billboard Country Update

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BILLBOARD COUNTRY UPDATE

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Bon Voyage To Billboard Country Chart Manager Jim Asker Ahead Of His Final Week



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When Jim Asker steps down Aug. 15 as the Billboard senior country/Christian/gospel charts manager, it will represent a bittersweet end to an eventful decade.

Asker moves into the next chapter of his journey in media after

stepping into the role under improbable - and difficult - conditions. He would oversee day-to-day chart machinations during a challenging adjustment period for Nashville's music community when country consumers fully embraced the digital age and the business faced related struggles that are reflected in the ebb and flow of Billboard's weekly

"He was able to navigate that shift in many ways," Billboard executive vp of charts and data development Silvio Pietroluongo says, "including the change of our genre album charts, such as Top Country Albums, from being purely Asker (left) interviewed Tim McGraw in tion methodology blending sales and Music City Grand Prix. streaming in 2017.'

The job became available following the unexpected death of Asker's predecessor, Wade Jessen, who had handled the role for 20 years. Asker was aware of Jessen's stature in the business, but was able to turn the position into his own playground, bringing a dark humor to a taxing occupation that never allows a full day away from work.

"It's three-quarters sarcasm," says EM. Co senior vp of promo-

tion Jack Purcell of Asker's wit. "Then right behind that grumpy sarcasm, there's always that big, boisterous laugh. I can imagine some of the young kids coming in are probably afraid to call Jim, but I think he always looks out for everybody.'

> Asker brought valuable skills to his Billboard era, sharpened by a unique history. Determining at age 9 that he wanted to go into radio, he served as WJMC Long Island, N.Y., PD, winning several program director of the year awards and taking a seat on the Country Radio Broadcasters board of directors. He taught communication classes at three Tennessee community colleges - Columbia State, Motlow State and Nashville State - and he worked as the editor for former broadcasting trade All Access.

A bout with stage four non-Hodgkins cancer could have ended it there. But cancer was a setback, not an end. Despite a prediction that he had just two weeks to live, Asker fought through it and became

a champion for the cause in a very unexpected way.

"When life gives you lemons," he once wrote, "run a marathon."

Asker ran 15 of them, raising tens of thousands of dollars through his running group, Team in Training, for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

"Jim is the pied piper," media personality Suzanne Alexan-



sales-based to an album-consump- conjunction with the 2022 Big Machine

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der says. "Before you knew it, everybody was joining Team in Training. In fact, it was hilarious because Jim is notorious for going into a Starbucks and sitting down and parking himself there to write or to do his charts. He would inevitably get to know the staff, and even the staff at Starbucks would be running for Team in Training."

The Familie partner Royce Risser ran his first marathon with Asker in 1999. They did some training runs together ahead of the event, then endured 85-degree heat on the San Diego course. Asker pulled back when Risser struggled physically.

"He was fine," Risser recalls. "I cramped up at mile 15 on both my hamstrings and quads. It was brutal, but Jimmy stuck with me the whole time."

When the Billboard chart job opened, Asker was pleasantly surprised to get another chance in the business.

"When he went to *Billboard*, I really think that that was what he wanted," Risser says. "He loved writing, he loved being involved with radio again, but he always gave a really good, fair look at radio stations on the panel, off the panel. He took that really seriously."

It wasn't just the radio component that drew him. Asker was aware that the chart — and his honest, accurate work on it — held ramifications for the entire business.

"Jim would always look at it from every angle possible," Purcell says. "Idon't think he was just looking at it by the numbers and being stoic about it. He cared about the music, cared about the artists, cared about every chart position and what it potentially meant—positive or negative—for that artist's career. Every position on that chart resonates with Jim Asker. There's been that level of care and attention in it."

Pietroluongo immediately sensed the integrity that Asker would bring to the position. During the job interview in 2015, Pietroluongo mentioned a Country Radio Seminar event several years prior when they had bonded over dinner.

"He quickly responded that he had no recollection of that at all," Pietroluongo says. "Most people would just pretend that they remembered to please their potential new boss, but that response truly showed the essence of Jim; as someone honest and true to himself and a person I could trust to handle the delicate industry communication balance of that role."

Asker's honest answers didn't make everyone happy—they couldn't be if he was truly doing the job — but they earned him respect, especially because he didn't shy away from confrontations.

"We're all going to feel this loss," Alexander says. "He was accessible. I mean, in his business, sometimes you he sitate to make a call. You feel like you're being pushy. Jim was the guy that you can just call."

While Asker's last full-time date with *Billboard* will be Aug. 15, he will remain in a part-time role for several weeks as his successor is determined. He plans to return to teaching at Columbia State and to earn a third degree. He filled big shoes when he joined the team in 2015. He leaves big ones for the next country chart manager.

