

Triplets delivered at new neonatal unit

BY MICHELLE L. START
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Five months after the neonatal special care unit opened at Cape Coral Hospital, a set of triplets have been delivered and cared for there.

The babies, all boys, were delivered by Cesarean section on Friday, Sept. 7 after their mother, Dalia Hemed, initially went to HealthPark Medical Center in Fort Myers only to find that there was no room for the triplets in their neonatal unit.

"They said that if the babies were born and needed a high level of neonatal care, more than likely they would be shipped out of the area," said 42-year-old David Hemed, the new father. "I guess our doctors and Cape Coral Hospital talked and since they had almost a level II nursery here, they told us if they babies didn't need to be intubated they could be brought here."

As the couple was preparing to deliver at HealthPark, though, doctors decided that Dalia Hemed, 37, was far enough along that she could deliver and recover at Cape Coral Hospital.

Most triplet births only make it to about 32 weeks of gestation, but Dalia Hemed was at 35 weeks. It is a story that would have played out quite differently had Cape Coral Hospital not opened the neonatal special care unit in April.

"In the past, we have been able to do labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum all in one room," said Dr. Lawrence Antonucci, chief administrative officer and the obstetrician who delivered the first baby born at Cape Coral Hospital in 1988. "If the baby required any more care, we would have to transport the baby and the



PHOTO MICHELLE START
David Hemed holding his first-born son. Hemed and his wife Dalia had triplets last Friday at Cape Coral Hospital's new neonatal special care unit.

neonatal care but do need more than just room care. This is a terrific service to the people of Cape Coral. It keeps families together, which is what it is all about."

Now, officials are trying to expand services offered there by purchasing six new cardiac monitors, which will cost about \$90,000. The overall cost of the 10-bed nursery was \$300,000. It is a part of The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, which is one of 11 such hospitals in Florida. It was recognized recently for the level of care provided.

On Saturday, it was filled with half a dozen infants needing special care.

"The triplets were not even our sickest baby delivered on Friday," said Nancy Travis, director of women's services.

As the boys, who had not been named at press time, were being delivered, another baby boy was fighting his way into the world. He was one of the other babies in the neonatal special care unit Saturday morning.

After a stressful, and at times difficult, pregnancy, Dalia Hemed said she was ready to get back to living her life.

Cape Coral residents, the Hemeds had been trying to conceive for four years without success until they underwent in-vitro fertilization and implanted two embryos. One of those embryos split, creating identical twin boys. The twins were born second and third. The boys have some respiratory distress syndrome because they were born prematurely, but the Hemeds are hoping that they outgrow it.

"You worry enough that the babies are going to be OK," said David Hemed. "But, the whole staff here was great." ■

mom to HealthPark. This allows us to take those babies that don't need intensive

We cater breakfast as early as you need it!

hot breakfast sandwiches
pastries • fresh fruit
NEW! bagel time trays

Everything we serve is free of artificial trans fats

Jason's deli

2311 Santa Barbara Blvd.
Cape Coral • 239-458-8700

Reflection Pkwy. @ Cypress Lake
Fort Myers • 239-590-9994

2700 Immokalee Rd.
Naples • 239-593-9499

1100 El Jobean Rd. #128 (SR 776 & US 41)
Port Charlotte • 941-235-3354

jasonsdeli.com

Pick-up and Delivery Available in Fort Myers, Estero and Bonita

Royal Cleaners
Dry Cleaning

Quality & Experience
Dry Cleaner Specializing in:

Household Items (Rugs/Drapes/Comforters) • Evening Wear
• Specialty Clothing • Shirts • Dry Cleaning

12901 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers
(Across from The Landings)
239-481-6624

Owner Operated *References Available*

YOUR PREMIER SOURCE FOR QUALITY OFFICE FURNITURE

Unsurpassed Knowledge • Quality Products • Exceptional Service • Low Prices

Office Furniture and Design Concepts
11866 Metro Parkway • Fort Myers
239-337-1212 • www.ofdc-inc.com

LAMINATE \$4.79
INSTALL Per Sq. Ft. COMPLETE Regularly \$5.29

THE LAMINATE
WOOD FLOOR & MORE STORE

1-866-Lam-Floor 239-931-9111

NEVER SEAL Your Wood or Pavers Again!

SEALMAXX
PERMANENT WOOD, CONCRETE AND MASONRY PROTECTION

FREE No Obligation Estimate
\$100.00 Off Any Job Over 1000 sq. ft.
Not valid with other offers or after deposit. Expires 9/31/07.

15 YEAR WARRANTY ON BRICK PAVERS

239-590-0093 www.SealMaxx.com

25 YEAR WARRANTY ON WOOD & CONCRETE

"Very personable and courteous service. It's a job extremely well done, and it appears to be working very nicely, too." Robert - Cape Coral

"We don't just clean your wood or concrete to like new condition, but permanently protect it from our harsh environment, and back it up with a 25 year transferable warranty."