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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Wylie City Employees Honored at Banquet**

Records Analyst Receives Top Award

**Wylie, TX, Dec. 11, 2015** – City of Wylie employees gathered for a luncheon Dec. 8 to celebrate the holidays and honor those who had made exceptional contributions during the year.

City Manager Mindy Manson began the event by noting the violence at just such a gathering in San Bernadino, Calif., the previous week. She asked for a moment of silence in honor of those lives lost. “In the face of turmoil and horrible events, it is important to also remember that there is so much good in the world,” she said. “This room is full of what is good and right and true.”

The top award, Employee of the Year, went to Stephanie Storm, records analyst in the city secretary’s office. Manson said that Storm handles her own duties with superior knowledge and spends time assisting other departments with their records. “Stephanie’s co-workers say she is accurate, quick to respond, patient, friendly, dedicated, positive and always ready to help,” she said.

Nancy Leyva, who works in Utility Billing, was named Newcomer of the Year, and Angela Daniel, also a Utility Billing clerk, was named Customer Service Employee of the Year. Both were described as friendly and polite. Joe McGaughey, who drives the Wylie Senior Recreation Center bus, received an award for demonstrating Excellence in Safety, and Justine McGee, guest services specialist at the Wylie Recreation Center, was Part-Time Employee of the Year for her exceptional work ethic and attitude.

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Special Awards, which differ from year to year, went to Craig Kelly and Judy Truesdell, Public Information, who received a Magnificent Messengers award for being tireless, friendly, professional and creative as they spread the word about Wylie; Rushi Patel, rec center, who received the Heart & Soul award for being a great role model and serving with heart; and Carmen Ramirez, Smith Library, who received the Can Do award for her friendly demeanor and attention to library customers

Chief Brandon Blythe, Wylie Fire Rescue, received a Commitment to Service honor for being the kind of employee who makes things happen, never hesitates and never complains. Andrew Barba and Genaro Trejo, library, were named Dynamic Duo for their enthusiasm and friendly attitude to patrons, and Diane Chesnut, rec center, was called a Leader Among Peers for her excitement for recreation and love of Wylie.

Julie Pannell, senior rec center, was named a Shining Star for being a cheerful and dedicated leader; Tracie Whitford, library, was called a Creative Genius for her imaginative decorations and props; and Annika Sacco and Ofilia Barrera, rec center and library respectively, were called a Dream Team and praised for sharing their talents to plan the Summer Reading Club Kickoff each year.

Employment anniversaries were also noted, including Don High, Kendall Edge and Manson, for 20 years of service, and Mike Sferra, Cheryl Smith, Aron Bressler and Chris Holstead, for 15.

Photo by Craig Kelly

7675 – Stephanie Storm, records analyst, was named City of Employee of the Year. City Manager Mindy Manson said Storm handles her job duties with superior knowledge and has a spotless work record. She pursues extra training, accepts extra responsibility and is friendly, dedicated and always ready to help her coworkers.

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7672 – Justine McGee, a guest service specialist at Wylie Recreation Center, received the award for Part-Time Employee of the Year. City Manager Mindy Manson said McGee opens the center at 4:45 am and has never been late. “Her work ethic is exceptional, as is her attitude,” she said.

7670 – Customer Service Employee of the Year was Angela Daniel, a Utility Billing clerk. City Manager Mindy Manson said Daniel provides excellent customer service through her extra efforts and polite demeanor.

7668 – Joe McGaughey, senior center bus driver, received the Safety Employee of the Year award. City Manager Mindy Manson said he is known for his hard work and patience driving center guests, and he makes sure his vehicle is in top shape.

7675 – Newcomer of the Year for 2015 was Nancy Leyva, a Utility Billing clerk. City Manager Mindy Manson said she is kind, caring and, as she is the only Spanish-speaking utility billing clerk, is always willing to assist when needed.