"He's a gentleman and a good friend," Pietroluongo says, "and his *Billboard* family wishes him nothing but the best in his post-*Billboard* career."



Luke Combs chatted with Apple Music host Kelleigh Bannen for the Aug. 1 edition of *Today's Country Radio With Kelleigh Bannen*.



Dasha (center) checked in with WKKT Charlotte, N.C., PD/midday host Ashley Wilson when she opened for Thomas Rhett on Aug. 1 at PNC Music Pavilion. Joining them is Warner Music Nashville regional manager of radio and streaming Justin Newell.



Four women were highlighted during Leslie Fram's FEMcountry showcase on July 30 at Anzie Blue in Nashville. From left: Ashland Craft, Callista Clark, Denitia and MŌRIAH.

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ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

SINGLE
OF THE YEAR
"AIN'T NO LOVE
IN OKLAHOMA"

MUSICAL EVENT

OF THE YEAR

"BACK UP PLAN"
W/ BAILEY ZIMMERMAN

"GUY FOR THAT"
W/ POST MALONE

MUSIC VIDEO

OF THE YEAR

"BACK UP PLAN"
W/ BAILEY ZIMMERMAN



Cameron Marlowe

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR



FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

KANE BROWN

ENTERTAINEROF THE YEAR

ALBUM
OF THE YEAR
THE HIGH ROAD

SONG
OF THE YEAR
"BACKSEAT DRIVER"

MALE VOCALIST
OF THE YEAR

SINGLE
OF THE YEAR
"BACKSEAT DRIVER"

MUSICAL EVENT
OF THE YEAR
"HAUNTED" W/JELLY ROLL

MUSIC VIDEO
OF THE YEAR
"HAUNTED" W/JELLY ROLL



billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

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

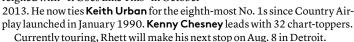
Party On: Thomas Rhett Rules Country Airplay With 'After All The Bars Are Closed'

Thomas Rhett nets his 21st No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart as "After All the Bars Are Closed" (Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory) ascends two spots to

the top of the tally dated Aug. 16. The song increased by 8% to 29 million audience impressions Aug. 1-7, according to Luminate.

Rhett co-authored the track with Julian Bunetta, John Byron, Jaxson Free and Jacob Kasher, and Bunetta co-produced it with Dann Huff. It's the second single from Rhett's LP About a Woman, which became his eighth top 10 on Top Country Albums when it arrived at its No. 10 best last September. Lead track "Beautiful as You" hit No. 2 in November.

The Valdosta, Ga., native last led with "Mamaw's House," featuring **Morgan Wallen**, for one week in March 2024. Rhett first reigned with "It Goes Like This" in October



ROLL-ING 'STONE' Jelly Roll adds his eighth Country Airplay top 10 in as many appearances—with the first seven having hit No. 1—as "Heart of Stone" (Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek) rises 12-10 (16.1 million/up 11%)

The song, which the Nashville native co-penned, follows "Liar," which dominated for six weeks beginning in February. He kicked off his run with "Son of a Sinner" in January 2023. It's the longest active streak of No. 1s; Morgan Wallen is next, having snapped off his sixth in succession when "Just in Case" started a four-frame command in July. He could soon make it seven in a row: His newest single, "I Got Better" (Mercury/Republic/Big Loud), hops 19-15 (10.4 million, up 24%). \bullet



MOST INCREASED AUDIENCE

TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	GAIN (IN MIILIONS)
FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville Nate Smith	+4.271
GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music Shaboozey	+2.254
AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory Thomas Rhett	+2.200
I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	+1.986
COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville Luke Bryan	+1.928
DARLIN' Warner Music Nashville/WAR Chase Matthew	+1.812
BACKUP PLAN Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerman & Luke Combs	+1.780
BOTTLE ROCKETS Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery & Hootie & The Blowfish	+1.621
HEART OF STONE Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	+1.535
HAPPEN TO ME Triple Tigers Russell Dickerson	+1.451

MOST INCREASED PLAYS

TITLE Imprint/Label Ar	tist	GAIN
FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville Nate Si	mith	+1208
DARLIN' Warner Music Nashville/WAR Chase Matt	hew	+626
GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music Shabo	ozey	+580
I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wa	allen	+580
COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville Luke B	ryan	+512
HEART OF STONE Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek Jelly	Roll	+497
BOTTLE ROCKETS Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery & Hootie & The Blov	vfish	+480
BACKUP PLAN Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerman & Luke Co	ombs	+472
AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory Thomas F	Rhett	+370
BAR NONE MCA Nashville Jordan D	avis	+328

