

COLD**Weather**

Partly sunny, frigid

Today **1** Tonight **-12**Details, **Page 8A.****Sports**UND's LaPoint
back on the ice
after injury. **1C.****Religion**Church uses
theater to reach
audience. **1D.**

LEADER-TELEGRAM

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New parents doubly blessed

By **Troy Espe**

Leader-Telegram staff

Leah Falkner and Shawn Scheffler almost had twins born a year apart.

Falkner went into labor on New Year's Eve, setting up the possibility that one baby would be born in 2009 and the other in 2010.

Instead, both babies were born on New Year's Day. Lanae Marie arrived at 2:18 a.m., and her sister Sydney Lee followed 13 minutes later.

"They're doing well, and they're healthy," Falkner said Friday from her room at Sacred Heart Hospital.

Lanae weighed 5 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Sydney was 5 pounds, 11 ounces and 18¾ inches long.

"It's something to write in their baby books," Falkner, 27, of Elk Mound, said of the twins being the Chippewa Valley's first babies born in 2010. "It's something to remember."

Sydney, who was born breech, was given antibiotics and placed in an incubator as a precaution, Falkner said.

"She's supposed to be fine," the new mom said.

The sisters are fraternal twins. Falkner has a grandmother who is an identical twin.

The twins are the first children for Scheffler, 28, of Colfax. Falkner has

Staff photo by **Shane Opatz**

Leah Falkner and Shawn Scheffler celebrated the birth of twin girls Friday at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire. Lanae Marie, left, and Sydney Lee were born 13 minutes apart on New Year's Day.

a 3-year-old daughter who has been eagerly awaiting her sisters' arrival.

"She'll be my little helper," Falkner said.

The twins were due Jan. 23. Falkner felt contractions while shopping Wednesday afternoon and was admitted to the hospital that night. Doctors induced labor Thurs-

day morning.

Falkner has been overwhelmed by the attention of having twins on New Year's Day, she said.

"I've had a million phone calls," she said.

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2009 Top Baby Names in the Chippewa Valley

Red Cedar Medical Center, Menomonie

Boys	Girls
1. Tucker	1. Isabel/Isabella
2. Landon	2. Brock/Brooklyn
3. Ethan	3. Alexis, Abigail
4. Owen, Joseph, Braden, Brock, Daniel, Dawson, Gavin	4. Ava, Grace/Gracie, Lily/Lillian, Sidney

St. Joseph's Hospital, Chippewa Falls

Boys	Girls
1. Landon	1. Olivia
2. Logan	2. Aubrey
3. Bryden	3. Sydney
4. Payton	4. Grace
5. Hayden	5. Addison

Luther Midelfort

Boys	Girls
1. Jacob	1. Sophia
2. Aiden, Evan, Landon	2. Riley, Emma
3. Hunter, Kaden, Noah	3. Cloe, Olivia

Sacred Heart Hospital

Boys	Girls
1. Logan, Ethan	1. Sophia
2. Benjamin, Noah, Jacob and Drew	2. Addison, Emma, Ava
	3. Olivia, Isabella



Some names had numerous spellings at each facility

Staff graphic