



PHOTO: ATHENA DLENE

BEST PLACE FOR PEOPLE UNDER THE DRINKING AGE TO HAVE FUN

With bowling alley and pool hall Southtowne Lanes burned down and the closure of the all-ages music venue The Boreal (as mentioned in another staff pick), what's left for those under the age of 21 to do in Eugene? The answer: Not much. As someone who grew up in South Eugene, I'm biased towards activities in my childhood part of town. Sure, there are other bowling alleys — but there was something so specifically joyful about getting some fries and a shake at Southtowne — and as for The Boreal, there's just no comparable all-ages, DIY, community-run venue in town at the moment.

What's the one thing in the Eugene-Springfield area that holds up for people of all ages, you ask? **Skateworld**. Skateworld will always be an institution of fun in the area — it's where I had my twelfth birthday, but also where I went a couple months ago with friends. Whether you're a master at speed skating backwards or you can barely step onto the rink, Skateworld is fun for everyone. Also, it's a great excuse to gorge on hot dogs, nachos and an ICEE frozen treat. Admission, plus the price of renting skates, is always under \$10 (not counting special events like all-night skates). So, really, there's no reason not to go. Relive your childhood, or just add a little fun to adulthood. — *Meerah Powell*

BEST PIPE ORGAN

If you, as so many of us did, grew up thinking “organ” and “Hammond B-3” were synonymous, think again. Nothing sounds like a real pipe organ, particularly one played in the cavernous acoustic space of an actual church. In an age that craves authenticity like an addictive drug, the ornate pipe organ that Eugene's John Brombaugh built in 1976 for **Central Lutheran Church** (1857 Potter Street) is as real as it gets. Designed and crafted using centuries-old techniques, Brombaugh's Opus 19 is entirely mechanical and can be played without electricity if you enlist a choirboy or girl to tread the bellows. Its sound, you might say, is heavenly, especially when Central's organist and choir director ElRay Stewart-Cook is at the keyboard. You don't need to be religious to attend, though you just might find God in the music. — *Bob Keefer*

BEST CHOCOLATE ON YOUR LIPS

I'm a big fan of lip balm. If you are old enough to remember the rumors that you could get addicted to Carmex because it contains ground glass (it doesn't), then I'd be one of the people they'd be pointing to, saying, “See her? Clearly addicted.” My lip balm tastes have become refined since my Carmex days and my current not-so-guilty pleasure is **As You Like It Organics Peppermint Pattie**

Body Butter. It actually tastes like chocolate and peppermint and when you lick your lips in delight, they stay soft and buttery. If you are familiar with As You Like It, then you know it's a product line from Eugene-based As You Like It: The Pleasure Shop (1655 W. 11th Avenue #1; 541-606-0553). So, despite the lip-balm shaped tube, it's actually, as the name makes clear, a body butter; As You Like It suggests you use it to “enhance intimacy” and as “a playful, non-verbal, communication tool. Show your sweetie where you want to be kissed, or licked, or nibbled, and let them show you!”

As You Like It proprietor Kim Marks says, she “wanted to create a certified organic intimacy line that increased pleasure, communication and playfulness.”

I'm not so sure about getting playful with my lip balm, but hey, you do what you want to do with your chocolate flavored personal items!

Marks is a longtime grassroots organizer who has worked with the likes of Greenpeace, Earth First! Civil Liberties Defense Center and more, so caring about the environment is part and parcel of what she does. “What you put on and in your body matters both to the health of your body but also the planet,” she says. “Everything we put on us ends up in our waterways.” — *Camilla Mortensen*

BEST RUNNING TRAIL

What can be more convenient than rolling out of bed into your running gear and crossing the street to hop on your favorite trail? If you ask a runner, the answer would probably be: nothing. The best running trail is the **Rexius Trail** along West Amazon Drive, because it's close to some of our houses and it's better maintained than the trail on East Amazon. It's our favorite primarily because of its convenience, but also because when we pass those Olympic runners along the trail, it secretly motivates us to step up our training or just to run faster for a couple of minutes. If you can't stand those annoying bark chips, we feel you — we hate how they get stuck in our socks and stab us in the ankles. We're just grateful that we live in a place where we have our choice of running on softer surfaces. — *Corinne Boyer*

BEST FLAG

Lane County sits squarely in the Cascadia bioregion. Bioregionalism is a concept favored by some enviros that delineates geographic regions through their land or soil composition, flora and fauna, watershed and climate. The Cascadia bioregion in particular encompasses the Columbia River watershed up to the Continental Divide and the Cascades from Canada down to northern California.



BEST LOCAL CLASSICAL MUSIC RECORDING

You may have missed the show itself last spring when Eugene Ballet staged its \$300,000 production of **The Snow Queen**, an original full-length ballet based on the Hans Christian Andersen tale that inspired Disney's *Frozen*. Whether you made it to the Hult Center that weekend or not, you can still enjoy the original music, which was composed by Portland's Kenji Bunch and performed by Eugene's OrchestraNext under the baton of Brian McWhorter. Bunch's complete *Snow Queen* score — contemporary but still lush, romantic and very listenable — is available on a two-CD set, including photos from last year's recording session with McWhorter and OrchestraNext at the University of Oregon School of Music and Dance. Get it at Amazon, iTunes and elsewhere; \$14.99. — *Bob Keefer*



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