

VTP to remain closed for now

BY DAVID JASPER • The Bulletin

Volcanic Theatre Pub in Bend has canceled live shows that had been scheduled for this week and next, including a two-night CD release stint by Rogue Valley reggae act Indubious, which had been planned for Tuesday and Wednesday. Volcanic has been closed since October amid the high COVID-19 risk in Deschutes County.

Throughout the pandemic Volcanic owner and operator Derek Sitter has been patient, erring on the side of caution rather than risk, and making upgrades for the pub's reopening, which was to start with the Rogue Valley reggae trio.

The venue suffered another setback on April 8 when Sitter attempted to apply for a Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, a federal program providing emergency assistance to venues such as his 8-year old music and theater venue, located in the Century Center. Sitter describes the process as nerve-wracking, as it requires much in the way of documentation and attachments in order to avoid fraudulent claims, he said.

"You have to dig up all your old receipts for your soundboard, and you have to show your floorplan and you have to show your

audience space," he said. "It's like 70 questions in, you've already got 45 documents attached."

Even more anxiety-inducing: If you make a mistake and click the wrong box, a venue can be declined immediately.

As it turns out, the mistake was not his, but rather the site's inability to accommodate the deluge of applicants. Sitter was a good way into the process when it crashed. A longtime actor and emerging filmmaker, Sitter is now prepping for when the portal reopens.

"It's kind of like doing a play: learn your



Derek Sitter, left, owner of Volcanic Theatre Pub in Bend, and sound engineer Phil McIntire pictured in the west Bend venue.

Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

lines, do your homework for the character, know all your objectives," he said. "If you're prepared, you're prepared."

Sitter also said the grant program is critical for the survival of small venues such as his after more than a year of lost revenue.

In the meantime, he's booking shows in the hope that VTP will again be able to host live performances.

"I'm booked every weekend of May and

June, and I've already got tons of holds that I haven't announced for July," he said. "These include touring artists."

Among them, SoCal punk greats Agent Orange in August. Reverend Horton Heat, Electric Six and others are also scheduled for later in the year — that is, if things open up again.

Sitter did not seem hopeful as of Tuesday.

"It's not going to happen," he said with a resigned chuckle. "The contingencies in these contracts that we've been booking was that we're going to be operating at full capacity. Well, come August, you know damn well we're not going to be full capacity. ... I don't see that happening until 2022, actually — we won't see that elbow-to-elbow people in Volcanic."

■ David Jasper: 541-383-0349, djasper@bendbulletin.com

GO! listen live

THURSDAY 4/15

Thursday in the Yard with Bobby Lindstrom: The local singer-songwriter will perform on the outdoor stage; 6-8 p.m.; Bunk+Brew Historic Lucas House, 42 NW Hawthorne Ave., Bend; go.evnt.com/766549-0 or 458-202-1090.

The Junebugs Live to Your Home: The Portland folk band will perform via livestream; 6-8 p.m.; Bend; go.evnt.com/766392-0 or 541-317-0700.

Eric Leadbetter & Aaron Moore: The local rock artists will perform on the outdoor stage; 6-9 p.m.; River's Place, 787 NE Purcell Blvd., Bend; go.evnt.com/763559-0

FRIDAY 4/16

High Desert Nights feat. Michalis Patterson and Travis Walker: The local artist will perform an acoustic show on the outdoor stage; 6-8 p.m.; Bunk+Brew Historic Lucas House, 42 NW Hawthorne Ave., Bend; go.evnt.com/766569-0 or 458-202-1090.

Sleepless Truckers: The outlaw country band will perform on the outdoor stage; 6:30-9:30 p.m.; \$10; General Duffy's Waterhole, 404 SW Forest Ave., Redmond; eventbrite.com

SATURDAY 4/17

HWY 97: The classic rock band will perform; 1-4 p.m.; The Horseshoe Tavern, 410 N. Main St., Prineville; go.evnt.com/755277-0

Loose Platoon: The Delta blues band will perform;

4-6 p.m.; Silver Moon Brewing, 24 NW Greenwood Ave., Bend; go.evnt.com/766374-0 or 541-388-8331.

Kristy Kinsey and the Whiskey Bandits: The country band will perform; 5-8 p.m.; Renegades BBQ, 1255 NE Third St., Prineville; go.evnt.com/766547-0 or 541-640-1004.

Four Bands for Trey: Four local bands including the High Street Band and members from Precious Byrd will perform the benefit concert; 5:30-9:30 p.m.; \$20; General Duffy's Waterhole, 404 SW Forest Ave., Redmond; go.evnt.com/765715-1 or 541-527-4345.

Saturdays in the Yard with Mystic Jake: The country blues, electronic fusion band will perform on the outdoor stage; 6-8:30 p.m.; Bunk+Brew Historic Lucas House, 42 NW Hawthorne Ave., Bend; go.evnt.com/766566-0 or 458-202-1090.

Bob Baker & Brian Odell: The rock, funk and blues fusion duo performs on the patio, reservations recommended for groups of six or more; 6-8:30 p.m.; Sisters Depot, 250 W. Cascade Ave., Sisters; go.evnt.com/763815-0

Spring Sessions — Crystal & Joe of Never Come Down: The bluegrass duo will perform live on the outdoor stage and will be live streamed on the Worthy Facebook page; 6-8 p.m.; Worthy Brewing Company, 495 NE Bellevue Drive, Bend; go.evnt.com/758326-0

SUNDAY 4/18

Dave & Melody Hill: The duo will play originals and covers of Americana, blues, country and Southern rock music; 6-8 p.m.; River's Place, 787 NE Purcell Blvd., Bend; go.evnt.com/763561-0



Our **online resources** can help you start a fun DIY project, learn a new language, or find a job.

We have the latest eBooks, magazines, movies, and music to download. Or place your favorite books on hold and pick them up through our curbside service. We're here to help.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

We're your community resource.
deschuteslibrary.org

DESCHUTES PUBLIC LIBRARY