

billboard Country Update

BILLBOARD.COM/NEWSLETTERS

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 | PAGE 1 OF 19

BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Former Westwood One Exec John Paul Takes Ownership In Radio — And In His Roots

It is not, it would appear, a great time to be investing in the radio business.

Streaming listenership has bypassed over-the-air broadcasts among younger customers, local staffs have been trimmed to the nubs, and most homes no longer even have a traditional radio in a place of prominence.

And yet, radio vet **John Paul** is excited about the purchase of Washington Interstate Broadcasting, a three-station cluster in Longview-Kelso, Wash., that includes country **KUKN**.

“I’m not bullish on radio as an industry,” he admits. “From what I hear when I listen to the radio in other places, whether it’s seven-minute commercial breaks or horribly executed syndication, I’m just not a fan. I think radio has shot itself in the foot at times with way too many cooks in the kitchen, way overmanaged. I’m not bullish on radio as an industry. I’m bullish on how we do it.”

Serving Cowlitz County—population estimated at 111,524 in July 2021, according to the U.S. Census Bureau—KUKN consistently leads the market, usually as the only station with a double-digit share in the Eastlan Ratings. The playlist generally avoids ballads, sliding a few ’80s and ’90s titles into its current-driven mix. Commercial breaks are limited to three minutes, and they

lean toward local advertisers. And the staff of 15—a larger workforce than some more sizeable stations—includes an all-local on-air crew. It’s a professional-sounding station, but it still feels

personal: In a recent morning show, the squeak of host **Pork Chop**’s chair could be heard as he shifted in his seat during a bit.

“There’s no reason why, though we’re in a small town, we need to sound like a small-town radio station,” Paul says.

That Paul and his co-owner, wife **Nicki Paul**, are back in Longview is a story that mirrors a country song. He grew up in the area and started at classic hits **KLOG** when he was 13. During his senior year in high school, he did a full-time afternoon show at the station, but he had larger aspirations and moved on in his early 20s to bigger markets, first as a PD in Port-

land, Ore., and eventually at Westwood One in Colorado, where he was vp of programming and PD of two 24/7 country formats. After two decades out in the world, he was drawn back to his hometown, a surprise full-circle development.

“I would come back to the station and visit and see friends,” he remembers, “but I had no intention of coming back. Cumulus had bought Westwood One, and we were in the middle of restructuring, and I was laying off people. And it wasn’t what I got into radio to do.”



HANSON (left), JOHN PAUL and NICKI PAUL

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Kane Brown: ‘Different’ Look For Album Chart
>page 4

Jordan Schmidt Inks With Endurance
>page 10

Makin’ Tracks: Craig Morgan Gets Philosophical
>page 16

Country Coda: Michael Martin Murphey’s First No. 1
>page 19

WHAT CAN...
KEEP THE DIVE BARS OPEN,
MAKE THE JUKEBOX ROCK,
MAKE YOU TIP A COVER BAND?

Hannah Gillis
COUNTRY CAN

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IMPACTING 9/26!

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Paul had to cut a group of employees in Denver, then flew to Dallas the next day to let go of more. He anticipated he would have to continue chopping staffs until the day came that his boss would release him, too. When he returned to the hotel, he got a gin and tonic at the bar, then called Nicki to tell her he was done. On her advice, he called KUKN owner **Joel Hanson**, who offered a chance to return to Longview with an understanding that Paul would have the option to purchase the company a few years later.

He checked with a few trusted allies, including Kansas-based Iola Broadcasting owner **Tom Norris**, who insisted he would thrive in ownership: "It's not glamorous, but it's great."

So the Pauls followed the life-as-a-country-song path and returned to Longview in 2014.

"I basically spent the last seven years learning the business side of it—you know, all the stuff that I didn't know or I had people [do] for me," Paul recalls. "I had to learn it all. I know my way around a transmitter now. I never did before."

Not all of it has been fun. He has burrowed in with his CPA on pro-rating the company's taxes post-sale, struggled to interpret a clunky state government website, revised the paperwork on the employees' health insurance and addressed company credit cards for some of the staff. Plus, the checks have to be signed.

"One thing that's surprising to me is how expensive it is to run a radio station," he admits. "I had no idea. None. Just the IT costs alone, that's been the biggest shock."

Nevertheless, the cluster is, he says, on track for its best financial year ever, in part because of an expansion he helped engineer. The broadcast outlets are accompanied by the Cowlitz Podcast Network and Cowlitz Digital, companies that generate additional revenue in a platform that didn't exist when he was emptying KLOG wastebaskets when he was 13.

It's a game plan that coincidentally matches a philosophy that Townsquare CEO **Bill Wilson** outlined during this year's Country Radio Seminar. While large-market radio is struggling with the growth of digital competition, Townsquare is focused strictly on stations outside the top 50 markets, where local newspapers are dying. The void creates an opportunity for broadcasters to pick up advertising from local and regional businesses while serving the local audience—both on-air and online—in a way that national platforms do not.

Paul thinks highly of his city's paper, *The Longview Daily News*, but the station gives it a run with aggressive promotion and persistent local coverage. It has a three-person news team—an atypical manpower investment in current radio circles—and captures audio from city council hearings and school board meetings.

It's all rather different from the large-market life Paul had originally anticipated, but he says there's a security in Longview that he lost in Denver.

"I control 100% of my destiny," he says.

His small-town life mirrors the sentiments of the country songs he plays, providing a sense of community and a connection to his roots. In essence, radio management is everything that Norris had told him it would be:

"It's an unbelievable life. It's not glamorous, but it's great." ●



Vince Gill (left) was the subject of *CMT Giants*, which premiered Sept. 16. Among the performers paying homage were Luke Combs and Wendy Moten.



Keith Urban and opening act Tyler Hubbard visited with Universal Music Group executives during a Sept. 10 tour stop at the Kia Forum in Los Angeles. From left: Hubbard, UMG CFO/executive vp Boyd Muir, UMG Nashville chairman/CEO Mike Dungan and Urban.



Tyler Braden (center) visited with *Billboard* Nashville staff during a Sept. 15 introduction at the Warner Music Nashville office. He's accompanied by *Billboard* country chart manager Jim Asker (left) and *Billboard Country Update* editor Tom Roland.

VICTORIA CHATOFF

LEE BRICE

SOUL

#19* MB/CAC

#22* BDS/BB

#1 WOMEN 35-44*

#3 WOMEN 25-54*

*RTM, WEEK OF 9/15

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*Kelsea
ballerini*

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ALBUM AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 23

*FEATURING THE LATEST SINGLE
"HEARTFIRST"*



BLACK RIVER
RECORDS

ON THE CHARTS JIM ASKER jim.asker@billboard.com

Kane Brown Notches Two New Top Fives: *Different Man* On Top Country Albums And 'Thank God' On Hot Country Songs



Kane Brown earns his fifth top five entry, and sixth top 10, on *Billboard's* Top Country Albums chart (dated Sept. 24) as *Different Man* (Zone 4/RCA Nashville/Sony Music Nashville) blasts in at No. 2. Released Sept. 9, the set earned 46,000 equivalent album units in its first week (ending Sept. 15), according to Luminate.

On the all-genre *Billboard* 200, the LP arrives at No. 5, awarding Brown his fourth top 10.

Brown co-produced *Different Man*, marking a first for the 28-year-old singer-songwriter from northwest Georgia. He also co-wrote 15 of the set's 17 tracks.

Different Man follows his seven-song *Mixtape, Vol. 1*, which entered at its No. 2 peak in August 2020. Before that, *Experiment* opened atop the list in November 2018 (with 126,000 units, his biggest week to date), and his self-titled first full-length debuted at the summit in December 2016.

Brown's first Top Country Albums entry, his EP *Closer*, began at No. 22 in June 2015 and reached No. 7 the following November, while his *Chapter 1* entered at its No. 3 high in April 2016.

