

**weather
report****57°****noon Monday****Today**

• Sunset, 4:37 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 6:25 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:36 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil temperature 51 degrees
- Humidity 52 percent
- Sky mostly cloudy
- Winds south 15 mph
- Barometer 30.23 inches and steady

- Record High today 79° (1995)
- Record Low today 5° (1950)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday	67°
Low Sunday	33°
Precipitation	none
This month	.05
Year to date	19.31
Normal	18.75

The Topside Forecast

Today: mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, high around 67, low near 41, winds south 13-30 mph. Wednesday: cloudy with a 60 percent chance of rain or snow, high near 49, low around 24, winds northwest 16-36 mph.

Extended Forecast

Veteran's Day: partly cloudy, high near 40, low around 19. Friday: sunny, high near 48, low 23. (National Weather Service)
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.
* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

**local
markets****Noon**

Wheat — \$3.17 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.26
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Corn — \$1.88 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.68
Loan deficiency pmt. — 27¢
Milo — \$1.51 bushel
Soybeans — \$4.39 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.41
Loan deficiency pmt. — 27¢
Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$12 cwt.
NuSun — \$12.10 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — 0¢
Confection — \$19/\$13 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$25
(Markets by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

**inside
today**

More local
news and
views from
your
Goodland
Star-News



Rockets next for Cowboys

Fullback Brock Lohr (under pile) scored despite efforts of three Andale defenders for the first touchdown Saturday. The Cowboys won 41-13 over the Indians, and face the Rose Hill Rockets at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Story, photos on Page 9.

Atens say time is right to retire

By Kathryn Burke*The Goodland Star-News*

Wayne and Barbara Aten will shut the doors after 22 years on Goodland's Main Avenue, and 63 in retailing, as they close out the Aten Department Store with a retirement sale this winter.

"It's sad," said Barbara, 75, "but it's necessary."

"We're way past retirement," adds Wayne, 74, "We've been putting it off for five years."

Over the weekend and on Monday, doors were closed as helpers flooded the store to adjust prices for the going-out-of-business sale.

Extra workers, family and friends labored alongside Barbara and long-time employees to get the store ready.

"We've got a lot of helpers," Barbara said.

The doors will to open at 9 a.m. Thursday for the sale, she said, and the store will resume normal hours after that.

All of the merchandise will be marked down from 20 to 75 percent, including items from the back rooms.

Wayne said they will be selling everything from their regular mer-

chandise to the fixtures to the building itself.

"It's all for sale."

He said he expects the sale to be over and the store to empty within two or three months.

The Atens' story began in 1941 in Wayne's home town, Grant, Neb., where he started working as a junior clerk in a retail store.

He bought the Grant store in 1968 and grew the business under the Aten name. He opened a store in Oberlin in 1972 and then one in Benkelman, Neb., in 1973.

Wayne and Barbara went to school together and married right after they graduated from Grant High School in 1947.

"Retail used to be a little different than it is now," he said. "It has changed a lot in the past few years."

In 1982, Aten opened the store in Goodland and moved here. He also bought stores in Hays and Yuma, Colo.

Today, the business is down to the Goodland and Yuma stores, which are both going out of business this winter.

Aten said the retail business has gotten more difficult for smaller stores.

He said through the years, he has found it harder to get suppliers and compete with big chains.

Aten said the couple plans to do a little bit of traveling, but they don't have any big plans for retirement.

"We'll just do what comes naturally," he said.

After 54 years in retail, he added, they want to spend some time at home.

"To own a retail business," he said, "that's six days a week, sometimes seven."

He said they have had a good time serving the Tri-State area for all these years.

"Obviously we've enjoyed it," he said, "or we wouldn't have stayed so long."

"I appreciate the business we've had. That's why we've stayed here as long as we have."

Making the decision to close up has been hard for the couple, and Wayne said he will miss the work.

"It's kind of sad, yeah," he said, "after 54 years."

Verna Eby, a 14-year employee, said she is sad, too.

"They've been great employers," she said. "You couldn't ask for better bosses."



Wayne and Barbara Aten worked Monday to ready the Aten Department Store for one last sale. The store is offering prizes for customers shopping the couple's big retirement sale.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

Radio announcers eyes and ears for fans

Cowboys face Rose Hill on Saturday

By Kathryn Burke*The Goodland Star-News*

The men sit high atop a sea of black and gold, but it's not the clamoring crowd below they cater to, but the ones stuck at home.

