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Local Singer Don Woods Gets Record Contract With Sony Records



Left to right: Enola Gay Mathews of KSST Radio and Co-Producer of the Reilly Springs Jamboree, Don Woods Jr. and Clay Dustin, President of SM1 Music Group.

His story reads a bit like a typical country music story with a great ending. Don Woods Jr. from Wood County, Texas is a home-grown country music singer who has been busy writing and performing his music for a number of years, working to become noticed on a national level. His up-close appearances at local fairs and fundrais-

ers have made fans his personal friends. His regular performances on the Reilly Springs Jamboree's monthly country-and-gospel shows have further created a local fan base. When he travels for gigs in the local area, Roger Reed and the Jamboree band are his back-up. He has headlined with his "Stone-Cold Country" act at vari-

ous venues around Lake Fork, Northeast Texas and into surrounding states. A favorite of all ages, he's famous for his bear hugs and teddy-bear smile everywhere he goes because Don sincerely likes people and they like him. His songs "Everyday Hero", "Whiskey Melody" and "More than Dallas" from his "90 Proof" album have enjoyed some radio play. And more than once, Don has been showcased in front of music executives in Anaheim, California and in Nashville, Tennessee where he and his agent Clay Dustin made valuable connections. But up until now, the national exposure he's been seeking has been a dream he is chasing. Today, however, that dream is closer to coming true! Don officially signed a re-

cording contract with Sony Records on February 12, 2019, through SM1 Music Group, a subsidiary of Sony. He and Clay Dustin were present in Sulphur Springs for a photo op when the contract was signed and for handshakes all around! Don's wife Dana was not able to be present for the signing, but the couple is overjoyed with the news. And Dustin's 20-year career in and around Nashville was the catalyst that brought about this breakthrough. "I've made friends with hundreds of the people in Nashville, through my own songwriting and performing in early years, to now representing talent that I believe in, like Don Woods. Through the lean times and when Don wasn't getting booked much, I told him it would happen,

so don't quit. And I applied the same advice to myself. Now, looks like it was good advice!" Earlier this month, when Sony accepted Dustin's SM1 Music Group as a subsidiary, he immediately reached for the phone to tell Don. It's good news for both of them! Asked what he will do next, Don smilingly replied "Now I will switch into high gear, writing more songs, preparing for performance tours. Heck, I'm even being considered for acting work in films! Sony will probably pair me first with other Sony artists in mixed-genre concerts for awhile, where 'new acts' get big-city exposure. Hey, I'm not new by any means, but I'm ready to sing and I'm ready to go to work! My wife and

I have been reading all these posts and messages from people congratulating me. The Keith Whitley family and George Jones' band members are among them, and people have been sending me songs to record. Getting this news has been super emotional for us because of the support it shows that we have. I want to thank Rus who's been my publicist up till now, all my fans and everybody who has believed in me. I thank God, we are so blessed!". You can meet Don Woods Jr. in person at the Reilly Springs Jamboree this Saturday night, February 16 at 6pm. The historic venue is at 109 CR 1439 in southeastern Hopkins County inside the Reilly Springs Community Center.



In mid-February as we Texans celebrate Valentine's Day and the season of love, the calendar reveals an approaching season stamped in history by love. Love of country and fierce loyalty... on both sides...branded the brief but violent Tejas/Mexico war. Though its duration was only six months, the successful Texas Revolution is loyally observed and celebrated today by everyone who, in his or her heart, calls themselves Texan. In 2019, for those of us in North-

east Texas battling an especially wet winter, it puts us in mind of those Texas patriots whose footpath to freedom in 1836 was obstructed by muddy roads, rivers out of banks and seemingly endless days and nights of rain and more rain, unusual for Southeastern Texas. Here's a couple of paragraphs taken

from The Handbook of Texas.

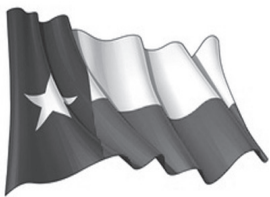
The Texas Revolution (October 2, 1835 – April 21, 1836) was a rebellion of colonists from the United States and Tejanos (Texas Mexicans) in putting up armed resistance to the centralist government of Mexico. President Antonio López de Santa Anna, the Mexican government believed the United States had instigated the Texas insurrection with the goal of annexation. The revolution began in October 1835. Determined to avenge Mexico's honor, Santa Anna vowed to personally retake Texas. His Army of Operations entered Texas in mid-February 1836 and found the Texians completely unprepared. Mexican General José de Urrea led a contingent of troops on the Goliad Campaign up the Texas coast, defeating all Texian troops in