RECURRENTS

THIS WEEK	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	TOTAL AUD. (IN MILLIONS)
1	I'M THE PROBLEM Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	18.921
2	THIS HEART Combustion Masters/RCA Nashville Corey Kent	16.407
3	HIGH ROAD YellaBush/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville Koe Wetzel & Jessie Murph	15.213
4	COUNTRY HOUSE MCA Nashville Sam Hunt	14.935
5	LIAR Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	13.797
6	POUR ME A DRINK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Post Malone Featuring Blake Shelton	12.099
7	WHISKEY DRINK Macon/Broken Bow Jason Aldean	11.044
8	LOVE SOMEBODY Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	10.941
9	HOMETOWN HOME BMG/Galaxy Label Group LOCASH	10.879
10	WORST WAY Nashville Harbor Riley Green	10.691



TEXAS REGIONAL RADIO REPORT

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 7, 2025

THIS WEEK		WKS ON Chart	TITLE (Label) ARTIS	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WKS ON Chart	TITLE (Label)	ARTIST	TW SPINS	SPINS +/-
0	2	22	BREAK ITSELF (Tommy Jackson Thirty Tigers) ★★1 Week at 1★★ Randy Rogers Bai	d 1671	66	11	11	19	ARE YOU A REAL COWBOY (Independent)	Amanda Kate Ferris	1196	6
0	3	15	GOD MADE A COWBOY (Independent) Aaron Lo	y 1606	57	12	12	16	ADELINE (Independent)	Shane Smith & The Saints	1186	10
8	4	17	FLAME (GetJoe) Billie Jo Jone	s 1544	49	13	8	29	I DON'T APOLOGIZE (Independent)	James Lann	1067	-218
4	5	26	WHO'S HANGING THE MOON (Independent) Josh Weather	s 1525	31	•	15	19	IF IT RAINS TODAY (Independent)	Matt Castillo	1066	97
6	6	20	THE MOMENT (Independent) Sundance Hea	d 1388	55	Œ	17	9	I MISS US (RedPlay Media)	Trevor Underwood	1019	116
6	7	14	IT AINT THE WHISKEY (Big Loud) Jake Worthingto	n 1371	41	16	16	17	COUNTY FAIR (Independent)	James Robert Webb	999	44
Ø	9	12	ONE NIGHT IN DALLAS (Independent) Tristan Roberso	n 1328	57	Ø	18	7	SWEET (Independent)	Bubba Westly	956	98
8	10	17	LAST COWBOY STANDING (Independent) David Adam Byrne	s 1277	40	13	19	7	WEATHERMAN (River House)	Hudson Westbrook	884	74
9	14	11	COWGIRLS RIDE (LuckySky Music) Tori Marti	n 1239	105	®	20	9	UNINVITED GUEST (Independent)	Casey Chesnutt	863	71
0	13	9	CHEATIN' ON MY HONKY TONK (Warner Music Nashville) Randall King feat. Braxton Kei	th 1226	56	20	26	7	TWO HANDS (Independent)	Pat Green and Corey Kent	844	138

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 2025, Texas Regional Radio Report

