

best of eugene 2009-2010

You voted; we counted (more ballots than ever!). Congratulations to 2009's best people, places, stores, restaurants and more!



PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

best local TV news personality

1. **Brent Prasnikar & Helmsley** (KMTR)
2. **Tim Chuey** timchueyweather4u.com
3. **Marc Mullins** (KMTR)

A meteorologist who loves dogs, reports the weather and can kick ass? Brent Prasnikar and his bulldog Helmsley are the duo that bring you the weather in style, with Helmsley sporting appropriate fashion choices for upcoming outdoor conditions. Prasnikar is also a practitioner of Jeet Kune Do and Jiu Jitsu and has participated in more extreme sports than can be counted on one hand, including ice climbing and glacial lake swimming.

person of the year (and why)

1. **Kitty Piercy**
2. **Peter DeFazio**
3. **Barack Obama**

Our mayor was the overwhelming favorite in this category once again this year, getting praise from our readers for trouncing Jim Torrey in the mayoral race, being “the most LGBTQ-friendly mayor we’ve ever had,” being both “nice” and “tough” and showing up for everything, everywhere (defying the known laws of physics). She also garnered kudos and votes for rapping at the Whiteaker Block Party. The list of people mentioned in this category makes up a remarkable who’s who of Eugene, from the late Leslie Brockelbank to Lauren Regan to LeGarrette Blount, “who showed us why we need a boxing team.” Obama’s not exactly local, but it looks like we’ve adopted him as one of our own.

best local uproar

1. **The Tasing & trial of Ian Van Ornum**
2. **Save Civic Stadium**
3. **Eugene Celebration**

When police twice shot 50,000 volts through environmental protester Van Ornum as he lay face down with one or

both hands behind his back, the cops energized an uproar that has kept going and going and going. The Tasing won this Best Of category in 2008. This year the uproar continued when the supposedly independent Civilian Review Board, stacked with people opposed to police oversight, agreed with the cops that officers did nothing wrong — video evidence and overwhelming citizen testimony be damned.

best public space (indoor or outdoor)

1. **Alton Baker Park** 632 Day Island Rd.
2. **Eugene Public Library** 100 W. 10th Ave.
3. **Saturday Market** 8th & Oak.

www.eugenesaturdaymarket.org

Float through the mossy maples amid the blue wizard hats of larkspur on a winding bike trail; watch a pair of geese fly through an outdoor concert before the moon rises over the amphitheatre; drift up to where a beaver chiseled down a tree on the canoe canal; thump along in the steps of a track legend on a trail through woods and meadows; watch an osprey plunge and rip a fish out of a rapid and a heron patiently wait for its chance. No wonder Eugene loves its largest park.

best human-oriented nonprofit

1. **FOOD for Lane County** www.foodforlanecounty.org
2. **Womenspace** www.womenspaceinc.org
3. **White Bird Clinic** whitebirdclinic.org

best way to improve eugene

1. **Improve/revitalize downtown** (fill pits, build a park, more shops)
2. **Fix potholes/improve the streets**
3. **More/better bike routes and lanes**



PHOTO COURTESY OF PITCHFORK REBELLION



PHOTO BY TODD COOPER

best local politician

1. **Peter DeFazio**
2. **Kitty Piercy**
3. **Chris Edwards**

Pete DeFazio rose to the top this year as our scrappy Fourth District representative in Congress, always asking the tough questions and standing up for transparency, fairness and accountability in our federal government. DaFaz courageously and skillfully held his ground during the congressional summer break, confronted time after time by right-wing radicals in town hall meetings. Chris Edwards is new to the top three list this year. State Rep. Edwards was appointed to the state Senate and is a rising star in state politics.

best thing about eugene weekly

1. **Dan Savage**
2. **It's free**
3. **Calendar and music listings**

Savage Love wiggled to the top of the pile this year, but not far down the love list can be found our letters, investigative reporting and “everything,” often with an exclamation point! Thanks for all the compliments on our writers, photographers, cartoons, ads and “your kook.”

worst thing about eugene weekly

1. **Liberal bias**
2. **¡Ask a Mexican!**
3. **The general smuttiness of the last few pages** (Dan Savage, American Apparel and other ads were all listed)

All these terrible things about *EW* were also popular responses to the “Best Thing about *EW*,” so it appears our readers are hopelessly divided, or maybe just confused. Kind of like Eugene. It seems our paper has something for everyone to love or

hate or both, even on the same page.

One complaint was “skanky ads in back when you’re trying to read an innocent horoscope.” Yeah, we know. It’s hard to concentrate on Brezsny’s refined wisdom with a “Spanking Buddies Wanted” ad nearby. The astrologer would probably advise you to practice holding two conflicting ideas in your mind at the same time.

best blog

1. **EW! A blog** blogs.eugeneweekly.com
2. **Culinaria Eugenius** culinariaeugenius.wordpress.com
3. **Urinal Gum** www.urinalgum.com

If this continues, we’re gonna have to ban ourselves from winning this category; y’all are making us blush. (Contrary to what our presenters said at the show, we didn’t “pick ourselves” — this is a readers’ poll, remember?) And we find talking about ourselves somewhat trying. So hey! Let’s discuss the second and third place blogs. Culinaria Eugenius, run by *EW* contributor Jennifer Burns Levin, is a foodie delight, full of recipes, restaurant reviews, news

best green cause

1. **Pitchfork Rebellion / ending pesticide spraying** <http://pitchforkrebellion.com>
2. **Local foods / CSAs**
3. tie: **Cascadia Wildlands** www.cascadwild.org/ / **Ending field burning**

In Eugene, green isn’t just a color; it’s a way of life. The competition for Best Green Cause was fierce. Our winning cause, ending pesticide spraying as espoused by the Pitchfork Rebellion, made headlines this year in the aftermath of the anti-pesticide rally that ended in the Tasing of Ian Van Ornum and the arrest of Pitchfork rebel Day Owen. Growing your own (local food, that is) as well as buying it locally came in second, with some props going to Adam’s Sustainable Table for their focus on the local. Tying for third were the efforts by Cascadia Wildlands to establish Devil’s Staircase as a Wilderness, and the campaign to end field burning, which was championed by the Western Environmental Law Center, Oregon Toxics Alliance and local citizens and politicians.