

# Lenora man past coach of champion team

By Ron Wilson

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The Super Bowl ring is large, hefty, and shiny - and it proudly displays the words "World Champions." Today we'll meet a man from rural Kansas who earned that ring as an assistant coach in the National Football League.

Special thanks to Norton County Life Magazine whose article told this remarkable story. This is a Super Bowl edition of Kansas Profile.

Larry Zierlein is the proud owner of a Super Bowl ring, which he earned as an assistant coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Larry grew up on a farm seven

miles northwest of the rural community of Lenora, population 250 people. That's rural - but there's more. Larry graduated from Lenora High School.

"I tell people that there were 18 in our graduating class, and I graduated in the top 10," Larry said with a smile. Then he joined the Marine Corps and served in Vietnam. After the service, he went to Fort Hays State and joined the football team, playing defensive end while working part time in construction.

During his last game at Fort Hays, Larry dislocated his shoulder so he couldn't continue his construction job. He was invited to help coach the team during spring practice.

"The first day on the field, I knew that coaching was what I wanted to

do," Larry said. Larry had heard that the quality of high school football was high in Texas, so he decided he wanted to go into coaching down there.

"My wife and I sent out about 150 applications to schools in the Texas Panhandle and west Texas," Larry said. "Out of all those, we got one interview, and that was for the eighth grade job at Abernathy, a small school about 15 miles north of Lubbock." So Larry and his wife made the move to Texas and launched a remarkable coaching career.

He moved up through the ranks to coach for the University of Houston, Tulane University, Louisiana State University and Cincinnati.

He went on to the National Football League, where he coached for

the Cleveland Browns, Buffalo Bills and Pittsburgh Steelers.

Altogether he coached 23 years at the NCAA Division I level and nine seasons in the National Football League.

Then came Feb. 9, 2009: Super Bowl XLIII (43). Larry was the offensive line coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers who were taking on the Arizona Cardinals. When the final gun sounded, it was the Steelers who brought home the Lombardi trophy as world champions.

"I was thrilled that we won and that my three kids and their spouses were able to be there with Marcia and I and share in it, because they were there the whole time through all the different jobs and the ups and downs we experienced along the

way," Larry said. "I was happiest for my wife, Marcia, because of all she went through as a coach's wife."

Larry left the Steelers in 2010 but he remains highly involved in the sport, coaching football camps and clinics in the U.S. and abroad. He and Marcia moved to Texas near where their son is a high school football coach, but he remembers Kansas fondly.

"I have great memories of life on the farm and of our community, which most people knew as the Good Hope community because we all attended Good Hope Church," Larry said. He estimated there were eight or nine core families who made up the community, which might make a total population of about 40 people. Now, that's rural.

Larry has brothers living in Norton and Smith Center. His wife's family is from the Colby area.

"I still love coming home and going out to the farm and seeing things," Larry said. "I'm proud to be from Norton County." When asked his favorite book, he cited the Bible. When asked his greatest accomplishment in coaching, he said, "Knowing that maybe I was able to touch the lives of some people in a positive way."

The Super Bowl ring is large, hefty, and shiny, and it belongs to a man from rural Kansas.

We salute Larry Zierlein for making a difference by influencing his players in a way that is, well, super.

# Birds can struggle during severe winter weather

Severe winter weather is not only hard on people but can be a life and death struggle for birds. Though birds require water and shelter, food is often the resource most lacking during cold weather.

Many different bird food mixes are available because various species often prefer different grains. One seed that has more universal appeal than any other: black oil sunflower. If you are new to the bird-feeding game, make sure there



**dana  
belshe**

• **ag notebook**

is a high percentage of this seed in your mix.

White proso millet is second in popularity and is the favorite of dark-eyed juncos and other sparrows as well as the red-winged

blackbird.

As you become more interested in bird feeding, you may want to use more than one feeder to attract specific species of birds. Following is a list of bird species with the grains they prefer.

- Cardinal, evening grosbeak and most finch species - sunflower seeds, all types.

- Rufous-sided towhee - white proso millet

- Dark-eyed junco - white and red proso millet, canary seed, fine cracked corn.

- Many sparrow species - white and red proso millet.

- Bluejay - peanut kernels and sunflower seeds of all types.

- Chickadee and tufted titmouse - peanut kernels, oil (black) and black-striped sunflower seeds.