FOR YOUR CMA CONSIDERATION

BRANDON LAKE X JELLY ROLL



MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR







billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

		WKS		AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)		PLAYS	
THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	ON Chart	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
0	3	25	AFTER ALL THE BARS ARE CLOSED Fifty-One/Forty-Nine/Valory ** No.1(1 Week) ** Thomas Rhett	29.000	+2.200	8074	370	2
0	4	28	GOOD NEWS American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music Shaboozey	28.603	+2.254	7749	580	3
3	5	39	FIX WHAT YOU DIDN'T BREAK RCA Nashville ** Most Increased Audience ** Nate Smith	28.086	+4.271	8466	1208	1
4	2	20	JUST IN CASE Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen	27.053	-0.880	6511	-432	6
5	1	48	PARK Hubbard House/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville Tyler Hubbard	24.436	-4.413	6608	-1702	5
6	7	38	COUNTRY SONG CAME ON Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville Luke Bryan	23.143	+1.928	6961	512	4
Ø	8	14	BACKUP PLAN Atlantic/Warner Music Nashville/WEA Bailey Zimmerman & Luke Combs	21.653	+1.780	6407	472	7
8	9	21	HAPPENTO ME Triple Tigers Russell Dickerson	21.280	+1.451	6051	296	8
9	10	13	BOTTLE ROCKETS Triple Tigers Scotty McCreery & Hootie & The Blowfish	18.047	+1.621	5471	480	9
1	12	19	HEART OF STONE Bailee & Buddy/BMG/Republic/Stoney Creek Jelly Roll	16.070	+1.535	4766	497	11
0	13	20	BAR NONE MCA Nashville Jordan Davis	14.944	+1.326	4812	328	10
Ð	14	48	FRIDAY NIGHT HEARTBREAKER Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville Jon Pardi	14.553	+0.999	4496	272	12
B	15	46	HEAVENS TO BETSY Big Machine Jackson Dean	13.303	+0.866	4056	243	13
1	16	21	HANDS OFTIME BigEC/EMI Nashville/Mercury Nashville Eric Church	10.897	+0.507	3979	119	14
₽	19	7	I GOT BETTER Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ★★ Airpower ★★ Morgan Wallen	10.351	+1.986	3196	580	18
1	11	2	BACK IN THE SADDLE Seven Ridges/Columbia Nashville ★★ Breaker ★★ Luke Combs	9.969	-5.405	2734	-694	22
Ð	21	36	DARLIN' Warner Music Nashville/WAR ★★ Airpower ★★ Chase Matthew	9.904	+1.812	3316	626	15
B	17	11	SOMEWHERE OVER LAREDO Broken Bow Lainey Wilson	9.791	+0.424	3258	59	16
19	18	47	WHAT KINDA MAN MCA Nashville Parker McCollum	9.636	+0.936	3238	252	17
20	20	20	HOUSE AGAIN River House/Warner Music Nashville/WMN ★★ Airpower ★★ Hudson Westbrook	8.510	+0.158	2829	142	20
3	22	22	3,2,1 Tucker Wetmore/Back Blocks/EMI Nashville/Mercury/Republic/Mercury Nashville Tucker Wetmore	8.247	+0.467	2888	51	19
22	23	30	STRAIGHT LINE Hit Red/Capitol Nashville/MCA Nashville Keith Urban	7.024	-0.347	2739	-112	21
23	24	9	GOOD TIMES & TAN LINES Leo33 Zach Top	6.397	+0.518	2089	183	26
2	25	31	COWGIRL Stoney Creek Parmalee	6.193	+0.487	2101	192	25
3	28	27	I DARE YOU Big Machine Rascal Flatts & Jonas Brothers	5.191	+0.450	2290	146	23
239	30	4	DON'T MIND IF I DO Nashville Harbor Riley Green Featuring Ella Langley	4.878	+0.574	1332	126	35
3	27	28	IT WON'T BE LONG RECORDS Nashville George Birge	4.695	-0.075	2119	21	24
28	29	17	FAVORITE COUNTRY SONG Mercury/Republic/Big Loud HARDY	4.400	-0.098	1783	-62	28
29	31	13	YOU HADTO BETHERE Blue Chair/Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville Megan Moroney & Kenny Chesney	4.105	-0.028	1935	118	27
30	34	11	STAY COUNTRY OR DIETRYIN' Ten Point/Wheelhouse Blake Shelton	4.074	+0.370	1762	179	29

COUNTRY AIRPLAY CHART LEGEND

RANKINGS

Country Airplay is ranked by total audience impressions for the week ending Sunday based on monitored airplay by Mediabase of 145 stations by Luminate. Audience totals on the chart are derived, in part, using certain Nielsen Audio-copyrighted Persons 12+ audience estimates (under license © 2025, Nielsen Audio). The list of all Country Airplay chart reporters can be viewed in Luminate's online platform.

TIES

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

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%.

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. Plus, songs that ascend to a peak between Nos. 1 and 5 will remain on the chart for one additional week even if dropping below No. 10.

HOT SHOT DEBUT

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

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.

