



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL/BISMEAUX PRODUCTIONS
In a performance of Asleep at the Wheel's play "A Ride with Bob," Briggs native Jason Roberts portrays Texas-born musician Bob Wills, a key developer of the Western swing style.

Roberts plays multiple roles

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cians, also helped his career progress. At age 15, having entered numerous Western swing festivals, Roberts met steel guitar player Jimmy Day and the late Don Walser, a singer and songwriter from Austin. The men included Roberts in two of their practice sessions and then invited him to join their band.

With performances three nights a week -- along with schoolwork, football and baseball -- Roberts soon became exhausted. An athlete since his T-ball days, he nevertheless chose to focus on music.

Roberts worked with country artist Jody Nix throughout his junior and senior years at LHS, and stayed at Nix's home in Big Spring for much of his summer vacations to hone his musical skills.

In January of 1994, Roberts began working for Asleep at the Wheel. Two years later, when the band's primary fiddler left, he assumed the full-time role. Roberts also plays mandolin and steel guitar at times.

Although he had heard much of Asleep at the Wheel's music as a youth and was accustomed to the band's style, the new job seemed intimidating at times. The band, created in 1970, had featured many musicians, from Gimble to Larry Franklin, whom Roberts initially doubted he could match.

"I definitely felt like I had my work cut out for me," Roberts said.

The former Briggs resident quickly found his niche, though. He still plays with his great-grandfather's fiddle and contributes a viola-like sound to the band's live shows with another family fiddle he discovered. Roberts added a fifth string to that instrument for a deep sound like the one Gimble used to summon from his five-stringed fiddle.

With about 150 performances each year, Roberts appreciates the variety Asleep at the Wheel's improvisational approach allows.

"I like music that can be interpreted many ways by different artists," he said. "That translates into a lot of freedom for me and keeps it fun when I'm having to play the same thing over and over."

Solos allow Roberts to play anything from a single note to longer phrases and even to sing on occasion.

"I really feel free to express myself how I feel at the time, and not a lot of bands encourage that," he

said. Although Roberts said composition does not come easily for him, he enjoys the challenge from time to time.

Asleep at the Wheel's CD "Reinventing the Wheel," released in 2007, included Roberts' song "Am I Right (Or Amarillo)." Roberts also wrote "Santa Loves to Boogie," a take-off of a Bob Wills song.

Asleep at the Wheel in February released "Willie and the Wheel" with Willie Nelson as lead vocalist. The collaboration continued with a 15-show tour that included the taping of an "Austin City Limits" television episode set to air in October.

During recording and the tour, Roberts forged a strong bond with the famed musician.

"Willie is a gentleman and a scholar," Roberts said. "He is really one of the nicest people I've ever met. He loves to laugh and joke."

"It's a real thrill just to stand three feet from him on stage and have him pass a solo my way. He's been a really great friend to us."

Despite the excitement of Asleep at the Wheel's various studio projects, Roberts still finds his greatest passion on stage. The band plays many of the same venues where Roberts began his career, including music festivals and small-town theaters. Such venues give him an opportunity to interact with audiences.

"I like to see people dance and have a good time," the fiddler said. "A good live show is pretty hard to beat."

As a father and husband, however, Roberts craves family time in Austin as much as or more than an appearance on stage. He and his wife Gretchen, who are expecting a son in November, enjoy singing together at home and have spread the love of music to daughter Jasie, 8.

Jasie especially likes Bob Wills songs -- "Roly Poly" and "San Antonio Road" are among her favorites -- and may start on the fiddle soon. The Roberts' son also will have encouragement to play, if he desires. "I'll put a fiddle in his hands as soon as he's ready," Roberts said with a laugh.

As he plays multiple roles, from band member to family man -- and even Bob Wills -- Roberts returns to his instruments for energy and inspiration.

"I still feel young on the inside," he said, "and I feel like music is a big part of that."

Burglary charge nets jail sentence

In recent 27th District Court action in Judge Joe Carroll's courtroom, William Drew Landers, 18, was sentenced to 10 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division for burglary of a habitation where he must attend a substance abuse treatment boot camp program.

Landers also was ordered to pay a \$500 fine plus court costs and attorney fees.

On a charge of robbery, Landers was given 10 years' deferred adjudication probation, and required to pay a \$500 fine, \$43 in restitution, court costs and attorney fees.

