



CITY OF MERIDIAN

MEDIA ADVISORY: Monday, Oct. 3, 2016

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11-YEAR-OLD PUG TO RECEIVE MERIDIAN HOMETOWN HERO AWARD

WHEN: Tuesday, Oct. 4, 6:00 p.m.

WHAT: Mayor Tammy will award 11-year-old Jaxson the Pug with the City of Meridian's Hometown Hero Award – the first ever animal to receive it.

WHERE: Meridian City Council Chambers, 33 E. Broadway, Meridian, Idaho 83642

WHO: Mayor Tammy, Jaxson the Pug and his owners, Todd Lavoie and Mikaela Sebree

On August 29, 2016 at 10:15 p.m., Jaxson, an 11-year-old Pug, stopped a house fire from escalating and likely saved the lives in the home by alerting the residents of a fire that had started in an outlet. Jaxson began to persistently bark in what his owner describes as an “irregular tone and cadence”. Because of this, Jaxson’s owner rushed downstairs to figure out what was causing his dog to bark. That’s when owner, Todd Lavoie, noticed sparks from an outlet and its sole power strip. Todd quickly lunged toward the outlet to prevent the fire from starting but it was too late. He used a fire extinguisher to knock down the fire and shut off power to the home.



Meridian Fire responded to the incident to check for any hot spots that may be lingering. Firefighters determined that if it were not for Jaxson, the house, its contents, lives, and memories would have been greatly damaged as Todd would not have been notified about the fire until the fire alarms were tripped. By that time the fire would have established itself and caused heavy damage. Jaxson’s owners (Mikaela Sebree and Todd Lavoie) are very thankful for the pug’s actions that night. They know the fire could have been much worse if it were not for Jaxson.

The City of Meridian’s Hometown Hero award honors outstanding bravery; a person (or animal) who demonstrates the “heroic” values of courage, compassion, character, initiative and responsibility.

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The City of Meridian is located in the heart of the Treasure Valley in southwest Idaho. Founded in 1893 and incorporated as a city in 1903, Meridian is one of Idaho's largest and fastest growing communities. 24/7 Wall Street named Meridian the *Number One Place to Live in America*. America's Promise Alliance/ING recognized the city as one of the nation's *100 Best Communities for Young People*. For more information, visit www.meridiancity.org.