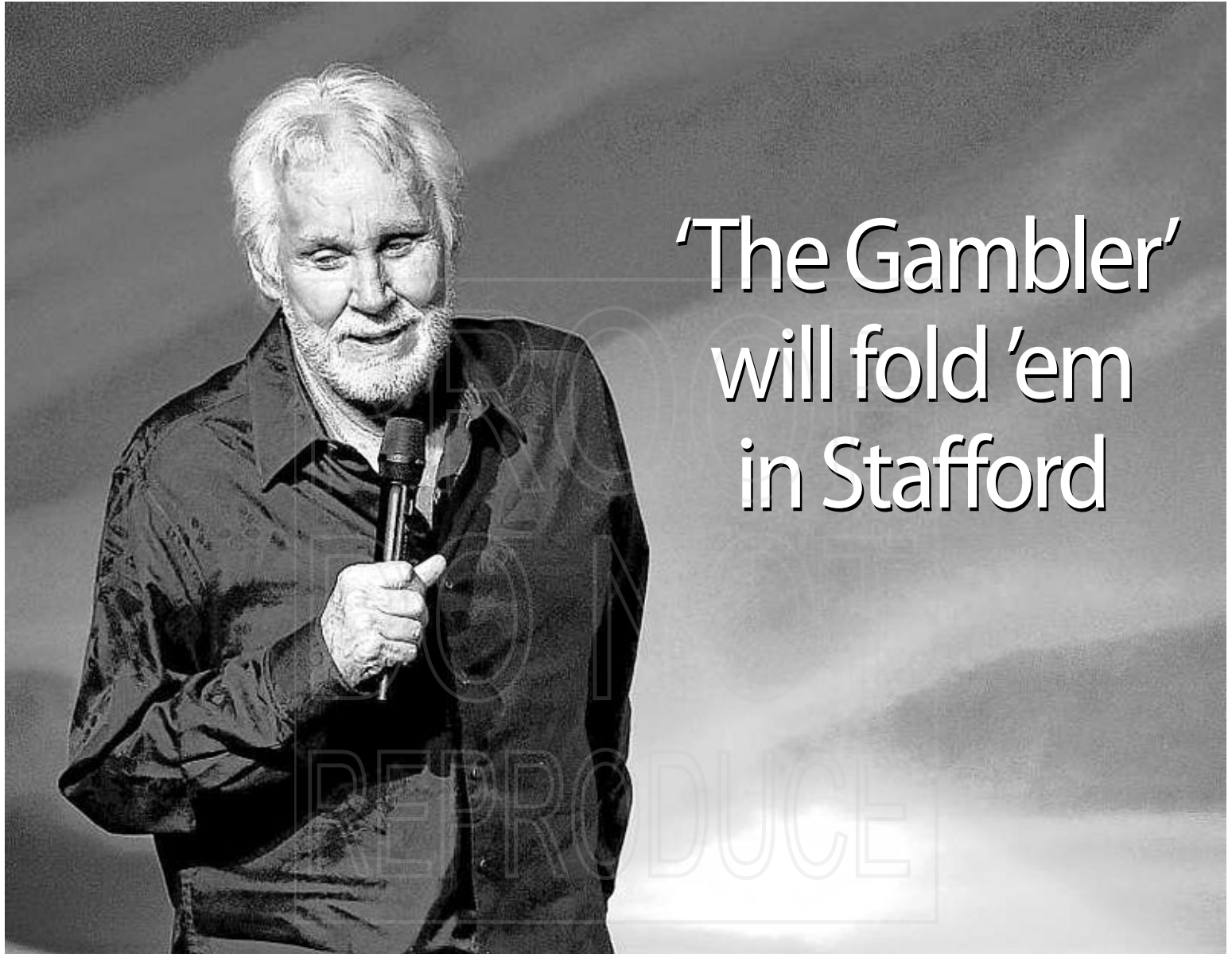


# HOUSTON CHRONICLE

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## 'The Gambler' will fold 'em in Stafford

Getty Images

Houston native Kenny Rogers is proving he knows when to walk away. His final world tour will come to the Stafford Centre on Oct. 28.

By Andrew Dansby

Kenny Rogers announced his intention to finally fold 'em with a long farewell tour.

And for a while, it appeared Crockett would be the closest the country star and Houston native would get to his old hometown. But the patient will be rewarded: Rogers' "Final World Tour: The Gambler's Last Deal" will come to the Stafford Centre on Oct. 28.

Rogers was born in Houston

in 1938, and here he attended Wharton Elementary in Montrose. Though he would make his name in country music, his path there was a winding one. He started out playing jazz with the Bobby Doyle Three in the late '50s. Rogers stuck with that ensemble until the mid-'60s. He began regular work at that point as a songwriter, producer and bassist, making some inroads in Nashville. He played briefly with the New Christy Minstrels,

before splintering off with some members in 1967 to form First Edition, a band that threaded together rock, pop, country and folk.

In 1968 the band had a No. 5 pop single with "Just Dropped In (To See What Condition My Condition Was In)." A second single broke the Top 40, and then Rogers stepped in front of the group, which went by Kenny Rogers and the First Edition, which had another five

hit singles, including "Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town."

In the late 1970s, Rogers enjoyed enormous solo success, starting with "Lucille" in 1977. He would hit the pop charts another 20 times.

A presale is underway, and the public on-sale starts at 10 a.m. on Aug. 5. Tickets are \$80- \$200 at 281-208-6900 or [staffordcentre.com](http://staffordcentre.com).

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