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billboard Country Airplay

AIRPLAY MONITORED BY

тыіс	LAST	WKS ON		AUDIENCE (I	N MILLIONS)		PLAYS	
THIS WEEK	WEEK	CHART	TITLE Imprint/Label Artist	THIS WEEK	+/-	THIS WEEK	+/-	RANK
③	32	33	TIME'S TICKING Valory Justin Moore	4.004	+0.064	1536	23	30
32	42	7	WEAK Valory Preston Cooper	3.436	+0.634	1242	111	38
33	33	16	I AIN'T COMING BACK Mercury/Republic/Big Loud Morgan Wallen Featuring Post Malone	3.394	-0.356	1005	-38	45
34	36	35	GOLDEN CHILD Riser House Meghan Patrick	3.391	+0.320	1443	63	31
35	35	38	WOULD IF I COULD Mercury/Republic/Big Loud ERNEST	3.324	+0.027	1389	-6	33
36	37	4	A SONGTO SING Vanner/Republic/Big Loud Miranda Lambert & Chris Stapleton	3.246	+0.213	1245	114	37
3	43	23	ENDS OFTHE EARTH RECORDS/Columbia/RECORDS Nashville Ty Myers	3.240	+0.450	1018	82	44
33	38	5	6 MONTHS LATER Megan Moroney/Columbia/Columbia Nashville Megan Moroney	3.192	+0.207	1099	85	40
39	40	15	WHAT HE'LL NEVER HAVE Curb Dylan Scott	3.069	+0.148	1416	48	32
40	46	10	ME & A BEER Harpeth 60 Chris Janson	3.056	+0.861	1349	195	34
49	41	17	HARD FOUGHT HALLELUJAH Brandon Lake/Essential/Lyric Ridge Brandon Lake X Jelly Roll	3.031	+0.210	1021	78	43
42	39	15	THE FALL CoJo/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Cody Johnson	2.935	-0.006	902	46	47
43	45	26	BETTER ME FOR YOU (BROWN EYES) Fugitive Recordings/Magnolia Music Max McNown	2.568	+0.264	1235	30	39
4	44	18	TILTHE LAST ONE DIES Boss Moves/Black River Chris Young	2.430	+0.094	1258	59	36
45	47	19	NOT AT THIS PARTY VERSION III/Warner/WMN Dasha	2.010	-0.068	1079	7	42
46	48	11	SAME MOON Riser House/Columbia Nashville Mitchell Tenpenny	1.845	-0.155	778	4	49
4	50	12	PAPER UMBRELLAS McGraw/Big Machine Tim McGraw Featuring Parker McCollum	1.460	+0.023	1089	107	41
48	53	22	WISH YOU WELL Music Soup/Interscope/MCA Nashville Vincent Mason	1.448	+0.196	960	72	46
49	51	11	BAGGAGE Black River Kelsea Ballerini	1.447	+0.114	806	51	48
50	49	9	DRINK WITH YOU Nashville Harbor Brett Young	1.425	-0.094	713	-10	51
5	52	8	WRONG HEARTS BMG/Galaxy Label Group LOCASH	1.421	+0.125	774	37	50
€2	55	12	BURNED DOWN HEAVEN Big Machine Chase McDaniel	1.382	+0.340	614	53	54
5 3	54	5	KID MYSELF Night Train/Broken Bow John Morgan	1.285	+0.220	694	72	52
54	56	4	2 PAIR Zone 4/RCA Nashville Kane Brown	1.190	+0.155	580	36	56
⊕	58	7	USE ME Leo33 Zach Top	1.157	+0.345	59	8	-
56	59	4	EASYTO LOVE Broken Bow Dustin Lynch	0.785	+0.022	613	5	55
⊕	NE	EW .	NOTELLIN' True To The Song/Nashville Harbor ★★ Hot Shot Debut/Breaker ★★ Caroline Jones	0.754	+0.142	663	74	53
5 3	RE-E	NTRY	IWISHYOU WOULD Valory ★★ Breaker ★★ Mackenzie Carpenter Featuring Midland	0.751	+0.069	574	84	57
59	60	2	NEVER CALL AGAIN Thrivin Here/Warner Music Nashville/WMN Gavin Adcock	0.730	+0.024	538	35	58
60	RE-E	NTRY	AMEN American Dogwood/EMPIRE/Magnolia Music Shaboozey & Jelly Roll	0.692	+0.085	298	21	-



Megan Moroney celebrated her single "Am I Okay?" on Aug. 4, a day before it was nominated for the MTV Video Music Awards. From left: co-writers Luke Laird and Jessie Jo Dillon, Moroney and producer Kristian Bush.



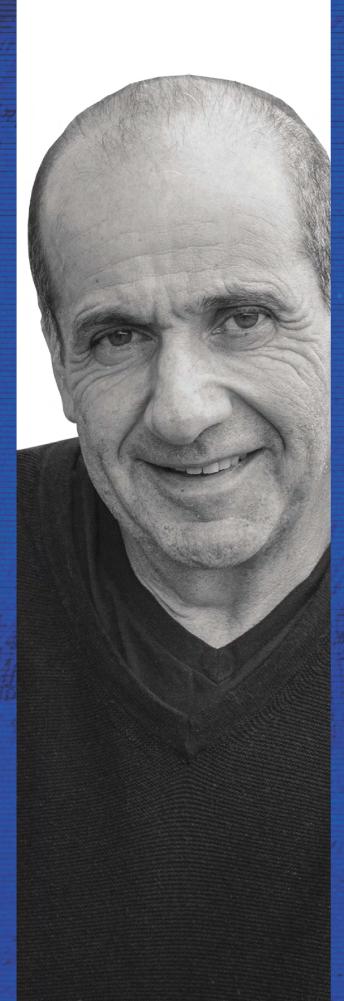
Jordan Davis (right) headlined a KKWF Seattle concert, the 100.7 The World Throwdown, on Aug. 2 at the Marymoor Amphitheater in Redmond. With him: Audacy regional vp of country programming Drew Bland (left) and MCA Nashville director of Midwest promotion Donna Passuntino.

JIM

FROM ALL OF US AT BIG LOUD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND THE IMPACT YOU'VE MADE DURING YOUR REMARKABLE CAREER SHAPING COUNTRY MUSIC.

