

Winter • 2022-23



Fundraising kicks off for new KVPR transmitters

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New reporters, news director join KVPR team

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Special report: Maternal mortality in the San Joaquin Valley

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KVPR wins National Edward R. Murrow Award

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Holiday Specials

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19 – 8PM

Selected Shorts: Christmas with Mom

Guest host Meg Wolitzer presents a Selected Shorts holiday show. Hear two stories about being home for the holidays, and how you can count on your Mom to be there for you – and to possibly complicate things.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19 – 9PM

Winter Holidays Around the World with Bill McLaughlin

Winter holidays are celebrated around the world, and the music is wonderful to hear, regardless of which tradition you observe. Join Bill McLaughlin for selections that span the globe, from classical to jazz and traditional.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 – 8PM

The One Recipe Holiday Special

Host Jesse Sparks talks to culinary superstars about their “One” recipe that signals the holiday has begun. Learn about food from all over the world, and hear recipes to jumpstart your own holiday cooking.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 – 9PM

Welcome Christmas

An hour of joyful, classic holiday music from VocalEssence, one of the world’s premiere choral groups, singing traditional carols and new discoveries.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 – 8PM

Hanukkah Lights 2022

The NPR favorite returns for 2022 with the best of the best Hanukkah Lights stories from the last 30 years. Hosted by Susan Stamberg and Murray Horwitz.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 – 9PM

A Paul Winter Solstice

On the darkest night of the year, we head back to New York’s Cathedral of St. John the Divine to hear a performance of The Paul Winter Consort and the glorious Cathedral Pipe Organ.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 – 8PM

Jazz Piano Christmas

Your favorite holiday classics as you’ve never heard them. This year’s program spotlights Japanese musical phenom Hiromi, Mountain Stage’s Bob Thompson, and Bolivian prodigy José André Montaña.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 – 9PM

A Chanticleer Christmas

This one-hour program of holiday favorites, new and old, is a live recording by Chanticleer, the superb 12-man ensemble known as “an orchestra of voices.”

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 – 9PM

Joy to the World – A Holiday in Pink

The internationally acclaimed “little orchestra” Pink Martini bedecks the airwaves with festive holiday songs, from timeless classics to rarely heard gems.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 – 9PM

St. Olaf Christmas Festival

One of the nation’s most treasured holiday celebrations, this program includes sacred choral and instrumental music from many traditions.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 – 8PM

Holiday Jazz with Dee Alexander

The beloved Chicago vocalist and radio host Dee Alexander entertains and enchants with songs and reminiscences of holidays past.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31 – 9PM

Toast of the Nation

An NPR tradition every New Year’s Eve since the 1970s, Toast of the Nation is the perfect audio complement for the occasion. It’s festive jazz you can party to, all night long.



KVPR-FM 89.3 Fresno
KPRX-FM 89.1 Bakersfield
KVPR Classical - FM 89.3 HD2
& streaming online at KVPR.org

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NOTES FROM THE TOP

by Joe Moore, *President & General Manager*

Ten years ago, KVPR took a bold step and did something completely new by launching a local news presence, with full-time reporters covering in-depth stories that matter in the communities we serve. Up to that point, the station occasionally aired a report from a freelancer, or relied on San Francisco's KQED to cover news about the San Joaquin Valley.

Much has changed during the last decade. The local journalism business (including both print and TV) has endured severe cuts, both here at home and in virtually every community in the country. For-profit local news has been decimated by the changing advertising business, social media and technology. Perhaps the one bright spot has been in public media. Like most NPR stations across the country, we've grown our local news presence during this time, with a listener-supported, community focused model.

And in the last decade, we've done more than just share the latest headlines. We've helped make a difference. KVPR's reporting on valley fever in 2013 with the Reporting on Health Collaborative wound up airing nationally on NPR's Morning Edition. Within days of that NPR broadcast, the New York Times, BBC, and CBS News all sent reporting crews to the valley to jump on the bandwagon. It's a train we're happy to lead. The attention we helped generate led to major new investments in research into this regional disease that had been overlooked for too long.

Likewise, in 2017, our reporting project called "Contaminated" took an in-depth look at the scale and severity of the water quality crisis in small valley towns, at a time when few outside in the media were paying attention to the issue. Our reporting helped bring this issue, and the efforts of groups like the Community Water Center, to wider attention and legislative action. While the problem has not been entirely solved, progress has been made and we continue to follow this story today.

We've also sought to bring listeners coverage that captures a slice of life in the valley. From stories like the one that explored why some people say "ALL-munds" and some says "AM-ends" to reports that explored the rich history of Fresno's Chinatown, we've aimed to bring the same things that make NPR News such a respected and valued news organization, and apply them locally.

