



JOHN A. GILLIS/DNJ

Parents Elizabeth Spence and Nathan White watch their son, Nathan White Jr., at MTMC Saturday. Nathan White Jr. was the first baby born at MTMC in 2011.

# Nathan Jr. rings in new year at MTMC

## First Baby of 2011 'is gorgeous'

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Nathan White Jr. came close to being a baby with eight 1's in his time and date of birth when he was

born at 11:22 a.m. New Year's Day, or 1-1-11.

"He had almost had all 1's if he had been born 11 minutes earlier," said Kim Spence, Nathan's proud grandmother. "He's gorgeous. We will love him dearly."

New mom Elizabeth "Lizzy" Spence went through 12 hours and

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"I was going to use my uncle's (Jeffery Kent Flowerdew) name," said the 16-year-old mother who resides with her parents in Smyrna. "He passed away."

Nathan Jr.'s father, though, wanted to continue the legacy of his name, and Lizzy accepted the request.

"We've been engaged since last Christmas," the new mother said.

Nathan Sr. lives in Murfreesboro and is working on completing a high school diploma online while working at Kmart.

Lizzy attends Holloway High School in Murfreesboro.

"She graduates in May a year early," her mother said. "And she's president of Beta Club this year."

Beta Club recognizes and promotes academic achievement, leadership and service to others, according to the national organization's website.

Kim Spence added that her daughter will go onto to college and reside at her parents' home until she's at least 18.

"She wants to be a lawyer," the mother said. "She'll start out as a paralegal. She's smart. She will have no prob-

lem doing it."

As for Nathan Jr.'s future, he'll be "whatever he wants to be," the new mother said. Her father, James Spence, agreed.

"As long as he's happy," the grandfather said. "This family is very well blessed."

Other family members gathered Saturday afternoon to celebrate

the birth of Nathan Jr.

They included his uncle and aunt, Jeremiah and Amber Keisling, and their 8-year-old daughter, Skyla; and aunt Emily Spence, who along with Amber is one of Lizzy's sisters. The other sister is aunt Jamie Spence.

Nathan Sr., whose parents are deceased, noted

that his Murfreesboro grandparents, Linda and Bill Newcomb, are also important extended family for their new great-grandson.

When it comes to the young mother's side of the family, Nathan Jr. represents the first male born in 40 years, Lizzy's mother said.

"I had daughters," Kim

Spence added. "My sister had daughters. My first daughter had a daughter. My late brother had a daughter."

Initially, her grandson had been given a due date on Jan. 18 before the doctor moved it up by 10 days.

"Little man just decided to come on the first," the grandmother said.

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Nathan White Jr. was born Saturday at MTMC. His parents are Nathan White and Elizabeth Spence.