He concurrently earns his highest debut on the streaming-, airplay- and sales-based Hot Country Songs chart as "Thank God," his first duet with his wife, **Katelyn**, bounds in at No. 5. The pair, who wed in October 2018, notch their 12th and first top 10, respectively, the latter in her first chart appearance.

Brown previously started at a No. 9 Hot Country Songs best when "Memory," with **blackbear**, began at its peak in July 2021.

On Country Digital Song Sales, "Thank God" opens at No. 1 with 16,000 downloads sold, granting the Browns their 10th and first leader, respectively. It also blasts in atop the all-format Digital Song Sales list. It's the

second leader for Kane Brown, after "For My Daughter" roared in at the summit in November 2019.

"Thank God" also launches at No. 5 on Country Streaming Songs with 11.5 million official U.S. streams. As "God" gets promoted to radio, the single rises 49-35 on Country Airplay (2.7 million audience impressions, up 129%).

"One Mississippi" was released as the new set's first single and led Country Airplay for one week in March, while follow-up "Like I Love Country Music" reigned for a week in August, becoming Brown's eighth leader. The songs peaked at Nos. 4 and 3, respectively, on Hot Country Songs.



'HALF' TIME **Thomas Rhett** achieves his 21st Country Airplay top 10 as "Half of Me," featuring **Riley Green** (Big Machine Label Group/Valory), climbs 12-10 (15.5 million, up 11%).

The song follows Rhett's "Slow Down Summer," which hit No. 2 on Country Airplay in May. He boasts 17 No. 1s on the survey.

Green adds his second Country Airplay top 10. "There Was This Girl," his first of five entries to date, reached No. 3 in March 2019.

'SHE' IS STILL No. 1 **Cole Swindell's** "She Had Me at Heads Carolina" (Warner Music Nashville/WMN) inhabits the Country Airplay penthouse for a second week, increasing by 3% to 29.7 million impressions.

Swindell's eighth No. 1 on the list marks his fourth multiweek leader. He has dominated the longest with "You Should Be Here," for three

weeks starting in April 2018.

Meanwhile, just under one-third of all the songs to ascend to their first weeks at No. 1 on Country Airplay in 2022 have reigned for multiple weeks, as "Carolina" is the eighth to achieve the feat among 25 new chart-toppers this year. ●

JASON MEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES FOR CMT/VIACOM

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Expert insight and commentary by Tom Roland and Jim Asker



THANKS FOR
**JUMPIN' ON THE
SHANE TRAIN**



CAUSE THAT'S
"HOW IT OUGHTA BE!"
#1 MOST ADDED!



38 STATIONS ON BY FIRST WEEK!

- MUSIC CHOICE / KBEQ / KCCY / KCYE / KDRK / KEEY / KHEY / KHGE
- KILT / KKBD / KNIX / KNUC / KRST / KSDN / KSOP / KTOM / KWNR
- KXLY / KZSN / WCKN / WGAR / WIL / WJVC / WKHX / WKKT
- WKMK / WKRO / WMZO / WOLF / WPOR / WOYK / WRBT
- WTQR / WUSJ / WWKA / WWQM / WXCX / WYCD

ALL ABOARD!



billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
1	1	15	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cole Swindell	29.658	+0.787	7729	152	1
2	3	14	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	29.510	+3.010	7708	643	2
3	4	14	YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	27.521	+2.473	7151	507	3
4	2	37	TRUTH ABOUT YOU Riser House/Columbia Nashville	Mitchell Tenpenny	23.238	-3.951	6245	-1301	4
5	7	18	5 FOOT 9 Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	20.980	+1.301	5636	316	6
6	8	38	WISFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	20.547	+1.157	5846	311	5
7	6	49	TAKE MY NAME Stoney Creek	Parmalee	20.067	-0.128	4757	66	9
8	5	47	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE Valory	Justin Moore	18.542	-2.930	4812	-918	8
9	10	27	GHOST STORY Capitol Nashville	Carrie Underwood	16.885	+0.124	5005	57	7
10	12	16	HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	15.483	+1.587	4266	364	11
11	11	29	DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine	Jackson Dean	15.069	+1.136	4712	460	10
12	13	12	COUNTRY ON Capitol Nashville	Luke Bryan	12.515	+0.654	3749	189	12
13	15	14	FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	11.770	+1.525	3660	296	13
14	16	29	SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	10.071	+1.150	3383	280	14
15	18	32	PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	10.019	+1.902	3282	403	15
16	17	33	OUT IN THE MIDDLE Home Grown/Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Zac Brown Band	8.950	+0.708	3070	242	16
17	21	32	PARTY MODE Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch	8.364	+0.803	2997	155	18
18	22	27	DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	8.236	+0.964	2998	299	17
19	20	24	SHE LIKES IT Triple Tigers	Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott	7.825	+0.235	2585	18	20
20	23	9	THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	7.795	+0.916	2401	250	22
21	24	17	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND MCA Nashville	Jordan Davis	7.101	+0.701	2533	234	21
22	25	42	SOUL Curb	Lee Brice	6.337	+0.242	2654	117	19
23	27	14	WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	5.482	+0.532	2051	405	24
24	26	24	HEARTFIRST Black River	Kelsea Ballerini	5.315	+0.093	2326	94	23
25	29	43	YOU DIDN'T BMLG	Brett Young	4.157	+0.314	1928	135	25
26	28	31	MY BAR inDent/Mercury Nashville	Priscilla Block	4.057	+0.067	1853	20	26
27	32	8	GOLD Capitol Nashville	Dierks Bentley	3.846	+0.539	1300	165	31
28	30	13	WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	3.827	+0.250	1650	174	27
29	31	5	NO BODY Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Blake Shelton	3.600	+0.191	1304	108	30
30	34	4	WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	3.576	+0.719	1097	259	35

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay of 148 stations by Luminate, formerly MRC Data. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audio- copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2022, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed on Luminate, formerly MRC Data's platforms.

BULLETS

● Awarded on Country Airplay to titles gaining audience or remaining flat from the previous week. A song will also receive a bullet

if its percentage loss in audience does not exceed the percentage of monitored station downtime for the format. Titles that decline in audience but increase in detections will also receive a bullet if the total audience erosion for the week does not exceed 3%.

TIES

On Country Airplay, if two songs are tied in total audience, the song with the larger increase in audience is placed first.

RECURRENTS

On Country Airplay, descending titles below No. 10 in either audience or detections are moved to recurrent after 20

weeks, provided that they are not still gaining enough audience points to bullet or if they rank below No. 10 and post a third consecutive week of (non-bulleted) audience decline, regardless of total chart weeks.

HOT SHOT DEBUT

Awarded to the highest-ranking new entry on Country Airplay.

MOST ADDED

The total number of new adds officially reported to Billboard by each reporting station, or by an automatic-add threshold (seven plays for the first time in a chart tracking week, according to Luminate, formerly MRC Data) for stations that do not report adds.

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

Most Increased Audience on Country Airplay lists the songs with the greatest week-to-week increases in total audience.

AIRPOWER

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles ranking inside top 20 in plays and audience rankings for the first time, with increases in both plays and audience.


BREAKER

Awarded on Country Airplay to titles achieving airplay (at least one detection) at 60% of reporting stations for the first time.