Our ultimate recognition comes through the support of our listeners, who help make our work possible. However, we've also been fortunate along the way to receive recognition from our peers, in the form of dozens of awards and honors. Our most recent recognition is also the most prestigious in our

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ON THE COVER: CNN's Omar Jimenez, KVPR's Soreath Hok and NPR's Aaron Glantz

MUSIC

For a listing of our music selections, visit KVPR.org or contact the station.

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA This weekly broadcast offers a unique format that illustrates the fascinating stories found inside the music. Tuesdays at 8pm.

CLASSICS ALL NIGHT with Peter Van De Graaff Host Peter Van De Graaff plays sweet and soothing selections. Listen weekdays from 10pm to midnight, and Saturday from 11-midnight.

CLASSICAL 24 Timeless classical music. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year on KVPR Classical digital stream.

CONCIERTO Music by Spanish and Latin American composers is alternating with classical favorites performed by Hispanic artists. Hosted by Frank Dominguez and presented in Spanish and English. Saturdays at 9pm.

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC Recorded performances of the New York Philharmonic hosted by Alec Baldwin. Mondays at 8pm.

SUNDAY BAROQUE This program celebrates the current wealth of recorded Baroque music. Now on KVPR Classical digital stream, 9am to noon.

SUNDAY NIGHT JAZZ Hosted by KVPR's David Aus with jazz classics to new recordings. Sundays from 9pm to midnight.

WFMT ORCHESTRA SERIES Over the course of the year, hear four 13-episode seasons from some of the best orchestras in the U.S.

INFORMATION

1A Daily talk program from WAMU and NPR, exploring issues in a changing America, and encouraging you to "speak freely." Hosted by Jenn White, weekdays from 9am-11am.

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED News magazine from NPR. Weekdays 3:30pm to 6:30pm. Weekends 5pm-6pm.

BBC NEWSHOUR Live from London, the BBC offers an update on the top global news every day at 1pm.

THE CALIFORNIA REPORT This statewide newscast is heard weekday mornings at 6:50am and 8:50am. The California Report Magazine, a half-hour news magazine program, is heard Fridays at 6:30pm.

FORUM A statewide look at the issues facing California, hosted by KQED's Mina Kim. Weekdays at 2pm.

FRESH AIR WEEKEND Hosted by Peabody Award-winning Terry Gross. Saturdays at 10am.

HERE AND NOW News and features from NPR and WBUR in Boston. Mondays through Thursdays 11am to 1pm.

LEFT, RIGHT & CENTER A fast-paced hour of smart, witty, and serious talk that takes on the week's front-page issues. Saturdays at 6pm.

LATINO USA Hosted by Maria Hinojosa. English language news and culture program from a Latino perspective. Saturdays at 3pm.

MARKETPLACE Business news with host Kai Ryssdal. Weekdays at 3pm, rebroadcast Monday-Thursday at 6:30 pm.

MORNING EDITION National and international news from NPR. Weekdays from 3am to 9am.

REVEAL Produced by the Center for investigative Reporting, Reveal goes deep into the pressing issues of our time. Hosted by Al Letson. Sundays at 12pm; Mondays at 7pm.

SCIENCE FRIDAY with Ira Flatow. Talk about science and the environment. Fridays 11am to 1pm.

WEEKEND EDITION The Saturday and Sunday edition of NPR's most popular news program. Weekend mornings from 5am to 10am.

STAR DATE Weekdays at 6:19am and 10:00pm.

TALK & ENTERTAINMENT

THE ARTS HOUR Cultural highlights and interviews from the week. Hosted by Nikki Bedi. Sundays at 6pm.

FREAKONOMICS Host Stephen J. Dubner uses an economic lens to explore the hidden side of everything. Saturdays at 2pm.

HIDDEN BRAIN Explore the forces that drive human behavior with host Shankar Vedantam. Fridays at 8pm and Sundays at 11am.

INTELLIGENCE SQUARED U.S. Global thought-leaders challenge conventional wisdom and each other on a range of topics. Sundays at 8pm.

IT'S BEEN A MINUTE Casual conversations about the connections between pop culture and current events. Saturday 4pm-5pm.

THE MOTH True stories told live, from professional and amateur storytellers based in New York. Tuesdays and Sundays at 7pm.

THE PULSE Stories from the intersection of health and science. Hosted by Maiken Scott. Sundays at 2pm.

THE SPLENDID TABLE Conversations about cooking, sustainability, and food culture. Hosted by Francis Lam. Sundays at 3pm.

TED RADIO HOUR Innovative ideas from the world's top thinkers. Sundays at 4pm and Fridays at 7pm.

THIS AMERICAN LIFE Hosted by Ira Glass. Themed stories with a unique focus on our everyday experiences. Wednesdays at 7 pm, Saturdays at noon.

THROUGHLINE NPR's weekly program about history, dedicated to the idea that the past is always present. Thursdays at 7pm.

TRAVEL WITH RICK STEVES Explore with travel expert and author Rick Steves as he talks with friends from around the globe. Saturdays at 8pm.

