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BEST PHOTOGRAPHER

1. **Athena Delene** athenadelene.com.
2. (Tie) **Josh Latham** facebook.com/Josh-Latham-Photography.
2. (Tie) **Wind Home Photography** windhomephotography.com.
3. **Tracy Sydor** digitallatte.com.

Athena Delene has been surrounded by photography her whole life. Growing up with a photographer for a mother, Delene's career started earlier than most. "My mom would always enter the Lane County Fair photo exhibit," Delene says. "When I was 13, she let me enter for the first year. I ended up winning the people's choice award for the whole exhibit — after that I was ready to go photo crazy."

She says her mom helped her develop her style and skills, but Delene has undoubtedly created a photographic style entirely her own. You've most likely seen her photos of local musicians, artists and business owners within the *Weekly's* pages, as she's been freelancing for *EW* off-and-on for almost five years now.

"I've always really loved the thought of being able to take a photo of someone that they love so much it's the one they show their kids down the road," Delene says. "And then their kids keep it because it's their favorite photo of their grandparents they show off."

As far as the kind of subject matter she likes to photograph, Delene says it varies. "I love old men with mustaches, anyone who says 'I hate getting my photo taken,' aspiring middle-school musicians," Delene says. "But, really, any kind of artist in action or business owner. I just like working with people who like to work; doing photos of someone doing what they love is always my goal." — Meerah Powell



PHOTO: TODD COOPER