

The Week

By SHARON OLANDER



Chris Gessele | Star

Robert Kilber, who farms and works at the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, was injured in a vehicle crash last fall.

Farm Rescue lessens farmer's pain

BY CHRIS GESSELE

Robert Kilber, Hazen, "blew apart" his lumbar vertebrae in a crash last fall along Interstate 94 near New Salem.

Needless to say, he remains in pain while recovering from his injuries.

Farm Rescue, however, is helping lessen Kilber's sting of watching his farmland go unplanted this spring.

Farm Rescue is a nonprofit organization that plants and harvests crops free of charge for family farmers who have suffered a major injury, illness or natural disaster. The organization has helped more than 150 farm families in the region since operations began in 2006, and is funded solely

through donations, business sponsorships and grants. The group is helping Kilber plant more than 1,000 acres of crop this spring.

Kilber was able to finish harvest last fall before his accident, though following the crash knew he was going to need help with spring planting. He had read various articles about Farm Rescue and looked up its phone number.

"Excellent group of people. These guys are getting nothing, you know?" Kilber noted. "It's a godsend, and taking a load off the operation. I'm out of commission."

Farm Rescue volunteers Gene Spichke and Warren Zakopyko, both of Kief, were seeding wheat for Kilber April

18 south of Center. Spichke, a retired farmer, has volunteered with Farm Rescue for five years.

"I feel like I still have a passion for it (farming). All our working days we work for ourselves. If God gives us health and strength to help others, that's why we're here on Earth," Spichke said.

Kilber's home farmstead is near St. Paul's Lutheran Church along North Dakota Highway 200. Farm Rescue volunteers planned to seed land Kilber farmed near Hannover, Hazen and Beulah. In total, the group is planting about one-third of this total acres, allowing him to heal further.

See **Kilber** page 9A

Ballot set for Primary Election

BY CHRIS GESSELE

The 2012 Primary Election ballots are set and more than 5,000 ballot applications were mailed out to Mercer County

are vying for the unexpired two-year term, and Peterson, Link, Casey Stern and Judy Brunmeier are vying for two four-year seats on the commis-

SCHOOL

On the Hazen School Board, seats held by directors Tammy Krause and Jody Murschel are up for re-election to three-year

this Saturday and we have 1 on the map. There will be of people coming to find

am is planning on selling e Hazen Star office. If there r table inside the office. r and a nice sunny day. orful flannel pants to sell -the-dark print down the logo. These are going to oney we earn will go to ay off when we turn in our 3eulah.

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Noodle Soup

rb DeWitt
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add homemade egg the number of servings 0 minutes or your desired

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Dish

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BY CHRIS GESSELE

In a week that saw rained-out contests in most sports across the board, the Hazen Boys Golf team sneaked in a showing at the Standing Rock Invitational April 26

Two Hazen golfers finished among the top four individuals to lead the team to a second-place finish behind Dickinson Trinity, which shot a 320.

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Successful duo

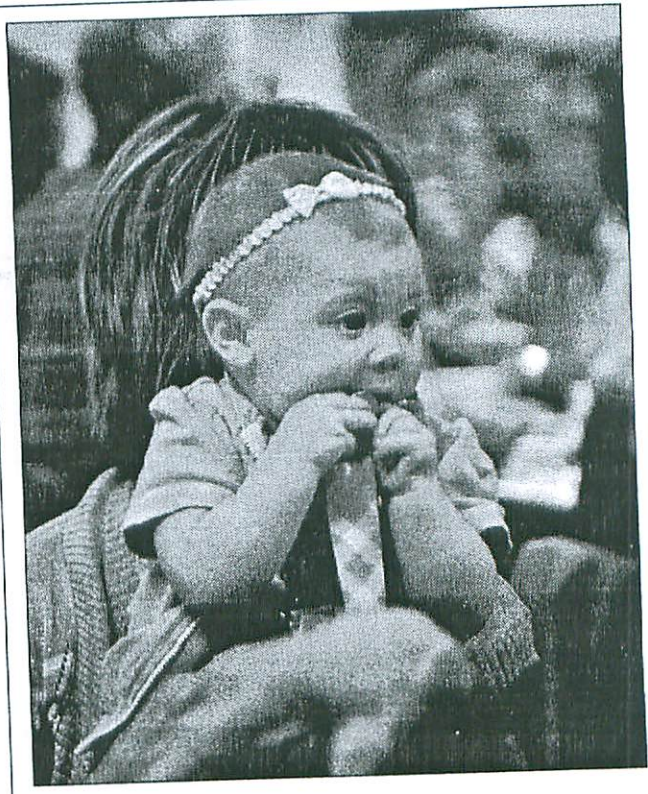
Top: Hazen seventh-grader Jeremy Leintz puts the squeeze on an opponent during USA Freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling tournament this past weekend in Grand Forks.

Bottom: Hazen sixth-grader Thomas Leintz, top, placed second in Freestyle and third in Greco in the Novice group (ages 11-12) at the USA Freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling tournament this past weekend in Grand Forks.

Submitted



Robert Kilber, Hazen, visits with Farm Rescue volunteer Gene Spichke while planting south of Center on April 18.



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Lindsey Hy
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at the Haze
turkey dinne
City Hall.

Kilber

Continued from page 7A

His recovery is "getting along" and his prognosis sounds good, he said. He hasn't needed surgery to-date and might avoid it altogether. The pain, however, still lingers.

"That's just what I got to live with now," he said. Spring planting will be finished quickly thanks to Farm

Rescue's help, though Kilber, who works at Dakota Gasification Company's Great Plains Syfuels Plant in addition to farming, hopes to be back in the cab come this fall.

"I hope I can run equipment come harvest time," he said. "Hopefully I don't have to fight too much pain."

Election

erty taxes and replacement of lost revenue. The measure would eliminate property taxes, poll taxes and acreage taxes effective Jan. 1, and "replace lost revenues with allocations of various state-level taxes and other revenues, without restrictions on how these revenues be spent."

*Initiated Constitutional Measure No. 3, which deals with the government being prohibited from burdening the exercise of religious liberty. The initiated measure would "prevent the government from burdening the sincere exercise of religious liberty by a person or religious organization,