compiled by EMILY EYRING

Our shades of Black

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DRESS-UP

Sitting pretty — or handsome — isn't just for the holiday season, and nothing says snazzy like a tuxedo.

Although we seem to be dressing more to the sixes or sevens these days, Jason Winn at Mr. Mac in Orem warns against waving off the nines.

"There are always going to be standard events where a tuxedo is an appropriate and fashionable option."

Take a trip to the experts to avoid the most common suit slip-up — forgetting proper form.

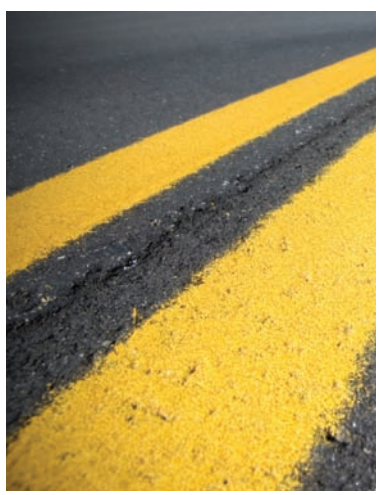
"Sucking in the gut and dusting off the old jacket doesn't make you look your best," Jason says.

CRASH COURSE

In grade school, the blacktop was for tetherball and foursquare. But adults are more inclined to use it for burning rubber.

Utah Valley is crammed with cars, particularly at the intersection of University Parkway and State Street in Orem. According to the experts at UDOT, this is the busiest crossroad in the county. But while it's a happening place for hot wheels, this area of asphalt isn't the most accident-prone. That title goes to University Avenue between Center Street and 1100 North in Provo.

On average, this zone sees three crashes a week. Be extra cautious of trailing too close to another car's trunk — 67 percent of its accidents are the result of rear-ending.



HAPPY FEET

It's not a party without salsa, strobe lights — and shoes.

In the summer of 2006, Cari Greer realized that while everything from Tupperware to jeans could be sold out of homes at hosted parties, no one was offering fashionable footwear. So Cari stepped it up and created Sole Desires, a Lindon-based "shoe store on wheels."

Of 100 Sole Desires styles, 37 come in shades of black. And because this hue is always hot — and indispensable in color coordinating — Cari recommends every woman make a move to the dark side with six different sole supporters: a pump, causal flat, dressy flat, boot, sandal and comfort shoe.

DARK DAY

What's the wisest time to whip out checkbooks? Many savvy valley shoppers think it rolls around before the sun on the same day every year.

November 24th — better known as Black Friday — drew countless drowsy customers to Macy's doors in Orem for early-bird specials. While the door busting didn't begin until 6 a.m., more than 100 mall-goers arrived at 5 a.m. to be the first to get their frozen fingers on hot buys.

Falling on the Friday after Thanksgiving, this chaotic consumer event credits its name to a serious source. Traditionally, it's the day company balance sheets move from being unprofitable, or "in the red," to money-making and "in the black."

NAME GAME

A flip through the white pages produces plenty of "Black." Judging by the entries in the Dex Official Directory, more than 130 Utah County citizens share the surname.