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Local cattlewoman 'tough by nature'

By Andrea Di Salvo

It's often said, "Look up 'tough' in the dictionary and you'll find a picture of..." Heppner has many names to fill in those blanks. One of them is Shirley Rugg.

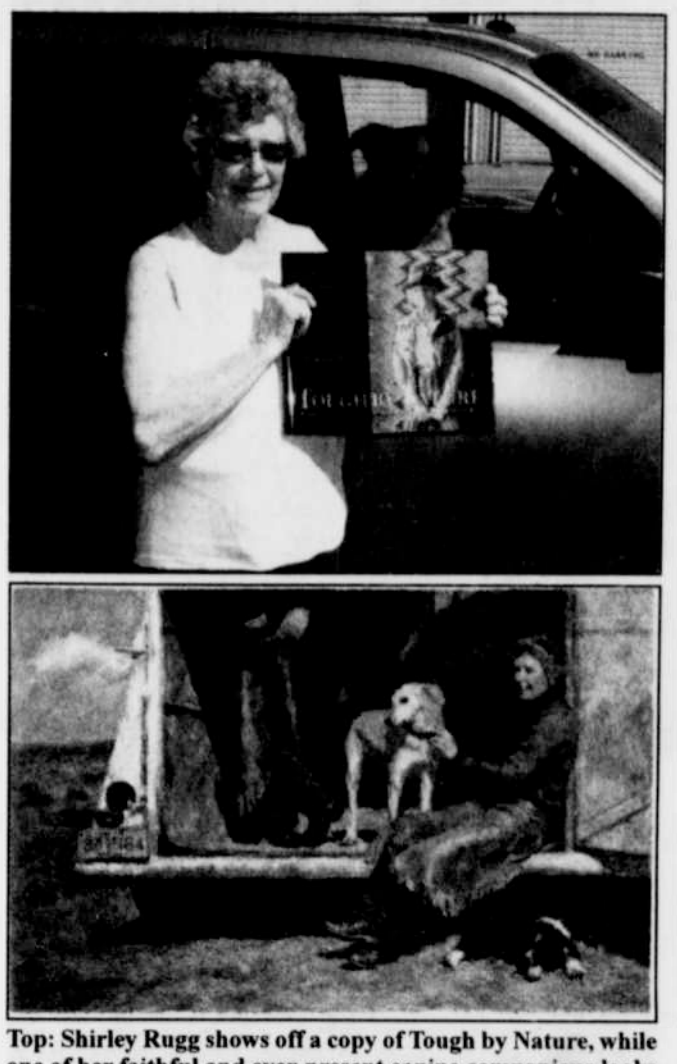
Those who have met the cattlewoman and local icon won't have any trouble understanding why she, of all people, fits the definition well enough to be included in a book called "Tough by Nature." Born in 1929, the 83-year-old is the epitome of what it means to be a ranching woman in the American west.

Rugg was born and raised in the Heppner area, daughter of Wavel and Frank Wilkinson. She still has family in the area, including brother Dick Wilkinson and his wife, Virginia. She says she has been working cattle all her life and will continue to do so "...as long as I can sit on a horse."

Rugg says she's never seen herself as especially tough, but admits it might be true.

"I'm not weak; I'm a fighter," she says. "If that makes me tough, then I guess I am."

That's what Eugene, OR-based artist Lynda Lanker thought when she visited Rugg in 1994 to capture her image for Lanker's series on cowgirls and ranching women. The result is now a part of "Tough by Nature: Portraits of Cowgirls and Ranch Women of the American West," published by the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA) at the University of Oregon and released for sale this month.



Top: Shirley Rugg shows off a copy of Tough by Nature, while one of her faithful and ever-present canine companions looks on. *–Photo by Andrea Di Salvo* **Bottom: Lynda Lanker, *Shirley Rugg*, 1998, oil pastel, © Image courtesy of the artist**

In her quiet way, Rugg is thrilled with the book, and with her place in it.

"It's a great book," she says. "She (Lanker) outdid herself."

The hardcover book of art and profiles features a forward by cowboy author Larry McMurtry, introduction by retired United States Supreme Court justice Sandra Day O'Connor and an afterword by poet Maya Angelou. Along with this star-studded lineup, the book represents time and travel spanning nearly 20 years and thousands of miles by Lanker. Most telling of all, though, are the images captured by Lanker showing a side of the American west long ignored by artists and media

-See TOUGH BY NATURE/ PAGE EIGHT

Willow Creek wind project could mean 35-40 jobs

Project developer speaks to Chamber of Commerce

By David Sykes

A planned 310-tower wind farm proposed on 60,000 acres near Heppner will create 35 to 40 permanent jobs, a developer of the project told the Heppner Chamber of Commerce last Thursday.

Laura Miner, Project Development Manager for Chicago-based Invenergy, developer of the Willow Creek wind farm, said the farm will be a benefit to Morrow County in the form of new property taxes and new jobs.

"The rule of thumb is usually one technician for every 13 turbines," Miner said. She said additional jobs will be created for support and other staff.

When asked by one chamber member if the wind farm's maintenance facility could be built on the Heppner side of the hill near Jones Hill, and thus attract more workers to make their home in Heppner, Miner said that was a possibility.

Jerry Healy said if the maintenance buildings are constructed there, instead of further to the north end of the wind farm near Butter Creek, it would mean just a 10-mile drive from Heppner for employees when they report to work, which could mean more employees choosing Heppner as the place to live, which would be more of an economic benefit. If the facility were built near Butter Creek, it would be 25 miles from Hermiston, and many employees might choose to locate in that city instead.

