



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Eugene Brown details a car at South End Car Store on South Boulevard.

Road work a headache on South Boulevard

By Cheri F. Hodges
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If driving down South Boulevard through the water main construction is enough to make you want to curse, imagine trying to run a business.

That's just what Lamonte Brown, owner of South End Car Store, is faced with.

"This is really inconveniencing my customers," he said. "It's a struggle for them to get over here and get their car serviced."

South End Car Store is a detailing and repair shop. But Brown said that because of dust from the roadwork, not too many people are bringing their cars in to have them washed.

"I look out of my window and I see a lot of frustrated people," he said. And those frustrated drivers aren't becoming new customers either.

"Car washes have dropped tremendously," he said.

This time last year, Brown said he noticed that there was more drive-through traffic to his shop. This year, there has

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PHOTO/MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM

Vendors showed off their products at the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem.

Winston-Salem merchants benefit from arts festival

SPECIAL TO THE POST

WINSTON-SALEM — Downtown merchants have hired more employees and plan to stay open later this week for the National Black Theatre Festival, which ran through Saturday.

The festival "is like Christmas in July. This is a huge opportunity," said Dana Suggs, owner of Body and Soul, a boutique and art gallery on Trade Street.

When the 2003 festival was held, Suggs' shop had been opened just one month and she wasn't prepared for the extra customers. This year, she hired two extra employees and operated a second cash register to handle the crowds for the biennial theater festival, which.

Like many other business owners, she also kept later hours.

Theater-festival officials estimate that this year's event could pour as much as \$15 million into the local economy. That's up from \$11 million that festival-goers

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PHOTO/WADE NASH

Women and men can stay cool and dress professionally by wearing lighter fabrics and keeping the neck area free of heavy jewelry.

Dressing for business cool

What's appropriate for summer?

By Sherry Maysonave
SPECIAL TO THE POST

The sizzling temperatures currently spreading across the nation are testing individual career grit and company dress policy boundaries. Summer dog days naturally create the desire to kick back a bit, but clothing that keeps bodies cool usually isn't appropriate attire for the office.

Hot-weather fashions always show more flesh than their businesslike opposites, and that can be distracting. Think of it this way: can you imagine Donald Trump wearing a sleeveless muscle shirt with cargo shorts and flip flops to seal a deal? Or what if Condoleeza Rice wore a tank top with Capri pants to meet with foreign dignitaries? Highly successful people don't let weather conditions interfere with their business image or what they're trying to accomplish.

People make assumptions and draw conclusions based upon visuals, and negative perceptions affect your opportunities and success potential. Therefore, slacking off on your business image in the summer

months places you at risk of being underestimated all year round.

Is it even possible to look highly professional and stay cool at the same time? Soaring temperatures create challenges, but you can raise your professionalism and lower your body temperature with these beat-the-heat tips:

- Select cool fabrics, like tropical weight wool. Surprisingly, tropical weight wool is the coolest and most professional-looking fabric for warm-weather business suits or separates; it breathes, is exceptionally light weight, and is wrinkle resistant.

- Other cool fabrics are cotton, silk, linen, and rayon. However, tropical wool pants or skirts will look dressier while keeping you cooler than heavy cotton varieties, like khakis.

- Avoid polyester, in all garments and linings; it does not breathe so it traps in and escalates body heat.

- Keep your neck cool. Human necks are temperature sensitive and affect the entire body. Place a cold water bottle or soda can on

the back of your neck and hold for a few minutes and your overall body temperature will instantly drop.

For men, dress shirts a mere one-half size larger in the neck than their normal size creates some breathing room and air flow. For ultimate cooling, choose dress shirts made of 100 percent cotton.

Women can opt for open collars or scooped neck tops, those that are not low cut. Avoid wearing heavy necklaces or scarves and wear your hair in a tailored up-do style if it is long.

- Keep your wrists cool. Wrists embody a pulse area. Cold objects placed on the wrist pulse lower your body temperature. Simply pushing up your sleeves also has a cooling effect.

Men can roll up sleeves on long-sleeve shirts to mid-arm length (below the elbow) and appear more powerful than when wearing a short-sleeve dress shirt. If your company has a business casual policy, wear long-sleeves rolled up or dressy knit shirts that come to the elbow paired with dress

See HOT7C

Drive to recruit new video gamers

By Greg Bluestein
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — In the popular video game "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas," players assume the lead character of Carl Johnson, a down-on-his-luck criminal who roams city streets, stealing cars and helping gang members knock off rivals in drive-by shootings.

"CJ," as he's known by his pals, is black - and to some in the video game industry, that's a problem.

A growing number of people in the booming industry believe there should be more black and Hispanic heroes and heroines instead of hoods and hoodlums.

"Not everybody goes outside with bling-bling and listens to rap music all day," says Amil Tomlin, a black 15-year-old from Baltimore who plays hours of video games each day.

Among those trying to paint a different racial picture is Mario Armstrong, who hosts a weekly National Public Radio program on technology. He and two fellow black colleagues have started the Urban Video Game Academy, a virtual programming boot camp for minorities.

"It's been said that a bunch of nerdy white guys are creating these games," Armstrong said. "The problem with a bunch of white guys creating the games is that the story isn't being created with balance."

Roughly 80 percent of video game programmers are white, according to preliminary results of an International Game Developers Association survey of some 6,000 in the industry.

About four percent of designers are Hispanic, and less than three percent are black.

The institute, formed at the Electronic Entertainment Expo in May,

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Bankruptcy law changes America's finances

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On October 17, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act will go into effect. This new law will have a great impact on consumers, as it will make it much harder for debtors to wipe out credit card debt.

Arlene Gordon Oliver is a partner at Rattet, Pasternak and Gordon Oliver LLP, a law firm in New York State specializing in bankruptcy. She is also chairperson for the Bankruptcy Law Section of The National Bar Association.

Q: How will this new law impact people who are in financial trouble and may need to file bankruptcy or Chapter 7?

A: Anyone who seeks to file (for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy), will be forced to undergo a "means test". The "means test" requires inter alia, that their gross income will be measured against the state's median. If their gross income is higher than their state's median income, they will not be able to file Chapter 7, but will be forced to file a Chapter 13 or Wage Earners Bankruptcy. This means that they will have to repay their existing debt using a portion of their income over 5 years. In addition, this new law will require that before filing, debtors will be required to take credit counseling classes. This will prolong the filing process which could cause debtors to lose their

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