

# A superhero's welcome

## Park County's first baby of the new year is born

By Liz Kearney  
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**I**t's official — baby Jak Wyatt Stokke, is the first baby of 2014 born at Livingston HealthCare.

LHC spokeswoman Rebekah Stoner said the hospital was expecting several babies right around Jan. 1.

Jak was born Jan. 3, 2014, at 11:51 a.m., weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces and measuring 20 inches in length, to Livingston residents Heather and Steve Stokke.

Jak's official due date was Jan. 11, but he was delivered by cesarean section on Friday morning.

Steve Stokke said they were surprised Jak was the first baby born this year at LHC because they had heard another family had left the hospital with a new baby earlier in the week. And Heather was surprised to learn the first baby of the new year would receive media attention and an LHC gift basket.

"I didn't know it was a big deal," she said from her family-packed hospital room, Sunday. Also on hand were Jak's older siblings, brother Gabriel, 12, and sister Katie, 3.

Katie, asked what she thought about her new brother, answered with one word.

"Cutie," she said shyly, from behind her dad's knee.

The gift basket was filled with "awesome things," Steve said. It included a whale-shaped baby bathtub, blankets,



Enterprise photo by Shawn Raecke

**Wearing a Captain America T-shirt, Steve Stokke, of Livingston, holds his new son, Jak, who sports a Batman onesie, at Livingston HealthCare on Sunday afternoon.**

diapers, other supplies and lots of toys, he said.

Jak was sporting a teeny-tiny "Batman" T-shirt Sunday. Dad was wearing a Captain America T-shirt, giving the maternity ward a certain superhero flavor. Steve wasn't even sure where the Batman shirt came from. It might have

been in the LHC gift basket, he guessed.

The Stokkes are recent Livingston arrivals. They were living in the Florida Keys until Steve got a job in the Bakken oil field near Williston, N.D. He moved north ahead of the family, and they then moved to Livingston in October. Steve is still working in Williston, but is looking for something closer to home.

Stoner said LHC delivered 92 babies in 2013, adding that not all of them were local. Women from around the region choose to come to LHC to give birth, she said.

The last LHC baby of 2013 — and nearly the first of 2014 — was due Jan. 5. Neeya Rosenova Gray was born to Livingston residents Lance and Nadia Gray on Dec. 31, 2013, at 8:50 p.m., missing a New Year's arrival by just a few hours.

Neeya weighed exactly 7 pounds and was 18 inches long, her mother said Monday morning. Neeya has an older brother, Thomas, who is 2 years old.

Nadia is originally from Bulgaria. She first came to the U.S. as an exchange student worker, including a summer in Yellowstone National Park. These days, she works for Printing For Less. Her husband is a paramedic.

Nadia said she was a little disappointed Neeya couldn't have waited a few more hours, but she's a happy, healthy little girl.

"She just couldn't wait to celebrate New Year's with us," she said.