



Photo of Tristan Paige by Brandy Anderson

Contributed photo

# Modeltographers practice fashion in rural Oregon

It’s common knowledge by now that the information age we exist in is busy breaking down hierarchical structures across nearly every industry. Whether it’s the shaking up of the Republican Party by its social media-savvy candidate, private transportation and accommodation services skirting municipal regulations, or artists being directly funded by online patronization services, the changes are so numerous and rapid that it’s easy to miss them as they are underway.

The fashion modeling industry is witnessing a similar breakdown. Models and photographers no longer need to go through a talent agency in order to connect with clients.



J.D. KINDLE  
Entertainment

In fact, one doesn’t necessarily need to reside in traditional modeling meccas of L.A., Paris, or Milan in order to work as a model or fashion photographer (just as musicians no longer need to live in L.A., New York or Nashville in order to eke out a living).

Using Instagram as their primary outlet for promotion, a small scene of models and photographers exists in Eastern Oregon (and in similar far-flung corners of the world, as digging deep through Instagram will show) operating as semi-professional models and photographers.

Tristan Paige (stylized as Tristan Paige on her Instagram account and website) is a Pendleton-based photographer. Her work revolves around the traditional paid gigs such as weddings and senior portrait sessions but also includes work for clothing and apparel brands. Her photos typically feature 20-somethings decked out and set against pastoral scenes. The models, although pleasing to look at, are really a part of the backdrop, muted compared to the articles of clothing adorning them. The products are the true subject of each photo.

Brands that work with Paige don’t necessarily care about the artistic quality of her photos. “Usually I’m sought out because of my following,” says Paige. “Instagram isn’t about the work, it’s about the popularity.” The number of followers of Paige’s account equals the amount of guaranteed impressions on the part of the brand. It is a slight shift from the old paradigm of ad agencies or in-house marketing departments choosing photographers whom they feel will draw an audience. Nowadays, the quality of the photographer’s work is what drives their follower count and subsequently attracts



Photo of Brandy Anderson by Tristan Paige

Contributed photo

clients. The follower count is a more easily quantifiable measure of the effectiveness of a particular photographer’s work.

That a client doesn’t care about the artistic nature of her work allows Paige the freedom to compose her photos free of any constraint, choosing whatever models and locations she deems fit. A frequent model of Paige’s photography is Brandy Anderson who, like Paige, maintains a portfolio through an Instagram account where she sports high fashion brands such as Raen and Pendleton Wool.

While classmates at Pendleton High School the two started exploring photography together, taking pictures of each other and developing their own approach to fashion photography and modeling. Though by now they’ve worked with a host of other models and photographers, Paige and Anderson have worked together so long and with such frequency that it is almost as though their “minds meld,” as Anderson puts it.

Not content to be one-trick ponies, both Paige and Anderson frequently swap roles taking turns behind and in front of the camera. This ultimately helps inform the

work they perform in their primary mediums. Says Paige on the dual occupation, “When you’re behind the camera you’re looking for certain things. I feel like when you’re a model you have to form to what the photographer is trying to get out to the image. When you’re a photographer you’re trying to get the model to see what image you’re trying to portray.”

That they are pursuing their dreams in Eastern Oregon is still mystifying to them. “It’s definitely hard to do everything that I’m doing in this town,” says Anderson who, in addition to modeling, is a college student and runs an online store selling denim jackets with patches of Pendleton Wool fabric. “Most of the opportunities related to photography, graphic design, and fashion design — it’s all in the city. Then again I do know quite a few people here and if you just talk to people there are many opportunities open.”

James Dean Kindle is a Pendleton musician, executive director of the Oregon East Symphony and the entertainment columnist for the East Oregonian. Contact him at jamesdeankindle@gmail.com.

## BRIEFLY

### Ramblin’ man performs the blues

ENTERPRISE — A one-man blues band will perform authentic folk music in Enterprise.

Tom Bennett, who was born and raised in rural Georgia, was presented his first harmonica at age 9 from a West Virginia woman. He spent many hours in the hayfields learning the blues. However, he left the South seeking religion at age 19.

Bennett fell in with Mormon polygamists, studied Tibetan Buddhism and eventually became a cocaine dealer in Salt Lake City. He was arrested at age 26, and after going through rehabilitation and the legal system, Bennett decided

to make things right and began working for the Boys and Girls Club, eventually becoming the director.

