

GRANDI: Sabbatical begins June 1 BOND: Levy to go on May ballot

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multi-tasking requirement, and I'm really struggling to keep pace right now. I'm hoping by taking a year off that I can step away, get re-energized and figure out how I fit into the new system."

With the ongoing demands of the job, Grandi hasn't sat down to come up with a specific to-do list once her sabbatical starts. "All I know is that June 1, I'm going to spend three months with my daughter and my husband. From there, I anticipate com-

ing up with lots of ideas," Grandi said.

Grandi also spoke of the mixed blessing of taking time off. "I like my patients a lot, and many of them are my friends. It's going to be difficult to let go taking care of them." She added the friends she told of the sabbatical congratulated her on the choice.

Grandi voiced some concerns about the current approach to physician recruitment to the area. Citing the year-long search to replace the recently retired Dr. Siebe, Grandi said the concerted

effort to recruit physicians into the area no longer exists. "They've kind of slacked off on that. We've gotten some really fabulous people without having to work at it. We need to be working to bring in more physicians or nurse practitioner PAs into our community. It takes more than the hospital and the doctor's office to recruit people into the area," Grandi said.

The doctor intends to play a part in the physician recruitment process during her time off. "I want this community to thrive, and I want Winding

Waters and Wallowa Mountain Medical to thrive. I feel that without a thriving medical system that we'll have a lot of jobs lost and a lot of people who won't live here because they need care," Grandi said.

Grandi wanted to allay any fears that she plans to leave the community and said she is "generally physically and mentally well." She asserts, "I'm making a good choice for me at a good time. I'll probably be in practice another 15-20 years as a physician. We have no desire to leave the community. This is our home."

TOURS: Narratives will be an all-hours service

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face (SHPO). Already, a number of people who either own or manage a historic building in Enterprise are planning to record narratives. One recording, for the Enterprise Public Library, has been ready for a couple of weeks.

Young says several audio files should become accessible on the City of Enterprise website probably during March, and the city will en-

courage members of the public to listen to the narratives and provide feedback that could help guide future recording efforts.

Young advised the Landmarks Commission at its Feb. 12 meeting that recordings need to be made in a quiet environment — meaning with no one talking or producing other audible distractions in the background.

Rudger said the local radio station, KWVR, may be

willing to help with editing of voice recordings.

Landmarks commissioners have tentatively named the free-to-use service the Historic Enterprise Audio Tour and the service already has a phone number, 1-541-224-8015.

Young said the audio service uses the technical framework from a private firm, Guide by Cell.

City officials expect the free audio tour to increase

visitor traffic in Enterprise, and by the time the grant that began it runs out in two years, it's likely that the city will then pick up the cost to keep the service going. Young said she won't be at all surprised if other public entities, such as the county, decide to climb aboard at that time.

"If it works well, it could become much bigger than just Enterprise, is what we're thinking," Young said.

Author Urrea has affinity for Wallowa County

By S.F. Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Luis Alberto Urrea, a multi-award-winning author and featured writer of 2015's Big Read, visited the area as the honored guest and speaker at the Big Read Finale at Hurricane Creek Grange Hall on Feb. 8. Though residing in Evansville, Ill., and traveling widely as an author, the Wallowa Valley holds a special place in the author's heart.

"Rich Wandschneider (current Joseph Center library director) invited us out here many, many years ago. I think our first visit was in '97, so we've come back ever since," Urrea said.

A frequent visitor, Urrea loses no time singing the area's praises. "It's heaven, man. I always tell people that when the apocalypse comes, dude, I'm headed for Joseph. It feels sacred to me, and it's a beautiful place and the spirit is really wonderful," Urrea said.

A Mexican-American who grew up in Tijuana, Mexico, Urrea's books often deal with Hispanic issues, and he says that although he notes a low Hispanic population locally, many residents espouse curiosity about, and are open to discussing even sensitive issues such as immigration. "Some places I go, people are really worked up and even angry, but it's never felt that way around here. I've always found it a very neighborly and congenial place to come," Urrea said.

Far from merely using the area as a vacation spot, Urrea often works through his periodic visits. "Last summer I brought much of my family, and we rented one of the houses at Fish-trap for an extra week. I spent a lot of time working. This is the place. The sound of the river and the beauty help me work on my stuff," he said.

Urrea added with a laugh that the mountains and Arrow-head Chocolates proved distractions to writing at times.



S.F. Tool/Chieftain

An animated public speaker, Urrea makes a point during his Feb. 8 public talk.

One of Urrea's award-winning, non-fiction books, "Devil's Highway," seriously examined immigration and U.S. border policy. Asked what he'd change about border policy, Urrea thought seriously a moment before shaking his head, saying,

"If I could answer that well, I'd be president. I've been studying this for a long time. I think perhaps a policy in Washington of a little more honesty — it's no great shock to people in Wallowa County that Washington's a little 'hinky.'"



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- Mealsite Bus ~ providing transportation to Senior Center for lunch Cost \$1.00 round trip.
- Tuesday and Thursday Shopping Bus provides transportation for shopping and errands throughout Wallowa County ~ Cost \$3.00 from Wallowa/Joseph, \$2.00 Enterprise only.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION OF WALLOWA COUNTY

Wallowa County Aviation Banquet
On **Saturday, February 21st**, the Wallowa County Pilots Association and the Chief Joseph Flying Club are hosting an aviation banquet at **Lear's Restaurant** in Enterprise. Open to the public.

Featuring a slide presentation of two of our members, Brad Stephens and Nick Reid, recent trip to Alaska in their airplanes.

3 dinner choices:
Stuffed Rock Cornish Hen, \$12
Chicken Cordon Blue, \$12
Pork Prime Rib, \$14
or you can order off of Lear's menu.

No tickets are needed, you will pay after your dinner.
Business meeting at 5 PM to discuss the upcoming fly-in breakfast.
No host social hour at 6 PM. Dinner served at 7 PM.

If you have any questions, please call Bill Ables or Tim Locke at 263-1327 or 263-0470.

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Student of the Week

Cody Irish
Enterprise High School

Cody Irish has a cumulative GPA of 3.31. Cody is a two year Spanish student and has taken AP Literature and Composition. He is currently enrolled in Pre-Calculus and is taking College English from the University of Idaho. Thank you Cody for representing EHS well.

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The Student of the Week is chosen for academic achievement and community involvement. Students are selected by the administrators of their respective schools.