his path and executing most of those who surrendered. Santa Anna led a larger force to San Antonio de Béxar (or Béxar), where his troops defeated the Texian garrison in the Battle of the Alamo, killing almost all of the defenders. A newly created Texian army under the command of Sam Houston was constantly on the move, while terrified civilians fled with the army, in a melee known as the Runaway Scrape. On March 31, Houston paused his men at Groce's Landing on the Brazos River, and for the next two weeks, the Texians received rigorous military training. Becoming complacent and underestimating the strength of his foes, Santa Anna further subdivided his troops. On April 21, Houston's army staged a surprise assault on Santa Anna and his vanguard force at the Battle of San Jacinto. The Mexican

troops were quickly routed, and vengeful Texians executed many who tried to surrender. Santa Anna was taken hostage; in exchange for his life, he ordered the Mexican army to retreat south of the Rio Grande. Mexico refused to recognize the Republic of Texas, and intermittent conflicts between the two countries continued into the 1840s. The annexation of Texas as the 28th state of the United States, in 1845, led directly to the Mexican-American War. Like the owners of this publication, Jim and Joy Wilson, whose offices are conspicuously Texan in decor, I am prone to walk, talk and speak Texan. I recently enjoyed watching a movie called "Gone to Texas". It's a 1986 made-for TV biographical film originally titled "Houston: The Legend of Texas". Sam Elliott is in the title

role as Sam Houston. The "biopic" film traces Houston's years as the Governor of Tennessee through his involvement in the Texas Revolution, ending with his military victory with the capture of Santa Anna at San Jacinto. It's in my DVD collection and I like it a lot. I recommend it to you, your grandchildren and anyone else whom you are grooming to carry on our traditions. You'll enjoy it if you love to hear the old, old story of how Texas came to be. Until next week, I'll fly the Texas flag and watch for you at the corral gate.





FAMOUS TEXANS

LeAnn Rimes



Margaret LeAnn Rimes Cibrian (born August 28, 1982), known professionally as LeAnn Rimes, is an American country and pop singer. Known for her rich vocals, Rimes rose to stardom at age 13 following the release of the Bill Mack song "Blue", becoming the youngest country music star since Tanya Tucker in 1972.

Rimes made her breakthrough into country music in 1996 with her debut album, *Blue*, which reached number one on the Top Country Albums chart and was certified multi-platinum in sales by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). The album's eponymous lead off single, "Blue", became a Top 10 hit and Rimes gained national acclaim for her similarity to Patsy Cline's vocal style. When she released her sophomore studio effort in 1997, *You Light Up My Life: Inspirational Songs*, she moved towards country pop material, which set the trend for a string of albums released into the next decade.

Rimes has won many awards, including two Grammys, three ACMs, a CMA, 12 Billboard Music Awards, and one American Music award. She has released ten studio albums and three compilation albums and two greatest hits albums, one released in the US and the other released internationally, through her record label of 13 years, *Asylum-Curb*, and placed over 40 singles on American and international charts since 1996. She has sold over 37 million records worldwide, with 20.3 million album sales in the United States according to Nielsen SoundScan. Billboard ranked her 17th artist of the 1990-00 decade. Rimes has also written four books: two novels and two children's books.

Margaret LeAnn Rimes was born in Jackson, Mississippi. She is the only child of Belinda (née Butler) Rimes and Wilbur Rimes. The family relocated to Garland, Texas when she was six years old. She was singing by the age of two, was enrolled in vocal and dance training, and by the age of five was performing at local talent shows. Rimes initially began her career in musical theatre, performing in a Dallas, Texas production of *A Christmas Carol*, and almost landing the lead part in the Broadway production of *Annie*. However, after appearing on the network television competition show *Star Search*, where she clearly charmed host

Ed McMahon in addition to the more important fact of being a one-week champion on the show, Rimes decided to pursue a career in country music. Following her national television appearance, Rimes made a number of appearances on *Johnnie High's Country Music Revue* in Arlington, Texas, which garnered the attention of national talent scouts.

By the age of nine, Rimes was already an experienced singer. She toured nationally with her father and also regularly performed a cappella renditions of "The Star Spangled Banner" at the opening ceremonies of the Dallas Cowboys football games. In order to bring his daughter more national attention, Wilbur Rimes began recording his daughter under the independent label *Nor Va Jak* when she turned eleven. She released three albums under the label between 1991 and 1996.

Rimes was discovered by Dallas disc jockey and record promoter Bill Mack. Mack was impressed by Rimes's vocal ability, and over the following three years, he made various attempts to bring Rimes to a mainstream level. The center of Mack's plan to bring her success was his self-penned composition, "Blue", which Mack claimed he intended to be recorded and made into a hit record by Patsy Cline, but she had been killed in a plane crash before ever recording the composition. In July 1994, Rimes recorded the song on her independent album, *All That*.

