

Wind Farm Intrigues Neigh

West Lewis County Communities Wants to Know If Venture Will Create

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• The Economic Benefit to Lewis County

• Second Willapa Hills Wind Farm Project Faces Troubles

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By Christopher Brewer

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PE ELL — As around 100 people descended upon the Pe Ell School gymnasium for a meeting with the minds behind the Coyote Crest Wind Power Project, one question kept coming up through the evening.

It wasn't so much about the \$230 million price tag on the privately fi-

nanced project, or even how wind power works; rather, people simply wanted to know if western Lewis County would see new jobs come about as a result of the venture.

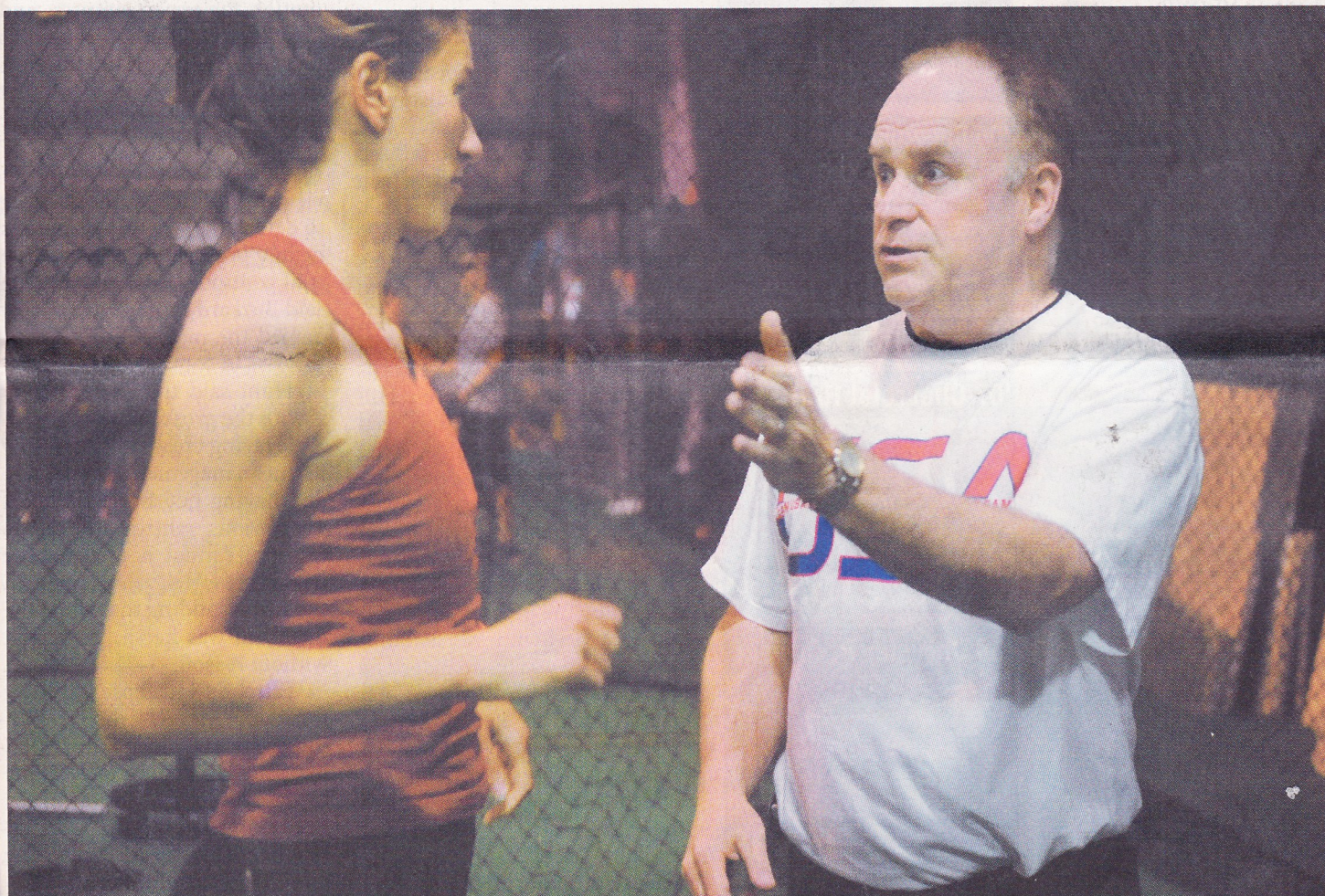
"We've been hit hard with the recession out here in West County," said Robi Nelson of Pe Ell, who attended the meeting with family. "We need something that will be able to employ people here and give some stability."

