By Jan Rahn
Managing Editor

Being first time parents of the first baby of the new year is a pretty sweet deal for a young Grant couple.

Ben and Tiffany Long have welcomed a 10-pound baby boy into the family and couldn't be more jubilant.

Magnus Samuel Long was born on Monday, Jan. 7, 2013 at 4:37 p.m., weighing in at exactly 10 pounds 1.5 ounces with a length of 22 inches.

"He's definitely a blessing," said the new mom, who expressed gratitude to all of the area businesses, the hospital and staff who saw to it that the infant arrived healthy and safe with a multitude of gifts awaiting him for being the firstborn of 2013 in Perkins County.

"We're so thankful we live in Perkins County with all of the wonderful people and all of the prayers [for him]," said Tiffany.

With a proud grin, new daddy Ben laid claim to the tiny blue t-shirt outfitting their new baby—Ben wore it 31 1/2 years ago! The shirt, which says, "I was born at Perkins County Hospital," is obviously like brand new and was given to the young couple by grandma Kris Long who has kept it all these years, welcoming the baby to Grant along with husband John.

Also delighted with their new grandson are Tiffany's parents, Rich and Mary Kline of Papillion, along with great-grandparents Joyce and the late Bill Long of Grant, the late Pauline (who passed away a week after the baby's birth) and the late Rolland Decker of Beatrice, Marjorie and the late Doc Peterson of Gretna, Bob and the late Anne Busby of Wakefield, and the late Merwyn Kline of Osceola, Mo.

Baby Long was delivered by Dr. Kristi Kohl.

Ben was raised in Grant and returned to the area in July 2011 to work with his brother JJ Long

at Long Farms and Pioneer Seed.

Tiffany joined him in Grant during October of that year.

As a farmer, Ben will become much busier when spring arrives. He also serves as the newest elected member to the Grant City Council, a seat he filled at the beginning of the year.

Following six weeks of maternity leave, Tiffany will return to her position as insurance agent at HomeTown Agency in Grant.

Several area businesses have contributed gifts to the family. They include: $50 savings account from Adams Bank and Trust, $10 gift certificate from Adams Lumber Company, $100 gift certificate at AR Salon, $15 gift certificate from Country Supply, two lunch specials at DJs Bar and Grill, $20 gift card at Deaver Computer, $10 gift card from Frenchman Valley Co-op, $10 gift certificate from Grant NAPA, $20 gift certificate from 310 Central American Grill, $25 savings account at Valley Bank, two t-bone steaks from Grant Packing, $10 gift certificate and diapers from Grant Pharmacy, $20 gift card at Hatch's Super Foods, three-month membership at Image Total Fitness $20 gift certificate from In & Out, $10 gift certificate from The Hairworks, one item of baby apparel from Studio Designs, and a one-year subscription from The Grant Tribune-Sentinel.