



AdaCountyParamedics
Neighbors for Life

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ADA COUNTY PARAMEDICS HONOR “PUBLIC HEROES” *Borah High School Student Saves Classmate’s Life With Newly Learned CPR Skills*

(Boise, Idaho) – The Ada County Paramedics Department honored two Ada County residents with the second-annual “*Public Heroes*” Award this morning, recognizing them for saving the life of an 18-year-old Borah High School student who suffered a severe asthma attack in April. The award ceremony was held in Meridian as part of the 36th Annual National EMS Week.

Eighteen-year-old Casey Robinson was throwing a Frisbee at Borah High School when he suffered an asthma attack and stopped breathing. School nurse Barb Thomas called Ada County Paramedics and began CPR. Robinson’s fellow classmate, Lisa Venavante, who had just learned CPR in her health class, assisted Thomas until Ada County Paramedic crews arrived.

“These outstanding acts of heroism show just why we formed this award,” said Ada County Paramedics Director Troy Hagen. “Not only does this showcase individual’s selflessness to act during a crisis situation, but it also highlights the importance of knowing emergency life-saving procedures. We congratulate both of our Public Heroes for taking the initiative to learn CPR and having the bravery to use those skills.”

Ada County created the “*Public Heroes*” Award as a way to expand the focus of the National EMS Week, which is this week, Hagen said. “Traditionally this week honors paramedics and emergency medical technicians who, every day, respond to calls from Ada County residents needing emergency help. But every-day citizens who display the courage needed to save a life deserve special recognition.”

Ada County Paramedics officials also used awards event to honor six employees with the fifth-annual peer recognition award. Each Ada County Paramedics Department employee voted on the nominations in each category to determine the honorees, who are:

- **Ada County Paramedic of the Year** – Lane Corless
- **Ada County EMT of the Year** – Sam Jensen
- **Ada County Reserve of the Year** – Jessica Vanderpool
- **Ada County Administrator of the Year** – Robert Cole
- **Ada County Emergency Physician of the Year** – Po Yu Huang, M.D.
- **Ada County Supervisor of the Year** – Mike Blach

Today’s breakfast event at St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center in Meridian is part of the 36th Annual National EMS Week to honor all Treasure Valley-area emergency responders and show appreciation for the care these providers perform each and every day. This is the eighth year St. Luke’s has hosted the breakfast.

“We value the partnership we have with EMS and want to recognize all the great work they do caring for our patients and because of them, our patients have better outcomes,” said Pat Burton, Director of Operations at St. Luke’s in Eagle. “We want to honor and thank them for their service during EMS Week.”