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VOLUME 162, No. 6
WWW.IDAHOSTATESMAN.COM

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FRIDAY AUGUST 7 2026

\$3

Idaho Statesman

Speed limit is changing on busy Eagle Road in Meridian

BY ROSE EVANS
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Drivers will soon be prompted to slow their roll on busy Eagle Road in Meridian during peak traffic hours, as a delayed state safety initiative finally takes effect.

The initiative introduces variable speed limits on four miles of the high-crash road, instructing drivers between Franklin Road and Chinden Boulevard to slow to a 45 mph limit during peak congestion. During nonpeak hours, the signs will revert to the current speed limit of 55 mph.

The Idaho Transportation Department announced that it would activate the signs Thursday, more than a year after initially projected — but it'll still be a couple more weeks before speed limits drop.

"The posted speed limit will initially remain at 55 mph at all times," the department said in a Wednesday news release. "This introductory period will allow drivers to become familiar with the new electronic signs while ITD addresses any technical issues and crews remove the existing static speed limit signs."

Beginning Monday, Aug. 17, the speed limits will change during the day.

During weekday peak hours — from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. — the signs will display the lower 45 mph speed limit.

According to ITD, the goal is to improve safety on Idaho's busiest non-Interstate highway, especially during periods of heavy congestion, when traffic in some lanes is traveling much faster than in others.

"Eagle Road is a complex corridor, and congestion can create significant differences in speed from one lane to another," ITD District Engineer Jason Brinkman said in the release. "This system gives us another tool to respond to those conditions and encourage safer, more consistent travel speeds."

SEE SPEED LIMIT, 7A



PRAVINA KHADKA Times-News

The Magic Valley community prays for people affected by the In-N-Out shooting Tuesday at Twin Falls City Park.

Twin Falls grieves for victims of In-N-Out shooting, waits for answers

BY MARK DEE
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Twin Falls is a churchgoing town, and for that, Sunday mornings tend to be a still and quiet time.

But on Aug. 2, a day after a mass shooting at a local restaurant left three victims dead and seven others wounded, the pews and coffee shops and big-box stores along Blue Lakes Boulevard hummed with the same question, asked in two parts: "Why?" and "Why here?"

The city, around 50,000 people at the heart of a metropolitan area twice that size, continues to wrestle with those questions days later, knowing that answers may not come for many more, if they come at all. The shooter died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said.

The Saturday shooting at In-N-Out Burger marked what several longtime locals speaking

to the Idaho Statesman called the most "shocking," "saddening" moment in Twin Falls' modern history.

"There are so many questions, and we just don't know," said Brent Reinke, a Twin Falls County commissioner and lifelong resident of the Magic Valley. "That's what makes this so difficult."

"I'm heartsick," he added. "You've got so many impacted families, for something so completely senseless. It's like a pebble in a pond — it just ripples and ripples."

Pastor Chuck Swoboda saw many of his parishioners from the Twin Falls Reformed Church twice on Sunday, at a morning service and then later, at a special evening prayer.

"We hear about mass shootings too often, and we don't think it will ever happen here," he said from the pulpit Sunday

SEE GRIEVES, 2A

At least 4 people took heroic actions during In-N-Out shooting

BY ALEX BRIZEE
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TWIN FALLS
At least four people took actions during Saturday's mass shooting around the Twin Falls In-N-Out to help limit the number of casualties.

Two In-N-Out customers fired back at the shooter — civilian Jordan Salinas and an unnamed, off-duty Idaho State Police trooper.



PRAVINA KHADKA Times-News

Lynette Rothfork writes a message on a blue heart for Christopher Claunch, a victim of the In-N-Out Burger shooting, at the vigil Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2026, at the Twin Falls City Park.

"He did not like it when bullets started firing both ways," Salinas told the Idaho Statesman on Sunday, referring to the shooter.

Salinas and the trooper were referred to as "heroes"

SEE SHOOTING, 4A

Eagle moves to take over management of federal land in the Foothills

BY NOAH DALY
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Eagle City Council members have taken a significant step toward bringing roughly 1,900 acres of Bureau of Land Management land in the Eagle Foothills under city control.

Council members voted, 4-1, on July 28 to approve an agreement with the management group behind Valnova, a 6,000-acre master-planned community along State Highway 16 that would help the city take over control of the federal land immediately south of

Valnova.

Eagle city leaders say the agreement will help ensure the popular shooting and off-roading site is safe and accessible while preventing new developments in the long term.

Just to the north of Hartley Road and east of State Highway 16, the hilly area overlooks the city and Valnova, and is a popular spot for local marksmen looking to shoot targets without having to travel more than an hour to the nearest public outdoor range in Nampa.

In recent months, the area has become a point of growing

concern for local law enforcement. Several instances of bullets hitting homes and construction trailers in the area, Mayor Brad Pike reminded the council.

From the BLM land, "You have a very easy opportunity to fire off rounds right at houses, and that's the part that I'm really concerned with," Pike told the council on July 28. "One of the houses on the south side near Beacon Light has had 10 rounds go through their house already, and I just found that out the other day."

Once adopted, the agreement between Valnova and the



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If the deal moves forward, nearly 2,000 acres of BLM land in the foothills above Eagle would be brought under city management.

city would help the city finally finish a process that began nearly two decades ago. Eagle will reimburse Valnova's manager, Clyde Capital, up to \$40,000 for the cost of prepar-

ing and submitting a Recreation and Public Purposes application to the BLM. If approved, it would turn over

SEE EAGLE, 3A



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