

category. Yes! There are! We miss the Book Mark and Books Without Borders too, but their absence is just all the more reason to shop at your favorites — Smith Family, with its incredible piles of books of all genres; Tsunami, with its impressive string of events adding to its appeal; J. Michaels, with shelves of gorgeous old and signed books along with stacks of total steals and all the Moleskines you could ever need — and the other stores that didn't make the top three. Don't make us get on our soapbox, OK? Go. Shop. Read. Repeat.

best body art & mod shop

1. **High Priestess Piercing & Tattoo** 675 Lincoln St., 342-6585; 525 E. 13th Ave., 343-3311. www.highpriestess.com
2. **The Parlour Tattoo** 1097 Willamette St. 345-6465. www.theparlourtattoo.com
3. **Black Lotus Tattoo** 1011 W. 6th Ave. 434-8282. julientattoo.com

best outdoors/ recreation store

1. **McKenzie Outfitters** 849 E. 13th Ave., 485-0557; 566 Olive St., 343-2300. www.mckenzieoutfitters.com
2. **Backcountry Gear** 1855 W. 2nd Ave. 485-4007. www.backcountrygear.com
3. **Oregon River Sports** 4000 Franklin Blvd. 334-0696. www.oregonriversports.com

Whether you're in the need for rain gear, camping equipment or new running shoes, McKenzie Outfitters has what you're looking for. And for your convenience, Eugene's top outdoor store now has two locations: on 13th by the UO campus and on Olive near 5th.

best bike shop/repair

1. **Paul's Bicycle Way of Life** 234 W. 6th Ave., 344-4150; 3870 W. 11th Ave., 343-2250; 152 W. 5th Ave., 344-4105; 2480 Alder St., 342-6155. www.bicycleway.com
2. **Revolution Cycles** 1061 W. 2nd Ave., 302-8049. www.revolutioncycleseugene.com
3. **Hutch's Bicycle Store** 960 Charnelton St., 345-7521; 2100 Main St., Springfield, 741-2453. hutchsbicycleseugene.wordpress.com



best vocalist

1. tie: **Deb Cleveland** www.vipertoons.com/
Amy Picard www.designworksoregon.com/complicated
2. **Halie Loren** www.halieloren.com
3. **Laura Kemp** www.laurakemp.com

It's understandable that Eugeneans had a difficult time deciding between the powerhouse voices of Deb Cleveland and Amy Picard (pictured). It also proves that no matter what other genres may gain popularity in our town, Eugene will always have the blues. While Cleveland won in recent years both solo and with her band The Vipers, this is Picard's first time in the top tier. As lead singer of Complicated, Picard sings mostly covers, "an extremely eclectic mix of music including soul, classic, rock, country," Picard says with a smile, "and yes, rap." Picard says that she is "very honored, and our fans rock!"

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY PICARD

best boutique/clothing store

1. **Deluxe** 1331 Willamette St. 686-0205. deluxefashionshop.com
2. **Sweet Potato Pie** 20 E. 11th Ave. 344-8810. www.sweetpotatopiystore.com
3. **ReDoux Parlour** 780 Blair Blvd. 342-1942. www.myspace.com/redouxparlour

Featuring an eclectic assortment of used and locally designed clothing, Deluxe is Eugene's go-to shop for postmodern fashion. It's also a great place if you're looking for costume pieces. Along with

staff picks

best place to waste time playing with bendys and reading trixie belden books

Ever want to revisit childhood ... erm, we mean buy toys, games, books and more for the children in your life? Elephant's Trunk provides hours of options. Even if you're just looking for a game for a 6-year-old, you might while away the hours ignoring the ankle-biters in the store as you gaze, rapt, into the eyes of that Ugly you've been coveting. The book selection makes it, like the Kiva, a little indie bookstore of its own, and boy howdy does Elephant's Trunk have stickers. And bugcatchers, volcano kits, boxes of crafty gifts (hello again, friendship bracelets!) ... the list goes on. Just remember that you're an adult, and if it all gets too overwhelmingly nostalgic, neighboring LaVelle's will provide you with a nice glass or two of recovery juice. *Elephant's Trunk, Fifth Street Public Market; 342-8548.*

best fire-fighters in this end of the valley

Paul Holvey in the Oregon House, Floyd Prozanski in the Senate, Charlie Tebbutt and Dan Galpern at the Western Environmental Law Center fought back ag interests to finally snuff out field burning.

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