

Iowa woman gives birth to septuplets

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — An Iowa seamstress gave birth to four boys and three girls Wednesday, listening intently as doctors told her the condition and sex of each child. It was only the second set of septuplets known to be born alive.

Bobbi McCaughey's septuplets, born two months early by Caesarean section, weighed from 2 pounds, 5 ounces to 3 pounds, 4 ounces. A medical team of 40 specialists helped with the delivery. All seven were in serious condition.

"All the babies are so well-grown, so well-developed, it just strikes me as a miracle," said Dr. Paula Mahone, who helped perform the delivery at Iowa Methodist Medical Center.

It was only the second such birth in the United States. There are no known surviving sets of septuplets in the world.

The first baby — also the heaviest — was nicknamed "Hercules" because he "held all the others up" in a pyramid formation in the womb, Mahone said.

News of the delivery came from grandfather Bob Hepworth, who said his daughter was resting comfortably. "I'm probably one of the proudest grandfathers in this country at this moment," Hepworth said.

His namesake, Kenneth Robert, was born at 12:48 p.m. weighing 3 pounds, 4 ounces. Alexis May came next at 12:49, weighing 2 pounds, 11 ounces, followed by Natalie Sue, 12:50, 2 pounds, 10 ounces; Kelsey

Experts call for less regulation of heroin addiction treatment

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — Heroin addiction is a medical problem that can be cured if doctors are freed from heavy-handed restrictions on the use of methadone, a federal scientific panel concluded Wednesday.

The report by a committee at the National Institutes of Health supports an earlier White House call for more physician control of dosing and distribution of methadone, a synthetic narcotic used to wean addicts from heroin.

Committee chair Dr. Lewis L. Judd of the University of California, San Diego, said physicians are reluctant to treat heroin addiction because of mountains of paperwork and "onerous" regulations imposed on the use of methadone by federal agencies and state governments.

"We know of no other area of medicine where the federal government intrudes so deeply and coercively into the practice of medicine," Judd said. "If extra levels of regulation were eliminated, many more physicians and pharmacies could

Ann, 12:51, 2 pounds, 5 ounces; Brandon James, 12:52, 3 pounds, 3 ounces; Nathaniel Roy, 12:53, 2 pounds, 14 ounces; and Joel Steven, 12:54, 2 pounds, 15 ounces.

One of the infants, Joel, was initially listed in critical condition but was later upgraded to serious. All of the babies were on ventilators.

"It is not at all unusual for babies delivered at this stage of pregnancy to be in critical condition," Dr. David Alexander, medical director of Blank Children's Hospital, where the infants will be cared for, said. He said premature babies often need help breathing.

"I would ask that all believers across the world join us in praying for Bobbi and for the babies that their health will continue and only improve," Hepworth said.

Doctors could not immediately say whether any of the infants were identical.

McCaughey, 29, gained 25 pounds during the pregnancy, or just 5 pounds more than the babies weighed.

"You have to take into account she has been in bed for a very long time and lost muscle mass," Mahone said.

McCaughey was given an epidural anesthetic and was alert during the delivery. Doctors told her the condition of each child.

"As we delivered each baby and saw the size of the babies and how vigorous they were, we were very, very happy," Mahone said.

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MOVIE TIME GUIDE

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS VALID FOR MONDAY-THURSDAY NOV. 17-20, 1997

MONDAY NIGHT IS KITS STUDENT NIGHT	7:25 9:30
2 FOR 1 ADMISSION FOR STUDENTS WITH CURRENT ID	
WEDNESDAY IS LADIES NIGHT! ALL LADIES HALF PRICE	
GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE (PG)	7:25 9:30
G.I. JANE (R)	7:00 9:35
MONEY TALKS (R)	7:15 9:55
CONSPIRACY THEORY (R)	7:00 9:40
COPLAND (R)	7:20 9:45
MEN IN BLACK (PG-13)	7:30 9:50

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7 p.m.	2 p.m.

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