

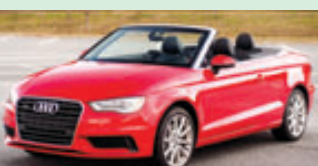
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Early CRUISER



"Large enough to serve you.... Small enough to care"

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Shelters to help the homeless



The tribes contracted with the Everett, Washington company Pallet Shelter to deliver ten of the units: Here, they arrive at the parking lot area by the former elementary school gymnasium, where the crew set them up this week.

Ten shelter units arrived this week, a tribal project to help the homeless during these winter months. The company Pallet Shelter of Everett, Washington, delivered the units, and was assembling them this week in the parking area by the former elementary school.

Tribal Council in late fall approved this project, earmarking some of the tribes' Cares Act funding. The Health and Human Services Branch then carried out the program.

Tribal members experi-

encing homelessness, seeking emergency shelter, have all been staying in the former elementary school gymnasium. This had been a reasonable solution during previous winters; however, during the Covid-19 pandemic the situation becomes a serious concern.

More than 30 people at a time have sought shelter through the Health and Human Services homeless shelter. Having individuals in the small separate units reduces the risk of the spread of the virus, said Caroline Cruz,

branch general manager.

Soon, the individual shelters will have generators, allowing for heating in the winter, and cooling in the summer. The generators had not yet arrived this week, Ms. Cruz said. Tribal Emergency Response may have some generators that could be used until the new generators arrive, perhaps next week.

Another aspect of this project will be a food truck providing hot meals to individuals experiencing homelessness, Ms. Cruz said.

IHS updates coronavirus data

The Indian Health Service updated its Covid-19 testing data. The data is through December 27, and reflects IHS testing across all of Indian Country.

According to the data, since March: 139,476 tests have returned positive for Covid-19. That represents an increase of 1 percent from the 138,091 cases previously reported by the IHS.

Altogether, 1,641,009 coronavirus tests have been administered within the IHS through December 27, the data shows. That marks an increase of 0.6 percent from the day prior.

Based on the cumulative percent positive, the highest rates have been seen in the Navajo Area (15.8 percent), the Phoenix Area (13.8 per-

cent), the Oklahoma City Area (11.9 percent), the Albuquerque Area (10.9 percent) and the Great Plains Area (10.6 percent).

The first two regions include the state of Arizona, indicating a disproportionate toll of Covid-19 in the state.

The 7-day rolling average positivity column offers a more contemporary look at the impact of the coronavirus. The data shows where Covid-19 cases have

been increasing recently.

Based on the 7-day rolling average positivity, three regions have seen dramatic increases in Covid-19 cases. They are: The Phoenix Area (24.1 percent), the Oklahoma City Area (23.8 percent) and the Navajo Area (19.4 percent). Two of the three regions include the state of Arizona. Overall, 9.2 percent of IHS tests have been positive since the onset of the pandemic.

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