Richard Dean Kercheff, 52, was given four years in the TDCJID and credited with jail time served for possession of a controlled substance.

For burglary of a habitation, John Randall Craddock, 18, of Lampasas was assessed six years' deferred adjudication probation. He was given a \$500 fine, and must

pay court costs and attorney fees.

A punishment hearing is set today for Gary Wendell Welch, 56, for driving while intoxicated and felony repetition.

A jury trial was on the docket for Bret David Borner, 35, of Kempner for sexual assault of a child.

Sept. 4 arraignments are set for Joann Michel Jowers, 49, of Lampasas for forgery, and Joel Travis Meadows, 41, for driving while intoxicated and felony repetition.

Arraignments are Sept. 11 for Morgan Deann Banda, 19, of Lometa for possession of a controlled substance under one gram, and Adam Trejo, 19, of Lometa for manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance under one gram.

A pretrial hearing is scheduled Sept. 18 for Jamie Lee Flint, 27, of Harker Heights for engaging in organized criminal activity.

A jury trial is on the Sept. 28 docket for 26-year-old James David Ferguson for aggravated

sexual assault of a child.

Those entering pleas and set to receive punishment on Oct. 9 include Samuel Eric Aguirre, 32, of Round Rock for driving while intoxicated third or more, and Steven Joseph Johnson, 26, for three counts of burglary of a building.

Punishment hearings are slated Oct. 9 for Lori Michelle Cumming, 33, of Lampasas for criminal non-support, and Kimberli Uranga, 23, of Lampasas for theft over \$1,500 and under \$20,000.

An Oct. 16 pretrial is slated for Santa Fe, N.M., resident Christopher Brian Trumbull, 28, for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

A motion for early release by Stephen Marocchi Hugo, 43, of Kempner was denied. He is charged with aggravated assault on a public servant with a deadly weapon.

The probation of Fredrick Lionel Miller, 51, of San Angelo was amended on his charge of burglary of a habitation.

Deaths

Mrs. Linthicum

No services are planned for Elsie F. Linthicum, 92, of Lampasas, who died Aug. 26, 2009, at a Lampasas nursing home.

The body will be cremated. Mrs. Linthicum was born Feb. 5, 1917, in LaGrange, the daughter of Martin and Frances Nemecek Pechal.

She was married to R.C. (Jack) Linthicum, and he preceded her in death.

Mrs. Linthicum was a professional educator. She taught school in San Angelo for many years. She was a Catholic.

Survivors include a daughter, Lisa Eggenmeyer of Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.; a son, Barry Linthicum of Lampasas; and three grandchildren.

SNEED FUNERAL CHAPEL

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Mr. Stanridge

Robert Glen Stanridge Sr., 82, of Lampasas died Aug. 26, 2009, in Beaumont.

Graveside services with military honors were Aug. 31 at Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen under the direction of Heritage Funeral Home.

Mr. Stanridge was born May 25, 1927, in Florence, the son of Alfred Leonard and Mary Marie Kaupa Stanridge.

Fund-raiser

A second annual Evening Under the Stars will be presented by Vision Downtown Lampasas! on Sept. 25.

Social hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a barbecue dinner at 7 p.m. There will be live music and auction items. Tickets are \$20 at the chamber of commerce and local pharmacies.

Cattle Auction

The report from the Aug. 26 sale at Lampasas Cattle Auction is as follows.

Cattle and calves: Estimated receipts 914 compared to 898 last week and 1,149 last year.

Compared to last week, feeder steers steady to firm. Feeder heifers \$4-\$6 lower. Slaughter cows \$2 higher. Slaughter bulls steady to firm on a limited test.

Bulk supply medium and large 1-2 300-700 lb. feeder steers and heifers. Slaughter cows made up 17 percent of the offering, slaughter bulls 1 percent, replacement cows 1 percent and feeders 82 percent.

Feeder steers: medium and large 1: 300-400 lb., \$114-\$122, individual at \$137; 400-500 lb., \$104-\$112; 500-600 lb., \$93-\$101; 600-700 lb., \$92-\$95.50; 700-800 lb., \$85.50-\$91.

