

## MUSIC

# Lufkin singer-songwriter releasing new album

## Kendall Beard says her new album celebrates 'breaking free in the moment'

By GRACE JUAREZ  
The Lufkin News

Lufkin native Kendall Beard will be releasing a new album titled "Here Comes Trouble" on Oct. 19.

Beard recently released the single "Rock This City" from the album and taped live-performance footage to pair with the song in a soon-to-be-released video. Most of the tracks on the album are written by Beard, but she co-wrote four tracks with producer AJ Vallejo, who performs with her in the Texas roots rock band Love & Chaos.

Beard said she pulls influences from female country artists Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, Shania Twain and Miranda Lambert, but she also goes beyond traditional country music.

"It's about breaking free in the moment and coloring outside of the lines, going against the grain," she said. "I wanted to put something out that was a bit edgy, something that would stir up some talk."

Beard first gained momentum as an artist after she became a semifinalist in season eight of "American Idol" in 2009. She said coming from a small town and emerging into the music world that she's had both supporters and haters, but the ones who told her she couldn't do it just gave her an extra push to keep going.

"Not a lot of people do that," she said. "But I think it encouraged me to do something different. It was scary, but I've always kind of thrived on breaking boundaries. The more a person tells me not to do something, the more it

makes me want to do it."

She said she got her start in East Texas doing the rodeo circuits and the small-town country venues around eighth grade, when other kids' social lives were just beginning, and she said it took a lot of self-discipline to do something different at a young age. However, she also received a lot of support from her hometown.

"Especially during 'American Idol.' It was so cool to see that," she said. "Being from a small area was really an advantage because I had so many supporters. It was so fun for people to see somebody going after their dreams and going outside the box. Having that support behind me really made that possible."

Beard said she often makes call backs to her hometown and childhood in her music, especially in her first album, "All Around Girl," talking about both the good and the bad — those who said she couldn't do it and those who helped her establish her roots.

From her first album to this album, she said she feels like she has changed for the better.

"I've gotten braver in my lyrics, not being so afraid of pushing the limits," she said. "I feel like, especially as a female singer-songwriter in Texas, there's a specific sound and a certain thing that's kind of been expected."

She said "Rock This City" tells the story of a woman coming into a scene or a venue and people underestimating the ability of a woman to put on as good a show as a man. She said she is excited to finally release the single and the album because she's been working on it for a while.

"Besides a couple of songs that I tagged on the end, the album was written and mostly recorded by 2015, so the ideas and the songs were there, I've just been sitting on them."

In the meantime, she's been working on Love & Chaos. She and Vallejo expect to release

a new album for their duo group next year, so "Here Comes Trouble" was Beard's solo project that she wanted to release to show people what she's been working on and playing for years.

"I'm excited to be able to get it into people's hands and see their response," Beard said.

"Here Comes Trouble" includes 13 tracks. She is touring Texas with fiddler Haydn Vitera, pedal steel player Dan Johnson, percussionist Aric Garcia, Bruce Castleberry on harmonica and Vallejo on guitar and more.

She will perform at Saxon Pub in Austin on Sept. 6, 20 and 27 and again on Nov. 10 for a CD release show. She will perform at Cinnamon Shore in Rockport on Sept. 29, at North Door in Austin on Oct. 17, at Threadgill's World Headquarters in Austin on Oct. 21, at the KWVH-FM "Over Easy with Coach" show in Wimberley on Oct. 22, at Guero's in Austin on Oct. 24 and at Six Spring's Live in Plano on Oct. 27.

She also will perform as a celebrity dancer in the 12th annual Dancing with the Stars Austin fundraiser for the Center for Child Protection on Dec. 1 at the J.W. Marriott.

Beard said she hopes to be able to announce a radio tour soon, and she would love to come back to Lufkin. To follow Beard, check her out on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or visit [kendallbeard.com](http://kendallbeard.com).

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CONTRIBUTED

Lufkin native Kendall Beard first gained momentum as an artist after she became a semifinalist in season eight of "American Idol" in 2009.



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