



Chris Foss, left, and Tiecha Vannoy embrace after moving into a new pod setup by the city in the Old Town district in Portland.

Surging virus, plummeting temperatures challenge shelters

By GILLIAN FLACCUS and MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

PORTLAND — After three years on the streets, Tiecha Vannoy and her boyfriend Chris Foss plan to weather the pandemic this winter in a small white “pod” with electricity, heat and enough room for two.

Portland this month assembled neat rows of the shelters, which resemble garden sheds, in three ad hoc “villages” — part of an unprecedented effort unfolding in cold-weather cities nationwide to keep people without permanent homes safe as temperatures drop and coronavirus cases surge.

“We just get to stay in our little place. We don’t have to leave here unless we want to,” said Vannoy, wiping away tears as they moved into the shelter near a downtown train station. “It’s been a long time coming. He always tells me to have faith, but I was just over it.”

The pandemic has caught homeless service providers in a crosscurrent: demand is high but their ability to provide services is constricted. Shelter operators who already cut capacity to meet social distance requirements face new stresses with winter looming. Coming in from the cold can now mean spending a night in a warehouse, an old Greyhound bus station, schools or an old jail.

And people experiencing homelessness face difficult choices. Many are hesitant to enter the reduced number of spaces available to escape the cold for fear of catching the virus.

“Those (are) folks who would under normal circumstances maybe come into a drop-in center to warm up, or go into the subway to warm up, or go into a McDonald’s to warm up — and just not having those options available to them. What then?” asked Giselle Routhier of the Coalition for the Homeless in New York City.

By some projections, coronavirus cases will increase into January, when longer cold snaps tend to increase demand for shelter. With the extension of a federal eviction moratorium that ends Thursday in limbo, housing advocates predict up to 23 million Americans could lose their housing.

With more space needed, providers have gotten creative.

In Troy, New York, Joseph’s House and Shelter is renting 19 rooms in an old convent for a seasonal shelter. The Poverello Center in Missoula, Montana, cut its capacity by half in April and scrambled to add 150 socially distant beds at a new winter shelter in a warehouse. Portland opened new shelters in a former Greyhound bus station and an unused jail and is renting out 300 rooms

at six motels in addition to the 100 pods.

Pallet, the company that makes the 64- or 100-square-foot pods, said it has provided 1,500 beds to cities and towns across the U.S. since the pandemic began.

Vannoy and Foss were terrified to stay in crowded shelters and worried about the safety of collecting used soda cans for change. Charities they’d relied on for hot lunches, free clothes and warm showers closed. At one point, Foss went a month without changing clothes. Now, they have a safe space.

“People just locked themselves in the house, I get it,” Foss said of the sudden dearth of services. “But it really made it dirty and nasty and you really had to put your own instincts for survival into high gear.”

Many localities are using federal CARES Act money to increase winter shelter options for people amid COVID-19 — and some say the solutions provide a glimpse of what would be possible with more consistent, long-term funding.

Portland is paying \$1 million a month to rent the motel rooms for homeless people at high-risk of COVID complications. In Delaware, a former 192-room Sheraton Hotel purchased for \$19.5 million by New Castle County for use as an emergency shelter opened last week.

“There’s something a little poetic about taking a pretty nice hotel and putting the most vulnerable individuals up in those hotels to see if we can transition them to something different,” said County Executive Matt Meyer.

In Ithaca, New York, advocates have expanded outreach to encampments and other places where people are sheltering.

When Jose Ortiz tested positive for the coronavirus last month, he was able to isolate at his elaborately crafted shelter in “The Jungle,” a patch of woods on the city’s outskirts where dozens of people settle in tents and more permanent structures. Advocates brought him food, water, a propane heater and cough drops as they kept tabs on him, said Deb Wilke, homeless crisis alleviation coordinator at Second Wind Cottages.

“This is my home, so this is where I want to be,” Ortiz said outside his camp, complete with a tarp-covered “treehouse” built waist-high off the ground, “and they were pretty good at making sure that I had whatever I needed.”

The encampment is served by the Christian ministry Loaves & Fishes, which boxes up about 250 lunches or dinners a day for delivery around the area. Meanwhile, more staff are being hired this winter for telemedicine services launched by the nonprofit REACH Medical.

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
48 39	48 36	46 34	45 40	50 41	49 39	50 40
A little morning rain	High clouds	Partly sunny	Cloudy, rain possible	Cloudy, rain possible	Cloudy, rain possible	A chance of rain

ALMANAC

Astoria through Wednesday

Temperatures

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Forecasts and graphics provided by
AccuWeather, Inc. ©2020

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Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

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Moonset today	 4:37 a.m.

