



BRINGING HOME BABY

EVEN THOUGH HE SLEPT ONLY ONE HOUR the night before, James Boller of Santa Barbara was a very happy man on May 16. On that day, he and his wife, Akina, welcomed their first child into the world and celebrated their first wedding anniversary.

Daughter Karina Yui was born shortly after midnight in the beautiful new Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Birth Center. She arrived a week later than the expected



due date, but her timing couldn't have been more perfect.

When James saw his baby girl for the first time, he was surprised by her size. He remembered thinking to himself. "Wow! She's so big! And she has a full head of hair."

Mother and baby were resting comfortably in one of the patient rooms in the new Mother Infant Unit, which along with the Birth Center is part of the Brittingham Family Women's Services at the new Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

Located on the third floor of the Junipero Pavilion, the Birth Center has 12 birthing rooms, each with a Jacuzzi tub that can be used during labor.

"Mothers love the Jacuzzi tubs because it can help them relax and not require pain medication," said Linda Bacon, director of Women's Services. "The Jacuzzi tubs help to promote a natural childbirth."

In case a Caesarian (C-section) birth is required, the Birth Center also includes two operating rooms reserved just for maternity use.

Close to 2,500 babies a year are delivered at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. The brand new Mother Infant Unit now offers all-private patient rooms, and each room has a sofa bed that allows a family member or friend to spend the night with mom and baby after delivery.

Added comforts include room service so mothers can order meals when they want, and Wi-Fi and internet access lets families connect instantaneously with loved ones who are far away.

James had given Akina a new iPad as an anniversary gift, and she was able to log onto Skype from her bed to communicate with her parents in Japan.

"It's their first grandchild, and they were really excited to see her," James explained.

Despite being exhausted after a sleepless night, James said he clearly remembers how well he, Akina and Karina were cared for by the entire staff at Cottage.

"Everybody here has been awesome. The nurses, our doctor...everyone has been so helpful and so encouraging," he said. "The rooms are really nice and clean and comfortable. We're in no hurry to go home."

◆ MARIA ZATE | PHOTOS BY GLENN DUBOCK



What parents are saying about the new Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Birth Center

Since opening in February, the new Birth Center and Mother Infant Unit have been receiving rave reviews from patients and families. The patient satisfaction rating has consistently reached above 95 percent. Here are some recent comments from the Press Ganey surveys:

"Nurses were so friendly, kind and love their job. The best nurses I ever had. On experience rating of 1 to 10, they're 12."

"All the nurses were very kind and informative. They always talked to me about any medication before giving it to me. I was so happy with the staff that my husband and I gave them a box of chocolates."

"Nurse in recovery was amazing!! I felt so comfortable with her during a spinal and she made the first few hours of being a mom a wonderful experience! All postpartum nurses were great too! Thank you!!"

"Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital exceeded my expectations and I would highly recommend! It was a good experience. Thank you!!!"

"Beautiful facility & rooms. Friendly and accommodating cleaning staff. Good climate. Quiet and peaceful stay."

"All my nurses starting from the labor/delivery nurse was so really WONDERFUL! They went way beyond fantastic. I LOVED them all! They all listened and were extremely kind and generous and so respectful!!!"

