

# Rockdale Citizen

**New year, new baby**

*Little girl first of 2009 in Rockdale*

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Staff Reporter

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## CONYERS

Janiyah Necole Austin grabbed bragging rights as the first baby born in Rockdale County in 2009.

Baby Janiyah came into the world at 7:39 a.m. Thursday. She weighed in at 6 pounds and 5.8 ounces at The Birth Place at Rockdale Medical Center.

Janiyah's mother, Shaneka Austin, said her little girl showed doctors and nurses her stubborn streak moments after birth.

Janiyah would not cry at first. Though she appeared to breathe normally, it took nurses a few minutes to get her to test out her lungs. Then it took nurses several attempts to get the baby's footprints. Janiyah kicked and apparently did not want to do that at the time, Shaneka said.

"Oh, she's stubborn. Mom says she's just like me, but I don't see it," said the 19-year-old Lithonia resident who will graduate in May from technical school to become a medical assistant.

Shaneka said her grandmother, a minister, suggested the name Janiyah, which is derived from the Hebrew name, Jana, and means "believer."

Shaneka said her family is ready and able to help take care of the new baby. She lives with her mother, who will help care for Janiyah, as well as the baby's great-grandmother, who lives down the road.

Janiyah was born soon after Jayce Loren Jones, the last baby born in 2008 at Rockdale Medical Center. Jayce was born at 10:22 p.m. Wednesday to her parents, Kenniqua and Julius Jones of Conyers.

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Staff Photo: Robert Porter  
Janiyah Necole Austin rests with her mother, Shaneka Austin of Lithonia, at The Birth Place at Rockdale Medical Center on Friday. Janiyah entered the world at 7:39 a.m. New Year's Day, earning the distinction of being the first baby born in Rockdale County in 2009. Shaneka Austin said her daughter is apparently ready to face the world. She wiggled so much after birth that it took nurses a few tries to get her footprints for medical records.