- Red-breasted nuthatch - oil

(black) and black-striped sunflower seeds.

- Brown thrasher - hulled and black-striped sunflower seeds.

- Red-winged blackbird - white and red proso millet plus German golden (millet)

- Mourning dove - oil (black) sunflower seeds, white and red proso plus German (golden) millet.

Extended cold periods can also make water unavailable. A heated birdbath can be a tremendous draw

for birds during times when all other water is frozen. Energy use is usually less than what most people expect IF the heater has a built-in thermostat.

If you would like more information, Chuck Otte, Agriculture Extension Agent for Geary County has a series of backyard birding guides at <http://gearycountyextension.com/NRMW.htm>.

# Genealogy research gets helping hand with new website

The Kansas Historical Society has announced a partnership with Ancestry.com that will allow individuals with a valid Kansas driver's license free access to more than 8 million Kansas records on the popular family history website.

Users can access Kansas State Census Records from 1865-1925 (years ending in "5"), Civil War Enlistment Papers of Kansas Volunteer Regiments (1862, 1863, 1868), Russell County Vital and Probate Records, selected World War I manufacturers and the United Spanish-American War Veterans certificates collections.

Users visit [ksks.org/ancestry](http://ksks.org/ancestry) and enter their name, date of birth and

Kansas driver's license number. The number is authenticated and the user is directed to ancestry.com.

"This partnership allows genealogists, historians and other researchers access to records with genealogical information otherwise only available when visiting the State Archives in Topeka," said Pat Michaelis, state archives director. "Our thanks to the Kansas Department of Revenue for its assistance with the driver's license validation process that makes this partnership possible."

"Ancestry.com is thrilled to partner with the Kansas Historical

Society in order to make these records available online to Kansas residents," said Quinton Atkinson, director of content acquisition for ancestry.com. These records contain a wealth of information for anyone interested in researching their heritage in the state of Kansas."

Ancestry.com Inc. is the world's largest online family history resource, with more than 1.7 million paying subscribers. Over 8 billion records have been added to the site in the past 15 years. Ancestry users have created more than 30 million family trees containing 3 billion

profiles. In addition to its flagship site [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Ancestry.com offers localized websites designed for nine countries that empower people to discover, preserve and share their family history.

Researchers can access the full version of Ancestry.com at the State Archives Reading Room at the Kansas Historical Society, 6425 SW Sixth Avenue, Topeka. The historical society's digital portal, Kansas Memory ([kansas-memory.org](http://kansas-memory.org)), provides digital access to almost 200,000 images of photographs, artifacts, diaries, letters, maps and other printed materials.

A portion of the historical society's Kansas newspaper collection can also be found online at [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov). Additional research collections are available at the State Archives Reading Room.

The Kansas Historical Society is a state agency that also operates the Kansas Museum of History, Kansas State Capitol Tour Center and 16 state historic sites across Kansas.

# Wheat not hurt by weather

The winter weather in Kansas so far has been unusually warm, for the most part, said Clint Milliman of Kansas State Research and Extension. This has caused wheat to green up and has created some concern about whether this will make the wheat more susceptible to cold injury if temperatures drop sharply.

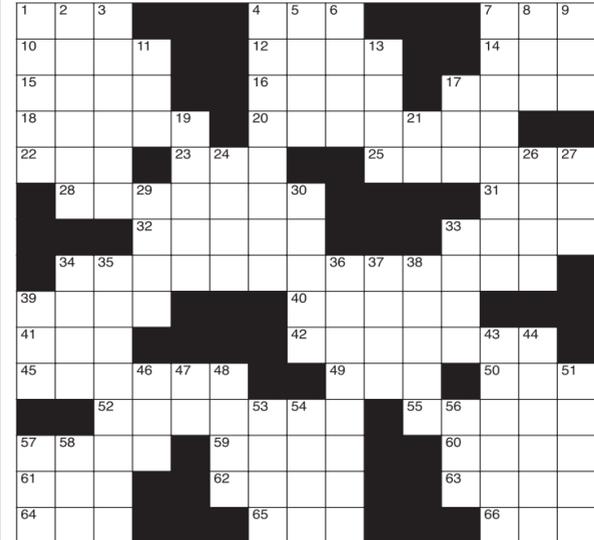
Although the wheat is green and may even be growing a bit in the more southern areas of Kansas, that does not mean it has lost all of its winter hardiness. As long as nighttime temperatures are below freezing for the most part, wheat will retain its winter hardiness it would have in a "normal" winter.

