

KOPN 89.5 FM
KOPN.ORG

Locally-grown radio since 1973

Open Mic

Newsletter

July 17, 2022

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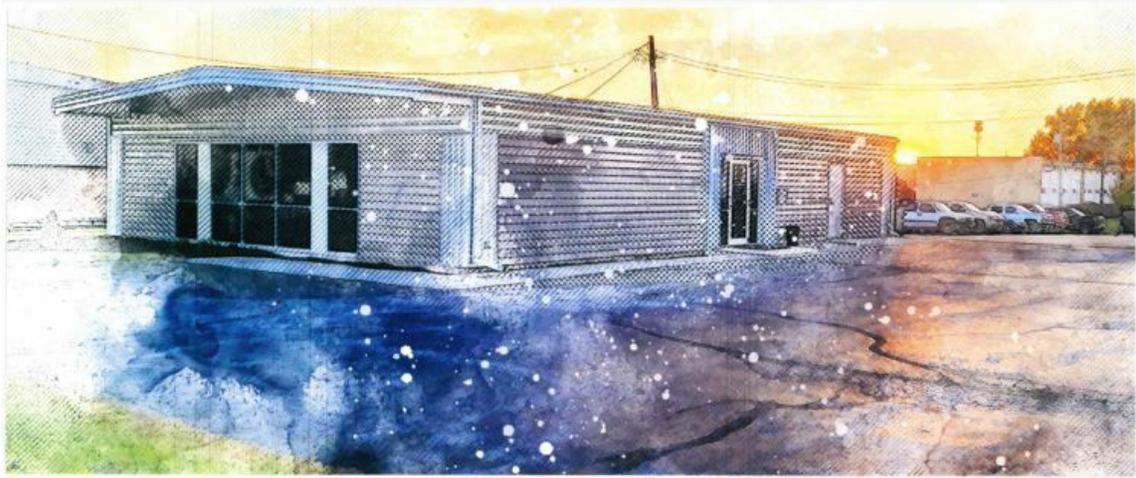
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**Now broadcasting from our
new location:**

**401 Bernadette Drive
Columbia, MO 65203**



[Click here to view a feature in the Columbia Missourian about our move!](#)

Something else is new at KOPN! We are so excited to introduce KOPN's **new Executive Director, Jet Ainsworth!**



Jet at KOPN's old location on Broadway during the filming of "The Soul Graffiti"

[Get To Know Our New ED](#)

Would you rather tune in to KOPN on a radio/stereo or stream the signal on a phone/computer?

Both! I keep the radio on at the offices, and I stream KOPN on my commute.

Day or night?

That is a tough one, since I'm a night owl AND an early bird. I will split the difference and say that I love spring and summer days and fall and winter evenings.

Books or movies?

I am definitely a movie guy! In fact, I'm a writer and filmmaker and our latest comedy feature film ("The Soul Graffiti") was filmed at the old KOPN on Broadway. So there is a visual documentation of that great location. Side note, the film has earned 14 award nominations and 3 wins on the film festival circuit this year!

Chocolate or vanilla?

Why such division? Put 'em in the same bowl! Chocolate or vanilla. Crazy talk.

Summer or winter?

SUMMER!!!!!!!!!!

Coffee or soda?

Black coffee, all day. Literally – all day.

You started as the Executive Director on July 4th, which we can take as an auspicious sign: brightness, freedom, starting off with a bang! Tell us a little about your career in radio and what brought you to us.

There are few things that are as independent as KOPN! I began my professional career 25 years ago at 18 years old, and over that time I've been on the air in some capacity at almost every radio station in Central Missouri under the air name "Jet Roberts." Ten years ago, I left local radio and entered the regional and national network level at Learfield, wearing many hats for agriculture networks like Brownfield, and news networks such as MissouriNet and Radio Iowa.

Seven years ago, I moved to Sports Operations as a Producer and on-air gameday football host for the Oklahoma Sooners, Texas A&M Aggies, Colorado Buffaloes, Louisville Cardinals, Iowa State Cyclones and the Indiana Hoosiers. It is quite an

honor to broadcast to 2 to 3 million football fans every Saturday in the fall.

Do you have any projects or plans for an even brighter future for KOPN?

This radio station has unlimited potential--especially in a world that has digitized and a society that has become more connected than at any other time in human history. The programming that KOPN provides – in the first 49 years – was always purposely niche within a relatively small radius. The great part about being niche in 2022 is that KOPN not only broadcasts to and represents our diverse Columbia community, but we broadcast to the entire country thanks to online streaming. There are so many possibilities with the incorporation of multiple social media platforms and video.

We will be able to reach those in Columbia – especially younger demographics – that grew up with the iPhone and YouTube. The younger generations may not even know how to operate a radio (today's college freshman was born in 2004/05)! In the past, generations of listeners sought out radio and TV. These days, you really have to take radio to where the potential listeners are: scrolling on their phones! For KOPN to remain relevant inside Columbia, we will be working to grow the audience with a whole new generation of listeners. There are so many great programs on KOPN with voices that are under-represented, and even though KOPN will always be Columbia-first, there are thousands of people in our neighboring towns (and STATES) that are looking for any type of program, content or voice that is relatable and speaks to them.

