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Section C

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COVID-19 Claims Lives in Panhandle

Testing Available in Alliance

By SHAUN FRIEDRICHSEN
News Director

COVID-19 has claimed its first lives in the Panhandle after officials confirmed that two people in Scotts Bluff County have passed away.

On June 10, officials with COVID-19 Unified Command announced that a woman in her 90s died. The woman had underlying health conditions, the officials said.

"We extend our sympathies to the family of this person. This is a reminder of how important it is to continue to follow the recommendations being provided to protect our most vulnerable in the community," said Paulette Schnell, Director of Scotts Bluff County Health Department,

in a press release. Since we began our response efforts in late February, we have understood the severity of COVID-19 and its impact on older individuals and persons with underlying health complications. We all must remain careful in taking increased precautions against this devastating virus."

On June 11, Unified Command reported that a man in his 80s with underlying health conditions died.

As of press time, there have been a total of 218 positive cases in the Panhandle, with more than 4,300 tests conducted. There have been a total of 130 recoveries.

As of press time, there was one case
Covid Jumps to Page A4

Burke Verbally Agrees to Fill Public Defender Position

By SHAUN FRIEDRICHSEN
News Director

After months of using outside legal firms to fill the void left by former public defender Jon Worthman, the position of Box Butte County Public Defender has been filled by Joel Burke, of Imperial.

The Box Butte County Commissioners interviewed Burke for the position at their June 3 meeting. Burke provided a brief history of his life and work.

"I was born and raised in Imperial," said Burke. "After high school, I went to Chadron State and studied political science and economics. Then I went to Creighton for law school. Following that, I returned to Imperial and worked



Photo by SHAUN FRIEDRICHSEN/Alliance Times-Herald

Joel Burke (middle) provides his history of legal practice to Box Butte County Commissioners Mike McGinnis and Susan Lore, while County Clerk Judy Messersmith records the meeting.

with another attorney in Imperial for three or four years. I served as deputy county attorney and dep-

uty city attorney at that time."

Burke opened a private practice in Imperial,

which he still runs to this

Defender Jumps to Page A4

Garth Brooks Concert Set for Sandhills Drive In

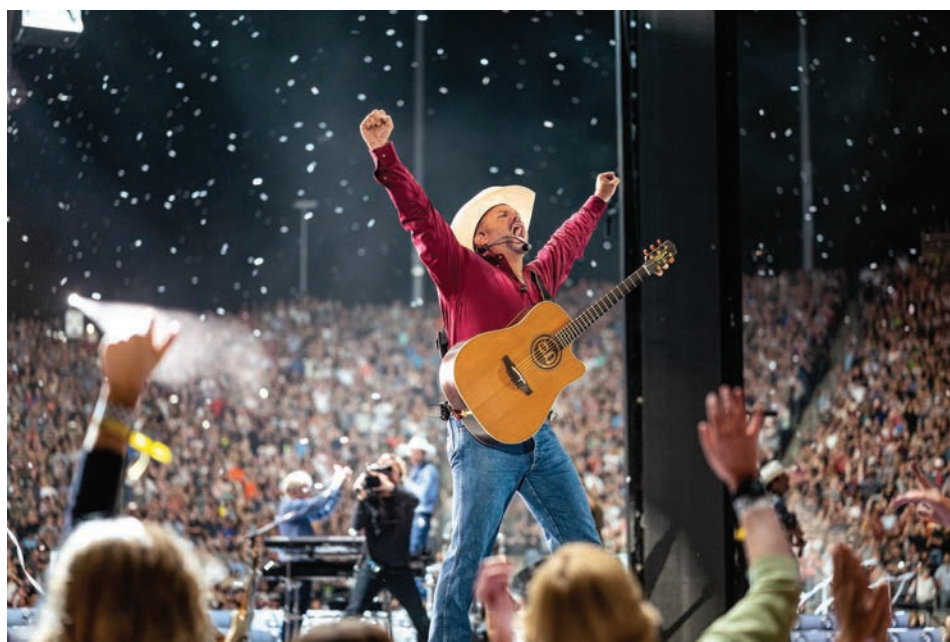


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Garth Brooks wows the audience during a concert.

Garth Brooks is set for a concert event at 300 drive-in theaters across North America, only on June 27. The concert will be featured at the Sandhills Drive In in Alliance.

The concert will be created exclusively for this event, making this a once in a lifetime experience. The concert will be the largest ever one-night show to play at outdoor theaters across the United States and Canada.

The event will be produced by Encore Live, a leading event production company.

"I am so excited to get to play again. I have missed it so much and want to get back to it,"

said Brooks. "This drive-in concert allows us all to get back to playing live music without the uncertainty of what would be the result to us as a community. This is old school, new school, and perfect for the time we are in."

"Families need safe entertainment options that they can enjoy together this summer," said Encore Live Founder and CEO Walter Kinzie. "We're excited to partner with Garth, who's already done so much to help the entertainment industry during these tough times, to provide a truly unique and incredible concert that will do a whole lot of good for local businesses and com-

munities."

Tickets will be on sale Friday, June 19 at 10 a.m. They will be on sale at Ticketmaster.com/garthbrooks. There, you will also be able to review the drive-in theaters available in your area. Tickets are General Admission and of Limited Availability. Each ticket will admit one passenger car/truck. The event will take place rain or shine and will begin at dusk.

In the absence of traditional live events, the company reached exclusive agreements with drive-in theater owners

Brooks Jumps to Page A4

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