

**DEVASTATION:**  
WINTER STORM  
WIPES OUT 1,600  
DAIRY COWS  
NORTHWEST/A2



**SWIMMING:**  
BARNARD DIVES  
INTO FOUR STATE  
EVENTS  
SPORTS/B1

# EAST OREGONIAN

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\$1.50

*“HE ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT I WAS HIS ANGEL.  
AND NOW HE IS MINE.”*

— Franca Krajeski

## Love and loss



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Franca Krajeski moved to Pendleton to be close to her husband, Michael, who was serving a 90-month sentence at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution.

Couple spent most of their married life separated by bars

By KATHY ANEY  
*East Oregonian*

Advertisements often show true love as dewey-eyed couples exchanging romantic looks over candlelight, holding hands at sunset or kissing on the beach.

Real love is rarely so idyllic and carefree, however. And sometimes it is forged with hard times.

Take the case of Michael and Franca Krajeski, who took the “for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health” portion of their wedding vows to the extreme.

After Franca suffered a traumatic brain injury in a car accident in 2008, Mike nursed her through it. When Mike started serving a 90-month sentence at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Franca moved to Pendleton to be close, sometimes visiting him twice a day. Now, Franca wears some of her husband’s ashes in a silver heart around her neck.

The inscription reads, “I used to be his angel, now he’s mine.”

Their story includes plenty of human failure and heartbreak,

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Contributed photo

Mike and Franca Krajeski pose during a visit at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution.

## PGE farm to combine wind, solar, battery

Wheatridge project in Morrow County to go online after coal plant shuts down

By JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN  
and PHIL WRIGHT  
*East Oregonian*

Morrow County is going to be home to the nation’s first large-scale energy facility to combine power from wind, solar and battery storage.

Portland General Electric has partnered with NextEra Energy Resources to build the new Wheatridge Renewable Energy Facility, consisting of a 300-megawatt wind farm, a 30-megawatt battery storage facility and a new 50-megawatt solar farm. PGE spokesperson Steve Corson said the combination of that size is a first in North America, according to the experts at NextEra.

“They have told us the only other facilities are pretty tiny — in the 2 megawatt range,” he said.

The new facility will put PGE’s wind generation portfolio to more than 1,000 megawatts (1 gigawatt) — enough to serve the

See Project, Page A8

## Businessman purchases iconic Dave’s Food Mart

McAnally, co-founder of Whisky Fest, now owns 3 nearby establishments

By PHIL WRIGHT  
*East Oregonian*

Andy McAnally owns another Pendleton hot spot — Dave’s 12th Street Food Mart.

McAnally also owns Big John’s Pizza and Mac’s Bar and Grill, each a few blocks from the popular fuel station and convenience store at 220 S.W. 12th St.

Dave Walters, a 1966 Pendleton High School graduate, founded Dave’s. He started in the fuel-and-convenience-store business in 1972 at another location in Pendleton with his father.

He and his wife Toni Walters moved the business in 1992 to 220 S.W. 12th St. where

See Dave’s, Page A8

## Cellphone surcharge may pay for rural broadband

Statewide usage fee would pay for high-speed internet expansion

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE  
*Oregon Capital Bureau*

SALEM — Oregonians could see their cell phone bills go up to raise money for expanding rural high-speed internet.

Legislators are considering a surcharge on wireless calls to raise \$10 million a year that utilities could use for internet projects in rural Oregon.

The average cell phone user could see an increase of \$4 to \$8 a year. The surcharge would apply only to calls within the state and also cover voice-over internet protocols.

The state created a special fund in 1999 to push telecommunications technology into rural areas. The idea is that all customers would help pay for services that are more expensive to provide in sparsely populated rural communities.

The critical telecom service used to be landlines. Now, it’s the internet.

According to a December report from the U.S. Census Bureau, rural areas of the country trail in their access to broadband.

In 2016, 64 percent of rural Oregonians lived in areas where they could access broadband speeds, while 98 percent of Oregonians in urban areas could, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

In rural areas of Sherman, Gilliam and Harney counties, the share of residents who have access to broadband was in the single digits. No rural residents in Wheeler County had access to broadband, according to the FCC data.

A greater share of rural Oregonians — about 95 percent — had high-speed internet access through cellphones, although that access varies widely between counties as well.

Some say the gap in accessibility to fixed broadband — high-speed internet you can access on a computer or multiple computers at home, school or at work — cuts off rural areas from economic opportunities.

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*“WE HAVE MORE COWS THAN WE DO PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY. COWS, FORTUNATELY, DON’T USE THE INTERNET, BUT OUR SCHOOLS, AND HOSPITALS AND BUSINESSES ABSOLUTELY DO.”*

David Yamamoto,  
a Tillamook County commissioner



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