

EAST OREGONIAN

JANUARY 3-4, 2015

139th Year, No. 57

WINNER OF THE 2013 ONPA GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

\$1.50



Jesse Abad Canchola, 22 months, pats the head of his newborn sister, Angela, as his older sister, Karla, 10, and mother, Mercedes Abad, look on Friday at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton.

Adorable Angela

Hermiston parents welcome county’s first baby of 2015

By JADE MCDOWELL
East Oregonian

The first day of 2015 brought new resolutions for most people, but for Ignacio Canchola and Mercedes Abad of Hermiston, it also brought a new baby.

Angela Sarai Abad Canchola arrived at 10:12 p.m. on New Year’s Day along with the distinction of being the year’s first baby born in Umatilla County.

Canchola was so happy about his new daughter that words failed him when he tried to describe his feelings at seeing her for the first time.

“It’s difficult to explain. It’s like, ‘Boom!’” he said, placing his hands over his heart and then throwing them wide, trying to demonstrate the love and joy he was experiencing. “It’s exciting.”

He said his wife, who doesn’t speak English, was excited, too, despite being tired from giving birth to her fourth child.

Angela was born a week ahead of schedule, but at a healthy 7 pounds, 8 ounces. She was sleeping in her mother’s arms Friday afternoon at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton, a tiny pink bow attached to her dark hair in preparation for a newborn photo shoot.

Her three older siblings — Karla, Pedro and Jessy — were there after meeting her for the first time that morning. Ten-year-old Karla was shy about talking about her new



Karla Abad Canchola, 10, Mercedes Abad and Ignacio Canchola look down at newborn Angela on Friday at St. Anthony Hospital.

sister, but she did grin and give an emphatic “Yes!” when asked if she was happy about finally getting a sister.

Jessy, who is just shy of two years old, was less bashful, bouncing around and greeting visitors in what Canchola said was his usual handful of a personality.

“I hope she’s not like this one,” he teased.

So far, however, baby Angela hadn’t cried much at all, Canchola said, which was a surprise considering how active she was in her mother’s belly.

“When she was inside she moved a lot, always ‘Bam! Bam! Bam!’” he said.

Abad had Angela after only five hours of labor — otherwise the title of first baby born in Umatilla County would have gone to Zackariah Trevor Matthias Mills. He was born at 8:22 Friday morning after his mother, Samantha Mills of Morrow County, was in labor for a whopping 52 hours.

“I was hoping he would come New

See BABY/12A

Malcom gets 37 years for sex crimes

By GEORGE PLAVERN
East Oregonian

A 45-year-old man will spend more than 37 years in prison after he admitted to repeatedly using a young girl in the making of child pornography.

John Wesley Malcom, of Pilot Rock, was sentenced Friday in Umatilla County Circuit Court in Hermiston. He previously pleaded guilty to two counts of using a child in display of sexually explicit conduct — both major felony sex crimes in Oregon — and two counts of attempting to use a child in display of sexually explicit conduct.

The agreement allowed Malcom to avoid a bevy of additional charges against the child, including multiple counts of rape, sodomy and sexual abuse. Prosecutors had alleged Malcom abused the girl over a period of years between 2006-2012 before he was finally arrested.

Each conviction of child pornography happened when the victim was 13, according to Richard Bunney, the county’s chief deputy district attorney.

Judge Eva Temple sentenced Malcom to a combined 27 years and six months in



Malcom

See MALCOM/12A

Feds seek input on 305-mile transmission line

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Bureau

Federal agencies are seeking input on the plan for a new 305-mile electric transmission line from the Boardman area to a substation southwest of Boise.

The Bureau of Land Management and other agencies are in the midst of an environmental review of the Idaho Power Company project, because roughly one-third of the transmission line would pass through federally managed public lands. In addition to the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Reclamation also manage land along the proposed route.

A draft environmental impact statement that the BLM released Dec. 19 includes suggestions for Idaho Power Company to alter the proposed route in three locations to minimize environmental impacts, in particular to avoid destruction of sage grouse habitat.

Officials in Oregon and other states have been expecting a decision in 2015 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on whether to list the bird under the Endangered Species Act, although recent a recent bill passed by Congress could delay that decision. Federal lawmakers attached a provision to a recent \$1.1 trillion spending bill, in an attempt to prevent the Interior Department from spending any money on rules to protect the greater sage grouse and three related birds, The Associated Press reported.

The BLM also examined the potential impacts of the transmission line on agriculture, historical resources in the area such as the National Historic Oregon Trail and ongoing use of public lands by American Indian tribes.

The transmission line would add capacity for times of peak demand, and it is one of the transmission projects prioritized by the Obama administration to improve the power grid and allow for integration of more renewable energy sources, according to the Bureau of Land Management.

Although the White House wants to speed up permitting of transmission projects, the project still faces a lengthy approval process.

The Bureau of Land Management is accepting comments on the draft environmental report. The agency plans to analyze com-

See POWER/12A

ATHENA

Teen helps upgrade school’s technology



Weston-McEwen High School sophomore Michael Shafer helped to get 100 iPads for his schoolmates to use for their studies. Shafer researched the technology, made presentations to school staff, and wrote grants to obtain the funds to purchase the iPads.

By KATHY ANEY
East Oregonian

Michael Shafer isn’t the kind of kid who accepts the status quo if he can imagine something better.

Last year, Michael entered Weston-McEwen High School in Athena as a freshman and found no iPads in the classrooms. That was a step down from his middle school years when each student was able to use an iPad to assist with studies.

With such a tool, Michael maintains, imagination is a student’s only limitation.

“For two years, I had an iPad every day at school,” the 15-year-old said. “I thought, by the time I got to high school, they’d have a system of iPads in place.”

He was disappointed.

See TECH/12A



7 29467 10002 2