

Fan spends \$25,000 on bit of Boise State football blue turf, 1B

Edition readers get more | Subscribers can find bonus content at idahostatesman.com/edition.



Your local weather forecast
14A

VOLUME 161, No. 123
WWW.IDAHOSTATESMAN.COM



Stay on top of local news and sports at idahostatesman.com.

FRIDAY MAY 8 2026

\$3

Idaho Statesman



ROSE EVANS revans@idahostatesman.com

The District at Ten Mile groundbreaking ceremony in Meridian.

Massive development breaks ground near I-84

BY ROSE EVANS
revans@idahostatesman.com

MERIDIAN

A white tent, food trucks and a stage lined a vast field off the freeway Tuesday. People milled about in suits and sunglasses, as parking attendants guided car after car into a dusty lot. The occasion: neither wedding nor music festival.

This was the groundbreaking ceremony for The District at Ten Mile, the giant commercial center that will soon rise over 220 acres of land northwest of the Ten Mile Interchange.

Headed by Treasure Valley developer Tommy Ahlquist, The District is set to include the likes of Target and In-N-Out, in one of the last major bursts of development around the interchange since it opened over a decade ago.

Construction is already underway on the development's

first phase, Ahlquist told the Idaho Statesman. That includes two industrial buildings taking shape along Interstate 84, a law enforcement-focused daycare, plus a more than 100,000-square-foot Life Time fitness center and two hotels still coming.

And dirt is moving on the site of a future 148,000-square-foot Target, where developers and city and county officials lifted their shovels Tuesday. The Target — Meridian's first — would anchor The District at Ten Mile's second phase of development, which the ceremony officially kicked off, Ahlquist said.

"Now, the vertical starts," he said.

Vertical construction is expected to begin on the Target in June, Ahlquist said, with opening eyed for May 2027. It would be joined by a slate of other retail and office space, totaling more than 650,000 square

feet, according to social media posts from Ahlquist's development firm of the same name.

Those are expected to include Panera Bread, Zao Asian Grill, Taco Bell, Mo' Bettahs, Handel's Ice Cream, Tide Cleaners and Chase Bank, said Mark Cleverley, a chief leasing officer at Ahlquist development. Cleverley told the crowd that another list of tenants would be announced over the next few weeks.

Developers had previously announced that In-N-Out would join the lineup.

"This is the opposite of sprawl," Ahlquist said in a video presented at the groundbreaking. "It's infill. It's exactly what we should be doing as thoughtful development in the Valley."

"We have designed and built The District at Meridian around that idea, where people can come and enjoy their work and really enjoy being in Idaho,

being together as a community, and being part of a community like Meridian," he added. "It will redefine the shape of the Treasure Valley for generations."

Among the city and county dignitaries who spoke at the ceremony or lifted a shovelful of dirt was Meridian Mayor Robert Simison.

Simison noted that city planning efforts for the Ten Mile Interchange area have been in the works since 2005, before the interchange was built.

That planning work "really is allowing us to even be here today for this part of the vision ... to come to life," Simison said. The specific-area plan guiding growth in the region "focuses on (the) live, work, play, raise a family components, which this is going to help contribute to," he said.

"Ten Mile has had some

SEE DEVELOPMENT, 2A

Boise council clears way for town homes near Whitewater Park

BY MARK DEE
mdee@idahostatesman.com

The Boise City Council on Tuesday cleared the way for a new cluster of town homes near the city's Whitewater Park, the latest in a rapid swoop of redevelopment along the West End riverfront.

Salt Lake City developer Gardner Group plans to build the 66-unit Rivergate Townhomes on a 3-acre cluster of open lots between West Moore Street and North Whitewater Park Boulevard, due east of Esther Simplot Pond.

Between applications and approved plans, that puts more than 550 units in the pipeline within a half-mile of the Main Street bridge into Garden City.

The council's unanimous decision to rezone and subdivide the dogleg of land into smaller parcels follows the guidance of the city's Planning and Zoning Commission. In March, that board voted 6-1 to approve the application with a handful of conditions, including an agreement that Gardner would work with the Ada County Highway District to calm traffic around the new construction.

SEE TOWN HOMES, 4A

Detectives investigate leaks to 'Dateline' in Kohberger case

BY KEVIN FIXLER
kfixler@idahostatesman.com

A criminal investigation into evidence leaks suspected of violating a court-issued gag order in the murder case against Bryan Kohberger is ongoing after it was referred to the Ada County Sheriff's Office, according to three people contacted about the inquiry.

Matthew Taddicken, a veteran member of the Sheriff's Office last listed as a detective in 2023, is investigating. In more recent years, he has worked part time for the department as an internal affairs project coordinator, according to a Sheriff's Office employee roster.

In pursuit of the source — or sources — of the alleged leak to NBC's "Dateline," Taddicken has requested interviews with at least some of those who had access to the digital files that appeared in a May 2025 episode about the Moscow college student murder case, two defense experts in the case told the Idaho Statesman.

A different Sheriff's Office

SEE CASE, 4A

Idaho mental health providers scramble to rebuild ACT teams

BY SARAH CUTLER
scutler@idahostatesman.com

An Idaho program to keep severely mentally ill patients on their meds was out of commission for five months after Idaho's Health and Welfare Department cut the program in December amid state budget shortages.

Four patients died during that time, and providers warned of risks to public safety if patients went untreated and got violent.

With just days left in the 2026 legislative session, and a

mounting sense of the program's importance with the news of each patient death, lawmakers in April cobbled together the funds to revive it, said Laura Scuri, a behavioral health provider whose private practice contracts with the state to run the program in the Boise area.

Assertive Community Treatment, or ACT, had for decades sought to find and help treat people suffering from conditions such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Providers made the case to lawmakers that the program represented a



SARAH A. MILLER smiller@idahostatesman.com

Mental health provider Laura Scuri, left, with patient Kristi Ackerman. Ackerman, 36, has bipolar disorder and was homeless for years before joining the Assertive Community Treatment Program. She used to cycle constantly in and out of the hospital, but has gone only twice since she joined the program.

cost savings for the state: By spending less than \$100 each day on an ACT patient, taxpayers could avoid spending thousands on a revolving door

of hospitalizations, court hearings and jail time.

With lawmakers' growing

SEE ACT, 2A



We're dedicated to delivering the journalism you rely on. Discover the stories that matter to you inside. Subscribers, explore more stories and features like puzzles and games at idahostatesman.com/edition.

FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE QUESTIONS, CALL US AT: 208-377-6370

OR REACH US ONLINE AT: idahostatesman.com/customer-service



0 40901 00901 6