WAIT WAIT...DON'T TELL ME! Join host Peter Sagal for this fun-filled hour of mind-stretching fun, based on the week's news. Saturdays at 11am and 7pm; Sundays at 10am.

Listen to our live audio streams online at KVPR.org
or on your favorite connected device.

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General correspondence may be sent to: (Specific Program Name), c/o National Public Radio, Washington, DC.

WINTER 2022-23 AUDIO WEEK

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
12 am								12 am	
1 am	BBC WORLD SERVICE							1 am	
2 am								2 am	
3 am								3 am	
4 am								4 am	
5 am								5 am	
6 am	MORNING EDITION							6 am	
7 am	WEEKEND EDITION						WEEKEND EDITION	7 am	
8 am								8 am	
9 am								9 am	
10 am	WAIT WAIT...DON'T TELL ME	1A					FRESH AIR WEEKEND	10 am	
11 am	HIDDEN BRAIN	HERE AND NOW				SCIENCE FRIDAY	WAIT WAIT...DON'T TELL ME	11 am	
Noon	REVEAL						THIS AMERICAN LIFE	Noon	
1 pm	BBC NEWS HOUR	BBC NEWS HOUR					BBC NEWS HOUR	1 pm	
2 pm	THE PULSE	FORUM					FREAKONOMICS	2 pm	
3 pm	SPLENDID TABLE	MARKETPLACE					LATINO USA	3 pm	
4 pm	TED RADIO HOUR						IT'S BEEN A MINUTE	4 pm	
5 pm	ALL THINGS CONSIDERED	ALL THINGS CONSIDERED					ALL THINGS CONSIDERED	5 pm	
6 pm	THE ARTS HOUR	MARKETPLACE				THE CALIF. REPORT	LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTER	6 pm	
7 pm	THE MOTH	REVEAL	THE MOTH	THIS AMERICAN LIFE	THROUGHLINE	TED RADIO HOUR	WAIT WAIT...DON'T TELL ME	7 pm	
8 pm	INTELLIGENCE SQUARED U.S.	NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC	CHICAGO SYMPHONY	WFMT ORCHESTRA SERIES	SPECIAL MUSIC PROGRAMMING	HIDDEN BRAIN	TRAVEL WITH RICK STEVES	8 pm	
9 pm						CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER		9 pm	
10 pm	SUNDAY NIGHT JAZZ						CONCIERTO	10 pm	
11 pm	CLASSICS ALL NIGHT							11 pm	
								CLASSICS ALL NIGHT	

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
12 am								12 am
1 am	CLASSICAL 24 OVERNIGHT							1 am
2 am								2 am
3 am								3 am
4 am	MORNINGS WITH CLASSICAL 24							4 am
5 am								5 am
6 am	MORNINGS WITH CLASSICAL 24							6 am
7 am								7 am
8 am	MORNINGS WITH CLASSICAL 24							8 am
9 am								9 am
10 am	SUNDAY BAROQUE	MIDDAY WITH CLASSICAL 24						10 am
11 am								11 am
Noon								Noon
1 pm	MIDDAY WITH CLASSICAL 24							1 pm
2 pm								2 pm
3 pm	EVENINGS WITH CLASSICAL 24							3 pm
4 pm								4 pm
5 pm	EVENINGS WITH CLASSICAL 24							5 pm
6 pm								6 pm
7 pm	EVENINGS WITH CLASSICAL 24							7 pm
8 pm								8 pm
9 pm	EVENINGS WITH CLASSICAL 24							9 pm
10 pm								10 pm
11 pm	CLASSICAL 24 OVERNIGHT							11 pm



EDWARD R. MURROW AWARDS



KVPR's Soreath Hok with her 2022 National Murrow Award.
CHORUS PHOTOGRAPHY

KVPR wins National Edward R. Murrow Award for education investigation

Reporter Soreath Hok's coverage receives one of the nation's highest honors in broadcasting.

The Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) has awarded KVPR with a prestigious 2022 National Edward R. Murrow Award. The recognition comes specifically for a report by KVPR's Soreath Hok, who investigated how local school districts inflated student attendance data during the pandemic. The National Murrow Award is one of the highest honors in all of broadcast journalism, and is the first in the station's history.

The award came in the category of investigative reporting in the small market radio division. Hok's report was produced by KVPR in collaboration with NPR's California Newsroom, and was edited by NPR's Aaron Glantz, himself a Peabody Award winner and a Pulitzer Prize finalist.

Hok and Glantz attended the awards ceremony at Gotham Hall in New York City in October to accept the award. Another valley journalist, The California Report's

Alexandra Hall, also received National Murrow Award honors at the event.

Hok's reporting explored how a then new California law required school districts to keep detailed attendance and engagement records to make sure students online didn't fall behind. But as she discovered in her investigation, students were often counted present when they did little more than log in, and attendance numbers didn't reflect the frustrating reality of the school year.