In 2013, he began playing the guitar and was discovered by a nationally touring blues band, who invited him to join them on the road as the opening act. Bennett has since recorded his debut album, “The Man Who Shook The Trail of The Devil’s Hounds.” When he’s not on the road, Bennett resides in St. George, Utah.

Catch Bennett on tour as he performs Thursday, Nov. 17 from 7-9 p.m. at Terminal Gravity Brewery & Pub, 803 S.E. School St., Enterprise. There is no cover charge.

### Singer/songwriters perform sans bands

PENDLETON — A pair of extraordinary singer-songwriters will perform during an upcoming show at great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co.

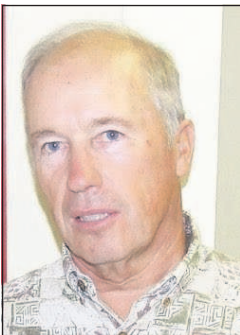
J.D. Kindle of James Dean Kindle & the Eastern Oregon Playboys and Lincoln Barr of Red Jacket Mine will showcase their talents. The two artists will each perform solo sets in an intimate setting.

The all-ages show is Thursday, Nov. 17 from 7-9 p.m. at 403 S. Main St., Pendleton. For more information, call 541-276-1350.

## PENDLETON



Steber



Groupe



Waggoner

# Book signing event features three writers

Event is Nov. 19 at Pendleton Book Co.

By TAMMY MALGESINI  
East Oregonian

A trifecta of familiar authors to the Eastern Oregon region will assemble together for a book-signing event.

Hardly needing an introduction, Rick Steber, an award-winning writer with more than 40 titles under his belt, will be on hand for the Tremendous Trio Book Signing. The Prineville-based author will be join Pendleton-area writers J. R. “John” Groupe and Rebeca “Becky” Fletcher Waggoner. The free event is Saturday, Nov. 19 from 5-7 p.m. at Pendleton Book Company, 125 S. Main St., Pendleton.

Published in September by Steber, “Three Little Birds” is a true story about a man who saves an orphaned gosling’s life while clinging to hope that a heart will be found to save his. Steber weaves the intricate story of Tootie learning to fly with the joy of finding a heart for George Hooker and the grief of the 21-year-old organ donor’s family. Steber said a vital message in the book is that people should become organ donors.

Steber’s “Red White Black,” a true story of race and rodeo from the 1911 Pendleton Round-Up, has won multiple awards. In addition,

tion, he is the only Oregon author to receive the prestigious Western Writers of America Spur Award, which was garnered for “Buy the Chief a Cadillac.”

Groupe, a retired veterinarian, spent his days working with animals and his free time enjoying the outdoors. In the late 1990s, he began writing an occasional outdoor column for the *East Oregonian*. A decade later, Groupe was asked to write columns for *Agri-Times Northwest*.

He has penned “Eastern Oregon Pack Trips,” a guidebook for more than two dozen pack trips in six Eastern Oregon wilderness areas. Also, “My Eastern Oregon,” a collection of favorite columns from the two publications, chronicles his hunting, fishing and outdoors adventures — as well providing useful background information.

Waggoner, a fourth-generation Happy Canyon volunteer, recently released a history of the pageant from its beginning in 1916 just in time for its centennial celebration.

“Happy Canyon: A History of the World’s Most Unique Indian Pageant & Wild West Show” provides a behind-the-scenes look at the production. In addition to the pageant’s history, Waggoner also secured dozens of rare photos that highlight its early days — many of them never previously published.

For more information about the book-signing event, call 541-276-9292.

## WHAT TO DO

### Festivals

**Hermiston Festival of Trees**  
•Saturday, Dec. 3, 6 p.m.; dinner, gala event  
•Sunday, Dec. 4, noon; Family Day  
•Hermiston Conference Center, 415 S. Highway 395  
[www.facebook.com/hermistonfestivaloftrees](http://www.facebook.com/hermistonfestivaloftrees)  
\$35/dinner, reservations available for tables of 8 (available for sale Nov. 1 at the conference center and Good Shepherd Medical Center). Features dinner, tree viewing and live/silent auction. Family Day is \$5 suggested donation per family.

**Pendleton Festival of Trees**  
•Friday, Dec. 2, 6 p.m.; celebration & auction  
•Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Family Day  
•Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate  
[www.sahpendleton.org](http://www.sahpendleton.org)  
Additional information to follow.

### Art & Museums

**“Uncle Allen’s Tales”**  
•Saturday, Nov 12; noon-3:30 p.m. All ages.  
•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton  
Free. Former Pendleton resident Allen Hanson will sign copies of his children’s book (enjoyable by all ages), which is similar to Aesop fables. Book available for purchase.