Medium and large 2: 300-400 lb., \$102.50-\$112; 400-500 lb., \$96-\$103; 500-600 lb., \$90-\$97; 600-700 lb., \$87-\$91.

Medium and large 3: 400-500 lb., \$90-\$95; 500-600 lb., \$82-\$87; 600-700 lb., \$83-\$86; 700-800 lb.,

\$78-\$80.

Feeder heifers: medium and large 1: 300-400 lb., \$100-\$109; 400-500 lb., \$94-\$101; 500-600 lb., \$91-\$100; 600-700 lb., \$84.50-\$90.50; 700-800 lb., \$83-\$86.

Medium and large 2: 300-400 lb., \$91-\$95; 400-500 lb., \$85-\$94; 500-600 lb., \$81-\$87; 600-700 lb., \$83.50-\$85.

Medium and large frame 3: 300-400 lb., \$82-\$89; 400-500 lb., \$80-\$86; 500-600 lb., \$77-\$81.

Slaughter cows: breakers, 75-80 percent lean, 1,200-1,600 lb. average dressing, \$42.75-\$47; boners, 80-85 percent lean, 1,200-1,600 lb. average dressing, \$41.75-\$45; boners, 80-85 percent lean, 1,000-1,200 lb., average dressing, \$40.75-\$4; boners, 80-85 percent lean, 1,000-1,200 lb., average

dressing, \$40.75-\$43.50, low dressing, \$36.75; lean, 85-90 percent lean, 1,000-1,200 lb., average dressing, \$44-\$42.75, low dressing \$29-\$34; lean, 85-90 percent lean, 800-1,000 lb., average dressing, \$31.25-\$32.50, high dressing, \$39-\$43.25; lean, 85-90 percent lean, under 800 lb., average dressing, \$29.50-\$31, low dressing, \$22.75.

Slaughter bulls: yield grade 1-2, \$52.50-\$59.75; low dressing, \$37.50-\$41.

Replacement cows: medium and large 1-2, young to middle aged 995-1,100 lb. cows 2-5 months bred, \$566-\$675 per hd.

Cow/calf pairs: medium & large 1-2: young to middle aged 815-1,000 lb. cows w/150-300 lb. calves, \$710-\$760 per pair; aged 885-920 lb. cows w/150 lb. calves \$440-\$630 per pair.

Your full color ad can be here. Phone Marie at 556-6262 for more information.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Lampasas County Commissioners Court has proposed the following salary scale for elected officials in the 2009/2010 County Budget.

OFFICIAL	FROM	TO
County Judge*	71,976	74,135
County Treasurer	46,187	47,573
Tax Assessor/Collector	46,187	47,573
County Clerk	46,187	47,573
District Clerk	46,187	47,573
County Sheriff	62,919	64,807
Constable	5,135	5,289
Justice of Peace #1	46,187	47,573
Justice of Peace #3	46,187	47,573
Justice of Peace #4	46,187	47,573
Commissioner #1	47,890	49,327
Commissioner #2	47,890	49,327
Commissioner #3	47,890	49,327
Commissioner #4	47,890	49,327

A public hearing on the budget will be held September 17, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the County District Courtroom, 2nd floor County Courthouse, 501 East 4th Street, Lampasas, Texas.

*Under Government code section 26.006 the County Judge's salary includes a supplement of \$15,000 by the State of Texas.

Labor Day Sale!

Thursday, Sept. 3 - Monday, Sept. 7

10% OFF STORE WIDE

including all sale priced items which are already marked down 25 - 75% off

5 \$100 GIFT CARDS

given away throughout the day. Register with purchase.

- **SALE \$99.99**
ALL Stetson Men's & Women's Boots, Reg. \$219.99
- **25-75% off**
Spring and Summer Apparel including straw hats
- **50% off**
Selected Men's Boots
- **25% off**
Selected Women's Boots
- **25% off**
ALL Boulet Boots
- **SALE \$89.99**
Women Ariat ProBaby & FatBaby, Reg. \$132.99 - \$103.99
- **SALE \$69.99**
Women Justin Gypsy, Reg. \$99.99 - \$81.99
- **SALE \$53.99**
Youth Ariat ProBaby & FatBaby, Reg. \$75.99 - \$65.99
- **SALE \$49.99**
Youth Justin Gypsy, Reg. \$62.99 - \$60.99

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