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Uvalde Radio set to celebrate two-year anniversary milestone at the Uvalde Grand Opera House

- **Milestone:** The station is celebrating its anniversary at the opera house with a free concert from the lauded Texas Country artist Season Ammons.
- **Celebration:** The free concert will be held on July 24 at 7 p.m, with doors opening at 6 p.m., and will also include two intermissions, refreshments, door prizes and free apparel.
- **Announcement:** Details on the launch of a sister station will be revealed at the celebration.

UVALDE, Texas - In July 2019, UvaldeRadio.net made its debut, producing its inaugural broadcast over the internet for listeners in Uvalde County and beyond. Just 24 months into bringing an eclectic mix of artists and content - with a local flavor - the station is now celebrating its milestone two-year anniversary at the [Uvalde Grand Opera House](#) with a free concert from [the lauded Texas Country artist Season Ammons](#).

The free concert, to be held on July 24 at 7 p.m., will be hosted by Uvalde Radio personalities Robert Miguel Rodriguez, Al Ortiz, Fonz Pena, and Kaydence Nicole, and will include a special announcement regarding a new Uvalde Radio station set to hit the airwaves later in the summer. Ammons, an award-winning songwriter, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist, will treat attendees to two sets that will last until 10 p.m.

“These past two years have been a whirlwind, and it honestly doesn’t feel like it has been two years since we started the station,” said Rodriguez, who is also the station’s owner and program director. “To see Uvalde Radio evolve from an idea to an award-winning operation, playing a variety of content and music that reflects the uniqueness of Uvalde itself, has been an honor of a lifetime. I knew I wanted to celebrate this milestone in not only a big way, but in a way that celebrates the community where the station plants its roots. We’re excited to see everyone come out and be a part of this accomplishment. This isn’t just our milestone, it’s Uvalde’s milestone.”

The doors at the [Uvalde Opera House](#) open at 6 p.m., with complimentary cocktails before the free concert begins. The concert will also include two intermissions, at approximately 7:45 p.m. and 8:45 p.m., for concert goers to grab refreshments and stretch their legs at the Opera House bar. Door prizes and free Uvalde Radio apparel will also be given out in between sets as a thank you to the community.

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According to Rodriguez, Ammons was the first choice to play at the concert, given her considerable star status among the Texas County Music scene and beyond. The 2020 Texas Music Awards nominee for Best Female Vocalist and 2017 Emerald Coast BMA Best Female Vocalist blends soulful blues with Texas roots and Americana.

Her latest project, 'Steel Hearts', is her fourth and most personal album to date, according to Ammons' bio. The recording took place across the pond at the legendary Studio 2 at London's fabled Abbey Road Studios.

"From the first moment I saw the Uvalde Grand Opera House in 2019, I was enchanted," said Ammons. "At the time, I was on a radio tour promoting my single *Damn Good Man*, and I stopped in to visit Robert and do an interview for UvaldeRadio.net. He gave me a personal tour of the Opera House and I was just blown away by all the beauty and history that the place held. I stood on the empty stage and dreamed that one day I would play this amazing venue. Well, that day has come and I'm thrilled to finally get a chance to play it! And also celebrate the two year anniversary of a wonderful radio station. I can't wait!"

Having the Opera House host the celebration is fitting, says Rodriguez, as it has been a key partner in the station highlighting Texas country artists with its *Texas Country at the Crossroads: Interview Series* segment. The series spotlights acts - like Kin Faux from San Antonio, the Teague Brothers Band from Winnie, Texas, and Ragland from Tahlequah, Oklahoma - who are scheduled to perform at local concerts and venues.

True to its dedication to the area landscape, Uvalde Radio has utilized the Uvalde Grand Opera House to conduct live interviews with these artists for more than a year, giving listeners a taste of upcoming shows, all while using a local, historic landmark as the backdrop.

Coincidentally enough, Ammons was among the first guests in the series back in September 2019

Uvalde Radio's rise

UvaldeRadio.net first launched mid-July 2019, dedicating its programming to a wide range of genres, including Texas country, Nashville country, classic rock, classic pop, 80s and 90s hits, and more. Sounds from an assorted variety of artists and bands can be heard at any time throughout the station's lineup on popular apps such as Live365 Broadcasting, myTuner Radio, Online Radio Box, and Simple Radio.

The station's owner, Rodriguez, is a Uvalde native and veteran radio host from the Dallas/Fort Worth area with over 20 years of broadcasting experience.

Uvalde Radio and its content has since continued to grow and piece together numerous segments that focus on audiences with diverse sets of interests. These have included the Mancave Minute Sports Update with Al Ortiz, delivering national, state and local sports news; the Uvalde Teen Scene with Kaydence Nicole, outlining news and information relevant to Uvalde teens; and Tejano Tuesday with Fonz Peña, bringing listeners a weekly dose of Tejano, Cumbia, Reggaeton, Norteño and Latin Pop & Rock genres.

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Beyond its lineup, the station has also made the jump into live broadcasting, frequently bringing notable onsite content to its listeners. Live broadcasts have included shows straight from the 2019 [Palomino Fest](#) at the Uvalde County Fairplex, multiple Four Square Friday events with [Main Street Uvalde](#), the Class Of 2020 Coyotes & Lobos Red Carpet Graduation webcast at the Terri Rambie Tennis Complex, the 11th [Annual Texas Regional Radio Music Awards](#) in Arlington, Texas, and the recent 2021 [Uvalde Honey Festival](#).

UvaldeRadio.net has also found creative ways to engrain itself into the community, giving back to the area through volunteerism and sponsorship.