You have lived in Columbia for several decades. What other organizations have you been involved with while living here?

Over the years, I've worked with the Chamber, was an ACA Business Club member, and spent time on the Board of Directors at Access Arts.

What are some places or activities that you would recommend to someone who is visiting Columbia?

I love this question – Columbia has such a variety of cultures and specialty spots that it truly depends on who is asking. But no matter who is asking, Columbia has something for everyone. My

personal favorite spots are Murry's, Just Jeff's and whatever you have cooking in the Faurot Field parking lot!

Most people who know you would never guess that you...

Fell in love with radio thanks to Paul Harvey's "The Rest of the Story" segments.

Favorite music?

Impossible question, but if I absolutely had to choose, it would be 60s/70s soul and Motown.

Last book you read?

Tina Fey's memoir "Bossypants" – such a fascinating read on the challenges of being a woman in the male-dominated world of comedy.

Do you have any pets?

No pets anymore unfortunately, but another dog would be nice one day!



Program Updates:

Tune in to an extra hour of **Vintage Inspiration** with your host Shawn Wilcox! This show airs each Friday night/Saturday morning beginning at midnight, now with an extra hour from 1-2am.

The stalwart show **Heavy Rotation** is back! You can catch it each Saturday night at 11 PM through Sunday morning at 2 AM. Heavy Rotation features a rotating lineup of hosts, including Mark Medley, Shelby Guy, Will Smith, Nick Peckham, and Dylan Martin.

KOPN now has a veterans-affairs program! You can catch **She Served Too** on the 3rd and 5th

Tuesday of each month between 5 and 6 PM.
This program is hosted by Elizabeth Herrera.
Upcoming editions include July 19, August 16,
August 30, and September 20.

Enjoy!

Ask a Programmer: Evonnia Woods

Evonnia is part of the
Women's Issues, Women's Voices collective.

You can hear her on the air on select
Mondays between 7 and 8 PM.

When she is not co-hosting WIWV, you may hear the other
WIWV co-hosts, including: Corri Flaker-Fraser, Elizabeth
Herrera, Sarah Catlin, and Vic Day!



How did you learn about KOPN and become involved?

I learned about KOPN when I was asked to be a guest. I do not remember the show or who was hosting that first time. I was a guest a few times before someone from Women's Issues, Women's Voices reached out to see if I wanted to be a co-host. I got trained on the boards and the rest is history!

How long have you been a programmer for Women's Issues, Women's Voices?

I'm going to pull from memory and say November 2018.

Did you ever dream of being a radio talk show host, or did you have other aspirations when you were a child?

Oh no, I hate my voice. I'm surprised I've been allowed to talk on a radio station this long! Has no one complained? Because every time I'm listening to one of my shows, I hear my sing-song tempo and am annoyed. I sound so much cooler in my head. Now, my childhood aspirations changed with the wind. I didn't know what I wanted to do, and to some degree I still don't.

What are some of your favorite past shows/who are some

of your favorite past guests?

I'm currently doing current topics discussions every second Monday of the month, and I have multiple guests. It's just me and my friends from all over the US discussing reproductive justice issues. I love to rant and rave, so, despite spending most of my time editing myself out, they turn out really nice. Everybody always has a good time!

You work with Reproaction, a "left-flank culture change organization with deep chops in strategic communications, fearless opposition research, and community organizing, including but not limited to non-violent direct action." What is that like, considering the world we live in today?

Working for Reproaction has been my favorite job so far, and I've worked a lot of jobs. I get to work with like-minded, competent people on increasing access to abortion and advancing reproductive justice. Oh, I thank my lucky stars every day! Most people who know me always check in to see how I'm doing but my response is always the same, I'm fine. It's everything else that stresses me out.

What are you up to when you're not producing your show for KOPN's airwaves?

You can catch me walking or riding my bike on the trail, over-loving my plants, traveling, or most often, in my house minding my business.

If you could make one thing required reading, what would it be?

Why would you do this to me? I love reading so much. Asking me to choose one book could change on any given day, but today I'm going to say that everyone needs to read Octavia Butler's Parable Series. Both books are sure to get people out of their obsession with Handmaids Tale as the reference for where we're headed. I saw a tweet today that said the Parable Series is a story about hope, whereas Handmaids is a story about giving up. I don't know about anybody else, but I have no plans on giving up. If I'm going down, I'm going down resisting like hell!



Dick Dalton and Susan Newstead

Dick Dalton recently spoke with Susan Newstead over Zoom. Susan was KOPN's General Manager between 1986 and 1991. This conversation is part of a forthcoming series of interviews

with people who played a role in KOPN's founding and earliest years. More of these conversations will be unveiled as we approach our **50th year of broadcasting** on March 3, 2023!



