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PHOTO BY GREG GRANGER  
The weather finally cooperated, and E&J Construction, working for general contractor Lunda Construction Co., lifted the remaining prestressed concrete beams into place on Anoka County's new Lake Drive bridge over I-35W in Lino Lakes last Thursday night. Federal and state approvals have just launched the second new interchange in the city, planned for construction in 2009 on the Lino Lakes/Hugo border (see story this page).

## FHWA, Mn/DOT Approvals Launch "Monster" Interchange Project

Anoka County Preparing To Seek Design Proposals

By Deb Barnes

ANOKA - It's (almost) official. The letter isn't yet in the mail, but Anoka County Engineer Doug Fischer reports that the county has received verbal approval of the proposed I-35E/CSAH 14 interchange layout from Mn/DOT and the Federal Highway Administration.

It's a "monster" 6-legged interchange, Fischer says, with "four ramps and two loops" - a partial cloverleaf. And it's just what weary Hugo, Lino Lakes and Centerville drivers have been dreaming of.

Fischer presented the good news to the I-35W/E Coalition at its September 13 meeting at Hugo City Hall. Members of the coalition have been working together toward this end since the agencies signed a Joint Powers Agreement for Transportation Infrastructure Planning back in 2004.

At that time, representatives of Anoka County, Washington County, Lino Lakes, Centerville, Hugo, Forest Lake and Columbus pledged to work together to coordinate "planning and implementation of the transportation infrastructure" in the area.

The green lights from Mn/DOT and FHWA mean that the county is free to go ahead with completion of preliminary design efforts, which have been underway for months, and begin the final de-

sign phase for the \$15.5 million project.

Construction is planned for 2009; however, it is unknown at this time whether the project schedule will be affected by the funding of the I-35W bridge replacement in Minneapolis.

**Selecting The Final Alternative**

Early on, SRF Consulting was hired to evaluate many different interchange alternatives.

County officials preferred an alternative that moved traffic on and off the I-35E freeway most of

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## Area Restaurants, Bars Adapt As Minnesota "Butts Out"

Smoking Ban Now In Effect

By Aaron Ruper

On October 1, smoking became illegal in all workplaces in Minnesota, including bars.

This is certainly good news for non-smokers who work in bars and bar patrons who are bothered by smoke.

On the other hand, for those who can't imagine going to the bar without puffing a few cigarettes, October 1 may have marked the beginning of an era of road trips to Wisconsin for outings where imbibing and smoking can still go hand in hand.

Local bar owners and managers certainly hope that area residents will resist the urge to cross the St. Croix when they go out for drinks, and they are busy designing and constructing smoking patios to try and stave off a drop in business.

"Everybody in the Hugo area [is building smoking patios]," said Hugo American Legion Post 622 Commander Phil Kamman.

Kathryn Anderson and Mike Anderson, owners of Carpenter's Steakhouse in Hugo, have proposed an outside seating area on Egg Lake as part of their long-range rebuilding plans.

Chad Wagner, owner of Miller's On Main in Lino Lakes, has included an outdoor patio in the new restaurant he is planning to build in Hugo.

Kamman said that the Legion plans on constructing some type of outdoor smoking structure but hasn't begun to build anything yet.

"It's kind of a no-brainer; you have to do it to keep up with the competition, so that's the only option you have," he added.

When asked how he thought the smoking ban would impact

## Lino Lakes Adopts Preliminary Budget For 2008

City Tax Rate To Remain At 2007 Payable Levels

By Deb Barnes

LINO LAKES - Following a series of animated budget workshops, at its meeting of September 10 the Lino Lakes City Council unanimously adopted its 2008 preliminary general operating budget in the amount of \$9,932,236, a 3.36% increase over last year's budget.

The preliminary \$8,866,956 2007 tax levy, collectible in 2008 and adopted by resolution at the same meeting, will remain virtually the same: at 38.994% in 2007, it is 38.991% in 2008.

"The proposed levy would result in a tax rate which is basically level," city Finance Director Al Rolek said at the council's budget workshop on September 4.

For a home with a market value of \$250,000, its 2007 city tax would have been \$974.85. That home's calculated 2008 city tax would be virtu-

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## Kendall Howard Not Coming To Centerville

Delays, Better Offer Lead Company To Move On

By Aaron Ruper

CENTERVILLE - Kendall Howard will not be moving its corporate headquarters to Centerville after all, and the City Council isn't happy about it.

After City Administrator Dallas Larson told council members that the company's relocation to Centerville was "off the table," council directed him to draft a letter to Gerald Rehbein, the owner of the property the company was interested in purchasing, telling him that the city won't spend any additional staff time facilitating the sale of his land until he resolves issues with his property that delayed the sale and ultimately forced Kendall Howard to relocate elsewhere.

City staff spent many hours drawing up plans that would have created a TIF District to facilitate the redevelopment of the property on

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## Pilgrims In A World Of Color

Following The Three Rivers Wine Trail

By Deb Barnes

In Minnesota, autumn is a season of pilgrimages.

Even with current gas prices, we celebrate life and color by taking those traditional autumn weekend drives in late September and early October. (Perhaps this is because, as Minnesotans, we know what happens after that.)

Some of us journey as far as the North Shore; some take a stroll in the apple orchard.

And some of us have discovered the grape.

**The Three Rivers Wine Trail**

In 1975, there were 580 wineries in the U.S. A decade later, that number had grown to 712. Twenty-plus years after that, there are now more than 4,000 - some say 5,000. A number of them are in our own back yard.

Minnesota boasts 18 wineries, its oldest being the 34-year-old Alexis Bailly Vineyard in Hast-

ings. The St. Croix Vineyards & Winery is a stone's throw from Hugo down Manning Avenue. Northern Vineyards Winery is in Stillwater within sight of the lift bridge. WineHaven Winery & Vineyard is in Chisago City, just north of Forest Lake.

If you can get past the idea that a state with a five-month growing season can generate a viable wine industry - and you should - visiting wineries in the fall can be a lot of fun. Like the apple harvest, the gathering of the grapes is a time to celebrate the good things that result when clear vision, careful husbandry, and a pinch of zaniness

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PHOTO BY DEB BARNES  
Noah Hemstad, Janette Paulie, and Kayla Titus work together to harvest Marechal Foch grapes on Saturday, September 15 at the St. Croix Vineyards in Stillwater.

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