

TOGETHER TONGANOXIE THRIVES

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Ryan's Public House serving up mimosas and merchandise

By Shawn F. Linenberger
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Ryan's Public House was in the midst of celebrating two years of business in downtown Tonganoxie when they're packed calendar of upcoming musicians suddenly was canceled for the foreseeable future.

Loralee Stevens, who owns the pub with husband, Mike Ryan, rattled off the local artists set to play through the spring and into summer Monday.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, all of those plans changed.

"I'm bummed when I still get a calendar reminder about a show we had scheduled that has understandably been canceled," Stevens said. "None of this seems real."

Ryan's Public House was becoming a hub for local music, as artists from Kansas City and Lawrence played at the venue often, as did local musicians, before the pandemic forced closures of many businesses.

"We aren't doing any set plans for shows or dates because so much is unknown," Stevens said.

But the pub has continued with business in



Shawn F. Linenberger/Staff

RYAN'S PUBLIC HOUSE IS SELLING MIMOSA KITS during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pub owners also are looking to add a few beer options for curbside pickup with the various social distancing regulations.

other ways.

Ryan's Public House offers curbside mimosa kits on the weekends, complete with orange juice, champagne, blood oranges, cherries and Pop Rocks.

The business also con-

tinues to sell Tonganoxie T-shirts. The shirts read: "Tonganoxie. Hard to Spell, Easy to Love."

Stevens said they're looking to also offer a new style that showcases the town and, it's hoped, continues to provide



Shawn F. Linenberger/Staff

RYAN'S PUBLIC HOUSE continues to sell T-shirts like the pictured. Pub co-owner Loralee Stevens said that they also are looking to make shirts with the logo on the sticker seen here on the black shirt.

some community spirit.

Stevens noted that the bar opened with the intent to celebrate Tonganoxie and small business.

She said she was thankful for the recent fundraiser that Jamie Lawson spearheaded that helped Ryan's Public House and others with monetary donations at the onset of stay-at-home orders enacted due to the pandemic.

"We felt very lucky when all of this happened," she said.

Stevens said the mimosa sales and T-shirt sales also have helped the

business push through for the duration of social distance restrictions at many bars, restaurants and other businesses.

Stevens said she and her husband have been doing some interior work at the establishment to get it ready for when Ryan's is able to open back up for patrons inside.

They're also setting up an outdoor stage with hopes of utilizing the pub's back patio for outdoor music in the future.

Jenna Rae & Martin Farrell, Mariah the Mexican, Unfit Wives, No Bow Tie, Sara Morgan, Exit 13,

Forrest McCurren & The Daily Special, Kelly Hunt & Stas' Heaney, The Matchsellers, Beyond the Heather (Irish Music night), The Culprits, Megan Luttrell, Kasey Rausch, Bob & Una Walkenhorst, The Black Mariah Theatre, Jonathan Brown, Trivia with local host Zack Daniel and Beer Yoga with Ad Astra Yoga were some of the many performances and regular activities the pub had planned to host this spring and into the summer.

This also would have been the time of year for the pub's prom night when visitors are encouraged to wear retro prom dresses and suits.

Ryan's Public House will continue to offer curbside libations and its merchandise as the Tonganoxie couple work toward fully reopening.

Once patrons return, they eventually will get to enjoy mixed drinks out of a Ronald McDonald glass or other tumblers in the pub's hodge podge collection.

"We miss our customers so much," Stevens said. "We miss the musicians and the music so much."

For more about Ryan's Public House, visit the business' Facebook page.

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