KOPN moves after 49 years

The community radio station will have its own building at 401 Bernadette Drive

A move many years in the making

KOPN volunteers, staff, board members, and listeners have longed for an accessible, KOPN-owned building since the beginning, and, after 49 years of renting our upstairs downtown space, we have finally met that goal! KOPN's programming has been entirely automated for the past week while we move our broadcasting equipment from our historic building to our new location. Moving our music library, furniture, and office equipment will take place over the next week. We will be completely out of 915 E Broadway by June 30th!

TONIGHT at midnight, we begin live broadcasting from our new location (which, did we mention,
Ticket Giveaways!

The tickets to see Jimmie Vaughan will be drawn tomorrow, **so enter today**! The tickets to see Tab Benoit will be drawn on Tuesday, June 28th, so you have more time to enter.

**Good luck!**

Click here for a chance to win two tickets for you and a friend to see **Jimmie Vaughan** with **Amanda Fish**! The show is on Wednesday, June 22nd at 7 PM at Rose Music Hall. Good luck!
Kevin Shults

Kevin was the last person to broadcast live from 915 E Broadway! He hosted High Lonesome Sound on Sunday, June 12th from 9 PM to midnight until radio traffic switched to automation-only for the move.

Photos are from a video by Vox Magazine

**How did you hear about KOPN and get involved? How long have you been on KOPN’s airwaves?**

I was already an avowed bluegrass music fan when I came to town in 1979 to attend Columbia College. Soon after, I was happy to find out about a radio station here—KOPN—that played bluegrass as part of its schedule. I even visited this funky little station one Saturday that fall to hear an in-studio performance by a bluegrass band from Iowa who were in town for a gig at the old Gladstone Manufacturing Co. roadhouse.

In the Spring of 2013, I volunteered to help pull CDs and assist BG Brown, host
Kevin hosted High Lonesome from 2013 until January 2019, at which point he handed it down to its current host, Kyle Brown.

**What was your inspiration for The Time Machine? Why that era?**

Musically, the decade of the 1960s is really interesting to me. In the beginning, you see the decline of doo-wop, the growing folk music revival, and the rise of surf music. Then came the British invasion bands—especially the Beatles—plus the amazing music coming out of studios in Memphis and Motown. The civil rights movement. The Viet Nam protests. The Summer of Love. Woodstock. It's all there—packed into one glorious decade.

The second inspiration was the small-power AM radio station in my hometown. They often played requests from several genres. At any time you might hear a Roy Acuff song followed by something like “76 Trombones in the Big Parade.” I thought the juxtaposition was interesting, so I’ve incorporated music from different genres on the Time Machine show along with period news clips, vintage jingles, and old commercials. My intent was always for it to be an immersive experience.

**What roles have you had at KOPN besides hosting The Time Machine?**

I’ve served on the Board of Directors since January of 2020.

**You have played upright bass in bands including Twin Rivers, Rural Roots, and Jimmie Allison’s band. What has your musical journey looked like, from learning how to play to present day?**

Growing up in Salem, Missouri, our next-door neighbor played banjo, so he and his band exposed me to bluegrass when I was about 14. That’s when I caught the "bluegrass bug" and started learning to play the electric bass. In high school I picked up the mandolin and have been playing ever since. The first real band I joined was while attending college here.

**What are your favorite music-related memories with these bands or other projects you’ve been involved with?**

I have two strong memories of my time playing bluegrass on the road. The first is of course the music and the musicians. With bluegrass musicians, we all have a common musical canon—songs by Bill Monroe, the Stanley Brothers, or Flatt & Scruggs and others. We could travel anywhere and get into jam sessions with complete strangers, yet still play those same old songs together.

The second memory will always be the the people we met on our travels. At last count, playing bluegrass has taken me to 18 states, plus British Columbia. With the exception of the really big venues, festival attendees have great access to the performers. So we got to meet and visit with bluegrass fans from all walks of life in different parts of the country.

**Do you care to share any funny or neat KOPN memories from over...**
the years, as a programmer or as a listener?

As a programmer, I remember one night hosting the High Lonesome Sound when a listener called in a request. It was obvious they had been consuming a great deal of alcohol and were continuing to do so. I took nine phone calls from that same listener within an hour’s time.

And as a Board member, I think a great memory will be our going through the process of searching for properties, putting in the due diligence on each, then eventually biting the bullet and purchasing our new home. This investment in our own property and beginning to build equity will help us serve the mission of KOPN for many years to come.

**What are you up to when you’re not programming The Time Machine or occasionally subbing during High Lonesome Sound?**

I'm a self-employed graphic designer. This September 1st will be my 10th anniversary in business. When I'm not working, I'm spending time with my wife Cheryl, or hanging out with my kids, Brandon and Erin.
Upcoming Events in our Broadcast Range:

**Columbia:**
- **June 22:** Columbia Parks and Rec hosts a food truck round up at the Farmers Market (the MU Health Care Pavilion at Clary-Shy Park) between 3 and 7 PM.
- **June 19-July 31:** Turning Art into Aid exhibit is up at Serendipity Salon and Gallery in downtown Columbia. Local and regional artists have donated works whose proceeds will benefit relief to Ukraine. The salon/gallery is open Tuesday through Friday, and the exhibit is open to the public.
- **June 24:** The 15th annual Mid-MO Pride Pageant takes place at the CBO Event Center (the Elks Lodge, located at 4747 E Elk Park Dr) at 6 PM. It is a family-friendly event and kids 12 and under can have free entry.
- **June 25:** The Missouri Symphony plays at Stephens Lake Park Amphitheatre at 7 PM. This event is free and open to the public.
- **June 29:** The Armory Sports Center hosts a Juneteenth PBS Film Series at 6 PM. This event is free and open to the public.
- **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.

**Linn Creek:**
- **July 17:** 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.

**New Bloomfield:**
- **June 25:** ElderBlossom View Orchard & Winery holds a concert by the Bass Avenue Boys & Friends. This is a reunion tour for this
If you can't buy local, you can at least direct a portion of your purchase to your favorite community radio station!

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