YOUR BIG LOUD FAMILY

BIG LOUD



JIM,

TRYING TO IMAGINE BILLBOARD MAGAZINE WITHOUT YOU JUST DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT. AND WE ARE THRILLED FOR YOU AND WHAT'S NEXT IN YOUR LIFE. THANK YOU FOR LETTING US BOTHER YOU WITH SEEMINGLY ENDLESS QUESTIONS. YOUR CARE AND CONCERN IS UNMATCHED, AND YOU WILL BE DEARLY MISSED.

SINCERELY,

YOUR FRIENDS AT CURB RECORDS

P.S. CAN WE STILL TEXT YOU LATE ON THURSDAYS TO LET YOU KNOW THAT - EVEN THOUGH A SINGLE IS DOWN 4000% IN AUDIENCE FOR THE WEEK - WE ARE STILL ALL IN ON IT AND WILL GET THE BULLET BACK NEXT WEEK?



NASHVILLE & NATIONAL TOM ROLAND tom.roland@billboard.com



Tucker Wetmore performed four songs for Country Music Association staff during an Aug. 5 visit to the organization's Nashville office. From left: CMA senior vp of industry relations and philanthropy Tiffany Kearns, MCA president/CEO Mike Harris, Wetmore and MCA executive vp/GM Katie McCartney.

RADIO & RECORDS®

MCA hired vp of A&R Hannah Galluzzi, senior vp of digital marketing Sarah D'Hilly and senior director of digital strategy Brad Krause. Galluzzi returns to the Universal Music Group affiliate after a stint as Empire director of A&R. D'Hilly spent nearly five years in a music business partnerships role at Apple Music. $Krause's \, stops \, include \, a \, marketing \, manager \, position \, with \, MCA \, sister \, Interscope.$ Reach Galluzzi here, D'Hilly here and Krause here ... Parker McCollum extended his recording contract with MCA in a deal that includes the label's acquisition of his indie albums The Limestone Kid and Probably Wrong ... Paul Ogletree was added to the United Kingdom's CountryLine Radio as a weekend host, expanding on his existing role as a CountryLine TV personality ... Pamal Broadcasting promoted **Kevin Callahan** to executive director of operations and programming from corporate vp, RadioInk.com reported ... KSTY Canon City, Colo., relaunched on Aug. 1, according to RadioInsight.com, seven months $after \, Royal \, Gorge \, Broad casting \, shut \, it \, down. \, Frontier \, Frequencies \, purchased \, the$ signal in April for \$300,000 ... Sirius XM launched an Artist Residency program on Aug. 5, spotlighting acts across multiple channels with exclusive material. **Bailey Zimmerman** is the initial beneficiary ... Nashville songwriter/radio host Lindsay Lawler has introduced We Should Write, a one-hour live show and podcast distributed by RadioNemo.

'ROUND THE ROW

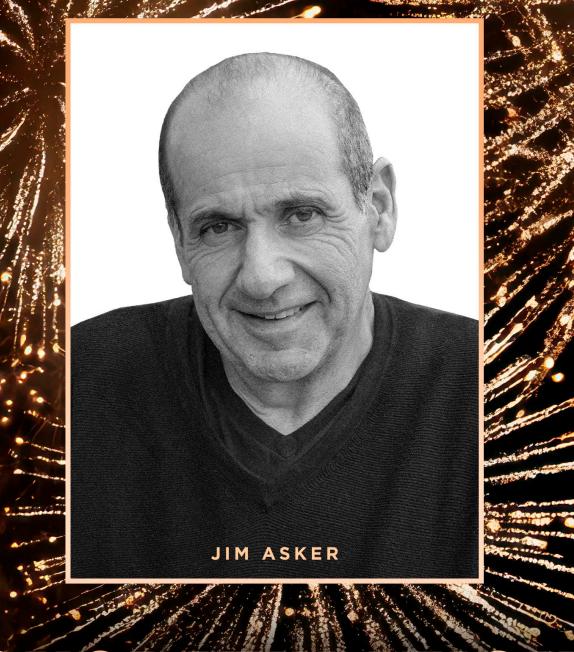
The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum made four staff moves, including the hiring of writer-editor Erin Osmon and director of facilities Heather Reed. Osmon is a journalist whose work has appeared in The Los Angeles Times, The New York Times and No Depression; Reed was most recently director of manufacturing for Nashville-based mobile business trailer firm Aero Build. Additionally, the museum promoted Marie Bradshaw to director of institutional giving from senior manager of corporate partnerships and boosted Crystal Mann to associate director of revenue marketing from marketing manager ... The Neal Agency promoted four members of its team, including three agents. Clark Wilson was elevated to fairs and festivals agent from agent assistant, Simone Chretien stepped up to Southeast territory agent from booking coordinator, and Juliette Edwards climbed to West Coast territory agent from booking coordinator. Kelly Littlefield was also named president of operations for the Neal Agency and sister firm Sticks Management. Littlefield was formerly director of HR and operations for both companies. Reach Wilson here, Chretien here, Edwards here and Littlefield here ... Jeremy and Hannah Gifford formed Open Hand Management, leaving their posts at Round Table Management. They launch with four clients, including Franni Cash and Dwan Hill ... Producer-writer Jake Mitchell ("One Beer," "Some Girls") reached a publishing deal with Riser House on the heels of partnering with the company to sign songwriter Aaron Armstrong ... Artist-writer RYMAN joined the writing staff at Concord Music Publishing ... Humanable, a company that supports creative efforts that do not employ artificial intelligence, plans to launch a social media platform before the end of the year ... The Country Music Association started its fourth Women's Leadership Academy on Aug. 4. This year's 14 participants include Jackie Augustus (Spotify), Rakiyah Marshall