After signing with *Curb*, Rimes re-recorded a new version of "Blue" that was released on her debut studio album, and as a single which peaked at number ten on the *Billboard Country Chart*. During this time the media was reporting that Rimes was the successor to Patsy Cline's legacy. The album *Blue* sold 123,000 copies in its first week, the highest figure in *SoundScan* history at that time. It peaked at number one on the *Top Country Albums* and debuted at number three on the *Billboard 200* albums chart, eventually selling a total of four million copies in the United States and eight million copies worldwide. *Allmusic* considered the album to be "delightful" and that it could "help inspire other young teens". Rimes followed up the single with several charting country singles from her 1996 album, starting with "One Way Ticket (Because I Can)", which reached number one on the *Billboard Country Chart* in 1996. She also released a duet single with Eddy Arnold from the

album, a remake of his 1955 hit "The Cattle Call". The album's other hits included the Top 5 "The Light in Your Eyes" and the minor hit "Hurt Me".

With the album's success, Rimes received many major industry awards. In 1997 at 14 years old she became the youngest person to win a Grammy, for Best New Artist and Best Female Country Vocal Performance for "Blue". She was also the first Country music artist to win the Best New Artist category. The same year she won the Country Music Association's "Horizon Award" for Best New Artist Of The Year, becoming the youngest person to ever be nominated and win a Country Music Association award.

1997–2001: In 1997, Rimes released a compilation of previously recorded material under the *Nor Va Jak* label, *Unchained Melody*: The album mainly consisted of cover versions, ranging from Country to pop covers, including songs originally recorded by The Beatles, Whitney Houston, Bill Monroe, and Dolly Parton. Rimes's version of the title track became a major country hit in early 1997 and helped increase sales for the album. In June 1997, Rimes would appear on the Disney Channel for television special called *LeAnn Rimes in Concert*. In September 1997, Rimes released her follow-up studio album to *Blue* titled *You Light Up My Life: Inspirational Songs*.

In 2000, Rimes would make her full crossover into pop music. On March 8, 2000, Rimes contributed to the sound track from the 1999 TV movie *Jesus, Music From & Inspired by the Epic Mini Series*. The song, "I Need You", would be released as a single from the sound track on July 18, 2000. "I Need You" was characterized by *Allmusic* as having similarities to that of Adult Contemporary and Pop music. The song became a Top 10 country hit and also a major pop hit, reaching number eleven on the *Hot 100*. Rimes would make a cameo in the 2000 film *Coyote Ugly*. She would also contribute four songs for the film's sound track on August 1, 2000.

LeAnn Rimes performing a free concert for the airmen at Ramstein Air Base, Germany on September 23, 2004. In March 2002 Rimes reissued the *I Need You* album with nine of the songs originally released on the album, an extended version of the song *You Are*, the song "Light the Fire Within", which she sang at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

AUCTION: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019 GUNTER, TEXAS ~ 11:00AM

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Obits



WEST OAKS FUNERAL HOME

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Bobby Wayne Hatley

Visitation for Bobby Wayne Hatley, age 59, of Sulphur Springs will be held from 6 to 8 P.M. on Thursday, February 14, 2019 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Private Inurnment will be held at a later date. Mr. Hatley passed away on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at Christus Mother Frances Hospital, Sulphur Springs.

Bobby Wayne was born on February 11, 1959 in Philadelphia, MS to Billy Ray and Rosie Hatley. Bobby was a painter by trade. He was honest, hardworking and a man with a good heart.

He is survived by his brother, George Hatley and sister, Marlene Icenhower; five nieces and nephews and other family and friends. Bobby was preceded in death by his parents, Billy Ray and Rosie Hatley; brothers, Billy Hatley and Jessie Ray Hatley and sister, Tina Hatley-Brown

Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home

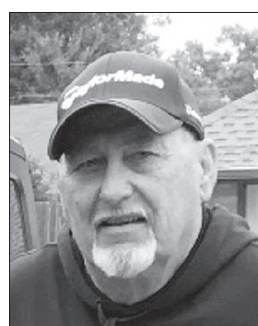


Mary Jo Franklin

Funeral service for Mary Jo Franklin, age 89, of Longview was held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Bro. Ricky Lawler officiating and Chris Vidacovich assisting. Interment followed at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery with the grandsons and great grandsons serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mrs. Franklin passed away on Sunday, February 10, 2019 in Longview.

Mary Jo was born on August 20, 1929 in Sulphur Springs to Joseph Edwin and Leola Holland Smith. She married Lee Roy Franklin whom she was married to for 42 years when he passed away. Mary was a preacher's wife, mother, grandmother, school teacher, Sunday school teacher. She loved to cook and go fishing and was a friend to all she met.