"This story was one of the most challenging and rewarding pieces I've ever worked on. I'm proud that this story went beyond the data to tell a moving narrative about real people and the challenges they faced during the pandemic," said Hok. "This is truly a career highlight and such an incredible honor to be recognized with this award. I'm so grateful and humbled to be a part of KVPR's amazing news team."

"We're incredibly proud of Soreath's reporting on this critically important topic," said KVPR President and General Manager Joe Moore. "Soreath's investigation helped highlight the shortcomings of distance learning in local schools during the pandemic, and how it ultimately shortchanged students. The National Murrow Awards are a great honor for the station and our newsroom. We are so grateful for the recognition, alongside some of the finest broadcast journalists and newsrooms in the nation."

"The Edward R. Murrow Awards are among the most prestigious in journalism," said RTDNA President and CEO Dan Shelley in a press release. "More than 750 Regional Murrow winners advanced to the national competition, and over the past few months, an expert panel of journalists has meticulously reviewed and deliberated over every entry. That's why I'm confident in saying today's winners represent the absolute best of the best. So let me be the first to say congratulations to our newest National Edward R. Murrow Award winners."

According to the RTDNA, there were more than 5,200 entries this year. In May, RTDNA recognized winners of the Regional Murrow Awards, which automatically advanced to the national competition. KVPR won three Regional Murrow Awards this year.

"Thank you to every journalist who played a role in the pieces that were submitted," said RTDNA Chair Allison McGinley in a press release. "Not everyone can be a Murrow Award winner, but all of you make a difference in your communities. Thank you for the work you do."

Listen To This Story:

Use this QR code to listen to Soreath Hok's award-winning investigation on student attendance. Just open the camera app on your phone, point it at this QR code and then tap the notification to visit KVPR.org. You'll be taken to our website where you can hear this story.



TOP: Murrow Awards.
CHORUS PHOTOGRAPHY

MIDDLE: Murrow Awards.
CHORUS PHOTOGRAPHY

BOTTOM: KQED's Alexandra Hall and KVPR's Soreath Hok outside Gotham Hall in New York City.
CHORUS PHOTOGRAPHY

Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado joins KVPR as news director

Previously with PBS NewsHour and The Fresno Bee



KVPR has announced the hire of Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado as the station's next news director. A talented reporter and editor, Rodriguez-Delgado comes to KVPR from PBS NewsHour, where he covered the region from Merced to Bakersfield for the nationwide public television show and website.

While at NewsHour, Rodriguez-Delgado was the only reporter from our region directly employed by a nationwide public media organization. In addition to his time with NewsHour, he's also worked for the Fresno Bee and was part of California Divide, reporting project from Cal Matters. Rodriguez-Delgado grew up in the Tulare County community of Woodville, between Porterville and Tipton. He attended Fresno City College and Fresno State, where he became the editor of both The Rampage and The Collegian newspapers, respectively.

"Cresencio is a talented journalist. He has an expansive knowledge of our region, local issues and a passion for the craft of journalism. Even rarer, he is someone who thrives on working with others to help make their work better," said KVPR's General Manager Joe Moore. "He has a passion for editing and finding new ways to tell stories. I'm impressed with his thoughtfulness and perspectives on important media and journalism issues in our valley communities, and how public media can best serve local audiences."

Rodriguez-Delgado said he's excited to work with KVPR's talented staff to bring creative stories to the San Joaquin Valley. "Growing up in the region, I have seen how information can shape our communities and I strongly believe KVPR is a unique source of news and information that brings nuanced and inspirational storytelling to empower and educate," said Rodriguez-Delgado.

"From our rural communities to our bigger cities, everywhere in the valley is deserving of a spotlight at a time of great change in our society, both locally and nationally. My mission at KVPR will be to bring people closer together through stories and maintain the trust in the information listeners and readers consume — as well as aim for a richer understanding of each other. I have been fortunate to be in different reporting spaces and see the great work happening behind the scenes to improve the journalism of the valley and I am hopeful that my role at KVPR can add to that," said Rodriguez-Delgado.

One key area he wants to see the station devote additional attention to is community engagement. "Journalism, and especially public media, is not a spectator sport, so I will rely on the help of all readers and listeners to inform the newsroom so they can rely on our reporting," said Rodriguez-Delgado.



KVPR kicks off special campaign to fund new transmitters in both Bakersfield and Fresno

The rapid pace of technological change and advancement is a hallmark of our age. Technologies that we take for granted today didn't exist a decade ago. And the systems we rely on one minute are increasingly becoming obsolete the next.

Radio isn't immune to these changes, even with big infrastructure like transmitters. The transmitters that currently serve both the Fresno and Bakersfield areas are both approaching 20 years old, and are nearing the end of their operational lifespans. In some cases, replacement parts are no longer available, and in others, the risk of a potential catastrophic failure is heightened. That's why this month, KVPR is kicking off a campaign to purchase state-of-the-art new transmitters in both Bakersfield and Fresno, as well as associated equipment. It's estimated to be around a \$200,000 project.