(Back Blocks Music) and Christina Wiltshire (Warner Chappell). Go here for the full list ... The International Bluegrass Music Association welcomed six new members to its board of directors: Helen Ludè (Wisteria Management), Shannon Sanders (BMI), Matt Simontacchi (Red Hat), Timothy Trudeau (Syntax Creative) and musicians Kristin Scott Benson and Missy Raines. Go here for the complete list ... Conway Entertainment Group founder Tony Conway (Alabama, Randy Travis) and Gold Mountain Entertainment partner Burt Stein (Ronnie Milsap, Band of Heathans) were announced among this year's inductees in the Personal Managers Hall of Fame. The ceremony will take place Oct. 22 at Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas ... Artist-writers Emmylou Harris and Jim Lauderdale were announced as inductees in the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame during an Aug. 6 press conference, along with Don Cook ("Brand New Man," "Small Town Girl"), Steve Bogard ("Prayin' for Daylight," "Carried Away") and Tony Martin ("You Look Good in My Shirt," "Baby's Gotten Good at Goodbye"). Brad Paisley, who asked for his induction to be deferred for one year, will be honored alongside them during the official induction on Oct. 6 at the Music City Center. Officials hinted that the Hall will have representation at Belmont University's new Curb College Music Row building ... The Country Music Association will unveil nominees for the 59th annual CMA Awards on the organization's Facebook and YouTube channels on Sept. 8 ... BMI will recognize John Fogerty with its troubadour award on Sept. 8 at its Nashville office ... Carter Faith, Ashley Gorley, K. Michelle and Tucker Wetmore were added to the performance list for the Academy of Country Music's ACM Honors on Aug. 20 ... Little, Brown and Company published Peter Guralnick's The Colonel and the King: Tom Parker, Elvis Presley, and the Partnership That Rocked the World ... The Grand Ole Opry joins sponsor Humana for a Face the Fight edition of the WSM-AM Nashville show on Sept. 10, World Suicide Prevention Day. Performers include Craig Morgan, Mickey Guyton and Coffey Anderson ... Jelly Roll, Brothers Osborne, Jon Pardi and Dan + Shay are among the acts set to perform live during the multiplatform Stand Up to Cancer special, scheduled for Aug. 15 from Nashville ... Tucker Wetmore, Chris Lane, Tiera Kennedy and Fancy Hagood will headline a Wags & Walks benefit on Oct. 7 at SkyDeck in Nashville ... Koe Wetzel raised more than \$774,000 for Texas flood relief with a multi-artist concert on Aug. 4 in Irving ... Jeremy McComb headlined a July 27 concert in Idaho that raised more than \$213,000 for the families of two firefighters who were killed in a June ambush ... A public celebration of life for **Jeannie Seely**, 85, is set for 10 a.m. CT on Aug. 14 at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium. The ceremony for Seely, who died Aug. 1, will air on WSM-AM Nashville and livestream on Vimeo ... Veteran label executive Mike Borchetta was honored with an Aug. 6 celebration of life in Nashville. Big Machine Label Group president/CEO Scott Borchetta MC'ed, with a mass rendition of "Will the Circle Be Unbroken"—including **Kimberly Perry**, **Mae Estes**, **Linda Davis**, Lang Scott and Josh Matheny — closing the event. Attendees included Bill Anderson, Tommy Roe and Tim McGraw ... Brandon Blackstock, 48, died following a three-year battle with cancer. Starstruck, where he had operated as president, working with Kelly Clarkson and Blake Shelton, shared the news on Aug. 7 on Instagram.



Three of the six inductees were on hand as the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame announced this year's class on Aug. 6 at Columbia Studio A. From left: Tony Martin ("Just To See You Smile"), Steve Bogard ("Carrying Your Love With Me") and Don Cook ("Only in America").