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	10:15 a.m.	8.4	4:11 a.m.	3.3
	11:42 p.m.	6.7	5:27 p.m.	0.5
Cape Disappointment	9:54 a.m.	8.3	3:33 a.m.	3.7
	11:29 p.m.	6.4	4:42 p.m.	0.8
Hammond	10:01 a.m.	8.6	3:47 a.m.	3.5
	11:33 p.m.	6.7	4:59 p.m.	0.6
Warrenton	10:10 a.m.	8.8	3:55 a.m.	3.4
	11:37 p.m.	7.1	5:11 p.m.	0.6
Knappa	10:52 a.m.	8.6	5:12 a.m.	2.9
	none		6:28 p.m.	0.4
Depoe Bay	9:09 a.m.	8.6	2:57 a.m.	3.9
	10:47 p.m.	6.6	4:14 p.m.	0.8

OBITUARIES

Christine Ann Hurner

Warrenton

Jan. 13, 1953 — Dec. 18, 2020

Christine Ann Hurner was born in Portland, Oregon, on Jan. 13, 1953, to Richard and Virginia Berglund.

The second of three children, Chris joined her family on many moves all over the U.S. as her father served in the U.S. Air Force. This gave Chris many stories to tell her children later on about tarantulas, horned toads and much more.

Chris was a woman who wore many hats in her life. Working at the Funny Farm and Froggy’s as a waitress, the Shilo Inn as a bartender, and then buying Harrison’s Bakery with her husband and best friend, Tom.

He baked, while Chris beautifully decorated cakes and made deliveries in her yellow jeep, with “Dolly’s Donuts” written on the back.

Lastly, Chris found her niche at White Rail Acres, or “the barn,” as most came to call it, caring for her six horses and 14 others boarded there. Chris was superwoman, mucking stalls, cleaning and trimming feet, feeding, brushing and loving her horses, chickens, ducks, turkeys, dogs and cats.

Also, as if all that wasn’t enough, Chris

decided to take on another adventure, and managed to do it beautifully, making it look simple as she did: the fodder system, a hydroponic feed system to improve the lives of her horses even more.



Christine Hurner

Chris had a heart full of love. If she knew you, or had just met you, Chris loved with all she had. Chris had a compassion, generosity and kindness that was unbelievable.

Sadly, though, after beating breast cancer in 2010, Chris was diagnosed Nov. 30, 2020, with lung cancer. And, she tragically succumbed on Dec. 18, 2020, surrounded by her husband, Tom, her children and her unofficially adopted girls.

Chris is survived by her husband; her son, Martin (Katie); her daughter, Angela; her daughter, Jessica (Andrew); her daughter, Amanda (Jordan); her grandchildren, Tateum, Kaydence, Breezy, Koko, Ezekiel and Kasey; her brother, Rick; and nieces and nephews, in-laws and friends who meant the world to her.

Chris was the epitome of love; she loved with her whole heart, and was loved by so many who will never forget her. She would tell us all, “don’t cry, just have a party!”

Keith John Lagerquist

Polson, Montana

Feb. 9, 1953 — Dec. 16, 2020

On Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020, Keith John Lagerquist, loving husband and father, passed away at age 67.

He was born on Feb. 9, 1953, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Milton and Beatrice (Tallman) Lagerquist.

He was a master brick and stone mason, and built amazing fireplaces. He loved his family, along with all animals and plants. He was also an avid music lover.

Keith lived his life to the fullest. He worked very hard building works of functional art in masonry. His generosity was bottomless; he went out of his way to help widows and orphans regularly.

His love and kindness toward animals was legendary. There are many stories about his rescuing injured wild animals and mending their hurts.

Keith will be very missed, and we look forward to seeing him in paradise someday, where he will have a perfect healthy body and mind.



Keith Lagerquist

Keith was preceded in death by his father, Milton; his mother, Beatrice; his brothers, Scott (Scooter) and Michael; and first granddaughter, Haley.

