

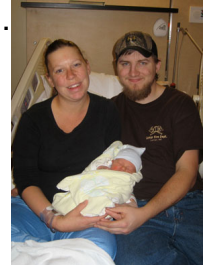
Christopher Hansen claims Holyoke's 1st Baby of the Year honors on Jan. 3

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

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"Okay, Cowboy," said a proud J.J. Hansen as he carried his son Christopher to his wife Samantha so they could participate in the "First Baby of the Year" photo shoot at Melissa Memorial Hospital.

Christopher Matthew Hansen was born at 6:20 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 3 to claim honors as the first baby born at MMH in 2009. Delivered by Dr. Dennis Jelden and Dr. David Reed, Christopher weighed in at 6 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 19.5 inches long.



He is the first child of his proud parents, J.J. and Samantha Hansen, who live in Lamar, Neb. "We're really proud and excited," said J.J., adding they genuinely appreciated the hospital staff and doctors.

"The nurses are just great," said J.J. "And they love babies," added Samantha.

Due on Jan. 16, Christopher arrived a couple of weeks ahead of schedule to ensure capturing first baby recognition.

He is the first grandchild for J.J.'s parents, John and Patti Hansen of Denver, and also has a paternal great grandfather, Bob McGuire of Broomfield, Ill.

In Samantha's family, the new baby makes grandchild number nine for grandparents David and Addie Coplen of Greenfield, Mo.

The couple has lived in Lamar for several years, and J.J. is employed at Frenchman Valley Produce in Imperial, Neb.

Young Christopher has already gained a number of affectionate nicknames from his dad, including one from *Tales from Watership Down*, a book neatly tucked in the newborn's diaper bag.

The fun has only just begun!

First Babies 2004-2009

In the past five years, the first baby of the new year has arrived at Melissa Memorial Hospital within the first 10 days of January.

Those first babies included Angel Sebastian Gutierrez Cid, Jan. 10, 2008, son of Leonor Cid and Mario Gutierrez; Grace Kristine Hubbard, Jan. 9, 2007, daughter of Gabe and Jill Hubbard; Porche Brooklyn Wilson, Jan. 3, 2006, daughter of Janelle Buchanan and Jack Wilson.

Erin Paige Susan Andersen, Jan. 9, 2005, daughter of Billy and Katie Andersen; and Jacob Todd Anderson, Jan. 6, 2004, son of Jared and Jonetta Anderson.

Gifts presented to Hansens

Twenty-six businesses contributed gifts for Christopher and his parents as part of the First Baby of 2009 contest.

Participants included Melissa Memorial Hospital, PC Telcom, Stage Cuts Salon, Computers Etc., GPRC/Peerless Theatre, Bank of Colorado, El Buen Sazón, Holyoke Ampride, D&J Hardware.

Regent Park and Carriage House, Veronica's Full Service Hair Salon, Allen's Dairy King, First Pioneer National Bank, First Dragon Chinese Restaurant, Holyoke Community Federal Credit

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Union.

Bill's TV, Pizza p.a.d., Holyoke General Store, Holyoke Cleaners, Inklings Book Store, KarDale's, Shimmer-n-Shine Cleaning Service, Flower Garden, Holyoke Marketplace, MV Equipment and Holyoke Enterprise.