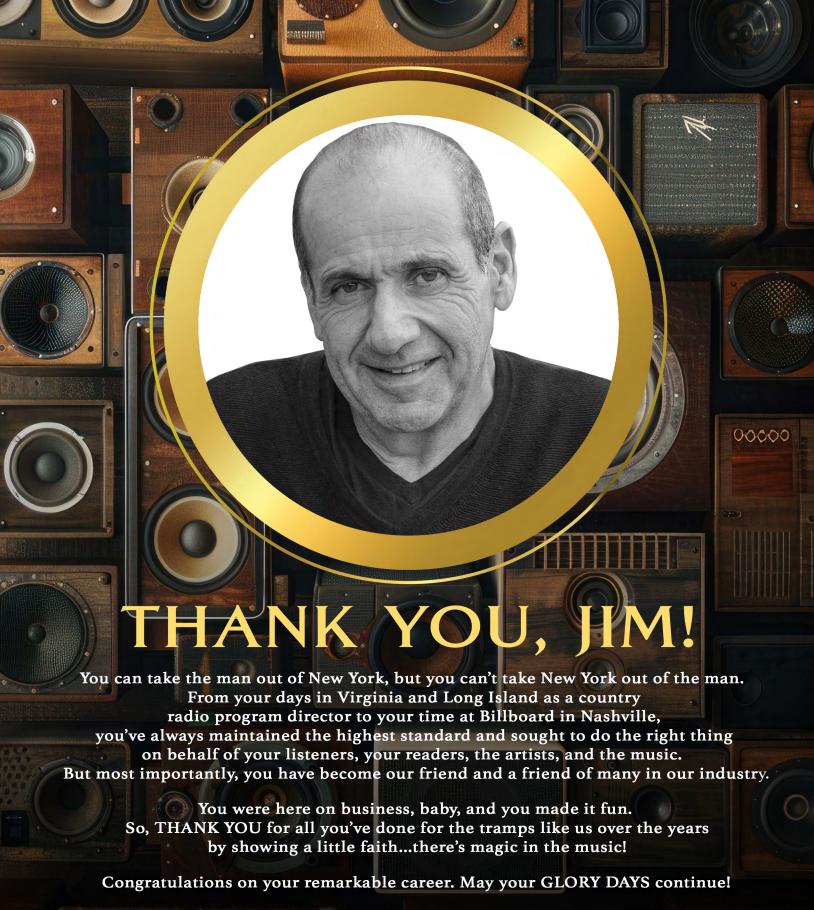
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billboard Country Airplay Index

TITLE Publishing-Licensing Org. (Songwriter) Chart Position

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- 6 MONTHS LATER Sony Timber Publishing, SESAC/ Georgiamo Music, SESAC/WC Music Corp., ASCAP/Burrito Lovers Music, ASCAP/Tape Room LLC, Series 1, ASCAP/Sony Tree Publishing, BMI/MESSY INTERNATIONAL Music, BMI/ Shannanigans Publishing, SESAC/Eclipse Three Music, SESAC/Sony Lakeview, SESAC (M.Moroney, B.Williams, D.Mescon, Platch) 38

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THE JIM ASKER ERA HAS BEEN GREAT TO BBR MUSIC GROUP/BMG NASHVILLE

YOU'LL ALWAYS BE



IN OUR BOOK JIM!









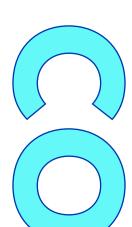


A NOTE FROM

billboard

JIM, YOUR PASSION FOR OUR BRAND AND THE GENRES YOU COVERED WAS ALWAYS ON DISPLAY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR 10 YEARS OF DEDICATION AND EXEMPLARY SERVICE AS COUNTRY, CHRISTIAN, GOSPEL, AND BLUEGRASS CHART MANAGER/ANALYST TO BILLBOARD AND THE MUSIC INDUSTRY.



5 Years Ago Chris Janson Got It 'Done'

In 2020, the singer-songwriter earned his second leader on the Country Airplay chart

On Aug. 8, 2020, **Chris Janson**'s "Done" became his second No. 1 on *Billboard*'s Country Airplay chart.

Janson co-authored the song with Mitch Oglesby, Jamie Paulin and Matt Roy. It was released as the second single from Janson's LP Real Friends, after "Good Vibes" became his first leader in October 2019.

The Perryville, Mo., native first dented Country Airplay in 2010 and the chart's top 40 in 2013. In 2015, he self-released "Buy Me a Boat." The song went viral after iHeart Media syndicated morning host **Bobby**

Bones started spinning it. Shortly after, Janson signed to Warner Music Nashville and the song sailed to No. 3.

Janson has notched six Country Airplay top 10s as a recording artist, most recently "All I Need Is You," which hit No. 3 in February 2024. He boasts three other top 10s as a writer: two recorded by **Tim McGraw** and one by **LOCASH**.

Janson's latest single, "Me & A Beer," ranks at No. 40 (3.1 million, up 39%) on Country Airplay. Currently on tour, he will make his next stop on Aug. 8 in Sunrise, Fla. —JIM ASKER

