

OUR STATE



Deidre Krok of Toms River delivered Andrew and Abigail on Thursday after a minor car accident on Route 66. (STAFF PHOTO: TANYA BREEN)

A scary crash, then a blessed event: Mom gives birth to twins

By **MICHELLE SAHN**
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NEPTUNE — Deidre Krok, 33, of Toms River, was pregnant with twins and on her way to her weekly doctor's appointment, but as she stopped for a red light on Route 66 Wednesday, the motorist behind her struck the back of her vehicle, she said.

She was wearing her seat belt, but had never before been in a car accident. She was so scared, she called her doctor before dialing her husband, Joseph, or 911, she said.

"I was frantic, being 38 weeks pregnant," she said.

Less than 24 hours later, she gave birth to a healthy boy and girl, in a delivery that went far faster than the four days she spent in labor with her older son, Benjamin, now 5½ years old, she said.

Andrew James was born at 7:42 a.m., and Abigail Grace was born at 7:53 a.m. Thursday. He was 5 pounds 8

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— Dr. Steven A. Morgan

ounces, and she was 6 pounds 8 ounces.

"They're doing really good, really good," she said.

Krok said her car was rear-ended shortly before 9 a.m. Wednesday, soon after she got off the Garden State Parkway, as she headed to Dr. Steven A. Morgan's office on Allaire Avenue in Ocean Township.

"I didn't want to move," she said. "I was too scared. I put my hazards on — I didn't know what to do."

Once police learned that she was pregnant, they sent patrol cars, the first aid squad and a fire truck.

She was brought to Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune by ambu-

lance. Within the first four hours, she was having contractions, although she initially did not realize it.

Morgan said his gut feeling — and initial tests — indicated no problems with Krok and the twins, but he wanted to keep her overnight for observation since she was so close to being full-term.

At 2 a.m. Thursday, her water broke.

"Whether or not it was coincidental or caused by the accident, we'll never know," the doctor said.

Krok said it was a "very subdued labor and the delivery was awesome," adding that Dr. Meghan Rattigan and a nurse named Gloria were wonderful as they assisted Dr. Morgan.

The babies are doing well and their big brother, Benjamin, has already been helping his mom and dad change diapers and get bottles.

"It was a very exciting past couple of days," Krok said.