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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Kerrville Guard Teams place 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at two competitions this week**

**Kerrville, Texas (July 20, 2018)** – This week could not have gone better for the City of Kerrville’s competitive guard teams, the Angels and the Owls, who took either first or second-place honors in back-to-back competitions. The first competition was held Monday, July 16 at the NRH2O waterpark in North Richland Hills, Texas, and the second on Wednesday, July 18 at the Central Texas Lifeguard Competition in Round Rock, Texas.

#### **NRH2O E&A Competition**

Nine teams competed at the NRH2O competition, which is exclusive to Ellis & Associates licensed facilities, the lifeguard training program the City of Kerrville utilizes. The competition consisted of three events, two unknown scenarios, and an unknown rescue relay.

The first scenario consisted of rule enforcement; an active guest-in-distress water rescue; a guest with an amputated tongue in a slide runout; and a guest with a spinal injury in the adjacent slide runout.

The second scenario consisted of two active guests in distress in a wave pool; an eye avulsion (occurs when a blow to the eye knocks the eyeball from the socket); and a guest experiencing a heart attack.

The rescue relay event consisted of four unknown water rescues in which each team member must execute the appropriate rescue for each guest. Even though it is called a relay, time was only a factor in the event of a tie in scores. Skills and technique were the main focus for scoring.

The Owls placed first in overall competition and the Angels followed in second.

### **Central Texas Lifeguard Competition**

At the Central Texas Lifeguard Competition, a regional qualifier for State, the Angels and the Owls competed against eight other teams for a chance to advance to the State Lifeguard Championships July 30 in Bryan, Texas. This competition consisted of three unknown scenario events.

The first scenario consisted of three guests requiring first-aid; a guest with a bee sting; a guest with a seizure that ultimately went into cardiac arrest requiring basic life support skills such as such as artificial respiration utilizing a bag-valve-mask; a cardiac arrest requiring cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED); and a guest with a severe laceration to the head and an injured knee.

The second scenario consisted of rule enforcement; an active distressed child in the water; an unconscious guest in the water requiring extracation with a backboard; and basic

life support skills such as artificial respiration utilizing a bag-valve-mask, CPR and the use of an AED.

The third scenario consisted of a guest with a suspected spinal injury in deep water requiring extracation with a backboard while carefully maintaining spinal motion restriction.

The Angels placed first in Wednesday's competition and the Owls came in second.

Those finishes qualified both teams for the Texas Public Pool Council's State Lifeguard Championships in Bryan, which will be held in conjunction with the TAAF Games of Texas. In addition, the judges were asked to individually nominate a top male and top female competitor out of all the competitors that showed exceptional skills. This honor went to Gabriel Buckholz-Casao of the Owls and Courtney LaQuey of the Angels. Kerrville's guard teams also received the spirit stick award as well.

All-in-all, it was an excellent showing from the two teams, who not only encourage each other, but push each other to perform at a higher level and strive for aquatics excellence.

"I am extremely proud of both teams," Kerrville Parks and Recreation Director and guard team coach Ashlea Boyle said. "We train hard, and their efforts paid off this week. At competitions, since the scenarios are unknown, it all comes down to whether or not the guards perform and execute according to their training. It is an extreme pleasure and joy to coach these dedicated individuals. They have done very well thus far, but we have one more competition, and it's a big one. It's time to focus and stay humble as we prepare for State, where the competition will be extremely tough."

The Parks and Recreation Department is still seeking sponsorships for the guard teams. Sponsorships will be imperative to the success of the program and the ability to send the teams to the competitions. Specifically, sponsorships will help pay for travel, lodging, competition fees and uniforms. Sponsorship packets and levels are available on the city's website and upon request. Furthermore, there is still time to sponsor the teams as they move on to the State Competition in a week and a half.

"We would like to thank the Kerrville Professional Firefighters Association Local 3230 for sponsoring our team. Your sponsorship makes all the difference," Boyle said.

For additional information about the competitions or sponsoring the Guard Team, contact Josh Rodrigue at (830) 258-1151 or [josh.rodrigue@kerrvilletx.gov](mailto:josh.rodrigue@kerrvilletx.gov) or visit the city's website at [www.kerrvilletx.gov](http://www.kerrvilletx.gov).



Pictured from left

Team Angels: Michael Tran, Jacob Pierz, Carlos Nava, and Courtney LaQuey.

Team Owls: Gabriel Buckholz-Casao, Meagan Maxson, Corey Smith, and Garrison Engstrom

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