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PRESS RELEASE

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KCS Holiday Express Rolls into Wylie Dec. 7

Wylie, TX, Nov. 17, 2014 – The KCS Holiday Express, Kansas City Southern’s six-car Christmas train, visits historic downtown Wylie Sunday, Dec. 7, at 4 pm. Pulled by the beautifully restored Southern Belle passenger train, KCS Holiday Express will stop at the Oak Street crossing, near Birmingham. and stay until everyone passes through the cars.

This is the 14th year the Holiday Express has crossed the country and its fifth visit to Wylie. Visitors can board the train, visit with Santa and his elves and tour the inside of three cars. The KCS Holiday Express includes a smiling tank car named Rudy; a flatcar carrying Santa’s sleigh, reindeer and a miniature village; a gingerbread boxcar; an elves’ workshop; the reindeer stable; and a little red caboose. Each car is sparkling with lights.

The Southern Belle passenger train provided luxury service between Kansas City and the Gulf Coast region from 1940 to 1969. It was restored in 1995 and provides a peek into the past as well as powering the KCS Holiday Express into town.

In addition to bringing smiles to kids’ faces, the KCS Holiday Express has a charitable component. For the 13 years it’s been part of the season, the train has raised over \$1 million for the Salvation Army, funds that are used to purchase warm clothing and other necessities for children in the community.

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The KCS Holiday Express began as the “Santa Train” in 2001 after volunteers dedicated over 8,000 hours to the transformation of retired rail cars. The Santa Train ran on a segment of the network bought by KCS in 1997. In 2000, some warm-hearted KCS employees noticed that the Santa Train was the only Christmas some kids had and that they lacked essential items like coats, hats and gloves. They decided to elevate the project and, in 2001, volunteers transformed a retired freight train into the festive holiday train communities know today.

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About Wylie – Incorporated in 1887, the City of Wylie is located just 24 miles from downtown Dallas in Collin, Dallas and Rockwall counties. Possessing an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, an ISO #1 rating and an expanding business climate, Wylie (population 44,158) is one of the fastest-growing communities in the state of Texas with a 192-percent increase since 2000.