

Isabelle ushers in difficult life for new parents

By Kris Wartelle

kwartelle@theadvertiser.com

The new year started with a life-changing event for Lafayette couple Kristen and Dustin Delahoussaye. Their baby, Isabelle, was the area's first baby born in 2014 at Women's and Children's Hospital in Lafayette.

From the very beginning, they knew Isabelle was special.

"All the nurses kept coming in and looking at the clock saying, 'We're going to win! We're going to win! You're going to have the New Year's baby!'" Kristen recounted. "And now, all these people we haven't talked to in years are congratulating us. It makes it feel even more special."

Most new parents can identify with the Delahoussayes. First, they were a couple free to go and do whatever, whenever they wanted. Then, they were three, and everything revolved around the new person in their life.

"One thing you don't realize is you can't just get out to the store," Kristen said. "You can't do anything you used to do anymore. It's all about her schedule and her time."

"Being a parent doesn't come with a handbook. So we have to learn what she wants through trial and error."

"It's just such a joy. She has been great," proud father Dustin said. "But we are dedicated. You have to be committed to it."



Dustin Delahoussaye and wife Kristen speak about their adjustment to life as new parents to their newborn daughter Isabelle. Isabelle was born at 1:15 a.m. on January 1, 2014, making her the first baby born in Lafayette in 2014.

PHOTOS BY PAUL KIEU, THE ADVERTISER

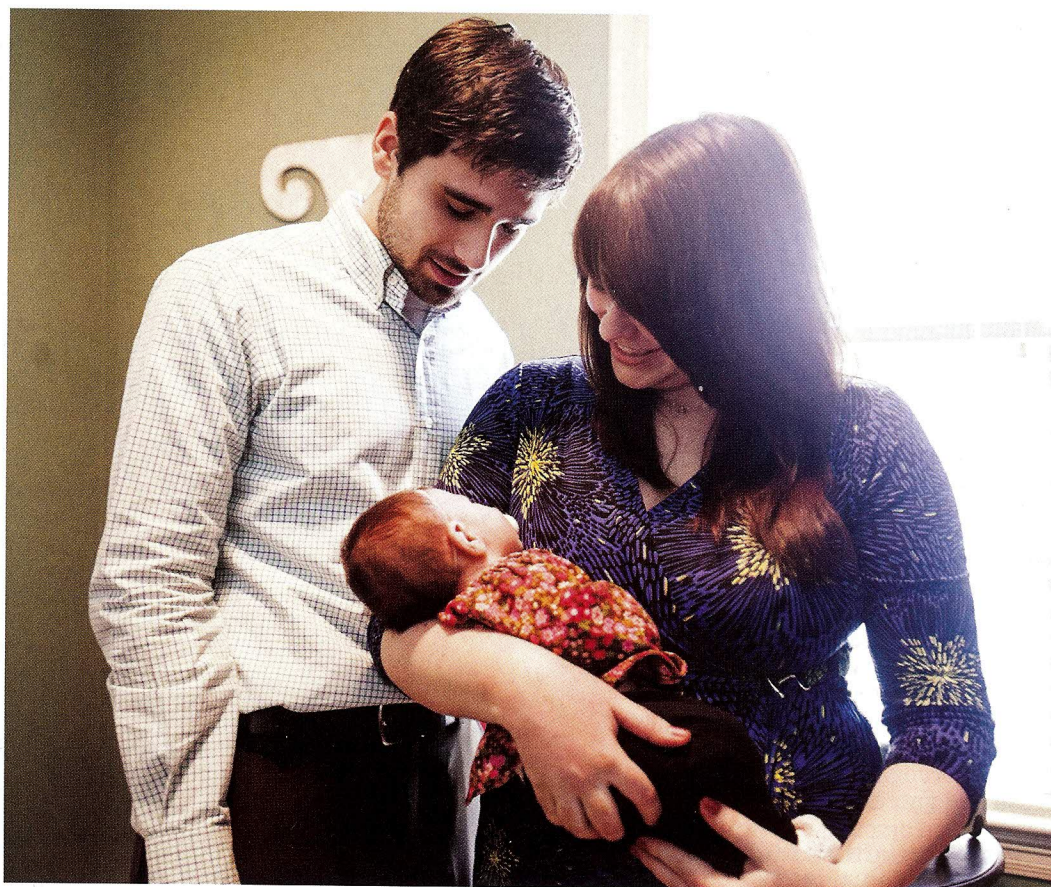
Newborn infant Isabelle Delahoussaye lies in her crib at her family's home in Lafayette.

See a video about Delahoussayes online at theadvertiser.com



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first baby of 2014 is
life-changing event



Kristen and Dustin Delahoussaye spend time with their daughter, Isabelle, in her nursery. PHOTOS BY PAUL KIEU, THE ADVERTISER

The change is exciting and exhausting all at once. The couple said they tried for three years to have a baby and were able to conceive only with fertility treatments.

"We got married and we started trying and after about a year-and-a-half, we figured that we should seek some help and that's when we went to Dr. (John M.)

Storment," Kristen related. "That's when we were diagnosed with infertility. So we tried numerous fertility treatments. And then we got pregnant and had Isabelle with our third in-vitro cycle. So we were very excited. It definitely makes us appreciate it more."

Kristen quit her job as a French immersion teacher to devote her time to her

daughter. Dustin, who works for the LHC group, said he and Kristen work together as a team to take care of Isabelle.

"We're still a couple," Dustin said, "but we're more of a tag team now. It's all about her."

Gone are the days of taking off for impromptu trips or LSU football games.

The couple said the other changes they have experienced so far are: no sleep, no eating together and a whole new schedule, as well as a new roommate.

They are also learning a whole bunch of new lessons.

"We learned that's its OK to ask for help," Kristen added. "It's OK to be frustrated. It's OK to cry. (Because) it all works out, and it's all worth it."