Residents' wishes for new jobs were matched with excitement over the project's economic benefits. Three representatives from EverPower, a New York-based energy consortium with offices in Portland, were present at Thursday night's open house in Pe Ell to meet face-to-face with, and discuss, the fine details of the project with the community. The proposed 47-turbine wind

farm in the area will bring \$2 million in revenue into Lewis County, es, schools and other organizations.

"It's more of a boost in terms of creating a

Coach Helps Returning Soldiers



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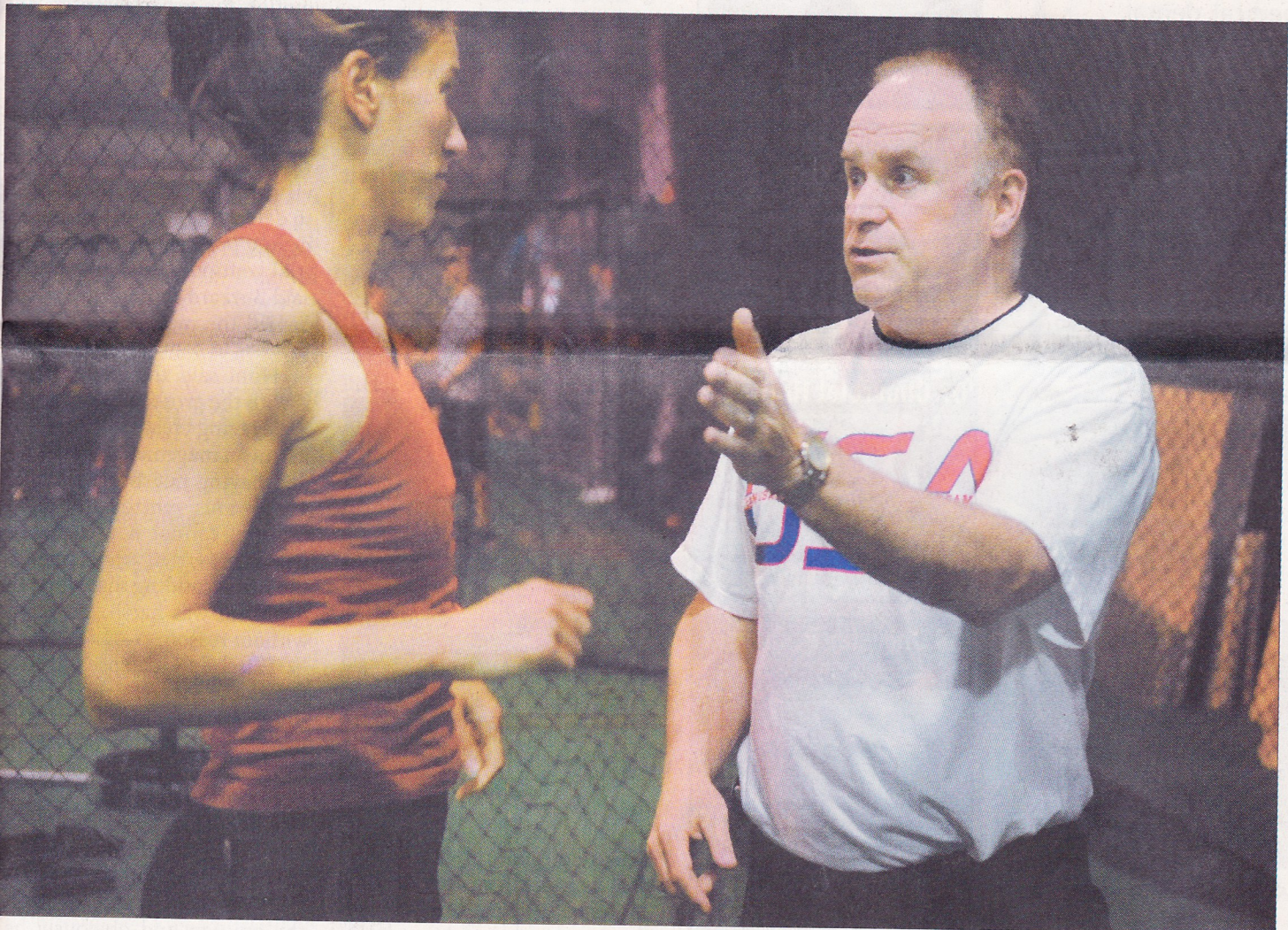
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Returning Soldiers



Dan Schreiber / dschreiber@chronline.com

Coach Bryan Hoddle, at right, gives advice to high jumper Jenny Brogdon during a training session last week in Lacey. Hoddle also works with wounded U.S. soldiers across the country. To see more local photographs, go to www.chronline.com/gallery/.

