

COMING BACK HOME



Hayley, center, slept through the entire interview with, from left, Shawna, Edward Jackson, Jeff and Riley Rusher. (Republican photo)

Missing one family but glad to be with another

■ **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.

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When Jeff and Shawna (Wallin) Rusher moved to Imperial last April, they were moving away from Jeff's family and home to Shawna's family.

The couple lived in Ordway, Colo. from 2005-2010, where Jeff taught high school math and coached wrestling and football. He also farmed with his family.

They decided to move to Imperial for several reasons. "For

the kids. I knew Imperial was a good place to raise kids. It's a family-friendly community," Shawna stated. Jeff added that there are good job opportunities here.

"There does seem to be a lot of people our age, and a lot of job opportunities. The economy is booming," he noted.

Shawna agreed that "I really like how there are so many young families here, and so many things for your families to be involved in."

An advantage to living in Imperial includes, for Shawna, 27, that her mother, Pat Wallin, is a phone call away. It's also safe, she said. "I can take walks any time. I feel confident and safe."

Jeff, 29, likes "how ag based it is. I grew up on a farm and

ranch. It seems a lot of communities any more are less involved in agriculture."

The drawback, however, is being away from Jeff's family. The couple has three children: Riley, 3; Hayley, 2, and Edward Jackson, seven months.

The Rushers met at Chadron State College. Shawna graduated in 2004 with a business degree, while Jeff graduated in 2005 with an education degree in 7-12 math.

Shawna was a 2002 Chase County High School graduate, while Jeff graduated in 2000 from Wray High School.

Jeff is employed by Frenchman Valley Produce, while Shawna stays home with the children. She belongs to Mothers of Preschoolers.