The station's current transmitters were purchased in 2006. At the time they were state-of-the-art, but technology has improved in dramatic ways in the last 17 years. Just like the Windows XP PC you may have used in the mid-2000s, technology has come a long way in broadcasting.

New transmitters are more reliable, vastly more energy efficient and have new capabilities. Most importantly, the replacement of our Bakersfield transmitter would allow us to for the first time, bring our KVPR Classical

Bakersfield transmitter site on Round Mountain

station to the airwaves of Kern County, bringing 24/7 classical music to the local radio market for the first time ever, over FM 89.1 HD-2.

“Our top priority is replacing our main Bakersfield transmitter,” said KVPR General Manager Joe Moore.

“It’s an urgent need. On top of the issue of parts availability, and the lack of support, the particular model we have there has proven to be unreliable. It also lacks the capability to broadcast KVPR Classical via a HD Radio sub channel on 89.1. Our Fresno area classical audience has really enjoyed hearing classical music over the airwaves 24/7, and we are eager to bring that service to Bakersfield-area listeners. Unlike 20 years ago, the majority of new vehicles sold in the U.S. now come with HD Radio capability built in, so we think the time is right to bring this free, over-the-air service to Bakersfield. We basically will be adding an entire new public radio station to the Bakersfield market – one completely dedicated to classical music,” said Moore. Beyond the transmitter, other critical pieces of infrastructure at the 89.1 transmitter site on Round

Mountain are 35+ years old, and also need replacement.

“Our second priority is replacing our main Fresno area transmitter,” said Moore. “The model we have in Fresno is just as old as the one in Bakersfield, but it has proven to be a little more reliable than its south valley counterpart. It still needs replacement soon, the situation just isn’t quite as dire as in Bakersfield. The Fresno



The Flexiva high-power FM transmitter is more powerful, capable and efficient than the station’s current transmitters.

Fundraising Campaign Highlights

- \$200,000 goal
- Replace existing transmitters & related equipment in Bakersfield and Fresno (17-35 years old)
- Bring KVPR Classical programming to Bakersfield-area airwaves via 89.1 HD-2 channel
- Better reception for KVPR Classical in Fresno/Clovis area on 89.3 HD-2 channel
- Improved reliability & energy efficiency

area transmitter is the only first generation HD Radio transmitter still in operation in the San Joaquin Valley, according to our engineers. The systems today are now fourth generation transmitters, and are remarkably more energy efficient, more compact and have all sorts of new capabilities. There’s also another advantage to this upgrade. A new transmitter in the Fresno area will also allow the station to **more than double** the signal strength of its HD-2 KVPR Classical service on 89.3 HD-2, allowing for better reception with a larger coverage area.

The total project is estimated to cost around \$200,000, including the transmitters, other related hardware, software and installation. Transmitters are generational investments. 20 years ago the station began raising money to install our current equipment. Now the time has come to take the next step forward and in technology, which will serve our listeners for the next 20 years.”

For information about how you can help this project, please contact Joe Moore at 559-862-2481 or jmoore@kvpr.org.

Sustaining Public Radio's Future

Taking a look at the impact your donations to KVPR make in our communities

It takes a lot to make radio. Transmitters high on mountaintops, microphones and mixing boards, not to mention the talented hosts, reporters, producers and engineers who make it all possible. But there's one other thing that is even **more** essential to keeping public radio on the air – YOU – our members.

Without the donations from listeners, KVPR wouldn't exist. In our most recent fiscal year, roughly half of KVPR's operating income came from members. That's \$1,000,000 in revenue from membership – making it the largest and most consistent source of funding for the station, and helps to pay for everything you hear on KVPR and KVPR Classical. And as we approach a new year, we need your help to continue to serve our valley.

Here are some of the things your membership donations helped us do this calendar year:

NPR: From Morning Edition to All Things Considered to Wait Wait Don't Tell Me, KVPR brings the best of public radio programming to the valley for everyone to hear.

Classical Music: Local broadcasts of the Fresno Philharmonic. National broadcasts of the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, LA Philharmonic and other leading orchestras. And with our new all-classical station, there's even more music - 8,736 hours of classical music on KVPR Classical – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Hear it on KVPR 89.3 HD-2 in Fresno and Clovis, and worldwide on KVPR.org and the KVPR app.

New programs: This year we welcomed the addition of the BBC Newshour, The Splendid Table, Reveal and other acclaimed national productions to the KVPR program lineup.

The Other California: In March 2022, KVPR launched the documentary podcast The Other California. Through 11 episodes, KVPR's reporters told the stories of Central California's small towns and the people who call them home.