Susan: It's been really interesting to me to try to think back since I left KOPN in March of 1991. At that point I was general manager, and I started out as just a general volunteer at KOPN and of course fell in love with it, with all that you could do. I talked Bill Wax, program director then, into letting me have **an on-air program which I called Joy. It was pretty eclectic. I could play anything that made people feel good, at least hopefully it did.**

I also got involved in producing a documentary series called Missouri Legacy. It featured old-time fiddlers, black gospel singers, square dance callers, fiddle makers, Jewish folk songs, dixieland, all sorts of things. It was when I was general manager and somebody, I forget who it was, somebody from the Arts Council of Missouri came by and I had just done an all-nighter and didn't know she was coming and don't think I made the best impression! I wasn't dressed exactly professionally. But I think we did several really good

programs, series of programs like Missouri Legacy or another group that worked on all sorts of things at that time.... [I]t's been really fun to look back through my KOPN tenure newspapers.

...

One of the things we tried to do in order to make some money for KOPN was to do bingo at the American Legion hall, out past the power plant. We would get lots of people playing bingo.

I had a bad cough one time and people were whispering that I must have been doing something illegal, but I wasn't!

Dick: Do you mean that folks connected with KOPN had some sort of reputation? What do you think that was all about?

Susan: I don't know, I suspect some people did have ideas of what went on that were far from the truth, but some ideas may have been close.

Dick: You were general manager just after Columbia had that big vote over the sewer water going to the Missouri River. Do you remember that event?

Susan: No, I don't.

Dick: Well there was a big story about how the city was planning, because of a fish kill at Perche Creek, to have a construction firm send the water directly to the river. Doug Eely got wind of that and stepped in and a movement got started to stop the city from polluting the Missouri River. And KOPN was very helpful in playing Jeff Wheeler's music that was telling the story and other kinds of interviews and things to help bring about a change so Columbia would not do that. The movement won, they got 90-plus percent of the votes, and that's where the wetlands came from, and Eagle Bluffs and all of that out there. I didn't know if that was in your timeframe, but you knew Doug, he was a neighbor of yours at one time.

Susan: Yes, and he moved across the river.

Dick: Yes, he moved to Lupus to be the mayor!

Susan: One of my cousins, Bob Dyer, came to KOPN one time with an arts program that the Arts Council helped to support and my favorite song of his was the Missouri River song, "River of the Big Canoe."

Dick: Michael Cochran sings that quite often, do you remember

him?

Susan: A little bit.

...

Dick: What other stories might be tucked away in your thinking cap? Like the tower blowing over? Things that you tried to do but couldn't do, or things that you couldn't do but it turned out fantastic?

Susan: Yeah, one musician who was brought to KOPN by the Missouri Arts Council was going around on a tour. **It was Taj Mahal. He was frustrated at KOPN because we didn't seem to have the equipment that he wanted. We thought we were able to do well with what we did.** Poor Sam got the brunt of it.

Dick: Did you make it happen?

Susan: We did, but it showed that we were not in good favor with him.

Dick: It was not up to his standard of quality equipment.

Susan: Right, and he should have expected it, that we would not have all the equipment that big professionals had.

...

Dick: Do you have any advice for KOPN to look to in the future?

Susan: Just to work together and do the best that you can to help the world be a little bit better place.

[Click here to read a full transcript of the interview!](#)



VOTE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2

Primary Election

Deadline to register to vote: July 6

Deadline to apply for a mailed absentee ballot: July 20

Deadline to vote absentee in person in the clerk's office: August 1

Upcoming Events in our Broadcast Range:

Columbia:

- July 19: Central Bank's ProsperU program hosts a class on Rocking The Job Interview. Discover some basic strategies you can use in any interview to make sure you land that job! The course will be at 6 PM at the ProsperU classroom at 7th and Broadway in downtown Columbia.
- July 20: A Family Fun Fest focusing on healthy habits takes place at Clary-Shy Community Park between 6 and 8 PM. The Farmers Market will be open here between 3 and 7 PM.
- July 28: Central bank's ProsperU program hosts a class on Stretching Your Food Budget. The grocery store can be overwhelming when you're on a tight budget. Learn how to tackle the shopping and then the cooking. The course will be at 6 PM at the ProsperU classroom at 7th and Broadway in downtown Columbia.
- July 30: The Columbia Senior Center hosts an ice cream social between 4 and 6 PM. The Senior Center is located at 1121 Business Loop 70 east.
- August 2: VOTE in the Boone County elections!

Golden City:

- July 30: The Missouri Prairie Foundation hosts a dedication of the Shelton L. Cook Memorial Meadow at 2 PM. This is a rain or shine event followed by a guided tour of the prairie. 399 native plant species have been recorded here and there are two animals of conservation concern, the prairie mole cricket and the northern crawfish frog.

Linn Creek:

- TONIGHT: Seven Springs Winery has teamed up with the Lake of the Ozarks Blues Society to produce "The Red, White and Blues Festival." The event will take place between 1 and 6 pm on the

grounds of Seven Springs Winery. It is a free event. It will feature an acoustic blues set, The Kirk Brown Band, The Joe Lewis Band, and The Lake of the Ozarks Blues Society Band.

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