

Makayla Faith Holt first local birth of new year

By CHARLES W. JOHNSON

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(McMinnville, Tenn.)*

River Park Hospital welcomed the first baby born in Warren County in 2009 at 9:43 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 2.

Makayla Faith Holt was born to parents Angela Walden and Joseph Holt III of Manchester. Dr. Rene del Valle delivered the baby girl, who weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces.

Both parents say they are pleased, but a bit surprised, to have the first child born in 2009.

"It's exciting," said proud dad Joe. "I didn't know she was the first one until we got her back to the nursery. It's pretty cool. This is my first and she's absolutely beautiful."

Mom Angela agreed.

"It is exciting," she said. "I'm just glad she's OK and healthy."

River Park Hospital and various Warren County merchants honored baby Makayla by presenting her and her parents with a gift basket containing a variety of baby items. The basket included commemorative items like the baby's first teddy bear, baby's first piggy bank, baby's first pair of shoes, and other useful items including a baby bath tub. Baby

Makayla also received a shirt embroidered with "New Year Baby 2009" from the hospital.

Jenny Grady, director of the Family Birthing Unit, said, "Since 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 1, we've all been on the edge of our seats waiting for this baby to be born. They say that the first baby born in the new year brings promise and good fortune for the year to come and that is definitely something to celebrate."

Another special birth occurred at 11:22 a.m. on Dec. 31. The last baby of 2008 was Kayden Fitts, born to proud parents Jessica Fitts and Vondale Solomon. Dr. del Valle delivered the baby boy, who weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces. Kayden and his parents were also presented with a gift basket.

"We like to celebrate every single birth here in the FBU," says Grady, "We have especially enjoyed the opportunity to give both of these families a little additional recognition and gifts for their extra-special deliveries."

With each new delivery at River Park, Braham's Lullaby is played over the speaker system throughout the hospital. The music is a little reminder of the miracles, like Makayla and Kayden, that happen throughout the year at River Park Hospital.



Charles W. Johnson photo

Warren County's first baby of the new year is MaKayla Faith Holt, born at 9:43 a.m. on Jan. 2 to Angela Walden and Joseph Era Holt III. MaKayla weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces, and was 19 inches long.