



□ *Editor's note: This is one in a series of feature stories about people who have returned with their families to their hometown of Imperial, after living and working in other communities.*

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Within the space of one week, Matt and Tanna Hanna accepted a job, found out they were expecting a baby and moved to Imperial. What an adjustment!

Matt, a 2001 Chase County High School graduate, and Tanna, a 2001 Grant High School graduate, met on a ski trip through friends. They married Nov. 3, 2007.

Both were working in Denver, Matt as a mortgage broker with Mountain Side Mortgage, and Tanna as a sales recruiter with Culver Careers.

They really didn't talk about moving back to their "hometown" area. Jobs were good and they had a number of things to do for entertainment.

"We talked about moving back someday," Tanna said. Then Matt interviewed at Adams Bank & Trust for a business development officer job, and they made a decision.

Move back. That was on a Monday. On Wednesday they found out they were pregnant. On Friday, they moved into Matt's parents' basement. Wow!

Matt accepted a position with Adams Bank & Trust, and Tanna was in the business office at Chase County Community Hospital.

Elizabeth, now 13 months and a very active part of the family, was born, much to the delight of grandparents Dave and Cathy Hanna and Kirk and Mary Wilson, all of Imperial.

Matt is now a John Deere crop insurance representative for 21st Century, while Tanna is a customer service manager for Allo Communications.

Matt said he moved back because he "missed the small towns, I was close to family, closer to the farm, and didn't know how close I was to raising a family." He'd made the decision to move before they knew Elizabeth was coming.

He also said he enjoys helping the family with harvest and on the weekends.

Tanna "knew when we got married that we would move back, I knew the timing would be right" for Matt. She said it was easy moving back because of family. "Especially being pregnant and having my mom here, was awesome," she exclaimed.

Matt said the special thing about Imperial is "the people and the sense of community. There are all of these people who have impacted me growing up, whether they were in sports, church or FFA."

Tanna added that there are a "lot of good friends and family here."

If they were to sell Imperial to friends who haven't grown up here, the Hannas said life is easy and full.

Matt said he doesn't miss the commute, especially since he coaches, works on the house, farms, plays golf and is with his family after work.

Tanna added, "It's how easy life is. There's not an hour commute. Life is slow, with a lot more time to spend with family."

Matt is active in the Imperial Country Club golf league, Jaycees, the Imperial Bible Church, coaching boys' high school basketball, refereeing football games, helping with track meets and will be the Chamber of Commerce president next year.

Tanna also is active in the Imperial Country Club golf course, is on a bowling team and attends Imperial Bible Church.

"I love it," Matt said of living in Imperial. "Denver had its amenities, such as the Broncos and skiing, but we didn't take advantage of them. A year after we'd moved here, I'd golfed more in Denver (on trips back there) than I had when I'd lived there."

"I like it a lot more than I thought I would," Tanna said.

She's thankful for the support their families have given to them, and to Elizabeth, a beautiful one-year-old living in a wonderful house the couple is restoring.