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	AUDIENCE (IN MILLIONS)		PLAYS		
					THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
31	33	24	JOY OF MY LIFE Mercury Nashville	Chris Stapleton	3.372	+0.298	1524	96	29
32	35	18	HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	3.343	+0.520	1576	76	28
33	37	28	HOLY WATER Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Michael Ray	2.864	+0.488	1234	29	33
34	36	15	HUMAN CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	2.718	+0.136	1020	-2	37
35	49	2	THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville ★★ Breaker/ Most Added ★★	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	2.704	+1.524	811	542	42
36	39	4	BEER WITH MY FRIENDS Blue Chair/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Kenny Chesney & Old Dominion	2.547	+0.298	761	145	44
37	38	13	WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine	Carly Pearce	2.546	+0.283	1275	58	32
38	44	7	WILD AS HER Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville	Corey Kent	2.246	+0.481	798	149	43
39	42	6	HANDLE ON YOU MCA Nashville	Parker McCollum	2.242	+0.208	864	100	41
40	40	10	BROWN EYES BABY Hit Red/Capitol Nashville	Keith Urban	2.134	-0.005	990	57	38
41	41	25	GOOD DAY FOR LIVING Quartz Hill	Joe Nichols	2.053	-0.056	1162	31	34
42	43	9	YOU Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Dan + Shay	1.983	+0.122	902	88	40
43	45	8	Y'ALL LIFE Monument	Walker Hayes	1.817	+0.260	965	40	39
44	46	25	NOTE TO SELF Magnolia Music	Randy Houser	1.694	+0.270	1051	90	36
45	48	33	SON OF A Riser House	Dillon Carmichael	1.221	+0.006	745	4	45
46	47	19	SONGS ABOUT YOU Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Brett Eldredge	1.190	-0.052	524	-3	48
47	51	20	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T Songs & Daughters/Pigasus/Big Loud	Hailey Whitters	1.066	+0.035	422	-6	52
48	52	9	DOING LIFE WITH ME EMI Nashville	Eric Church	1.056	+0.025	535	16	47
49	50	11	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE Belting Bronco/Warner	Zach Bryan	1.052	+0.011	267	-8	60
50	56	22	HELL YEAH Capitol Nashville	Little Big Town	0.975	+0.193	483	39	50
51	58	3	GIRL IN MINE Stoney Creek	Parmalee	0.954	+0.222	498	51	49
52	53	13	MAN MADE RECORDS Nashville	Matt Stell	0.906	+0.066	602	21	46
53	55	7	STRANGE Vanner/RCA Nashville	Miranda Lambert	0.875	+0.082	383	19	54
54	54	6	NEVERTIL NOW Back Blocks/BMLG/Big Loud	Ashley Cooke + Brett Young	0.827	+0.012	478	-2	51
55	59	16	SALT, LIME & TEQUILA Red Street	Ryan Griffin	0.729	+0.078	394	33	53
56	60	3	WORTH A SHOT RCA/Columbia Nashville	Elle King Featuring Dierks Bentley	0.687	+0.064	374	3	55
57	57	6	EASY TONIGHT RCA Nashville	Niko Moon	0.576	-0.174	267	-42	-
58	RE-ENTRY		HOW IT OUGHTA BE BMLG	Shane Profitt	0.562	+0.072	127	49	-
59	NEW		LONGNECK WAY TO GO Big Machine ★★ Hot Shot Debut ★★	Midland Featuring Jon Pardi	0.537	+0.041	288	9	59
60	NEW		IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	0.536	+0.403	209	148	-



15

GABBY BARRETT
Pick Me Up

The **Barrett** co-write climbs 18-15 on Country Airplay, up 23% to 10 million in audience. It's the fourth single from her 2020 LP *Goldmine*, which has yielded the No. 1s "I Hope" and "The Good Ones."

GOING FOR ADDS

9/26

JAKE OWEN
Up There Down Here
Big Loud

JONATHAN INGRAM
Boys Don't Cry
Four Hour Drive


MAREN MORRIS
I Can't Love You Anymore
Columbia Nashville

SWEET TEA TRIO
All Hat, No Cattle
Top Dog

TOBY KEITH
Oklahoma Breakdown
Show Dog Nashville

10/3

CARSON BEYER
Outdated
Carson Beyer



MORRIS

billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY
MONITORED BY
LUMINATE

MOST ADDED®

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	ADDS
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	35
WAIT IN THE TRUCK Broken Bow/Big Loud	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson	13
WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	11
EXCUSES Combustion/Wheelhouse	Kolby Cooper	11
WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE MCA Nashville	Sam Hunt	10
IT MATTERS TO HER Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	10
WHAT HE DIDN'T DO Big Machine	Carly Pearce	9
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO Stoney Creek	Drake Milligan	7
I CAN'T LOVE YOU ANYMORE Columbia Nashville	Maren Morris	7
HEART LIKE A TRUCK Broken Bow	Lainey Wilson	6

MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN (IN MILLIONS)
THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+3.010
YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+2.473
PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	+1.902
HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	+1.587
FALL IN LOVE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	+1.525
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	+1.524
5 FOOT 9 Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+1.301
WISHFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	+1.157
SON OF A SINNER Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Stoney Creek	Jelly Roll	+1.150
DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine	Jackson Dean	+1.136

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

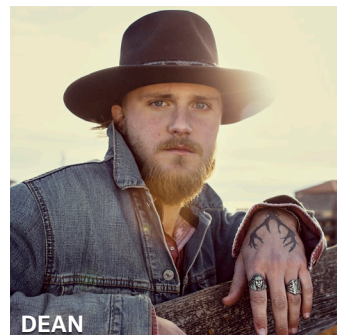
TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	GAIN
THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE River House/Columbia Nashville	Luke Combs	+643
THANK GOD Zone 4/RCA Nashville	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown	+542
YOU PROOF Mercury/Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	+507
DON'T COME LOOKIN' Big Machine	Jackson Dean	+460
WHISKEY ON YOU Arista Nashville	Nate Smith	+405
PICK ME UP Warner Music Nashville/WAR	Gabby Barrett	+403
HALF OF ME Valory/BMLG	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green	+364
5 FOOT 9 Hubbard House/EMI Nashville	Tyler Hubbard	+316
WISHFUL DRINKING Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt	+311
DOWN HOME Stoney Creek	Jimmie Allen	+299

NEW AND ACTIVE

TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUDIENCE	TOTAL STATIONS	ADDS
CAN'T HAVE MINE Curb	Dylan Scott	0.474	25	5
IF HE WANTED TO HE WOULD EMI Nashville	Kylie Morgan	0.437	18	5
I CAN'T DECIDE Stone Country	Easton Corbin	0.421	27	2
ROCK AND A HARD PLACE Elektra/Warner Music Nashville/WEA	Bailey Zimmerman	0.398	6	2
SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO Stoney Creek	Drake Milligan	0.297	9	7
LOUD AND HEAVY Late August	Cody Jinks	0.272	6	0

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label	Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	WASTED ON YOU Republic/Big Loud	Morgan Wallen	17.320
2	LAST NIGHT LONELY Capitol Nashville	Jon Pardi	15.980
3	TROUBLE WITH A HEARTBREAK Macon/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean	15.163
4	'TIL YOU CAN'T CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN	Cody Johnson	14.800
5	DAMN STRAIT Triple Tigers	Scotty McCreery	13.645
6	THINKING 'BOUT YOU Broken Bow	Dustin Lynch Featuring Lauren Alaina Or MacKenzie Porter	11.211
7	IF I DIDN'T LOVE YOU Macon/Capitol Nashville/Broken Bow	Jason Aldean & Carrie Underwood	10.769
8	AT THE END OF A BAR RCA Nashville	Chris Young With Mitchell Tenpenny	7.381
9	NEW TRUCK Curb	Dylan Scott	7.304
10	FAMOUS FRIENDS RCA Nashville	Chris Young + Kane Brown	7.110



DEAN: DAVID MCCLUSTER.