Local Investigations: In-depth reporting by KVPR's News Department investigating big issues facing our communities and region. Here are some highlights from 2022:



Moms and Babies at Risk: This five part series from reporter Kerry Klein explored the issue of pregnancy related deaths and why the Southern San Joaquin Valley ranks the worst in the state.

When the Smoke Clears: A six-part series exploring how and why the phase-out of agricultural burning in the nation's most polluted air basin has been delayed for 20 years. KVPR explored the health impacts, the real-world challenges farmers face in the transition to other methods, and the regulatory changes on the horizon.

KVPR by the numbers

\$2.2 million – KVPR's annual budget of \$2.2 million works out to about \$6,000 a day to keep your public radio station going.

\$360,000 – The station's annual bill to NPR and other program distributors for the rights to air their programs. Some people are under the mistaken impression that NPR pays local stations to air network programs. Actually, local stations pay NPR so we can provide these programs to our listeners.

\$80,000 – The station's annual PG&E bill for three sites: the station's broadcast center in Clovis, the 89.3 transmitter site in Meadow Lakes, and the 89.1 transmitter site at Round Mountain in Bakersfield. In 2023, KVPR is installing solar panels at the broadcast center, which will help reduce the station's carbon footprint, and produce an estimated 50 percent of the building's annual electricity usage.

82 percent – KVPR devotes 82 percent of its overall expenses towards its core programming and services. This includes purchasing programs, producing local programs and news and overall station operations.

8 Years – Leading independent non-profit evaluation group Charity Navigator has awarded KVPR / Valley Public Radio its highest ranking of Four Stars for eight consecutive years. Charity Navigator evaluates a nonprofit organization's financial health including measures of stability, efficiency and sustainability. They also track accountability and transparency policies to ensure the good governance and integrity of the organization.

Mental Health & Law Enforcement: A two-part series exploring the link between the Bakersfield Police Department's policies and practices on the use of force, and the department's interactions with people experiencing mental health and/or intoxication.

Water & Drought: From entire communities running out of water, to others where the water remains unsafe to drink, to the issues facing farmers, KVPR's reporters have been covering the issues of drought and water up and down the valley.

Young Artists Spotlight

Performances from talented student musicians from soloists and chamber groups to a concert by the Bakersfield Youth Symphony Orchestra, including a world premier by Doug Davis, in memory of the late BYSO and Young Artists Spotlight alumnus Daniel Edwards.

Award-winning content: In 2022, KVPR won a National Edward R. Murrow Award, one of the highest honors in all of broadcast journalism. KVPR also won statewide or regional honors including, 3 Regional Edward R. Murrow Awards and 5 Golden Mike Awards.

Special Coverage: From the hearings of the January 6th House Select Committee to the war in Ukraine to the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, KVPR was there for you with special coverage of major events as they happened.

When you become a member of KVPR you're helping to make more moments like these possible. You not only help keep your favorite programs on the air, you make sure that EVERYONE in the valley has access to quality, fact-based news, information, classical music and more.

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KVPR to install 50 kW solar system at Clovis broadcast center

In an effort to reduce the station's carbon footprint and save money amid rising utility rates, KVPR has announced plans to go solar. In early 2023, the station plans to begin construction on an estimated 50kW photovoltaic array, to be located on the roof of the station's broadcast center.

According to estimates, the system is expected to produce power that is close to half of the annual usage of the broadcast center.

"This project has been a long time coming," said KVPR General Manager Joe Moore. "We began work on this back in 2019, for a system that would have been almost twice this size, getting us close to generating 100 percent of our usage from solar. That system would have been installed on a shade structure in the parking lot parcel we own in front of our building."

However, opposition from a neighboring parcel owner derailed that plan. "Unfortunately, not everyone is as committed to solar and sustainability," said Moore. "We even offered to relocate the solar array further away from the property in question, but we met continued opposition and legal threats. We are dedicated to being a good neighbor and also don't believe a costly and protracted legal battle is the best use of the funds our listeners invest in public radio, so rather than take this dispute to court, we looked for different solutions."

Ultimately the project was redesigned a third time and moved exclusively to the roof of the broadcast center. However, this change reduced the capacity of the system by close to 50 percent due to the lack of available roof space. "As a radio station, we have huge satellite antennas and other devices on the roof that take up a large amount of space. Likewise, tall parapet walls on the building's façade, (mandated by the city to screen the antennas and HVAC units from public view) also cast significant shadows, further reducing our available square footage for solar panels," said Moore.

"While the new system is smaller than we had hoped, it is a major step towards controlling our rising utility bills and reducing our environmental footprint. Thus far the station has raised about 60 percent of the cost of the solar project, which has an estimated budget of \$172,000." If you're interested in helping support this effort, please call the station to learn more at 559-862-2481 or email jmoore@kvpr.org.



Sunday Baroque moves to KVPR Classical

Same time. Different channel.

