Pushing hard through adversity

By Jim Cornelius Editor in Chief

Nobody who knows Jerry Baldock is surprised to see that not even a serious health crisis can keep him down.

The 79-year-old photographer is still out on the streets of Sisters documenting the life of his community, despite a tough cancer diagnosis.

"It is what it is and you do your very best with it," he told The Nugget, the newspaper to which he has contributed for over a decade. "In that way, my life hasn't changed at all... I think you can be an example for people. I think you can be an example just not to be fearful."

While he worked with great success as a fire medic, a home inspector, and a contractor, Baldock came to his greatest calling relatively late in life.

"My interest in photography started shortly after my youngest son passed away in 2005," he told The Nugget in 2018. "My son Brian was a coach and trainer at Marshfield High School, but more than that, he was a mentor for Marshfield's athletes. He was truly a gift from God in the way he mentored young people and

encouraged them to challenge themselves. I found that through photography, I could make a difference in the lives of young people by capturing their greatest or most memorable moments in a picture... That's how I started; then I came here."

Baldock feels deeply invested in the community he chose.

"What a godsend Sisters, Oregon, was to us," he said.

Asked why he chose to work so hard at his photography instead of retiring and taking it easy, he said simply: "My job wasn't done yet."

He acknowledges feeling driven by "something inside me."

"My family thought I was crazy," he said. But "this is what I really want to do. I haven't been sorry a moment."

Jerry acknowledges the support of his wife, Marlene, who understands his drive to capture moments - and

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never let one pass him by, from a Habitat for Humanity home dedication to a touchdown on the football field.

"She let me do this all these years when we were in our prime time," he said. "There were a lot of times she had to sacrifice things maybe she wanted to do because I was working for Habitat or something."

Baldock feels a particular connection to youth sports, inspired in large part by his son's legacy.

"He was an amazing example to the community," he said. "You want to live to that example."

He worries about the effects the coronavirus pandemic shutdown is having on young people who are missing big moments in their lives. He acknowledges that he has modified his activities due to the threat of the disease, especially to a cancer patient, but - typically - he is more concerned for the kids than he is for himself.

"For a man 79 years old, that's not so hard as it is for them." he said.

Baldock just recently flipped the calendar on his 79th year, and his birthday provided an indication of how much

students and parents in the community value what he has given over the years.

He has a tall stack of birthday cards noting, "that they missed what I was doing and they appreciate the moments I captured in their children's lives. I was caught off guard when I got that stuff."

Baldock was out on assignment for The Nugget a week ago, shooting at the

Sisters Street Festival and the Sisters Farmers Market.

"It was really fun doing what I did last Sunday," he said. "I had a great time."

And he plans on keeping on having a great time doing the work he loves, no matter what the obstacles.

With his trademark grin, he told his editor: "I don't really see an end to what I do."

Luxury Senior Living Redefined for Active Adults in Bend

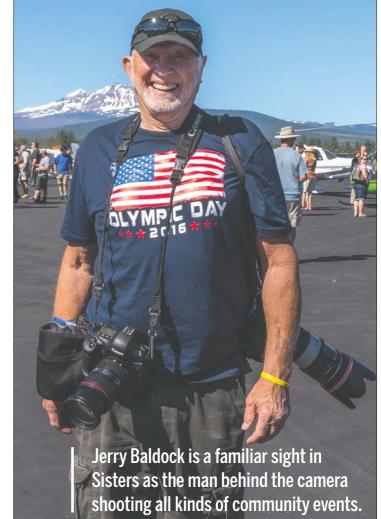
There's a multitude of reasons for adults 55 and older to consider the Alexander in Bend. Just opened last year, the resort style apartment community offers 30 different apartment floor plan options, including studio, one-bedroom and twobedroom layouts ranging from 410 to 1,475 square feet. Most apartments enjoy a balcony or patio, and the building was designed to maximize views of the Cascades. No buy in is required, just a nominal initiation fee and unit rental rates include a food and beverage credit as well as biweekly housekeeping services and utilities.

game room, living-room style theater, art studio, library, salon and barber shop. Residents looking to stay fit can make use of the state-of-the-art fitness center and take advantage of complimentary classes with a full-time instructor which are included in the monthly rent.

There are three dining options on site, all featuring a focus on fresh, seasonal, locally sourced ingredients. There is a fine dining restaurant called ALX, a casual bistro with a grab-n-go store called Cafe Liz, and The Wally Bar which offers lunch and dinner as well as great drinks and light pub fare.



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