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
1	2	25	LOVESICK DRIFTING COWBOY (Independent) ★★1 Week at 1★	James Robert Webb	1778	96	11	12	18	HARDER STUFF (Independent)	Adam Hood	1166	22
2	3	15	HONKY TONK HIGHWAY (Independent)	Case Hardin	1672	56	12	7	22	TELLING ON MY HEART (Independent)	Casey Donahew	1155	-213
3	4	10	MILES DON'T MATTER (Independent)	Curtis Grimes	1600	96	13	11	22	ALL I NEEDED (Independent)	American Aquarium	1150	-66
4	6	17	LIKE CONWAY TWITTY (Independent)	James Lann	1501	63	14	16	12	HURT YOU (Independent)	Cody Jinks	1079	-2
5	8	10	FREE MAN (Independent)	Bri Bagwell	1416	91	15	15	17	BLOOD (Independent)	Jon Stork	1069	-22
6	13	9	EVERYTHING HAS YOUR MEMORY (Independent)	Wade Bowen	1285	147	16	19	6	STUCK (Independent)	Ariel Hutchins	1068	100
7	18	7	NOTHING BUT LOVE SONGS (Independent)	Randy Rogers Band	1230	255	17	20	8	IF IT DON'T HAVE A HONKY TONK (Independent)	Pat Green	1066	109
10	8	24	THAT WAY (Cielo Azul Ent)	Sarah Hobbs	1228	-56	18	21	15	WILDFLOWER (Independent)	Love & Chaos f/ Willy Braun	1047	102
9	1	21	STRANGER TONIGHT (Independent)	Micky & The Motorcars	1196	-649	19	17	18	DAMN SANDWICH (Independent)	Jordan Rainer	1046	29
10	5	24	WORKING MAN'S WOMAN (Independent)	Jesse Raub Jr.	1167	-319	20	14	19	HUMAN (Independent)	Cody Johnson	1016	-118

Texas Regional Radio Report Top 100 is compiled from weekly online playlist reports from 86 radio stations located in Texas and surrounding states, including reports from specialty shows, internet and satellite radio outlets. Songs are ranked by total plays. For tracking, complete chart methodology and more information, visit www.texasregionalradio.com, or contact Dave Smith at 972-252-8777. Copyright 2022, Texas Regional Radio Report

THANK YOU COUNTRY RADIO & OUR STREAMING PARTNERS!

DRAKE MILLIGAN

SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D DO

30+ FIRST WEEK ADDS

MCCN / MUSIC CHOICE
KSCS / DALLAS
KILT / HOUSTON
KKBQ / HOUSTON
WJVC / NASSAU-SUFFOLK
KUPL / PORTLAND
KWJJ / PORTLAND
KSOP / SALT LAKE CITY
WWKA / ORLANDO
KWNR / LAS VEGAS
KBEQ / KANSAS CITY

WGH / NORFOLK
WKHK / RICHMOND
WQNU / LOUISVILLE
WKMK / MONMOUTH-OCEAN
WZZK / BIRMINGHAM
KHGE / FRESNO
WCYQ / KNOXVILLE
WTGE / BATON ROUGE
KATM / STOCKTON
WKRO / DAYTONA BEACH
KDRK / SPOKANE

KXLY / SPOKANE
KFDI / WICHITA
KJUG / VISALIA
WXBQ / JOHNSON CITY
WQHK / FT WAYNE
WUSJ / JACKSON
KPLM / PALM SPRINGS
KTTS / SPRINGFIELD
BREAKTHROUGH COUNTRY (AMAZON MUSIC)
NEW COUNTRY (PANDORA)

#1 SINGLE & #1 ALBUM ITUNES (ALL FORMATS)



DEBUT ALBUM *DALLAS/FORT WORTH* AVAILABLE NOW



NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND



ERIKA GOLDRING

Lucinda Williams received the BMI Troubadour Award during a Sept. 12 dinner ceremony. She's flanked by BMI Nashville vp of creative Clay Bradley (left) and BMI CEO Mike O'Neill.

SCHMIDT INKS WITH ENDURANCE

Endurance Music Group has signed songwriter-producer **Jordan Schmidt** to an exclusive, global publishing agreement that includes the purchase of rights to some of his existing copyrights.

His catalog of hits includes **Kane Brown's** "Like I Love Country Music" and "What Ifs" (featuring **Lauren Alaina**), as well as **Blake Shelton's** "God's Country," which earned Academy of Country Music and Country Music Association single of the year honors and a Grammy nomination. Schmidt is also a writer on **Mitchell Tenpenny's** "Drunk Me," the **Florida Georgia Line/Nelly** duet "Lil Bit" and **Jason Aldean's** "You Make It Easy" and "Lights Come On."

A native of Duluth, Minn., Schmidt first became an in-demand rock/alternative producer in Minneapolis, working with bands **All Time Low**, **Metro Station**, **Motion City Soundtrack** and **Quietdrive**. He moved to Nashville in 2012, signing a publishing deal with Florida Georgia Line's Tree Vibe Music. Schmidt continues to produce — he's listed at No. 5 on the Country Producers chart (see page 12) for his work on current singles by Tenpenny, **Ingrid Andress** and **Tyler Hubbard**.

Schmidt currently resides in Nashville with his fiancée, singer-songwriter **Renee Blair**; both have co-writing credits on the recent **HARDY** release, "wait in the truck," featuring **Lainey Wilson**. It rests at No. 29 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart.

Go [here](#) for the full story.

—Jessica Nicholson

RADIO & RECORDS®

Mackenzie Cooper will join Triple Tigers on Sept. 26 as promotion coordinator, replacing **Hope Garrison**, who moves to marketing manager. Cooper spent the previous two years as a digital content director/producer for Westwood One's *Nights With Elaina* ... **RECORDS Nashville** hired senior director of national promotion **David "Bubba" Berry**, who worked most recently as Arista Nashville Northeast regional. With his arrival, RECORDS also promotes **Jamie Jennings** to senior director of national promotion and commercial strategy ... **The Pretty Wild**, consisting of sisters **Jill** and **Julia Tirinnanzi**, signed a recording contract with RECORDS Nashville/Columbia and a booking agreement with Creative Artists Agency. They are managed by D&D Endeavors owner **David Nathan**, and the duo's website currently features a video of "Xanax & Champagne," written by **Brandy Clark**, **Shane McAnally** and **Old Dominion's Trevor Rosen** ... **Michael Biondo** was promoted to iHeartMedia president of business development and strategic partnerships from executive vp of strategic business operations... **Garth Brooks'** SiriusXM station, The Garth Channel, is expected to end a six-year run on Oct. 1, likely closing with "People Loving People" ... Two iHeartMedia market presidents, Dallas' **Kelly Kibler** and San Antonio/Austin president **Matt Martin**, are no longer with the company, RadioInk.com reported. Detroit region president **Paul Corvino** has added those territories to his responsibilities ... Civic Media purchased **WDMO Baldwin**, Wis., and two silent Wisconsin outlets, **WCBN Hayward** and

WXCE Amery, from Zoe Communications, according to RadioInsight.com. The price was \$700,000 ... Private services were held Sept. 17 for **L. Lowry Mays**, who founded the Clear Channel broadcast chain, *The Dallas Morning News* reported. Mays died Sept. 12, 50 years after he bought his first station, a San Antonio FM signal, in an era when FM was not yet dominant. He built that investment into Clear Channel, a chain with 1,200 stations and a concert division. The concert wing was spun off into Live Nation; Clear Channel was sold and later restructured as iHeartMedia.

'ROUND THE ROW

Spirit Music Nashville CEO **Frank Rogers'** role with the firm was expanded as he added chief creative officer duties for the entire company to his job description ... Homestead Music promoted **Chelsey Block** to managing partner from head of marketing. The move comes in conjunction with the company signing Wheelhouse artist **Madeline Merlo** to a recording deal. Merlo has an EP, *Slide*, set for release Sept. 23 ... **Chris Stapleton** renewed his publishing agreement with Warner Chappell Nashville ... Singer-songwriter **Dalton Dover** signed a joint-venture songwriting agreement with Sony Music Publishing Nashville and **Jim Catino's** Droptone Music ... Reservoir and joint-venture partner One Riot announced a publishing deal with singer-songwriter **Brit Taylor** ... **Jimmie Allen**, **Mickey Guyton** and **Yola** were added to the leadership council of the Recording Academy's Black Music Collective ... Progressive bluegrass artist **Billy Strings** was named artist of the year during the Americana Music Association's 21st annual Americana Honors & Awards on Sept. 14 at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. **Allison Russell's** *Outside Child* claimed album of the year, **The War and Treaty** snagged duo/group, and "Right On Time" earned song of the year honors for **Brandi Carlile** and co-writers **Dave Cobb**, **Phil Hanseroth** and **Tim Hanseroth** ... The Nashville Songwriters Association International's 23rd annual NSAI Song Contest, co-sponsored by The Bluebird Cafe and CMT, will launch Oct. 1 with a pool of potential rewards that includes cash prizes of \$5,000 and \$2,500, a single-song contract with Anthem Entertainment and a mentoring session with **Blanco Brown** or **Nicolle Galyon**. Go [here](#) for more info ... **Tracy Lawrence** holds his 17th annual Mission:Possible Turkey Fry for the Nashville Rescue Mission on Nov. 22 with an adjunct benefit concert the same night featuring **Gary Allan** and **Travis Denning** at the Wildhorse Saloon. The event has raised over \$600,000 for the Mission ... Services were held Sept. 17 for music veteran **Terry Choate** at Grandview Funeral Home in Sparta, N.C. Choate died Sept. 13, leaving a legacy that included work with Tree Publishing and a run in A&R at Capitol Nashville, where he was involved in the careers of **Don Williams**, **Tanya Tucker** and **T. Graham Brown**, among others ... **Dick McVey** will be honored with a celebration of life at 1 p.m. on Sept. 20 at Sumner Funeral & Cremation in Hendersonville, Tenn. A former member of **Little Jimmy Dickens'** band, he developed a musicians referral service and backed numerous artists on the *Grand Ole Opry*. McVey, 73, died Sept. 14. ●



