

Massaway gives brief recap of the 2014 events



**KEITH MASSAWAY,
DIRECTOR, UNIT III**

First of all, I want to wish everyone merry Christmas and

a happy new year! This year has gone by fast. The tribe had some strides forward and took some steps backwards but we keep going and always will. This unit report will be a brief recap of the year's events.

We moved ahead in our endeavor to open a casino in Lansing. We have just got an order throwing out the states challenge to opening a casino on the basis they argued. That is a big win, so now we can start pushing the federal government to put our land we have there in trust. After we do that, then the much larger battle begins with multiple court cases and law suits. These are all anticipated and being prepared for by our council and legal staff.

So, all in all, we are on track but this process will take years.

The casinos we still have are still very profitable, but showing a downturn in revenue. We currently have hired a CEO of the casinos who will show us what we can improve and how to become much more proficient in what we do now.

Our current government budget is always the toughest to wrangle with. We seem to have come to an agreement on how to move forward and I hope that this will be the first year that we get it done before the end of the year and do not require a continuing budget as last year. We have done some great things in our health care system and the federal gov-

ernment has been very supportive of extending and growing the budget so we can better serve our people.

The Affordable Care Act will now be totally activated this coming year, and that will be a huge cost to the tribe and no one is really sure how much of an impact it will really be to the bottom line, but we are closely watching this. We have struggled for years to try to figure out how our own team member insurance could be balanced and more reasonable for both the budget and the team members. The board has decided on a direction that I fully support. There will be some changes, so please take the time to study the new plan.

We worked hard on many initiatives from grants to programs and I think this year we have been greatly successful. Thanks to the chairman and the council and all the staff and members. We all are talked about nationally and honored many times for many of our divisions and programs. This does not happen by accident and everyone should be proud of our tribe and what we do.

Please be careful this holiday season and keep a warm thought always for the ones you love. Thank you for all the e-mails and phone calls.

Keith Massaway, 702 Hazelton St., St. Ignace MI 49781, kmas-saway@msn.com.