“We don’t just entertain the community,” said Rodriguez. “We want to elevate the community that we call home. When our community prospers, we all prosper.”

Community involvement has been comprised of the following:

- Sponsorship and organization of, and participation in *Uvalde Teen Clean*, a downtown Uvalde cleanup project.
- Participation in the *Keep Texas Waterways Clean Volunteer Program*, part of the Nueces River Cleanup with [Texas Hill Country River Region](#).
- Recruitment of Texas Country artists for *Don't Trash Where You Splash*, a Uvalde County rivers PSA campaign that included Kevin Fowler, Bri Bagwell, Cory Morrow, Randall King, Deryl Dodd, Stoney Larue and many more.

The station’s focus on the Uvalde community has also yielded new entertainment campaigns that have consistently brought an array of artists to the area. In 2020, Uvalde Radio partnered with Skyway Entertainment to produce the Friday Night Live series at [Broadway 830](#). The series brings the best in live music from all over Texas for free performances in the Broadway 830 outdoor courtyard. The artists constantly tour around the region, many with high-charting singles on Texas Country radio, and most having never stopped in Uvalde until their participation in the campaign. Highlights have included Jon Stork from College Station, Max Flinn from Houston, Jeff Jacobs from San Antonio, Melissa Brooke from Port Aransas, and Susan Hickman from Houston.

“Friday Night Live provides a hub for these artists as they make their way through Southwest Texas,” added Rodriguez. “Essentially, it gives them an opportunity to experience Downtown Uvalde nightlife and build a local following and fan base. It’s been an overwhelming success, and one of the things we’re most proud of at the station.”

The accolades that followed

Since its inception two years ago, Uvalde Radio has also earned several awards and recognitions due to its abundant community- and entertainment-oriented involvement throughout the area; honors that Rodriguez stated has humbled him and his team throughout the years.

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“We created the station and do our part for Uvalde because, like our tagline says, we live, work, and play here,” he said. “We won’t do all of this for the awards. When the recognitions do come our way, though, they’re a bonus. They’re something we proudly share and celebrate with our valued listeners and partners.”

Awards that the station has received over the last two years have included

- **September 2019:** *Winner, Best General Float Category, First State Bank 2019 Palomino Fest Labor Day Weekend Grand Parade*
- **December 2019:** *Nominated, Rookie Business of the Year and Small Business of the Year, Uvalde Area Chamber of Commerce*
- **September 2020:** *Finalist, Best Downtown Partner, 2020 Texas Downtown Association President's Awards*
- **October 2020:** *Winner, 2019 Alliance Award for Outstanding Advocacy, Education, and Promotion, Main Street Uvalde*
- **May 2021:** *Winner, Best Internet Radio Station, Texas Internet Radio Chart Awards in San Antonio*

More recently, Uvalde Radio was named a finalist for Internet Radio Station of the Year by the [Texas Country Music Association](#) (TCMA), paving the way for a possible second prestigious 2021 award. Final Round Voting began on July 1 and ends on August 15 on the TCMA website at www.texascountrymusic.org. The winners will be announced at the 2021 Texas Country Music Awards, which will take place on Sunday, November 14 in the Historic Fort Worth Stockyards at the World’s Largest Honky Tonk, Billy Bob’s Texas.

The future casts optimism...and a new venture

The anniversary celebration at the Uvalde Grand Opera House is not meant as an apex of the radio station’s operations, according to Rodriguez, but as a thank you to Uvalde, and as a preview of things to come, in more than one way.

“Our mission is to entertain and inform the community not just on the internet airwaves but also on the streets of our city,” said Rodriguez. “We aim to become increasingly event-oriented, doing our best to organize, promote, and attend events that bring positive attention to Uvalde. Our two-year anniversary concert is our way of saying thanks to the community for its support while also doing what we do best - turn you on to great new music.”

Those who attend the concert will also get a taste of what’s to come not only for the station, but for a sister station to be launched in the near future; one focused on the varying levels of rock genres, called Uvalde Radio Rocks. More details will be revealed at the concert regarding format, lineup, sponsorships, and more.

“More to come there,” Rodriguez stated. “There’s a lot of work still to be done, but we can’t wait to fully reveal this on Saturday. It’s time to rock!”

For more information on UvaldeRadio.net, [click here](#) or go to its [Facebook page here](#).

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UvaldeRadio.net would like to thank its key sponsors for their support over the years: [Edwards Furniture](#), [Main Street Uvalde](#), [Uvalde Convention & Visitors Bureau](#), [Uvalde Cabinetry](#), [Texas Hill Country River Region](#), [Uvalde Memorial Hospital](#), [Los Alamos Restaurant](#), [The Uvalde Grand Opera House](#), and [Uvalde County Fairplex](#), [Medina Electric Cooperative](#), and [Skyway Entertainment](#).

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About UvaldeRadio.net:

Uvalde Radio is designed to provide a platform for elevating the voices, narratives, and cultures of Uvalde. Programming is multi-genre and is not beholden to a specific music format. The station features a mix of Texas country, Nashville country, classic rock, classic pop and more. Uvalde Radio plays everything from George Strait to Journey, Garth Brooks to Guns N Roses, and Randy Rogers Band to REO Speedwagon. The station also plays any and all artists relevant to Uvalde County and proudly features the music of artists that are scheduled to perform at area venues and upcoming events and festivals. Local content and features can be heard every hour from a revolving cast of significant members of the community. Uvalde Radio strives to bring attention to all the individuals that make the City of Uvalde thrive.