Jelly Roll's Sept. 13 performance at the Xfinity Center in Mansfield, Mass., drew a visit from WKLB Boston assistant PD Dawn Santolucito (left). They're joined by Stoney Creek director of Northeast promotion Lexi Willson.

Capitol
RECORDS NASHVILLE
A UNIVERSAL MUSIC COMPANY

NEW ALBUM
AVAILABLE NOW

Mr. Sun

LITTLE BIG TOWN



billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE <small>PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)</small>	Artist <small>IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL</small>	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
1	1	1	18	YOU PROOF <small>J.MOI,CHARLIE HANDSOME (M.WALLEN,A.G.GORLEY,E.K.SMITH,CHARLIE HANDSOME)</small>	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	3	1
2	2	2	13	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE <small>CHIP MATTHEWS,J.D.SINGLETON,L.COMBS (L.COMBS,J.DAVIS,D.ISBELL,R.ISBELL)</small>	Luke Combs RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	2	1
3	3	3	56	WASTED ON YOU <small>J.MOI,J.DURRETT (M.WALLEN,E.K.SMITH,J.THOMPSON,CHARLIE HANDSOME)</small>	Morgan Wallen REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	RC	1
4	4	4	20	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA <small>Z.CROWELL (A.G.GORLEY,C.SWINDELL,J.FRASURE,M.D.SANDERS,THOMAS RHETT,T.NICHOLS)</small>	Cole Swindell WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WMN	1	3
5	NEW		1	THANK GOD <small>D.HUFF (C.D.STALNECKER,K.FISHMAN,J.FREE,J.HOGE,J.MULLINS)</small>	Kane Brown With Katelyn Brown ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	35	5
6	5	6	17	5 FOOT 9 <small>T.HUBBARD,J.M.SCHMIDT (T.R.HUBBARD,J.JOHNSTON,C.MCGILL)</small>	Tyler Hubbard HUBBARD HOUSE/EMI NASHVILLE	5	5
7	7	8	21	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE <small>R.HADLOCK (Z.L.BRYAN)</small>	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	49	3
8	6	5	30	LAST NIGHT LONELY <small>J.PARDI,B.BUTLER,R.GORE (J.BELL,J.FOX,D.MARLOWE)</small>	Jon Pardi CAPITOL NASHVILLE	RC	5
9	9	9	24	SON OF A SINNER <small>ERNEST K.I.TOSHINSKY (J.B.DEFORD,E.K.SMITH,D.R.STEVENS)</small>	Jelly Roll BAILEE & BUDDY/BMG/STONEY CREEK	14	9
10	8	7	14	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE <small>A.R.SHAWN (B.ZIMMERMAN,H.WARREN,J.HACKWORTH,J.HARVEY)</small>	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	2
11	10	10	31	FALL IN LOVE <small>A.R.SHAWN (A.R.SHAWN,B.ZIMMERMAN,G.J.LUCAS)</small>	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	13	6
12	11	14	59	TRUTH ABOUT YOU <small>J.M.SCHMIDT,M.TENPENNY (M.TENPENNY,M.ALDERMAN,T.ARCHER)</small>	Mitchell Tenpenny RISER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE	4	11
13	14	11	51	WISHFUL DRINKING <small>I.ANDRESS,J.M.SCHMIDT (I.ANDRESS,J.P.STARKER SAXE,J.PRICE,D.D.BROWN,R.WILLIAMSON)</small>	Ingrid Andress With Sam Hunt ATLANTIC/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	6	11
14	13	12	19	LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC <small>D.HUFF (K.BROWN,M.J.MCGINN,T.PHILLIPS,J.M.SCHMIDT)</small>	Kane Brown ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE	RC	3
15	16	17	19	WHISKEY ON YOU <small>L.RIMES (N.SMITH,L.RIMES,R.SUTTON)</small>	Nate Smith ARISTA NASHVILLE	23	14
16	22	25	16	DON'T COME LOOKIN' <small>L.DICK (J.DEAN,C.L.DICK)</small>	Jackson Dean BIG MACHINE	11	16
17	20	21	16	WHAT MY WORLD SPINS AROUND <small>P.DIGIOVANNI (J.DAVIS,M.DRAGSTREM,R.J.HURD)</small>	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	21	17
18	17	18	35	SHE LIKES IT <small>J.KERR,J.SCOTT (R.DICKERSON,J.SCOTT,J.KERR)</small>	Russell Dickerson & Jake Scott TRIPLE TIGERS	19	13
19	21	20	8	HALF OF ME <small>D.HUFF,J.FRASURE (THOMAS RHETT,R.AKINS,W.BUNDY,J.THOMPSON)</small>	Thomas Rhett Featuring Riley Green VALORY/BMLG	10	19
20	12	13	26	WITH A WOMAN YOU LOVE <small>J.S.STOVER,S.BORCHETTA (J.MOORE,P.DIGIOVANNI,C.MCGILL,J.S.STOVER)</small>	Justin Moore VALORY	8	12
21	18	19	26	GHOST STORY <small>D.GARCIA,C.UNDERWOOD (D.A.GARCIA,J.KEAR,H.LINDSEY,H.WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW)</small>	Carrie Underwood CAPITOL NASHVILLE	9	12
22	25	27	11	COUNTRY ON <small>J.STEVENS,J.STEVENS (D.FRASIER,S.HAURY,M.NESLER,MITCH OGLESBY)</small>	Luke Bryan CAPITOL NASHVILLE	12	19
23	19	15	4	WHERE IT ENDS <small>A.R.SHAWN (B.ZIMMERMAN,G.AVERILL,J.SPARGUR)</small>	Bailey Zimmerman ELEKTRA/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WEA	-	7
24	24	22	19	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW <small>J.MOI (M.WALLEN,N.GALYON,M.LAMBERT)</small>	Morgan Wallen MERCURY/REPUBLIC/BIG LOUD	-	1
25	29	23	3	WAIT IN THE TRUCK <small>J.MOI,HARDY (M.W.HARDY,H.PHELPS,J.M.SCHMIDT,R.BLAIR)</small>	HARDY Featuring Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW/BIG LOUD	30	23

COUNTRY SONGWRITERS™

- #1** 14 WKS **ZACH BRYAN**
- MORGAN WALLEN**
- ERNEST**
- CHARLIE HANDSOME**
- ASHLEY GORLEY**
- BAILEY ZIMMERMAN**
- CHASE MCGILL**
- JOSH THOMPSON**
- TYLER HUBBARD**
- LUKE COMBS**



COUNTRY PRODUCERS™

- #1** 83 WKS **JOEY MOI**
- AUSTIN SHAWN**
- DANN HUFF**
- ZACH CROWELL**
- JORDAN SCHMIDT**
- RYAN HADLOCK**
- CHARLIE HANDSOME**
- JACOB DURRETT**
- PAUL DIGIOVANNI**
- EDDIE SPEAR**