She is survived by her children and their spouses, Roy Franklin and wife, Cynthia, Iva Melinda Mercer and husband, Roger, Roland Franklin and wife, Connie, Genia Williams and husband, Ricks; ten grandchildren; twenty-three great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren.



Rayford W. Dodd

Rayford W. Dodd, 68, of Paris, passed away Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019, at his home while surrounded by loved ones.

Services were scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13th at Bright-Holland Funeral Home with James McLeod officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home one hour prior to the service. Graveside services are scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 16th at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park in Lufkin. Rayford, the son of Elton & Nina Herod Dodd, was born Dec. 21, 1950, in Sulphur Springs. He graduated from Sulphur Springs High School and later received his Associates Degree from Tyler Junior College. His career with TP&L and TXU spanned thirty seven years. Rayford then worked five years for Lamar Electric

Co-Op before retiring. He served in the Army National Guard from July of 1972 until July of 1978. He was a member of Chisum Trails Cowboy Church. Rayford enjoyed spending many hours at the Pine Ridge Golf Course.

His parents, a brother, Cecil Dodd and a sister, Barbara Hoffman preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia "Trish" Sheffield Dodd, whom he married on May 31, 1986, five children; Dale Dodd & wife Chasity of Lufkin, Stacy Coats of Lufkin, Monica Richardson & husband Bobby of Henderson, Bryan Ezzell & Trista of Waco and Courtney Thomas & husband Bryan of Paris, ten grandchildren; Addison Dodd, Chancy Dodd, Jocelyn Coats, Jordan Coats, Kaitlin Hines & husband Corbin, Garrett Tongson, Kanon Tongson, Olivia Thomas, Carson Richardson and Lauren Huff & husband Jonathan, a great granddaughter, Harper Huff, one sister, Bonnie Ruberts & husband Tommy, four brothers, Donald Dodd & wife Pam, Richard Dodd & wife Reba, Glenn Dodd & wife Renee and Joe Dodd, along with numerous nieces & nephews, his beloved dog and cat, Grace and Kitty and a plethora of friends.

Casket bearers will be: Scott Sansom, James Smith, Ricky Crump, Rick Hundley, Mark Addy, Kenneth Palmer, Bobby Richardson and Bryan Thomas.



Iola Wright Lindley

Iola Wright Lindley was born February 20, 1935 to Orange Wright and Ada Young Wright. She married Wilbert Wills and to this union: Barry L. Wills, Ronald "Squirrel" Wills (Penny), and Elizabeth Ann Wright (Melvin). She later married Fred Lindley Sr. and to this union: Fred Lindley Jr., Paul Lindley (Teresa), and Archie Lindley. She also leaves to cherish her memories: 8 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews.

She attended Douglas School and was a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Iola was known to the community as "Pee Wee". She was a caregiver to many. She was well respected by many.

She was preceded in death by her parents: Orange and Ada Wright; eleven siblings: Vernell, Maudell, Roberta, Inola, Betty Jean, Perkins, Bill, Murray Boy, Weldon, Billy Ray, and Joe L. Wright. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Pleasant Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Iola passed away on Thursday, February 7, 2019. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.

Aubrey King

Aubrey King, age 82 of Winnsboro, passed away on Saturday, February 2nd, 2019 in Winnsboro. He was born on August 7th, 1936 in Strasburg to the late Aubrey King and Cardina Bougess King. He was a retired postal worker for the United States Postal Service. He was also a member of the Moose Lodge of Vacaville, CA, American Legions, and Governor of the Dixon, CA Moose Lodge.

Visitation was held on Saturday, February 9th, 2019 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro 816 W. Broadway, Winnsboro, TX 75494. Graveside Service was held on Saturday, February 9th, 2019 at at 2:00 pm, Jim Hampton conducting. Interment followed at Lee Cemetery in Winnsboro, with Beaty Funeral Home Staff serving as pallbearers.

2019 Hopkins County NETLA Market Show

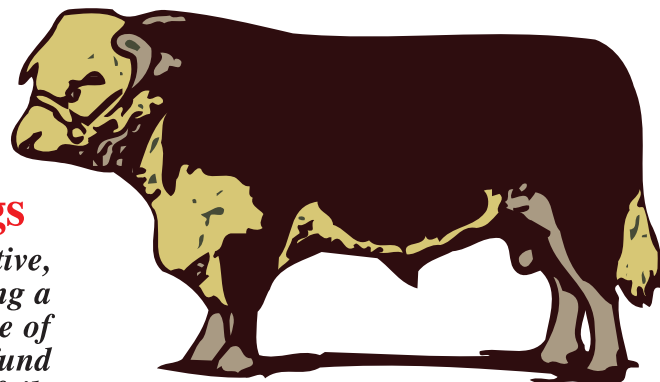
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