He is survived by his brothers, Larry (Tex), Milton Jr. and Chris; his wife, JoAnne, and son, Chet, along with his former wife, Carole, his son, Mason, and his daughter, Ariana; his stepchildren, Christopher and Crystal; grandchildren Gwen and Dasha; his stepgrandchildren, Kylee, Ashton, Tommy and Arien; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

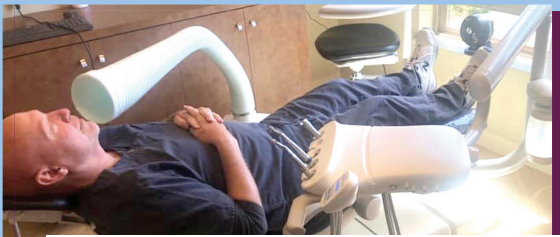
Messages of condolence may be shared with the family online at lakefuneralhomeandcremation.com. Arrangements are under the care of The Lake Funeral Home and Crematory.

We’ve gone ABOVE & BEYOND to make sure you are COMFORTABLE & SAFE at your next dental visit.

We have Infection Control Procedures in place for your safety & ours.

**** In addition to a filtration system, external vacuum systems, air purifiers, and foggers, we have added negative pressure to all operatories. The safety and comfort of our patients has always been a priority at Klemp Family Dentistry. We are very proud of these innovations. Thank you for your continued confidence in all of us.**

Thank you Diamond Heating and JJ Electric Service LLC for completing our negative pressure system.



Excellence in challenging conditions. ★★★★★
Diane G.

I saw the highest standard of health safety practices in effect during my hygienist appointment today—much higher precautions than I’d seen in a local hospital when having tests last month. The new sanitation equipment and attention to patient safety at Klemp Family Dentistry is in keeping with a dental practice I consider cutting edge with respect to all my dental needs. It’s wonderful having a world class dental practice here at the coast, one where I can have procedures performed for which I used to have to travel to a specialist in Portland. I have been a patient of several local dentists in the past, but none had the skill and, more importantly, the attention to patient comfort that Dr Klemp provides.

KLEMP FAMILY DENTISTRY

1006 West Marine Drive, Astoria
(503) 468-0116
www.klempfamilydentistry.com



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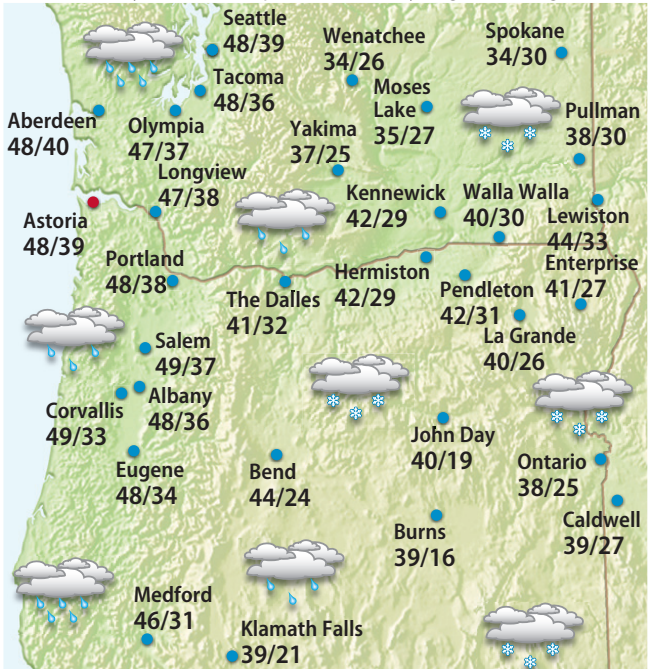
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sun.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	46/27/s	56/35/s
Boston	36/26/s	37/29/s
Chicago	36/27/pc	40/25/sh
Dallas	68/51/pc	71/42/s
Denver	56/30/pc	45/23/s
Honolulu	82/71/sh	83/69/pc
Houston	68/51/c	76/57/pc
Los Angeles	64/52/pc	63/51/c
Miami	62/54/pc	71/60/pc
New York City	32/26/s	38/34/s
Phoenix	68/45/s	67/48/pc
San Francisco	58/44/pc	53/45/r
Wash., DC	34/28/s	43/34/s
Weather (W): s=sunny, pc=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=showers, t=thunderstorms, r-rain, sf=snow flurries, sn=snow, l=ice.		

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REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today’s weather. Temperatures are today’s highs and tonight’s lows.



City	Today	Sun.	City	Today	Sun.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Baker City	39/23/sf	37/18/pc	North Bend	52/37/r	51/33/c
Brookings	49/40/r	50/38/c	Roseburg	47/34/r	45/32/c
Ilwaco	49/41/r	47/35/pc	Seaside	49/39/r	47/34/pc
Newberg	48/37/r	45/33/c	Springfield	49/35/r	45/29/pc
Newport	49/39/r	47/37/c	Vancouver	47/36/r	46/32/pc