Listeners can now hear Sunday Baroque on KVPR Classical, the 24/7 classical music channel available on kvpr.org, the KVPR app, and on smart speakers. In Fresno and Clovis, you can also listen on HD Radio. Just tune your radio to 89.3 FM channel HD2.

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SUNDAY
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Esther Quintanilla



Joshua Yeager

KVPR welcomes two reporters to news department

Joshua Yeager covers Kern County & Esther Quintanilla covers diverse communities

KVPR's news department recently welcomed two new reporters to the station's award-winning news department, Esther Quintanilla and Joshua Yeager. Both have valley roots and bring their local insights and knowledge to their jobs, reporting on the people and issues of the San Joaquin Valley.

Esther Quintanilla grew up in Bakersfield and attended UC Merced, where she received a degree in English Literature. She went on to continue her studies at the University of Southern California where she graduated with a Masters Degree in journalism. At KVPR, Esther covers issues related to the valley's

diverse communities, and is the primary reporter for KVPR's participation in the Central Valley Journalism Collaborative, a partnership with Radio Bilingue and the Fresno Bee.

Joshua Yeager is KVPR's first reporter based in Kern County. He is also a Report for America Corps Member. Report For America is a nationwide non-profit that helps local newsrooms expand their coverage by helping to fund a portion of new local reporting positions. Joshua is a Tulare native, and studied journalism at UC Irvine. Before joining KVPR, he was a reporter for the Visalia Times-Delta, where he covered local government and the pandemic.

Brittany Luse is the new host of *It's Been a Minute*

After an extensive search and a collaborative feedback process with NPR's network of Member stations, *It's Been a Minute* has a new host. Brittany Luse, who is best known for hosting the podcasts *For Colored Nerds* and *The Nod*, took over the mic on October 7th.

"Over the past five years, *It's Been a Minute* has become a mainstay for listeners trying to make sense of an increasingly unpredictable cultural landscape," said Luse. "I'm honored to join such a dedicated team as host, and excited to learn and grow alongside *It's Been a Minute's* devoted and responsive listeners. I've spent the entirety of my eight-year hosting career helping audiences to connect the dots between culture and current events, and I look forward to continuing and expanding that work at my new home."

Executive Producer Veralyn Williams said, "The beauty of *It's Been a Minute* over the years was getting to spend time with Sam Sanders, someone who asks deep questions about our culture and unavoidable news. So, finding someone like Brittany – who could step into *It's Been a Minute's* solid foundation, while also making us want to lean into her unique curiosities about everything

from finding love on reality TV to the gender politics of fringe online communities – is what I can only describe as public radio magic. For the past eight years, I've listened to Brittany's work on *For Colored*

Nerds and on *The Nod*, and I've relied on her wit, brilliance

and charm to help me make sense of an increasingly bizarre pop cultural landscape. And now, I am so excited we get to hear her every week on an NPR staple."

"Brittany is one of the most exciting—and essential—voices in pop culture podcasting," said VP of Programming and New Content Development Yolanda Sangweni. "She brings deep curiosity, empathy, and joy to the mic and to her storytelling. We are beyond thrilled to be re-imagining *It's Been a Minute* with Brittany at the helm."

Brittany Luse is an award-winning journalist, on-air host, and cultural critic. Most recently, she has been co-hosting the podcast *For Colored Nerds*. Previously Brittany hosted *The Nod* and *Sampler* podcasts, and co-hosted and executive produced *The Nod* with Brittany and Eric, a daily streaming show. She's written for *Vulture* and *Harper's Bazaar*, among others, and edited for the podcasts *Planet Money* and *Not Past It*. Brittany and her work have been profiled by publications like *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Vulture*, and *Teen Vogue*.

About *It's Been a Minute*

Each week, *It's Been a Minute* features people in the culture who deserve your attention. Plus weekly wraps of the news with journalists in the know. Join us to make sense of the world through conversation. Listen Saturdays at 4pm on KVPR.





Tracy Dominguez created a memorial to her daughter Demi Dominguez and grandson Malakhi De Leon in the living room of her Bakersfield home. Both Demi and Malakhi died in April 2019.
KERRY KLEIN/KVPR

A Bakersfield family lost a daughter and grandson in one day. They turned their pain into advocacy

BY KERRY KLEIN

After her daughter and grandson died following what the Medical Board of California alleged to be negligent care from a Bakersfield OB-GYN, Tracy Dominguez embarked on a crusade to reform the agency and prevent other patients from experiencing similar tragedies.

In April 2019, 23-year-old Demi Dominguez and her baby boy, Malakhi, died at Mercy Southwest Hospital in Bakersfield.

Dr. Arthur Park, an on-call obstetrician, missed the signs of the severe condition preeclampsia, according to allegations from the Medical Board of California, the state agency that licenses and disciplines doctors. Preeclampsia is one of the most common causes of

maternal deaths, though research suggests more than half of those deaths are preventable.

