A handful of Holyoke residents and organizations were recognized Monday night, Feb. 4 for their dedication to bettering the community as well as their continuous helpful and courteous nature.

The event, which was emceed by Greg Was, was also a celebration for the 60th anniversary of the Holyoke Chamber of Commerce.

Community members were responsible for nominating this year's Community Excellence Award winners for the 20th Annual Holyoke Chamber of Commerce Gala at the Phillips County Event Center.

**Community Excellence Award recipients are recognized at the Monday, Feb. 4 Holyoke Chamber of Commerce Gala. Winners are pictured from left, Laura Roth, Dennis Kaan, Tracy Trumper, Linda Langelo, Carrie Anderson, Sid Struckmeyer, Laura Krogmeier and Bob Heldenbrand. Not pictured is Kindra Plumb.**

**—Enterprise photo**

Awards for Outstanding Citizen, Employee, Youth and Business of the Year were presented. Winners included Bob Heldenbrand, citizen; Laura Roth, employee; Sid Struckmeyer, youth; and Inklings Book Store, business.

The Chamber Board of Directors also acknowledged Tracy Trumper, Carrie Anderson, Linda Langelo, Kindra Plumb and Dennis Kaan from Phillips County Extension Service as the Stars of the Year for their continued commitment and involvement in not only Chamber-sponsored events but for a variety of activities around the community.

Wine was provided by Lucky's Liquor, food by Holyoke Marketplace and a number of silent auction items and door prizes were donated by various local businesses and individuals. Included in the auction were autographed sports memorabilia, home canned goods, tickets to various events, snacks, books and a number of other prizes.

**In honor of the 60th anniversary of the Holyoke**

**Chamber of Commerce, Cindy Wilber decorated a cake that incorporates many of the local businesses and buildings around town into the design.**

**—Enterprise photo**

**Bob Heldenbrand**

**Citizen of the Year**

For years, Bob Heldenbrand has gone to great lengths and spent countless hours doing his best to ensure the safety of Holyoke residents as a volunteer firefighter and EMT.

“Bob cares very deeply about the community of Holyoke and works very hard to make Holyoke a safe and great place to live,” his nominator said.

During his 23 years of service and through his various positions within the Holyoke Volunteer Fire Deaprtment, where he is currently the first assistant chief for the second time, Heldenbrand has taken on a number of responsibilities.

Heldenbrand has served as treasurer for the Colorado State Firefighters Association Board and was on the board of directors and is currently president of the Northeast Colorado Firefighters Association.

He has not only approached his job with great dedication but has been a driving force in training

and educating other firefighters through annual conventions and local programs so they too can do the best possible job.

For the past seven years, Heldenbrand has also served as a volunteer emergency medical technician for Melissa Memorial Hospital, where he was awarded the Jerri Moore Spirit of EMS award.

**Laura Roth**

**Employee of the Year**

For her continuous efforts to make the Heginbotham Library an inviting environment for all, librarian Laura Roth has been named Employee of the Year.

“Whether one is attending the preschool reading program, the summer reading program, the teen reading program, a tea, a fundraiser or just dropping by for a new book, Laura ALWAYS welcomes you with a kind hello, a sincere smile and a friendly suggestion of a book that is just right for you!” her nominator stated.

Roth takes a personal interest in making sure the residents of Holyoke have easy access to books. From old to young, Roth is committed to getting books to everyone.

Her dedication to maintaining a reliable library includes staying up-to-date with new releases, reserving books for patrons and keeping track of books already read by those who frequent the library.

Outside of the library, Roth has delivered books to shut-ins, read at daycares and packaged board books for infants.

“The bonds and relationships she builds with the little ones who can’t read yet, to the second-graders who are just getting their coveted library cards, to the homebound, are all relationships that last forever,” her nominator praised.

**Sid Struckmeyer**

**Youth of the Year**

HHS freshman Sid Struckmeyer’s good-natured attitude and compassion embodies the spirit of what a role model should be and led to his nomination as Youth of the Year.

“Sid has been a true blessing to his family, where he has jumped in and helped keep the ranch running after family members have suffered numerous injuries,” his nominator stated. “He’s not afraid of hard work of helping others.”

Along with the work at the ranch, Struckmeyer has been very active in the community. He is member of the Holyoke Dragon football and wrestling teams and has excelled in FFA, winning this year’s FFA Creed Speaking Contest.

He is a three-year member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and has been appointed as a student leader of the group. He has been involved with the Holyoke Centennial 4-H Club and is currently vice president of the Phillips County 4-H Council. He also attends Holyoke United Methodist Church and Pleasant Valley Methodist Church and their combined youth group.

Despite his hectic schedule, Struckmeyer has maintained a 4.0 grade point average.

**Inklings Book Store**

**Business of the Year**

“The Inklings Book Store is truly an asset to the community of Holyoke. Laura Krogmeier, the owner, offers an outstanding selection of books, educational toys and other resources,” the nominator stated.

The nomination letter highlighted Krogmeier’s community-first attitude and her willingness to accommodate customers’ needs. Her friendly disposition and customer service make customers feel welcome and appreciated.

The store promotes local authors, organizes book-signing events and lends a helping hand to a variety of community fundraising events, including the annual Dragon’s Wagon Preschool auction, the annual Chamber Night and Country Christmas.

“We feel truly fortunate to have The Inklings Book Store as a part of our community,” her nominator said.

**Phillips County Extension Service**

**Stars of the Year**

Tracy Trumper, Carrie Anderson, Linda Langelo and Kindra Plumb were recognized as the 2012 Stars of the Year for their work with the Phillips County Extension Service.

“The employees of this Chamber member are very active and visible, not only through Chamber-sponsored events but also in the community and county. With their wide variety of talents, they had various booths at Community Night.

“While one attended an occasional Gala, another chaired several of the Dandelion Daze luncheons. Their employer co-sponsored both Kids’ Holidays, and each employee gave a helping hand in one way or another. For Country Christmas they had floats for the Parade of Lights and this year co-sponsored Santa’s Reindeer.

“Over the years, they’ve occasionally attended monthly Chamber meetings and were the presenters several times. Occasionally they ask for Holyoke Scrip, and with all that talent, they’ve made good use of the activity sign.”

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