

BEST LOCAL NEWSCASTER

1. **Matt Templeman**
2. **[tie] Justin Stapleton and Al Peterson**
3. **Chenue Her**

BEST ANNUAL EVENT

1. **Oregon Country Fair** oregoncountryfair.org.
2. **Whiteaker Block Party** whiteakerblockparty.com.
3. **Eugene Celebration** **(even though it was canceled)** eugenecelebration.com.

There's really no contest here: For three days every July, a big chunk of land in rural Veneta is transformed — seemingly by magic, but in reality through the hard work of hundreds of volunteers — into a hermetic, self-sustaining world that is less latter-day hippie village than alternate gonzo reality where time slows and freakdom flows. Though crusty old-timers are fond of griping that the Fair over the years has gone straight (i.e. too commercial, not druggy enough), OCF, heading now into its 46th year, remains a kaleidoscopic trip through the looking glass, where artisans, puppeteers, musicians, stilt-walkers, peripatetic poets, perpetual paraders, foodies, nudies and all manner of endeavoring free spirits are unleashed on the tens of thousands of fairgoers who wander those long forested trails in search of cultural catharsis.

BEST PLACE TO TAKE YOUR KIDS

1. **Florence/the coast**
2. **Skinner Butte Park**
3. **Amazon Park & Pool**

BEST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN TO EUGENE

1. **New mayor/City Council**
2. **More help for the unhoused**
3. **Downtown growth**

BEST THING ABOUT EUGENE WEEKLY

1. **It's free**
2. **The calendar section**
3. **Dan Savage**

WORST THING ABOUT EUGENE WEEKLY

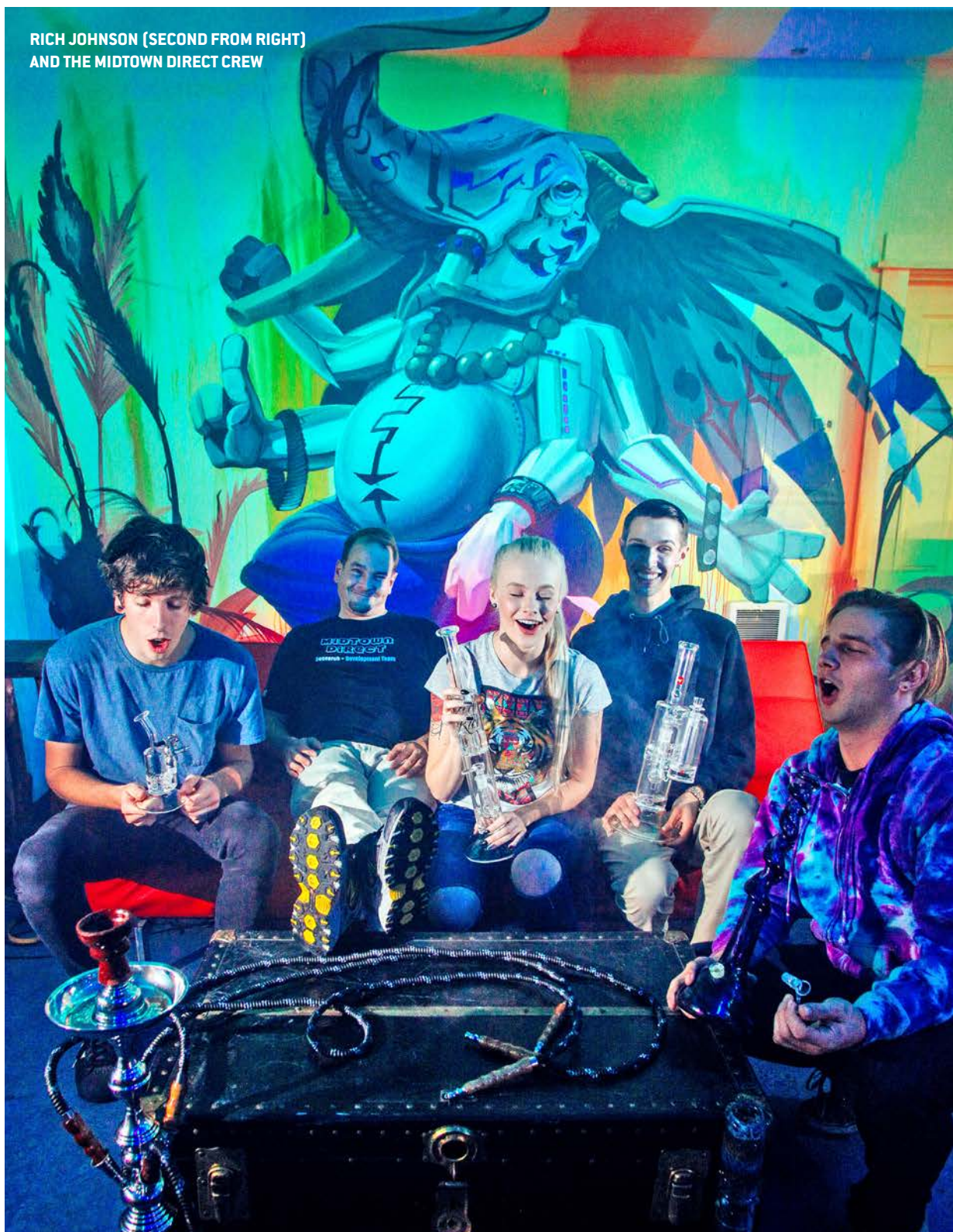
1. **Liberal bias**
2. **Not big enough/only comes out once a week**
3. **Too many ads**

BEST CATEGORY WE DIDN'T HAVE AND WHO WOULD WIN:

BEST VOTER SUGGESTIONS:

- Best interactive art: #instaballet
- Best cookie baker: Rob Reynolds
- Best hiking trail: not telling, but I want other people to give up the goods
- Best neighborhood: the Whiteaker
- Best power couple: Liliana Darwin Lopez and Tomo Tsurumi
- Best show/concert: Work Dance Co. Animal Instinct
- Best soup: Wholesome Café
- Best children's theater: Upstart Crow Studios
- Best thing Eugene did this year: banning neonicotinoids

RICH JOHNSON (SECOND FROM RIGHT)
AND THE MIDTOWN DIRECT CREW



BEST GLASS/SMOKE SHOP

1. **Midtown Direct** 133 E. 13th Ave. 345-3337. midtowndirect.us.
2. **Hunky Dory** 271 W. 7th Ave. 345-1853.
3. **Cornerstone Glass** 1068 W. 2nd Ave., 341-1788; 446 E. 13th Ave., 844-1585. cornerstoneglass.com.

Midtown Direct Smoke Shop nabs first place again, making that two years in a row. In a town brimming with glassblowers and smoke shops, why Midtown? "It's customer service," owner Rich Johnson says. "There's some contagious positive energy that seems to vortex here. There are literally 10 couples that have spawned out of Midtown." They also like to keep it local. "We sell about 85 percent local glass," employee Matt DeBellis adds. "Almost everything in the cases is made here in Eugene. We don't carry any Chinese glass." Midtown has come along way since its tough beginnings in 2003. "I opened the doors here a couple days after the federal bust, Johnson says. "I swung the doors back open, the community came back in and was like, 'This is bullshit.'"

PHOTO BY TRASK BEDORTHA

Grand Opening Party! You're Invited!

MUSIC BY
Mood Area 52

ART WORK BY
Kathy Brock

Golden Arts
Healing Collective

393 West Broadway, Eugene, Oregon 97401 541-743-6131

During the first friday artwalk Nov. 7th 5pm-8pm

Free
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