Three generations of Melias, Marty, his son Andrew and his father Kay, have been the eyes and ears for Goodland High School football fans on the radio for the past 45 years.

The men follow the team to games all over the state to get vital coverage back to their listeners.

"It's just part of the job," said Kay.

"We've done it all our lives," added Marty, owner of KLOE Radio with his wife Kathy.

When the season looks so good for the Cowboys, Marty adds, he's a hometown boy, and he joins the whole town in the excitement.

"We always get excited about the home town team," he said. "We've got a really good team this year."

With fans of every age crowding into the stadium for the Cowboys game against the Andale Indians, Marty set up the equipment he will



Cowboy Bret Jarmin (No. 24) pounced on the ball at the three-yard line after the Andale Indians fumbled on their second play Saturday. The Cowboys punched the ball in for their first touchdown and went onto win 41-13. The team will travel to Rose Hill for the regional playoff at 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Story, photos on Page 9.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

need for broadcasting.

He said the crowd doesn't normally come this early, so Saturday it was harder to get ready. He sets up

an antenna and enlists a game spotter to toss the wire and a thick roll of gray masking tape to the long box above the crowd.



Marty Melia (right) stood next to his father Kay as the two continued 45 years of football radio broadcasts Saturday at the game between the Goodland Cowboys and the Andale Indians. The father-son team travels across the state to call Goodland games, sending the action out over the airwaves on KLOE-AM.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

To get into the top box, he has to climb up a wide metal ladder with thin bars leading through a hole in the floor.

At the top of the ladder is simple room set up with a table and a few cameras to the right. The front is completely open, leaving the announcers exposed to the hot afternoon sun and the steady stream of ladybugs buzzing around the stadium.

Melia sweats as he works steadily to ready the broadcasting station in the heat of the sun.

"We do everything ourselves up here," he said.

Looking over the railing, he has a birds-eye view of the stadium from just right of the 50 yard line. Even past the football field, the box offers

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Tank gunner returns to France 60 years after battle

By Greg Stover*The Goodland Star-News*

A Goodland veteran who took part in the liberation of France returned in August as one of the first Americans to join annual tributes to the men and women who left their homes to help restore French freedom 60 years ago.

Maurice Daise was a corporal assigned as a tank gunner to Company C, 10th Tank Battalion of the 5th Armored Division, when it came ashore at Utah Beach in Normandy on July 24, 1944.

The division entered combat nine days later and then on Aug. 10, soldiers of the 10th Tank and 47th Armored Infantry battalions fought units of the German 9th Panzer Division near Marolles-les-Braults.

Names of sixteen American soldiers killed in the fighting there are engraved on a monument at the battle site, among them Martin Jakubowski from Norton, who was Daise's best friend.

The fallen soldiers have been honored by the town's people every year since 1945, and this August, for the first time, an American who fought with them joined the commemoration.

Maurice's son Ron of Osborne and granddaughter Lynne of Kansas City went with him, as did Paul and



On Aug. 10, Maurice Daise (left) of Goodland was escorted by Mayor Nicole Agasse of Marolles-les-Braults to the memorial dedicated to the American soldiers who were killed 60 years ago near the town. Daise is the first American who fought in the battle to participate in the annual commemoration.

Helen Olson of Minnesota who were invited on behalf of Paul's uncle, Edwin Olson, who was se-

verely wounded in the battle.

The visit got its start in March 2003 when French author Fabrice

Avoie wrote a book about the battle and e-mailed Maurice asking for information about that day for a sec-

ond book he was planning. Avoie ended his e-mails with gratitude for the Americans who fought in France and an invitation to visit as his guest.

When Lynne found out about the invitation, she thought it would be a wonderful adventure for her grandfather. Avoie got with Mayor Nicole Agasse of Marolles-les-Braults and plans were set in motion.

Once in France, the group first attended a commemoration of the liberation of Mezieres-sur-Pont-houin, on Aug. 10, 1944, by units of the French Army, which lost 23 soldiers. The ceremony started with a church service, then a visit to the cemetery where the soldiers are buried, and back to the village for a banquet.

Later that afternoon, Maurice, Ron and Lynne rode back to Marolles-les-Braults in a restored American halftrack, and the mayor escorted Maurice to the monument. Once they were there, the American flag was raised, the Star Spangled Banner played and flowers laid. Then the mayor spoke.

"To see that the past does not repeat itself in all its horror," she said, "it is important from time to time to remember that restored happiness has a price — the price of the lives

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