

Community stars rise

By **BRAD DICKERSON**

Glasgow Daily Times

GLASGOW— Surprise was the reaction of some of the members of the inaugural Rising Star class when they learned of their selection.

“I was shocked,” said Cornelius Faulkner, assistant superintendent of the Caverna Independent School District.

A case of mistaken identity was how John Botts described his reaction upon receiving the letter informing him of his inclusion.

“I thought they had the wrong John,” he said. “I was surprised and humbled, especially when I found out who some of the other recipients were.”

The 2007 Rising Star class, whether shocked, humbled or grateful, gathered with friends and family on Monday at Bolton’s Landing for a reception in their honor.

Each of the 16 honorees were presented with a trophy from members of the Glasgow Daily Times, who chose the recipients after receiving nominations from the community.

“I thought it was an honor to be given an award by your peers,” Faulkner said.

Upon accepting her award, Melanie Watson, chief compliance officer at T.J. Samson Community Hospital, took time to thank her family, specifically her husband and daughter.

Many others made similar remarks, as well as offering praise to the Lord above.

“I realize how lucky I am to be at the spot where I’m at today,” Watson said.

The 2007 Rising Star honorees are Pam Hodges Browning, Melanie Watson, Cornelius Faulkner, Kenny Mattingly, Becky Honeycutt, Juan Magana, Chris Eaton, Dr. Anthony Carter, Letitia Hughes, Robbie Birdsell, Johnny Travis, Percy Ichhaporia, Whitney Wade, Kyle Jones, Scott Young and John Botts. See photo below.

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The 2007 Rising Star honorees are, from left, front row: Cornelius Faulkner, Percy Ichhaporia, Pam Hodges Browning, Kyle Jones, Becky Honeycutt, Letitia Hughes, Melanie Watson and Mark Wade, who accepted on behalf of his daughter Whitney Wade; back row: Matt Mutter, accepting on behalf of Sheriff Chris Eaton, Ken Mattingly, John Botts and Scott Young. Not pictured are Johnny Travis, Robbie Birdsell, Juan Magana and Dr. Anthony Carter. Glasgow Daily Times