaching the roundabout from any direction yields to traffic already in the circle, but can otherwise proceed without stopping.

For drivers who have no or limited experience in traversing the new intersection, Johnston offered the following tips:

—A vehicle already in the roundabout has the right-of-way over approaching vehicles.

—Vehicles approaching from any direction must yield to traffic already in the roundabout.

—When safe to enter the roundabout, vehicles should turn right and travel counter-clockwise to the appropriate exit street.

—If no other vehicles are in the circle or if spacing between vehicles permits safe entry, drivers may enter the roundabout without stopping.

—Even if the desired exit street is to the left, drivers always must turn right when entering a roundabout, then follow the roadway around the center island until the desired exit point is reached.

—Under absolutely no circumstances should a driver attempt a left turn into a roundabout.

show greater retention and graduation from the more moderate users of Sanderson," Walling said. "We believe part of that is due to the periodic release of stress through exercise.

"Though grades seemed to suffer a bit when students spent a great deal of time at Sanderson, scores were worse for those who never came through the center's door," she added.

Expressing pleasure with the survey results, Walling said her office plans to continue tracking other freshman classes in order to develop a more extensive comparison between academic success and extracurricular recreational activities.

Continuing ed seeks to broaden professional development chances

Recognizing that education does not end at graduation, the Division of Continuing Education will offer more professional development courses to MSU alumni and others through partnerships with departments.

"It is our prime goal to partner with departments who are the resource of subject area experts and who understand the needs of their graduates for further education, certification or licensure," said Dr. Amy Vickery, program coordinator for professional development.

In addition, the division maintains a Continuing Education Unit Registry Service that provides formal recognition for the efforts of individual participants.

For more information on providing professional development courses through the Division of Continuing Education, telephone Vickery at 662-325-0705 or e-mail her at avickery@ce.msstate.edu.

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Calendar of Events

Send your calendar items to

Kay Fike Jones, 102 George Hall; Mail Stop 9512; FAX 325-7455; e-mail jonesk@ur.msstate.edu at least **TWO WEEKS** in advance. For updates, check www.msstate.edu and click on "News" for msu.NOW!

Ongoing Events, Activities

Exhibition: "Clive Pates: Recent Paintings," through Oct. 3, Department of Art Gallery, McComas Hall basement. 325-2970.

September

16

Bits and Bytes Workshop: "HTML—Cracking the Code," Instructional Media Center, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1:30-4:30 p.m. library.msstate.edu/workshops.

General faculty meeting, McComas Hall theater, 3:30 p.m.

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Internal Audit Training: "Internal Controls, Self Assessment and Use of University Property," presented by Don Zant, director of internal audit, Mitchell Memorial Library auditorium, 2-4 p.m. Registration requested. 325-3713.

ITS workshop: "Banner: Invoice Processing," 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; "Intro to Adobe Acrobat 5.0," 1:30-5 p.m. McArthur Hall computer lab. 325-0631.

Seminar: "The Role of Patents and Licensing in Technology Development," Dr. Larry W. Stults, Tully Auditorium, Thompson Hall, 1:30 p.m. 325-9263 or dmurrah@research.msstate.edu.

Faculty and Professional Women's Association social, 526 Chestnut Drive, Longmeadow Subdivision, 5:30-7 p.m. 325-1029.

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ITS workshop: "Banner: Invoice Processing," 8:30 a.m.-noon; "Intro to Microsoft PowerPoint 2000," 8:30 a.m.-noon. McArthur Hall computer lab. 325-0631.

19

MSU vs. Auburn, football, Davis Wade Stadium at Scott Field, 6:45 p.m. (ESPN)

21

Fall Plant Sale, Crosby Arboretum, Picayune. Members, 9-10 a.m.; non-members, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 601-799-2311.

24

ITS workshop: "WebCT Specialty Area: Communication Tools," McArthur Hall computer lab, 1:30-5 p.m. 325-0631.

Workshop: "Databasics: Finding the Full Text," Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2 p.m. Jill Grogg, 325-8162.

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ITS workshop: "Microsoft PowerPoint 2000 II," McArthur Hall computer lab, 8:30 a.m.-noon. 325-0631.

Workshop: "Databasics: Good Citations," Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 4 p.m. Jill Grogg, 325-8162.

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Music Education Faculty Recital Series: Dr. Michael Brown, trumpet, Bettersworth Auditorium of Giles Hall, 7:30 p.m. \$5. 325-3070.

ITS workshop: "Banner: Electronic Approvals," McArthur Hall computer lab, 10 a.m.-noon. 325-0631.

Bits and Bytes Workshop: "Flash—It's All About Making Something Move," Instructional Media Center, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1:30-4:30 p.m. library.msstate.edu/workshops.

MSU vs. Jacksonville State, soccer, MSU Soccer Field, 4 p.m.

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MSU vs. Samford, soccer, MSU Soccer Field, 1 p.m.

October

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Workshop: "Databasics: I Found the Law," Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 2:30 p.m. Jill Grogg, 325-8162.

3

Bits and Bytes Workshop: "Dreamweaver—Now the Fun Begins," Instructional Media Center, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1:30-4:30 p.m. library.msstate.edu/workshops.

4

MSU vs. Arkansas, soccer, MSU Soccer Field, 3 p.m.

5 and 6

Workshop: "Celebrations" conference, Student Media Center, \$200, 8 a.m. 325-1965. (see story page 2)

6

MSU vs. LSU, soccer, MSU Soccer Field, 3 p.m.

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Workshop: "Databasics: Finding the Full Text," Giles Room, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1 p.m. Jill Grogg, 325-8162.

10

Bits and Bytes Workshop: "QuarkXpress—Starting with the Basics," Instructional Media Center, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1:30-4:30 p.m. library.msstate.edu/workshops.

Seminar: "How to Grow It," Crosby Arboretum, Picayune, 9 a.m. 601-799-2311.

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Homecoming.

MSU vs. Troy State, football, Davis Wade Stadium at Scott Field, 1:30 p.m.

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Bits and Bytes Workshop: "PhotoShop—A Picture Perfect Beginning," Instructional Media Center, Mitchell Memorial Library, 1:30-4:30 p.m. library.msstate.edu/workshops.

18 and 19

MAFES' Truck Crops Branch in Crystal Springs hosts 24th annual Fall Flower and Garden Fest, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. each day. Dedication ceremony for branch's first Liberty Garden, 11:30 a.m., Oct. 18. 601-892-3731.



Employment Opportunities

Lists of currently posted MSU positions (executive, administrative, faculty, and staff) are available on the Human Resources Management Web site www.hrm.msstate.edu/employment/postings.html, or by visiting HRM Employment Services at 150 McArthur Hall. Information on open support staff positions may also be obtained by calling Dial-A-Job at 325-4132.