The weekly Country Songwriters and Country Producers charts are based on total points accrued by a songwriter and producer, respectively, for each attributed song that appears on the Hot Country Songs chart. As with Billboard's yearly recaps, multiple writers or producers split points for each song equally (and the dividing of points will lead to occasional ties on rankings).

billboard Hot Country Songs

AIRPLAY, STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY

LUMINATE

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	TWO WEEKS AGO	WKS ON CHART	TITLE PRODUCER (SONGWRITER)	Artist IMPRINT / PROMOTION LABEL	COUNTRY AIRPLAY RANK	PEAK POSITION
26	NEW		1	BURN, BURN, BURN Z.L.BRYAN, E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	26
27	27	26	27	WILD AS HER C.FARREN (M.WALLEN, BRETT TYLER, K.ARCHER)	Corey Kent COMBUSTION MASTERS/RCA NASHVILLE	38	15
28	23	29	30	SOUL B.GLOVER, K.JACOBS, L.BRICE (K.KADISH, T.FERRARI)	Lee Brice CURB	22	23
29	26	24	7	OKLAHOMA SMOKE SHOW E.SPEAR (Z.L.BRYAN)	Zach Bryan BELTING BRONCO/WARNER	-	24
30	15	16	40	PICK ME UP R.COPPERMAN, Z.KALE (G.BARRETT, J.M.NITE, R.COPPERMAN)	Gabby Barrett WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	15	15
31	NEW		1	FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH S.SUMSER, S.SMALL, J.DURRETT (D.BRELAND, R.H.BLOCK, J.R.DURRETT, G.JAMES)	BRELAND BAD REALM/ATLANTIC	-	31
32	36	-	3	EVERYTHING SHE AIN'T J.GEAR, H.WHITTERS (H.WHITTERS, B.SIMPSON, R.TYNDELL)	Hailey Whitters SONGS & DAUGHTERS/PIGASUS/BIG LOUD	47	32
33	41	43	12	HELL YEAH LITTLE BIG TOWN (J.WESTBROOK, P.SWEET, C.CROWDER, T.R.HUBBARD)	Little Big Town CAPITOL NASHVILLE	50	33
34	33	37	16	WHAT HE DIDN'T DO S.MCANALLY, J.OSBORNE (C.PEARCE, A.G.GORLEY, E.M.SHACKELTON)	Carly Pearce BIG MACHINE	37	29
35	30	31	37	JOY OF MY LIFE D.COBBS, C.STAPLETON (J.C.FOGERTY)	Chris Stapleton MERCURY NASHVILLE	31	27
36	32	38	15	DOWN HOME A.BOWERS, J.ALLEN (J.ALLEN, R.BALL, C.BEDELL, T.HOWELL)	Jimmie Allen STONEY CREEK	18	32
37	34	34	10	OUT IN THE MIDDLE Z.BROWN, B.SIMONETTI (B.SIMONETTI, Z.BROWN, L.COMBS, J.D.SINGLETON)	Zac Brown Band HOME GROWN/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE/WAR	16	32
38	NEW		1	TENNESSEE ORANGE NOT LISTED (NOT LISTED)	Megan Moroney MEGAN MORONEY	-	38
39	31	36	23	HEARTFIRST J.BUNETTA, S.MCANALLY (K.BALLERINI, K.FAIRCHILD, A.VANDERHEYM)	Kelsea Ballerini BLACK RIVER	24	25
40	39	40	5	THAT'S WHAT TEQUILA DOES M.KNOX (J.MORGAN, J.EDWARDS, T.KENNEDY, K.M.ALLISON)	Jason Aldean MACON/BROKEN BOW	20	39
41	NEW		1	ANGEL BAND T.CHILDERS, THE FOOD STAMPS (T.CHILDERS)	Tyler Childers HICKMAN HOLLER/RCA	-	41
42	40	42	21	PARTY MODE Z.CROWELL (J.FLOWERS, R.BEAVER, R.ALEXANDER, J.KEIM, M.MCGINN)	Dustin Lynch BROKEN BOW	17	30
43	43	41	9	Y'ALL LIFE J.THIBODEAU, W.HAYES (W.HAYES, P.GOOD, J.JENKINS, C.HAYNES, JR., J.EPPERSON)	Walker Hayes MONUMENT	43	32
44	37	39	4	DUTTON RANCH FREESTYLE B.MANLEY (D.MORRIS, B.MANLEY)	David Morris DREAMTOWN, USA/GREY AREA	-	37
45	38	28	3	CREEPS T.KIMBALL (R.WETZEL, A.BAYLIS, E.MCKEEVER)	Koe Wetzel YELLA BUSH/COLUMBIA	-	28
46	42	45	5	HANDLE ON YOU JON RANDALL (P.MCCOLLUM, M.CRISWELL)	Parker McCollum MCA NASHVILLE	39	42
47	46	-	2	NEXT THING YOU KNOW P.DIGIOVANNI (G.JAMES, J.OSBORNE, C.MCGILL, J.DAVIS)	Jordan Davis MCA NASHVILLE	-	46
48	48	50	4	HEART LIKE A TRUCK J.JOYCE (L.WILSON, D.WILSON, T.ANDERSON)	Lainey Wilson BROKEN BOW	32	48
49	49	-	4	WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE C.LA CORTE, S.MCANALLY, S.HUNT (S.L.HUNT, C.LA CORTE, S.MCANALLY, J.OSBORNE)	Sam Hunt MCA NASHVILLE	28	49
50	50	-	9	CAN'T HAVE MINE M.ALDERMAN (D.SCOTT, M.ALDERMAN, J.MELTON, D.WILSON)	Dylan Scott CURB	-	35

The week's most popular country songs, ranked by radio airplay audience impressions as measured by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, sales data as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data and streaming activity data from online music sources tracked by Luminate, formerly MRC Data. Descending titles below No. 25 are moved to recurrent after 20 weeks.

COUNTRY MARKET WATCH

A Weekly National Music Sales Report

WEEKLY UNIT COUNT				YEAR-TO-DATE			YEAR-OVER-YEAR	
	ALBUM CONSUMPTION	AUDIO ON-DEMAND	VIDEO ON-DEMAND	2021	2022	CHANGE		
This Week	1,482,000	1,741,871,000	130,554,000				ALBUM CONSUMPTION	
Last Week	1,464,000	1,739,586,000	129,449,000				'21	50.08 million
Change	1.2%	0.1%	0.9%				'22	52.89 million
This Week Last Year	1,368,000	1,519,325,000	131,060,000				TOTAL ON-DEMAND STREAMS	
Change	8.3%	14.6%	-0.4%				'21	60.69 billion
							'22	66.53 billion

All data measures U.S. activity as of the week ending September 15, 2022. All units counts are rounded to the nearest thousand. Album consumption units — also known as albums plus TEA plus SEA — consists of album sales; track-equivalent album (TEA) sales whereby 10 tracks equal one consumption unit; and stream equivalent albums (SEA) whereby 1,250 paid and/or 3,750 ad-supported audio on-demand streams (OAD) equal one consumption unit.