An occasional period of one to three days where nighttime temperatures do not get below freezing will not cause any significant loss of winter hardiness either. But if nighttime temperatures consistently stay above freezing for a week or so, there will be some loss of winter hardiness.

The process of gaining and losing winter hardiness in winter wheat is a gradual one. Temperatures fluctuate most years as winter begins and the winter hardiness level of wheat tends to ratchet up and down with the temperatures. After a warm spell in winter, wheat will lose some winter hardiness - but wheat will regain its winter hardiness as temperatures get cold again. Every time this happens, however, the wheat will lose some winter hardiness. The peak level of winter hardiness in wheat occurs when temperatures get cold and stay cold all winter. Wheat that greens up and then goes back into dormancy will not have quite the same level of winter hardiness as wheat that remains dormant all winter.

So the bottom line is what wheat in Kansas should still have an acceptable level of winter hardiness at this point. Nighttime temperatures have been cold enough for wheat to retain its winter hardiness.

# Crossword Puzzle



**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Film Music Guild
4. A rubberized raincoat
7. An upper limb
10. Wander
12. Biblical name for Syria
14. Former OSS
15. Norwegian capital
16. No. Am. Gamebird Assoc.
17. Taxis
18. Ancient Chinese weight unit
20. Third tonsil
22. Ancient Hebrew measure = 1.5 gal.
23. Piece of clothing
25. Overrefined, effeminate
28. Housing for electronics (TV)
31. Cut grass
32. Ghana's capital
33. Prof. Inst. of Real Estate
34. Shares a predicament
39. Old World buffalo
40. Loads with cargo
41. What part of (abbr.)
42. Partakers
45. Expressed harsh criticism
49. Doctors' group
50. OM (var.)
52. A dead body
55. Jewish spiritual leader
57. An almost horizontal entrance to a mine
59. Anglo-Saxon monk (672-736)
60. Database management system
61. A swindle in which you cheat
62. Arabian Gulf
63. Six (Spanish)
64. Price label
65. Black tropical American cuckoo

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Foam
2. Tessera
3. Major ore source of lead
4. Directors
5. 9/11 Memorial architect
6. The goal space in ice hockey
7. The academic world
8. Standing roast
9. More (Spanish)
11. Gram molecule
13. Head of long hair
17. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
19. Line of poetry
21. Originated from
24. One time only
26. A civil wrong
27. Female sheep
29. Bay Area Toll Authority
30. Afrikaans
33. Hold a particular posture
34. South American Indian
35. Paying attention to
36. Wife of a maharaja
37. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
38. Central Br. province in India
39. 4th month (abbr.)
43. Grooved carpentry joint
44. Present formally
46. Skeletal muscle
47. -, denotes past
48. Aba \_\_\_ Honeymoon
51. Young lady
53. Any of the Hindu sacred writing
54. Where Adam and Eve were placed
56. Promotional materials
57. Play a role
58. Arrived extinct

February 14

## happy valentine's day

Publishes Tuesday, February 14, 2012

**1x3 BOX ad (includes photo/special message...  
Choose from 4 styles...PRICE \$23.85**

**AD #1: RETRO HEART**

To my Love: Happy Valentines Day. You are the light of my life!

With love, D.M.

**AD #2: SIMPLE HEART**

Dear Valentine, I hope this day is as warm as your smile, and as wonderful as you are.

With all my love, D.M.

**AD #3: CUPIDS**

I want you to know you are very special to me. Happy Valentines Day, darling!

With my greatest love, D.M.

**AD #4: PET PAWS**

Buddy: We enjoy every minute of every day with you! We love you! ~ Your human owners!

**Basic Ad 1x2: Option 1**

XOXOXO Graphic and text

A.R.

You are the light of my life.

Love, R.R.

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Choice of 1 graphic and text

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**Basic ad 1x2 (Option 1): XOXO Graphic & text...\$15.90**

**Basic ad 1x1 (Option 2): 1 Graphic & text...\$7.95**

Select graphic  Teddy Bear  Love heart  Lips

**The Goodland Star-News**

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**The crossword puzzle brought to you by:**

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