

Stork makes New Year's deliveries

By Rachel Raskin-Zrihen and Melissa Murphy

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Jerica Powell of Vacaville cuddles her newborn son, Michael Vernon Smalley Jr., on Friday at NorthBay Medical Center in Fairfield. Looking on is her fiancé, Michael Smalley Sr. of Vallejo. (Joel Rosenbaum/The Reporter, Vacaville)

Jerica Powell of Vacaville cuddles her newborn son, Michael Vernon Smalley Jr., on Friday at NorthBay Medical Center in Fairfield. Looking on is her fiancé, Michael Smalley Sr. of Vallejo. (Joel Rosenbaum/The Reporter, Vacaville) At 3:08 a.m. Friday at Sutter Solano Medical Center, Allison Moreno entered the world as Vallejo's first baby of the new year.

Her mother, Consuelo Moreno, 27, who speaks no English, said through her boyfriend's sister, Maricela Moreno, that she's proud her daughter is this year's Vallejo New Year's baby.

Allison weighed in at 7 pounds, 5 ounces, and measured just over 20 inches long. She joins two sisters, ages 5 and nearly 18 months, said her Aunt Maricela, a Vallejo Middle School eighth-grader.

Maricela, 13, said she looks forward to baby-sitting her newest family member. She gets a lot of practice, she said, with 10 cousins, nieces and nephews -- six girls and four boys -- under the age of 5.

Consuelo Moreno said she and her boyfriend, Jose Magaña, plan to keep trying for a son.



Consuelo Moreno holds her newborn baby, Allison, Friday at Sutter Solano Hospital in Vallejo. (Chris Riley/Times-Herald)

Sutter Solano charge nurse Jennifer Franz said it's always a little bit more exciting than usual to come in on New Year's Day to learn if their facility got the year's first baby. "But it's the luck of the draw," she said.

This year, Solano County's first baby was born a little more than an hour into the new year, to Jerica Powell of Vacaville and fiancé Michael Smalley of Vallejo.

At 1:08 a.m. at Fairfield's NorthBay Medical Center, Michael Vernon Smalley Jr., who had been due Christmas Day, became the first baby born in Solano County in 2010. He weighed in at 7 pounds, 2 ounces.

"We didn't think we'd be the first ones," Powell said from her hospital room. "It's pretty cool actually."

This is the couple's first baby, she said. Joking with family, Powell said she'll be ready to have another one, maybe, in 16 years.

"So far, I really like being a mom," she said. "It's really tiring, though."

Family members began visiting early Friday morning, sanitizing everything and taking plenty of pictures.

The Powell's bundle of joy wore a striped Onesie and just barely opened his eyes to check out his new environment only to quickly fall back to sleep.

"He gets his looks from me," Smalley teased.

The couple arrived at the hospital around 2 p.m. Thursday and were eager to return home Friday to catch up on some much-needed sleep.

Baby Michael was something of an unexpected gift for the pair, they said.

After being excited about expecting a baby, the two were told that Powell had miscarried. "Five months later though, we realized she was still pregnant," Smalley said. "We were a bit surprised to say the least."

Although Powell wasn't able to formally ring in the new year, she's excited that 2010 started off with the birth of a health baby boy.

Coincidentally, baby Michael shares a birthday with his aunt, Powell's sister, who was the second baby born in Solano County in 1996.

Once they make it home, Powell said she wants to enjoy sleeping next to the baby, but when he's awake he'll have quite the wardrobe to choose from.

"I have an adult-size dresser full of baby clothes and half of a closet," Powell said.

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