

SM couple celebrates 'giant' gift

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Staff Writer

SAN MARCOS ---- Newborn Delaney tops the scale at six pounds and change ---- practically a giant to parents Jeanne and Eric Mugg.

Born four weeks premature, Delaney weighs more than eight times what her sister Taylor, the Mugg's first child, did at birth.

Taylor weighed just 12 ounces when she was born four months premature in November 2000 ---- the size of a soda can. She spent five months at the UCSD Medical Center's neonatal unit in Hillcrest and is one of the smallest babies on record to have survived.

On a recent afternoon the Muggs were in the living room of their San Marcos home rocking Delaney and keeping Taylor, now an active toddler, occupied with Legos and yogurt.

Jeanne Mugg, 30, said the couple's faith and reassuring doctors helped them through her second pregnancy.

"Even before we got pregnant we prayed things would go well," said Mugg, a teacher at Woodland Park Middle School. Her husband, Eric, 31, teaches at Pacific View Elementary in Encinitas.

When she was carrying Taylor, Mugg developed a form of toxemia and dangerously high blood pressure and had to have a Caesarean section. Taylor was only given a 10 percent chance of survival.

Now, other than wearing eyeglasses and having sensitive skin, she's in perfect health. At 21 pounds, however, she is not even in the 5th percentile for weight for her age group.

When the Muggs wanted to have a second child, doctors told them they had a one in three chance of going through the same ordeal. But a specialist told them that the odds were much better.



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Jeanne and Eric Mugg of San Marcos are celebrating the birth of their second child, daughter Delaney. Their first child, Taylor, was one of the world's smallest babies. She's now a healthy 28 months old.

"He made us feel comfortable it would be all right," Jeanne Mugg said. "We really felt total peace about it ... It's just been a perfect pregnancy," she said.

Delaney was delivered by Caesarean section at 36 weeks because doctors worried labor would harm Mugg. Tests showed that Delaney's lungs were as developed as those of a full-term baby.

Three days later mom and baby were home.

"We actually got to bring the baby home from the hospital," Eric Mugg said, sitting on the floor by Taylor. "That was huge."

And for the parents of a newborn, the Muggs say they are sleeping surprisingly well.

"We actually get more sleep now than we did with Taylor," Mugg said, explaining that the couple would stay at the hospital until 11:30 p.m. and then drive home when Taylor was in intensive care.

Many of the nurses in the neo-natal intensive care unit remembered the Muggs and celebrated the birth of their second child.

"This wasn't life and death like the last time," said Lynn Batsch, Jeanne's mom. The young mother's colleagues are also celebrating.

"For us the real joy really came months ago," said Woodland Park Middle School principal Melissa Hunt. "One day (Mugg) came in and said: 'I'm already farther along than I was with Taylor.'"

"The celebration has really come in little steps along the way," Hunt said. "You just thought 'Please don't let her have to go through anything (difficult) again.'"

Hunt said Mugg had more courage than many in her position might have. "How many people wouldn't even try (to conceive) again?" Hunt said.

As for the Muggs, they're already thinking about the future.

"We always wanted to have two or three kids," Jeanne Mugg said. "We're thinking three is a good goal."

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