For inquiries about any Luminate, formerly MRC Data, please contact Howard Lin at Hlin@luminate.xyz **LUMINATE**

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

billboard TOP COUNTRY ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	GERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	88	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 031807/REPUBLIC	DANGEROUS: THE DOUBLE ALBUM	2	1
2	NEW	1	1	KANE BROWN ZONE 4/RCA NASHVILLE 996216/SMN	DIFFERENT MAN		2
3	2	2	17	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK		1
4	3	3	12	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 997801/SMN	GROWIN' UP		1
5	6	4	276	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 538883*/SMN	THIS ONE'S FOR YOU	3	1
6	7	5	224	MORGAN WALLEN BIG LOUD 783*	IF I KNOW ME	2	1
7	8	6	149	LUKE COMBS RIVER HOUSE/COLUMBIA NASHVILLE 595687*/SMN	WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET	2	1
8	RE-ENTRY	112	112	ELVIS PRESLEY RCA/SONY STRATEGIC MARKETING GROUP 89048*/LEGACY (25.98)	THE ESSENTIAL ELVIS PRESLEY		8
9	9	7	44	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 034504*	RED (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1
10	10	8	385	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	4	1
11	11	9	96	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
12	14	15	166	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		9
13	5	-	2	JON PARDI CAPITOL NASHVILLE 036110/UMGN	MR. SATURDAY NIGHT		5
14	13	12	23	COLE SWINDELL WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE 694948/WMN	STEREOTYPE		6
15	NEW	1	1	BRELAND BAD REALM/ATLANTIC 631719/AG	CROSS COUNTRY		15
16	19	14	9	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	SUMMERTIME BLUES		7
17	17	16	75	TAYLOR SWIFT REPUBLIC 033578*	FEARLESS (TAYLOR'S VERSION)		1
18	16	13	34	WALKER HAYES MONUMENT 98353*	COUNTRY STUFF: THE ALBUM		2
19	18	19	95	LEE BRICE CURB 79537*	HEY WORLD		7
20	NEW	1	1	CHARLEY CROCKETT SON OF DAVY 12*/THIRTY TIGERS	THE MAN FROM WACO		20
21	15	-	2	SHANIA TWAIN MERCURY NASHVILLE 036431/UMGN	NOT JUST A GIRL: THE HIGHLIGHTS (SOUNDTRACK)		15
22	25	24	4	TYLER HUBBARD HUBBARD HOUSE/EMI NASHVILLE DIGITAL EX/UMGN	DANCIN' IN THE COUNTRY (EP)		12
23	20	17	362	ZAC BROWN BAND HOME GROWN 546369*/BMG	GREATEST HITS SO FAR...		3
24	22	23	328	TIM MCGRAW CURB 79205 (13.98)	NUMBER ONE HITS		6
25	12	11	295	GEORGE STRAIT MCA NASHVILLE 000459/UMGN (25.98)	50 NUMBER ONES	7	1

Top Country Albums ranks the most popular country albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2022, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate, formerly MRC Data. All rights reserved.

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

billboard AMERICANA/FOLK ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	GERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	17	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 86979/WARNER	AMERICAN HEARTBREAK		1
2	2	2	331	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 019405*/UMGN	TRAVELLER	4	1
3	3	3	96	CHRIS STAPLETON MERCURY NASHVILLE 032689*/UMGN	STARTING OVER		1
4	4	5	183	TYLER CHILDERS HICKMAN HOLLER 001*/THIRTY TIGERS	PURGATORY		2
5	5	4	9	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	SUMMERTIME BLUES		2
6	6	6	377	HOZIER RUBYWORKS/COLUMBIA 309996*/LEGACY	HOZIER	3	1
7	NEW	1	1	CHARLEY CROCKETT SON OF DAVY 12*/THIRTY TIGERS	THE MAN FROM WACO		7
8	7	7	336	THE LUMINEERS DUALTONE 1738*	CLEOPATRA		1
9	9	12	41	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO DIGITAL EX/WARNER	ELISABETH		7
10	11	11	41	ZACH BRYAN BELTING BRONCO 654022*/WARNER (VINYL)	DEANN		6

Americana/Folk Albums ranks the most popular Americana/Folk albums of the week, as compiled by Luminate, formerly MRC Data, based on multi-metric consumption (blending traditional album sales, track equivalent albums, and streaming equivalent albums). Copyright 2022, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate, formerly MRC Data. All rights reserved.

STREAMING & SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

billboard COUNTRY STREAMING SONGS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON CHART	TITLE ARTIST
1	1	18	YOU PROOF MORGAN WALLEN
2	3	21	SOMETHING IN THE ORANGE ZACH BRYAN
3	2	13	THE KIND OF LOVE WE MAKE LUKE COMBS
4	NEW	1	THANK GOD KANE BROWN WITH KATELYN BROWN
5	5	87	WASTED ON YOU MORGAN WALLEN
6	4	14	ROCK AND A HARD PLACE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
7	7	12	5 FOOT 9 TYLER HUBBARD
8	6	16	SHE HAD ME AT HEADS CAROLINA COLE SWINDELL
9	9	21	FALL IN LOVE BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
10	10	283	TENNESSEE WHISKEY CHRIS STAPLETON
11	11	182	WHISKEY GLASSES MORGAN WALLEN
12	8	7	LAST NIGHT LONELY JON PARDI
13	13	65	YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE CHRIS STAPLETON
14	16	14	LIKE I LOVE COUNTRY MUSIC KANE BROWN
15	12	4	WHERE IT ENDS BAILEY ZIMMERMAN
16	14	14	WHISKEY ON YOU NATE SMITH
17	18	19	THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW MORGAN WALLEN
18	NEW	1	BURN, BURN, BURN ZACH BRYAN
19	22	218	BEAUTIFUL CRAZY LUKE COMBS
20	20	3	OKLAHOMA SMOKE SHOW ZACH BRYAN
21	17	58	BUY DIRT JORDAN DAVIS FEAT. LUKE BRYAN
22	21	63	SAND IN MY BOOTS MORGAN WALLEN
23	NEW	1	FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH BRELAND
24	24	73	CHASIN' YOU MORGAN WALLEN
25	25	13	WILD AS HER COREY KENT

The week's top-streamed and top-selling paid download country songs, respectively, from sales reports collected and provided by Luminate, formerly MRC Data. Charts update weekly on Tuesdays at www.Billboard.Biz/charts. Copyright 2022, Billboard Media, LLC and Luminate, formerly MRC Data. All rights reserved.

SALES DATA COMPILED BY **LUMINATE**

billboard BLUEGRASS ALBUMS

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	2 WEEKS AGO	WEEKS ON CHART	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER / DISTRIBUTING LABEL	TITLE	GERT.	PEAK POS.
1	1	1	43	ROBERT PLANT / ALISON KRAUSS ROUNDER 610127*/CONCORD	RAISE THE ROOF		1
2	3	4	51	BILLY STRINGS ROUNDER 610142*/CONCORD	RENEWAL		1
3	4	6	56	STURGILL SIMPSON HIGH TOP MOUNTAIN 36800*/THIRTY TIGERS	THE BALLAD OF DOOD & JUANITA		1
4	2	3	28	DOLLY PARTON BUTTERFLY RECORDS 001*	RUN, ROSE, RUN		1
5	9	5	43	BELA FLECK RENEW RECORDS 538689220/BMG	MY BLUEGRASS HEART		1
6	5	8	20	OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW ATO 0602*	PAINT THIS TOWN		1
7	8	7	24	MOLLY TUTTLE & GOLDEN HIGHWAY NONESUCH 677309*/WARNER	CROOKED TREE		2
8	10	9	29	VARIOUS ARTISTS CURB/BILLY BLUE 2334 CB EX	COUNTRY FAITH BLUEGRASS		7
9	RE-ENTRY	23	23	WATCHHOUSE TIPTOE TIGER 002*/THIRTY TIGERS	WATCHHOUSE		1
10	RE-ENTRY	2	2	NORA BROWN JALOPY 013* (VINYL)	LONG TIME TO BE GONE		2

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PROMOTION

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MAKIN' TRACKS TOM ROLAND tom.roland@billboard.com

Craig Morgan Offers A Personal Mantra With 'How You Make A Man'

Adversity, according to an old adage, builds character.

Craig Morgan has experienced enough of it to believe it's true. In the most dramatic incident, he lost a son in a drowning accident and carries that emotional burden with him even as he moves forward. But he has also escaped a bus fire, pulled other people out of blazes and once broke bones in two separate motorcycle races six weeks apart — but still finished both competitions. He knows a thing or two about overcoming challenges.

"We break bones and we get scars, but you can rest assured that that's going to be the toughest part of you," Morgan reasons. "It's hard to break a bone in the same place twice because it's so much stronger, having been broke there [before]. And the same goes with our hearts and our heads. We're stronger people when we go through these hardships and heartaches. And I still believe that is how you make a man, that's how you make a woman. That's how you make a good human being."

