



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER
Area CVB Board President Joe Mershon, left, and CVB Director Pete Schultz discuss a proposal with the KDA Board for funding to increase tourism marketing efforts.

CVB

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Mershon said the tourists pay a lodging tax to establishments and monitoring the amount of tax collected would indicate the success of the additional marketing. Schultz said as the lodging tax collections increase, the CVB's need for money from the city and county would decrease.

KDA Board members said they see a positive outcome from the request. "Tourists just don't happen," said board member Brian McBride. "You have to market yourself or someone else will take them." But like the city, the KDA will not likely be able to meet the request fully, members said. "I tend to be supportive," said board member Wade Pavleck. "But that kind of money — I can't see how we could do... I like that you

can track the money. I support your existence and the successful tourism industry and am willing to contribute something." County Administration Director Teresa Jaksa said the KDA has little money not already earmarked for ongoing projects and the county's 2014 budget has already been developed. Should more than \$5,000 or \$10,000 be contributed, the board would need to consider adjustments to the budget.

PEARL HARBOR

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the support the U.S. lent it after WWII was over, Pavleck said. Instead of shutting Japan off, the U.S. opened up trade and helped the Japanese economy, he said. However, this attitude wasn't shared by some WWII veterans. "I remember when I was a kid, some WWII vets and citizens were disgusted we traded with Japan after the war," Pavleck said. "As time went on and Japan improved, attitudes started changing.

They became an economic powerhouse after a devastating defeat. It's interesting how history works out." Terry Randolph, another Vietnam War veteran, has served the Peter Graham VFW Post 2948 since 2002, most recently as the 2013-14 national aide-de-camp for the VFW national commander. Being stationed in Pearl Harbor during the late 1960s and early 1970s gave him a personal experience with the memories of the event. "The memorial is quite a beautiful place and both sides are quite good about taking

part with it," he said. "They have a ceremony where they lay a wreath for each death. Old soldiers get together and share experiences. No matter the side, they have that common bond." His work with the VFW has helped him meet some survivors of the attack, he said, and they had a truly unique, trying experience. "They endured a hellacious time in our life," he said. "The world stood in awe and had this rude awakening. The atrocities of war, no matter where, are still atrocities."



STAFF PHOTOS BY EMILY GEDDE AND SPENSER BICKETT
A woman smiles as she removes snow from a sidewalk near her Crabtree Boulevard home.

SNOW

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"Snow removal at other hours of the day greatly increases safety issues." Skallman said crews typically stick to an eight-hour shift when plowing, but overtime can come into play as determined by a supervisor. Koochiching County Engineer Joe Sutherland said similar policies are applied to the county's snow removal system.

"For a large snowfall event, our crews will sometimes work several hours beyond the typical work day on snow removal and sanding/salting operations," he said. "For most snowfall events, after the initial snow removal work is complete to make the road passable, ongoing and follow-up efforts are required to sand and salt the road, widen the road surface or shoulder areas, and clear turn-arounds."

Both city and county officials remind residents that it is illegal to shovel, blow or plow snow into public roadways. "We're noticing it's worse than it's ever been," said Walt Buller, the county's maintenance supervisor. "It becomes a public safety hazard." The Minnesota State Patrol reported 175 crashes statewide from Monday through Wednesday and nearly 120 vehicles that had run off the road.

EARLY CLOSURES
Visibility became very limited after noon Wednesday and area schools closed early to ensure buses could transport students home safely. "The district does its best to monitor the forecast and what is actually happening outside," said Falls Superintendent Nurdy Nelson of the decision to close schools early. "As the snow



As snow continued to fall, Glenn Borg shovels a path in his driveway Wednesday. Borg said the only positive part of removing snow by hand is the good exercise.

kept coming down, the visibility really dropped... We really do our best to address decisions based on the safety of the kids." Automated calls alerting parents and guardians that school would close at 1:30 p.m. were made around 1:15 p.m., giving them little time to make arrangements for their children. Nelson said he was aware there was a very short reaction window and said he appreciated the willingness of the public and the parents to work with the school in situations similar to what happened Wednesday. "Every snowstorm is going to be a different scenario," he said. "We cannot control the timing of when things are going to happen." He said the school remained open for students who didn't have a place to go right away and at least two students were

brought home by the school's vans. "Everyone does their best to make sure every child gets home and gets home safely," he said. "There were some parents who didn't get the call, but we didn't have updated contact information for them. It is important that when phone numbers change, that parents alert the school of those changes in a timely manner." Nelson said he feels the school's automated system — which is able to make about 2,200 calls in three minutes — is effective. "Many years ago, there wasn't a system like this," he said. "Now we can get any information or message out to anyone who has their phone number up to date." The system was also used around 5:30 a.m. Thursday to alert parents buses and classes were starting two hours late.

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