



With his whistle ready, lifeguard Jose Vera watches the water intently Wednesday as swimmers splash about in the outdoor pool at Juniper Swim & Fitness Center in Bend.

Lifeguards

Continued from A1
Nationwide, an estimated one-third of U.S. pools have closed since the start of the pandemic due to a lack of staff, according to Bernard J. Fisher II, the American Lifeguard Association's director of health and safety. Many of the pools that have managed to stay open have been forced to scale back their opening hours, sometimes to just three hours a day, he added.

"It's bad, the worst we have ever seen it," Fisher told The Bulletin in a phone interview. "We fear it's going to get worse in August."
There are multiple reasons for the shortage of lifeguards, said Fisher. One problem is related to a shortage of cultural visas that are typically given to young people from Eastern Europe to spend the summer in the U.S. working as lifeguards. COVID impacted those types of visas because embassies and consulates are slow to fully reopen and do not have the capacity to issue visas at pre-pandemic rates.

Most of the visa applicants for lifeguard jobs came from Russia and Ukraine, said Fisher. "The program will be slow to regain the momentum it once had, plus the war is going on," said Fisher.
Another pandemic-related problem is that many existing lifeguards were unable to recertify their credentials during the past two years. Close to 1 million people have dropped out of the lifeguard system nationwide, said Fisher.
Lifeguard jobs are still available with the Bend park district.

Applicants must be at least 15 years old and be able to pass a swim test.
Fisher said he encourages ex-military retirees to train as lifeguards to help fill the gaps, especially with the lack of Eastern Europeans lifeguarding in the U.S.
"We shouldn't be hoping for the Russians to come and save us," said Fisher. "I think (retirees) would be great candidates. We need to start thinking outside the box."
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Wallowa County aims to outright ban psilocybin

BY BILL BRADSHAW
Wallowa County Chieftain
ENTERPRISE — Wallowa County voters will likely be asked to consider an outright ban on the establishment of psilocybin facilities once county officials complete work on a ballot measure for Nov. 8.
The Wallowa County Commission on Wednesday, July 6, and instructed county counsel Paige Sully to prepare an ordinance that could be passed after two public hearings are held. The hearings would have to be completed and a resolution passed by Sept. 8 to get on the November ballot, the Wallow County Clerk's Office said.
The proposed ballot measure would ban psilocybin facilities just in unincorporated areas of the county. The way the law is written, commission Chairwoman Susan Roberts said, allows each jurisdiction to act for its own interests.
Legalization of psilocybin products and the provision of psilocybin services was approved by Oregon voters in November 2020 under Ballot Measure 109 that created Oregon Psilocybin Services as a new section within the Oregon Health Authority.
Psilocybin mushrooms — commonly known as "magic mushrooms" — are believed to be therapeutically helpful for some.
The Johns Hopkins Center for Psychedelic and Consciousness Research has treated addiction, severe depression and other disorders with psilocybin, as well as on healthy patients, saying positive results extend for up to a year, according to its website.
But it's psilocybin's use as a recreational hallucinogenic drug that concerns county commissioners.
Roberts said she's aware psilocybin can help in therapy, but she and the other commissioners are concerned that allowing even heavily restricted psilocybin into the county may open the door for recreational use.
Sully said the state has yet to establish its rules for the Psilocybin Services Section, but it's expected to be ready to start issuing licenses by January, so it's in the county's interest to take action.

Guard

Continued from A1
The Department of Defense issued an order in August that all military personnel be vaccinated against COVID-19. The Army said the announcement this week would affect about 62,000 service members out of a total force of over 1 million soldiers.
About 97% of the 8,000 members of the Oregon National Guard have complied with the order by getting vaccinated, starting the vaccination process, or going through the administrative approvals to get exemptions or accommodations, Bomar said.
The Oregon National Guard declined to provide an exact number of members not in compliance or seeking waivers, citing privacy and appeals processes.
If 97% of the Oregon National Guard is in compliance, that would leave 3%, or about 240 members.
Bomar said decisions on exemptions are scheduled to be completed by Oct. 1.
"No adverse actions will take place against Guard members with pending or approved exemption requests," Bomar said.
If a service member's permanent medical exemption or religious accommodation request is denied he or she has the right to appeal that decision within 30 days.
If the appeal is unsuccessful, the service member has the option of being vaccinated or being considered to have refused the order to be vaccinated.
"The specific number of days from receiving a final denial to being considered to have refused the vaccine is scheduled to come out in a future order," Bomar said.
Summer is the time when many National Guard units go through their mandatory two-week training, often working with active-duty personnel. Ahead of those assignments, the U.S. Army announced plans to enforce vaccination deadlines that had been previously announced.
"Members of the Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve who have refused the lawful Department of Defense COVID-19 vaccination order without an approved or pending exemption may not participate in federally funded drills and training and will not receive pay or

retirement credit," according to the Army statement on Thursday.
The order has the biggest impact on the Army, which accounts for just under half of all uniformed personnel and 75% of all National Guard

members.
The overwhelming majority of service members have complied with the order. The Army has just over 1 million soldiers in service, with 480,000 on active duty. There are 336,000 National Guard

members and 189,500 U.S. Army reservists.
"Maintaining readiness continues to be among the U.S. Army's highest priorities," said a statement from the U.S. Army command at the Pentagon near Washington, D.C.

"We are fully committed to ensuring all soldiers are vaccinated against COVID-19."
The Pentagon said 40,000 National Guard members and 22,000 reservists were not yet in compliance with

the order.
The Army said that as of June 21, it had discharged or accepted the retirements of 1,037 soldiers for "refusing the lawful order to receive the COVID-19 vaccine."

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OBITUARY

Jeff Patrick Lynch

May 20, 1956 - May 25, 2022

Jeff Patrick Lynch, 66, passed away on May 25, 2022 in Bend. Born in Seattle, Washington, Jeff was raised in Medford and, after attending COCC and EOSC, he dedicated his life to Bell A Land and Cattle (La Pine) as Ranch Foreman.

Predeceased by his father, Patrick Lynch, Jeff is survived by his mother, Darlene Lynch of Portland, and sisters, Tamra Orlando (Bob) of Springfield, Cindy Sawyer (Eric) of Spokane, Washington, and Tina Lynch (Patrick Garcia) of Buchillon, Switzerland, plus numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A devoted son, Jeff was the best brother, cousin, surrogate father, friend, and guy anyone could ever hope to have in their lives. He always had time for those he cared about and was an excellent listener. He was kind, loyal, witty, compassionate, intelligent, generous, and a man of his word.

Jeff was also a talented and ingenious craftsman, evidenced by his design and construction of numerous ranch building projects and structures. He was an accomplished lumberjack and horticulturist, and somehow managed to carve out time for his primary hobbies, including hunting and fishing.

He will be forever loved and forever missed.

In lieu of flowers or money, the family suggest making a donation in his name to one of the following associations:

Arbor Day Foundation: <https://www.arborday.org/>

Ducks Unlimited: <https://www.ducks.org/>

One Tree Planted Oregon: <https://onetreepanted.org/products/oregon>