**Jean Ann Mitchell & Ariel Anderson**  
•Saturday, Nov. 12; 2-4 p.m., opening reception  
•Arts Portal Gallery, 508 N. Main St., Milton-Freewater  
Free. Artist’s reception with Mitchell (watercolors) and Anderson (mixed media) Includes refreshments and entertainment by Cowboy Joe Sartin & Little Joe McCutcheon. Regular gallery hours Saturday and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

**IMAC Meeting & Authors’ Event**  
•Saturday, Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m.  
•Stokes Landing Senior Center, 195 N.W. Opal Place, Irigon.  
\$6. Irrigon Multicultural Arts Center event features spaghetti dinner and local authors sharing about their work.

**“Borderline”**  
•Monday-Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
•Betty Feves Memorial Gallery, BMCC, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton.  
Free. In conjunction with a mental health awareness campaign on campus, Michigan artist Jill Miller work examines an autobiographical understanding of depression through a series of figurative paintings. Gallery also open by appointment by calling 541-278-5952. Runs through Dec. 8.

### Music

**Robin Barrett and Coyote Kings w/Tiph**  
•Saturday, Nov. 12; 6 p.m.  
•Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate  
[www.pendletonarts.org](http://www.pendletonarts.org)  
\$40. The Rockin’ Auction & Gala features Robin Barrett and Coyote Kings w/Tiph. Event is a fundraiser for Pendleton Center for the Arts. It features live/silent auction, hors d’oeuvres and live music.

**Hair Nation**  
•Saturday, Nov. 12; 8 p.m. No cover  
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission

### Blue Tattoo

•Saturday, Nov. 12; 10 p.m. No cover  
•Midway Tavern, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston

**Decade X**  
•Friday, Nov. 18; Saturday, Nov. 19; 8 p.m. No cover  
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off I-84 Exit 216, Mission

**Coyote Kings-Tiph & Rob**  
•Friday, Nov. 25; 6-9 p.m. No cover.  
•Nookies/Hermiston Brewing Co., 125 N. First St., Hermiston

### Night life

**70th Anniversary Party**  
•Saturday, Nov. 12; 5 p.m.  
•Midway Tavern, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston  
No cover. Includes food and drink specials and non-perishable food drive to benefit Agape House (one can of food provides a door prize ticket). Blue Tattoo performs at 10 p.m.

### Theater & film

**“Gobble, Gobble Death and Trouble”**  
•Saturday, Nov. 12; 6 p.m.  
•Agape House, 500 Harper Road, Hermiston  
\$25/person. Murder mystery dinner fundraiser for Agape House. Includes smoked turkey dinner and dessert.

**“Ravenscroft”**  
•Nov. 12, 17-19; 7:30 p.m.  
•Nov. 13, 20; 2 p.m.  
•BMCC, Bob Clapp Theatre 2411 N.W. Carden Ave.  
\$15/adults, \$10/children, students.

College Community Theatre presents a murder mystery who-done-it gone horribly awry.

**“The Butler Did It Again”**  
•Nov. 17-19; 7 p.m.  
•Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St., Hermiston.  
\$6/adults, \$4/youths, free/seniors and students with ASB cards. Hermiston high school drama students present a spoof of mystery writers. Appropriate for all ages.

**“Giving Thanks: A Digital Storytelling Workshop”**  
•Friday, Nov. 18; 9 a.m.-noon  
•Fishtrap, 400 E. Grant St., Enterprise  
Free. In conjunction with a mental health awareness campaign on campus, Michigan artist Jill Miller work examines an autobiographical understanding of depression through a series of figurative paintings. Gallery also open by appointment by calling 541-278-5952. Runs through Dec. 8.

**“Nutcracker”**  
•Dec. 11-13  
•Richland High School, 930 Long Ave.  
[www.midcolumbiaballet.org](http://www.midcolumbiaballet.org)  
\$27/adults, \$13/children, \$18/students & seniors. The holiday classic is presented by the Mid-Columbia Ballet. Tickets for shows, which typically sell out, go on sale Nov. 1.

### Hot tickets

•Amy Grant Holiday Show (with Michael W. Smith & Jordan Smith): Nov. 17, Toyota Center, Kennewick. \$30-\$130 via [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

•Trans-Siberian Orchestra: The Ghosts of Christmas Eve: Dec. 30, Moda Center, Portland; Dec. 31, Key Arena, Seattle. \$41-\$76 via [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)