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## Casual but neat styles highlight natural-fibered spring fashions

*Knits and pastels soften look*

By Sarah Kitchen  
Of the Emerald

The 'casual look,' which includes clothing made from natural fibers such as raw silks and cotton, is back as a popular spring fashion look.

The colors that will be seen around Eugene this spring include pastel denims, black and white khaki, bright reds and blues, and teal green, say owners and managers of local clothing stores.

"The whole look is casual, both in dresses as well as in sports wear," said Rita Litin, owner of The Attic Dresser, in Eugene.

"The focus this spring is on soft dressings, lots of knits and pastel denims," she added.

This year people are going to wear better looking and better made clothes and won't look as 'sloppy' as in the past; however, this season's clothes tend to be less rigid than some items seen around last year, Litin said.

One item that will carry over from the past few years is shoulder pads.

"We are still looking at shoulder pads in dresses, shirts and jackets, although they will be softened from last year's styles," she said.

As for patterns — stripes and solids are popular this year, Litin said.

Tim Price, who works at Steven J agrees, saying that the paisley pattern is not going to be a prevalent item this spring.

"Paisley has come and gone in a matter of two months," Price said.

Men as well as women are favoring pastel this year; however the men's pastels are a bit brighter than the women's. Pastel neck ties are a popular item at the store, Price said.

Raw silk and linen blazers are the new mens' items this spring, Price said. Such blazers are especially popular in colors such as teal green, cobalt blue and pale yellow, Price said.



Photo by Jim Marks

**Jan Gardner, an employee at The Attic Dresser, models a chic summer outfit.**

Plaid sports coats and suits are also popular this spring, especially when worn with 'braces' (suspenders), he added.

Something that is especially new is the use of bright dress and casual socks as an accessory item.

Other accessory items for men include crocodile belts and saddle shoes, which are making a big comeback, Price said.

Mens' trousers this spring tend to be pleated, baggy and patterned, especially with what Price called "window pane patterns." Cotton is the material used for these trousers.

Bright stripes are expected to be as popular this spring for men as they are for women.

Betsy Wolfston, the manager at Benetton, Valley River Center, said pastel knit sweaters and shirts in black and white khaki are popular at the store this spring.

"Clothes are a lot calmer from last year, and there are a lot more solid colors being used."

While natural colors are making a comeback as opposed to the bright yellows, and oranges seen last spring, bright colors are still popular.

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