

Trucker  
hauls for the  
Huskers

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Beatrice boys,  
girls wrestlers  
roll past foes  
at home

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Saturday, December 13, 2025

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# Harris retiring as county attorney

A lifetime of giving back  
to the community

CHRISTINA LYONS  
Daily Sun staff writer

After 44 years of a career in law, Roger Harris is retiring at the end of the month. Throughout his life he believed that it was important to give back to the community, and since making Beatrice his home in 1981, he has

done that in numerous ways.

Harris grew up in western Nebraska near Gordon. He first became interested in law when he was a student at Chadron State, graduating with a criminal justice major.

"A new guy came to Chadron State, and he was teaching in the criminal justice department. George Watson was his name. He had just graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law. After I took a couple of classes with him, I was like 'OK, that's what I want to

do.' There were a couple of good role models from the department."

Harris said he went to Chadron State on a trustee's scholarship and graduated in 1978. He graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1981.

He moved to Beatrice in May 1981 with his wife, Julie. He has three adult children — Laura, Lindsey and Ben — that all live nearby. The couple has nine grandchildren.

Harris worked as a clerk for Dalke & Smith.

After he studied and passed the bar, he joined the firm and stayed with them for 21 years.

In addition to working in the firm, Harris served in the community. He was legal counsel for Beatrice Public Schools for 20 years, working with several superintendents, and through the construction of the new high school and several bond issues.

"We've had some very good administrators

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## COMMUNITY

# GOOD TIME SHOPPING



CHRISTINA LYONS, DAILY SUN STAFF WRITER

Deputy Jacob Beville shops with a child at Walmart on Thursday for Shop with a Cop.

## Gage County Sheriff's Office spreads Christmas spirit with Shop with a Cop

CHRISTINA LYONS  
Daily Sun staff writer

A few local youths were able to Shop with a Cop at Walmart on Thursday afternoon.

Gage County Sheriff Millard "Gus" Gustafson has been offering the event every year since he was elected in November 2007.

"It's a good time for our employees to see some of the kids from area schools in a better light," he said. "We also want the kids to understand that we are there to help them. Not just at Christmas, but we want them to know that law enforcement officers are good people."

**LOOK:** To see more photos from Shop with a Cop, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link.

NEWSVU

School Resource Deputy Mike Hager and his wife, Michel, organized Shop with a Cop this year. Mike explained that the office sends a letter to area schools asking them to choose a child between 5 and 11 years of age that are maybe not as fortunate as others.

The schools nominate the child, and the parents sign the release.

Deputies, corrections officers, staff members and sometimes spouses donate their time to pick up the child at the school and then help them shop at Walmart. This year, Officer Ben Keller with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission also participated.

Ten children shopped this year with a \$150 budget each. The children choose the gifts they want to purchase with the help of their adult partners. All the funds are donated for Shop with a Cop.

Mike said it was his favorite time of the year.

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## Superintendent: Southern will manage after overpayment

ROB SCHLOTTERBECK  
Daily Sun editor

Southern School District was one of three in Nebraska to receive overpayments in state aid for this school year, but the interim superintendent said district's budget can handle future reductions because of it.

"We know that that state aid number is going to go up and down, and we can't predict what's going to happen with that. So our budget is built to withstand ... that fluctuation ...," Virginia Moon said in a phone interview earlier this week.

"Is it a good thing for our budget? No. Will we be able to manage without making drastic cuts. Yes?"

Because of an error in calculating the "poverty allowance" for districts, including Southern, that participate in the Community Eligibility Provision of the National School Lunch Program, some districts received more and some less state aid than they should have.

Southern serves much of southeastern Gage County, including Wymore and Blue Springs. It received about \$482,000 more than it would have without the error.

Omaha Public Schools received \$30.5 million more than it should have. Nebraska Public Media reports that the district estimates the impact on the next school year's budget could exceed \$60 million due to lower state aid. In the same story, Grand Island Public Schools said it received a \$3 million overpayment.

All three districts are considered "equalized" because they use the eligibility provision.

Beatrice Public Schools Superintendent Jason Alexander said BPS, which is not an equalized district, was underpaid and will have a prior year correction of nearly \$613,000. He added that such corrections are a natural part of the state aid

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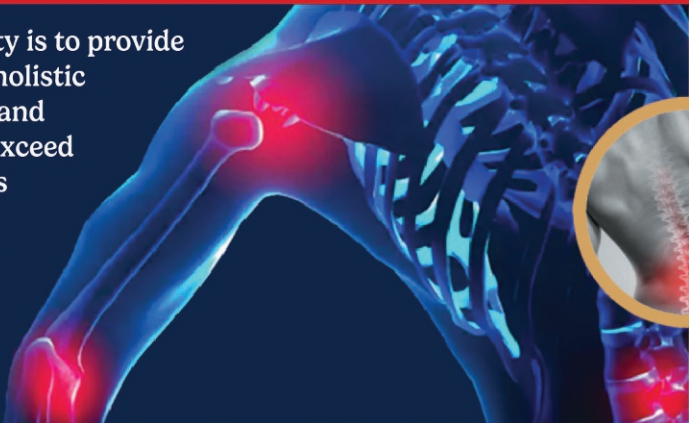


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