Because of the size of the Willow Creek wind farm, Invenergy was required to take the project directly to State of Oregon Energy Facility Sitting Council (EFSC), instead of going through the Morrow County Planning Commission. EFSC plans on holding two public informational meetings explaining the project, one on July 10 in Stanfield and one on July 11 in Heppner.

One large financing piece of many windmill projects is the use of the U.S. government's Production Tax Credit (PTC). Investors, such as insurance companies and banks, who have a tax liability, are able to receive tax credits to lessen their tax bills. The PCT is presently in front of the U.S. congress for renewal. When asked if the Willow Creek project would still move forward if renewal is denied, Miner said it would.

Miner said one factor would be the number of state laws requiring a percentage of renewable energy use in the coming years.

"They are going to have to get that renewable energy from somewhere," she said on the continued viability of wind projects with or without the PCT.

A timeline for the Willow Creek Wind Farm has not been established, but it may be two years until it is completed.

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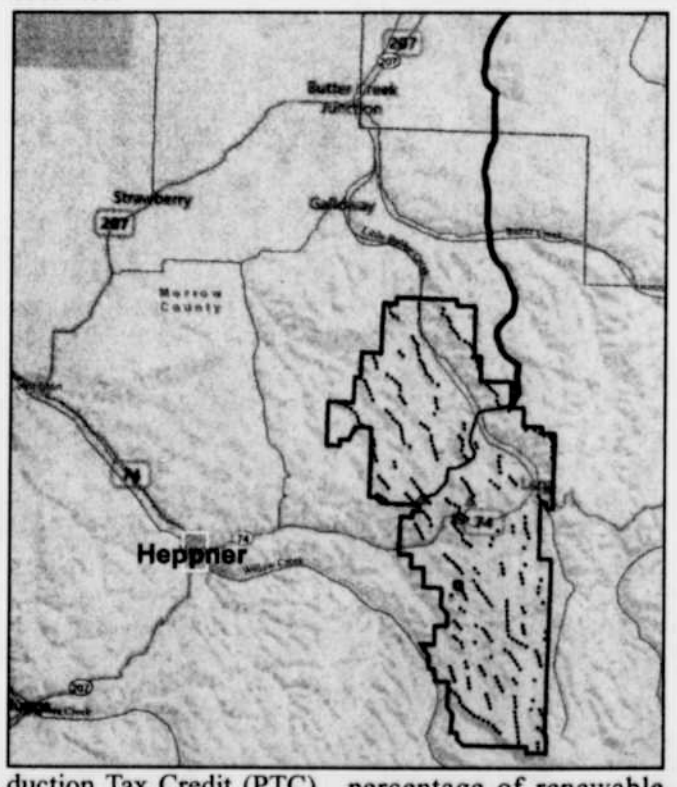
Above: Laura Miner, Project Manager of Invenergy's Willow Creek Wind Project, speaks to last week's Heppner Chamber of Commerce meeting. *–Photo by David Sykes* **Below: A map of the proposed Willow Creek wind farm and the placement of towers.**



Haguewood to retire after 33 years

By Andrea Di Salvo

School is out for the year at Heppner Elementary School, giving the normally busy halls the feel of a ghost town. A few teachers and other personnel brave the quiet, working at end-of-the-year organizing and tidying.

For one of those, second-grade teacher Mary Haguewood, the end-of-year clean-up may be a little bittersweet this time around. Haguewood, who has been with Morrow County School District for 33 years, is retiring this month.

Haguewood was born in 1956 and raised in The Dalles, OR, where her mother was a teacher and her father was a cherry grower. She has five sisters, as well as a brother who is now deceased. She attended St. Mary's Academy—where she wore a uniform—through the eighth grade. She then attended The Dalles Junior High and The Dalles High School, graduating from high school in 1975.

Mary Haguewood

After high school she went straight to what is now Eastern Oregon University—then Eastern Oregon State College—in La Grande, OR. She graduated from there with a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education in 1979.

After earning her bachelor's degree, she took a job teaching fifth grade at A.C. Houghton Elementary in Irrigon in 1979. She added fifth grade at Sam Boardman Elementary to her teaching credits when that school opened in March of 1980. Later that year, she transferred to Heppner Elementary School to teach fourth grade and be closer to her fiancée, local farmer and

-See TEACHER RETIRES/ PAGE FOUR

Cooking and bookkeeping

By Andrea Di Salvo

Cooking and books... the owner of Heppner's newest business knows a lot about both, but don't worry, she never combines them.

Roxane Kulon, owner of KNM Bookkeeping, has opened up shop in the Willow Creek Realty office on Main Street in Heppner, offering bookkeeping services to local businesses and individuals.

The 48-year-old is a Heppner newcomer, but a veteran bookkeeper. She was born and spent the first 20 years of her life in Tombstone, AZ. She got her first exposure to bookkeeping at the age of nine, looking over the books for her father's two businesses. She attended a trade school briefly after graduating from Tombstone High School in 1982, but then she went to work and "fell into bookkeeping."

Roxane Kulon has set up shop on Main Street in Heppner. *-Photo by Andrea Di Salvo*

Kulon then moved to Denver, CO, where she continued to work in bookkeeping and payroll for several different companies. She lived in Denver for 17 years, logging time with companies like Intuit and Robert Half Finance, among others.

In 2003, she met chef John Kulon; the couple was married in 2005. As a chef, John Kulon moved a lot, and she began moving with him.

"We've been traveling ever since," says Kulon.

-See COOKS AND BOOKS/ PAGE EIGHT

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