That's the message in Morgan's new single, "How You Make a Man," a song whose chorus recognizes life's unavoidable pain, as well as the strength required to rebound and the character it creates.

"You're going to get hurt, you're going to get beat up, you're going to fail," says Morgan. "All the things that we consider negative can and will happen to you. But that doesn't define you. You know, 'You hit your knees until you learn to stand' — like the song says, get back up. Don't let it get you down. Those things are supposed to happen."

"How You Make a Man" was inspired by a Facebook post about the transition from restless boy to adult male. Songwriter **Megan Conner** thought the topic was worthy of a song, and she fashioned a series of lines under a different title, "Man Maker," which she introduced during a Feb. 28, 2018, writing appointment at Liv Write Play, a publishing company partially owned by indie recording artist **Olivia Lane**. The story appealed to her co-writers: **Michael August**, who co-authored **Erin Kinsey's** "Just Drive," and **Skip Black**, who is credited on **Edens Edge's** "Amen."

"You've got to go through the dark to see the light," Conner suggests. "You've got to experience the bad to get to the good. That's what we were trying to capture in a non-cliche kind of way, saying that you have to [withstand] the pressure to get to the diamonds."

Black, in particular, was experiencing that reality in a personal way, enduring a rough patch in a marriage that eventually ended in divorce. He started playing an acoustic guitar figure that hung on one note, and he introduced the opening line after consulting Google.

"We were talking about the different ways you make a man, so I said — because I'm not so good with my Bible verses at all — 'On what day did God create man?'" remembers Black. "And it was like, 'On the sixth day, God created Adam out of dust.' Boom, there's our first line."

The entire first verse focused on the ways that personal instructors would explain how a man is made: In addition to the preacher's creation story, a scientist would turn to the Big Bang theory, Mom might say that baby boys are a byproduct of love, and Dad would offer different advice: "Let me tell you, son..."

"It was a good way to tee up that chorus," Black suggests.

That chorus, essentially a quote from Dad about building character, featured a melodic lift and took a more commanding posture in phrasing, a contrast with the pondering cadence of the verses. And its lyrics were built on similar contrasts: "good days, bad days" and "the wars you fight, the ones you walk away from." It's practically a Buddhist stanza, given that one of Buddhism's basic tenets — at least in the English translation — is that "Life is struggle."



MORGAN

"It's being able to take the really bad, you know, and find the really good in it," surmises Conner.

Verse two brought more challenge as the song's protagonist recalls how he purchased a ring at age 22, only to lose the woman he bought it for — whether she rejected the proposal, walked away at the altar or even died is unclear. In any event, "she left a boy broken," as the stanza's final line puts it.

They also fashioned a short bridge, though no one remembers quite what it was, only that it didn't really meet the moment. That nagged at Black while he sang on the demo for "Make a Man," as they were calling it at the time.

Publishing consultant **Steve Bloch**, who was asked to weigh in, thought the song wasn't fully summarized.

"Steve Bloch is such a wise song guy," August says. "He's like, 'What's the big thing? Where's the girl in the song? Why is this important now? To who?' I told Skip and Megan that, and Skip literally just texted me and Megan a whole bridge, which is the bridge that's on there now."

That version recasts all the down cycles as life lessons, noting that the singer is now "a man worth lovin' you."

"It just totally hit home," adds August. "And the cool thing about it is you can interpret it as a woman, or you can interpret that as God."

At least two artists put it on hold — one of them for almost an entire year — but neither cut it. Indie song-

plugger **Shane Barrett** stayed on it and eventually sent "Make a Man" to producer **Phil O'Donnell** (**Drew Parker**, **Aaron Watson**) for Morgan.

"If there ever was a song custom made for him, that's definitely one," O'Donnell quips.

He forwarded it to Morgan, who paused the demo after the first chorus, long enough to put it on hold. Soon after he finished listening, Morgan told O'Donnell they needed to get a session scheduled so they could record it as soon as possible.

They cut it at The Castle in Franklin, Tenn., with a band that included guitarists **Brandon Hood**, **Jeff King** and **Troy Lancaster**; drummer **Chris McHugh**; bassist **Jimmie Lee Sloas**; pianist **Gordon Mote**; and steel guitarist **Mike Johnson**.

Two of the guitarists reworked the opening guitar to create a start-and-stop arpeggiated foundation, they nixed a Hammond B-3 part from the original demo, and they gave Johnson's steel prominence. They also used McHugh's power and Mote's thoughtful piano to heighten the drama in the bridge. Those were mostly minor changes from the guide that Black had produced.

"We just filed a couple of edges," says O'Donnell. "That bread was buttered. I feel like we just cut the crust off and ate it. They had a great map."

Morgan delivered the final vocal on the studio floor with the band, coordinating the interplay between singer and drums at the bridge in the process.

"I always sing when we're tracking because I want them to know where I'm at and what I'm doing dynamically," Morgan says. "If it works out that I'm in good vocal that day, that's what we use. And that's what happened on that record."

Morgan was adamant about elongating the title to "How You Make a Man," bringing more clarity to the song's subject matter. Broken Bow released it to country radio via PlayMPE on Aug. 4. Its message about overcoming adversity overlaps nicely with his other 2022 efforts, including his autobiography, *God, Family, Country: A Memoir*, co-written with **Jim DeFelice** (Sept. 27, Blackstone Publishing), and the recent CBS reality competition *Beyond the Edge*.

"That show was another one of those moments where we're suffering for other people," says Morgan. "It was a good thing, and that's what my book is about. That's what my music is, for the most part. I have always tried to deliver that message in some way." ●

CODD A

REWINDING
THE
COUNTRY
CHARTS

40 Years Ago Michael Martin Murphey Notched His First Hot Country Songs No. 1

In 1982, "What's Forever For" became his first of two leaders and 12 top 10s on the list

On Sept. 25, 1982, **Michael Martin Murphey's** "What's Forever For" topped *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart. The song was his first of two No. 1s and 12 top 10s.

The ballad was authored by **Rafe Van Hoy** and produced by **Kyle Lehning**. Pop duo **England Dan & John Ford Coley** originally recorded it in 1979.

"Forever" was released from

Murphey's self-titled album. Follow-up single "Still Taking Chances" hit No. 3 on Hot Country Songs. He led again with "A Long Line of Love" in August 1987.

The Oak Cliff, Texas, native broke through with the top 40 *Billboard* Hot 100 hit "Geronimo's Cadillac" in 1972 and sent "Wildfire" to a career-best No. 3 on the all-genre chart in 1975. Well-versed in multiple styles, he was

inducted into the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame in 2009. The same year, he notched his first of four top 10s on *Billboard's* Bluegrass Albums tally, reaching a No. 2 best with 2013's *Red River Drifter*.

Now 77, Murphey is still touring. In June, he released the LP *Beyond the View*, a collaborative set with his son, **Ryan Murphey**. —JIM ASKER

Murphey at the 1985 American Video Awards in Santa Monica, Calif.

Rank	Weeks at #1	Weeks on Chart	Song	Artist
1	1	15	WHAT'S FOREVER FOR	Michael Murphey (J. E. Norman)
2				R. Leigh, W. Holyfield; United Artists/Lion-Hearted/Ideas Of March, ASCAP; Epic 03055
3		9	PUT YOUR DREAMS AWAY	Mickey Gilley (J. E. Norman)
4		12	SHE GOT THE GOLDMINE (I Got The Shaft)	Jerry Reed (R. Hall)
5		13	BIG OLE BREW	Mel McDaniel (Larry Rogers)
6		11	I JUST CAME HERE TO DANCE	David Frizzell & Shelly West (S. Garrett, S. Dorf)
7		10	I WISH YOU COULD HAVE TURNED	T. Skinner, J. L. Wallace, K. Bell, Hal-Clement (Weik), BMI, Warner/Viva 7-29980