Tenino Coach Bryan Hoddle Cares for Wounded Soldiers

By Adrienne Goodrich

For The Chronicle

Before he went to Iraq, Eric Keller played four musical instruments, was a nationally ranked chess player, and was in prime physical condition. A year and a half after returning from the National Guard infantry he had a stroke and was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury.

"My whole life had been taken away from me," Keller said. He is now unable to process the information from a normal day, he said.

But maybe, thanks to a Tenino High School history teacher and coach, he can get some of that back.

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Coach Bryan Hoddle, at left, watches as high jumper Jenny Brogdon clears the bar last week at a training complex in Lacey. Hoddle also works with wounded U.S. soldiers across the country.

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Bryan Hoddle has a passion for helping returned soldiers just like Keller through physical exercise and building relationships.

Hoddle, 51, can't say how exactly he got involved with the returning soldiers. After coaching Tony Volpentest, the 1996 Paralympic 100 meter and 200 meter champion, and several other Paralympic winners, he just kind of became the expert, Hoddle said.

A week after traveling to Athens, Greece, as the head coach for the 2004 USA Paralympic Track and Field Team, Hoddle ended up at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C.

"I thought I was going to walk in there, and teach them to do some running," he told *The Chronicle* during a recent day of practice. He leaned forward, for the first time taking his eyes off of the high jumper he was training. "When I opened the door the first thing I saw was a guy sitting at a table putting blocks, one on top of another. Thirty minutes into the visit, I realized I was really there to bring hope and to build relationships with these brave men and women."

Six years and 10 trips to several different programs later, nothing has changed. "It's way above sports," he said.

When Reality Hits

This south Thurston County coach overflows with stories of the soldiers he knows.

He has spent time talking to them for hours, knowing that when the realization of their obstacles hits them, or hits them again, they need someone who cares.

During one of his trips he was unable to sleep and walked



Tenino coach Bryan Hoddle, left, has worked with amputees and other wounded veterans.

into the lobby of his hotel during the middle of the night. Sitting in front of the TV was an amputee soldier.

"He looked up at me and said, 'I just realized this morn-

ing that I don't have a leg,'" Hoddle said. They spent the night talking, and it became one of many times that he has used to get a deeper appreciation for soldiers.

Motivation

Jenny Brogdon, Olympia, a 2012 Olympic high-jump hopeful, has been training with coach Hoddle for 2½ years and enjoys seeing him come back from visits to the soldiers.

"He has so many stories, they motivate him just as much as he motivates them," Brogdon said.

Hoddle has a tight schedule, between teaching and coaching track and field at Tenino High School, coaching Brogdon, and giving motivational speeches

LEARN MORE

Those interested in helping returning soldiers can learn more about the Wounded Warrior Program at www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

Coach Bryan Hoddle is online at www.bryanhoddle.com

across the country, but he makes time for his relationships with soldiers.

"It's something that everyone around me knows everything else has to take a back burner to,"

he said. "It makes me feel like I've had a part in their healing."

His biggest motivator is the knowledge that everyone can overcome obstacles, he said. His involvement in track and field began in 1971 when a fifth-grade teacher invited him to run in a race. "That one encouraged me," Hoddle said. "Everyone can make a difference in someone's life. You never know who you may come across and make a difference in their life, even though you may never see the outcome."

Like a Parent

Keller first came in contact with Hoddle over the Internet

as he sought running advice while he was recovering from his stroke. He signed up to train for the Paralympics and asked for training advice over e-mail from Hoddle, who had coached the Paralympic team the year before.

"I was expecting it to be like the military," Keller said. But instead of a loud coach who was focused only on running, Hoddle made Keller feel cared for.

"It was kind of like a parental figure," Keller said. "It's not just about the running, it really became a friendship. It's hard to believe that he had anything else to do but coach."

In late February of this year Keller and Hoddle finally met at the Lakeshore Foundation in Birmingham, Ala.

"He was really just interested in how I was doing, and my recovery, and that to me meant a lot," Keller said. "He has a genuine, deep down inside interest in me, the war, and how I was doing."

The Future

Keller is putting hope in some new research that indicates running may reverse cognitive impairment. As for now, running helps Keller process things, he said. Once he runs he is able to come back with a fresh mind and sit down and think through problems.

"When I come back it's like I'm new again," he said.

Even though for personal reasons Keller has chosen not to pursue the Paralympics, the decision has not affected his cross-country relationship with Hoddle.

"The only way I know how to describe him is selfless," Keller said.

Courtesy photo