By the time Park saw Demi, the medical board had already investigated him for negligence following the deaths of two babies. After Demi's death, the medical board accused him of negligence two more times. Following two of those accusations, the medical board revoked his license, then stayed the revocation and

placed him on probation. He ultimately surrendered his medical license in late 2021.

KVPR attempted to talk with Dr. Park, reaching out to him by phone, email and certified letter, and although he submitted a statement by email he declined to be interviewed for this series. He did not respond to specific questions about Demi or any other patients.

Long before he surrendered his license, however, Demi's mother, Tracy Dominguez, was struggling. Losing Demi and Malakhi on the same day was all too much.

"I was literally crawling, crawling to wash my face, crawling to get dressed," she said. "I don't think I even could get dressed the first week or two, I think my family members had to help me."

She quit her job, and struggled to be present with her three other children and 10 grandkids.

What eventually helped Tracy off the floor was creating a memorial to Demi at her home in Bakersfield. A whole corner of her living room is devoted to photo albums,

letters and bright display cases full of mementos from Demi's life. Front and center is the blue, butterfly-shaped urn containing Demi and Malakhi's ashes, as well as the coins, feathers and other tokens Tracy finds that remind her of them.

What really got Tracy back on her feet, however, was the anger: anger at Park, and at the hospital where he'd had admitting privileges that day the medical board alleges he had missed Demi's severe symptoms. She was also angry that the medical board, an agency tasked with disciplining doctors and protecting patients, allowed Park to stay in practice for decades.

Tracy turned all of this raw emotion into a thirst for change.

"It became how I survived, so it literally made me get up and deal with stuff because I could have just died in the bed," she said.



Tracy Dominguez's living room features photos, mementos, feathers and other keepsakes to remind her of Demi. The blue butterfly on the top shelf of the display case is an urn containing Demi and Malakhi's ashes.

KERRY KLEIN/KVPR

Tracy's advocacy work has made an impact

Tracy has never stopped moving since. There was a letter-writing campaign to revoke Park's license. She hounded the medical board to investigate him, wrote to the media about her daughter, testified at legislative hearings about inadequacies at the medical board, and got involved in a campaign to increase the financial settlements patients can receive from malpractice lawsuits.

Since then, the state launched two investigations related to Demi's death, resulting not just in a medical board accusation of Park's negligence in 2021, but also a finding from the state public health department that the hospital where he had been practicing that day had failed to follow its own preeclampsia protocols.

Tracy also inspired at least one bill to reform the medical board. That bill, introduced in February by state Sen. Melissa Hurtado, aimed to improve the agency's transparency to the public and the capabilities of its medical investigators. Though the bill ultimately died in the state Senate, Hurtado credits Tracy with first drawing her attention to the agency. Tracy had posted a video about her daughter's death on Instagram and tagged the legislator.

"It just touched me," Hurtado said, and within days she said she called up Tracy and opened up a line of communication. "Tracy really just opened up my eyes and a lot more people just started coming forward... about how many different challenges people have faced

because of the medical board, or they don't feel that the medical board is doing enough."

The campaign to increase malpractice settlements also scored a victory. In May, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law a bill to reform the state law that had limited those settlements for more than 40 years.

In an emailed statement, a representative of Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gómez Reyes, one of the lawmakers who introduced that bill, said that patient advocates like Tracy "served a vital role in bringing this piece of legislation forward...especially when testifying in committee about the significant importance of passing this legislation."

Tracy also spurred Eserick "TJ" Watkins, who serves on the medical board, to speak out to other board leadership and the public about his beliefs that the agency doesn't do enough to protect patients. He first heard Tracy's testimony during a public meeting.

"Sometimes, it's a way a mother speaks that doesn't leave you, a mother that lost something," he said. "Here she comes as a cautionary tale of what we are aiding and abetting in her hurt and her pain...It was very powerful."

Tracy isn't working alone

Tracy is too humble to take credit for her successes, but Michele Monserratt-Ramos is happy to give it to her.

"She's never said no. She's never said I can't. She's never said I don't have time," said Monserratt-Ramos, a long-time patient advocate with the nonprofit Consumer Watchdog who spearheaded many of these advocacy efforts and helped Tracy to find her voice. "As I tell her all the time now, she is a healthcare leader in Kern County."

Monserratt-Ramos, too, was pushed toward patient advocacy by medical tragedy. Two decades ago, her fiancé died following an operation from a surgeon who had a history of substance abuse.

Tracy and Monserratt-Ramos aren't working alone. They've also partnered up with Demi's fiancé, Xavier De Leon, and his mother, Monique Himes.

Together, their story also reached Kern County leadership. During a Board of Supervisors meeting, the four of them as well as the mother of another young woman who died during childbirth appeared alongside Supervisor Leticia Perez as she proclaimed May 2022 to be Latina Maternal Mortality Awareness Month.



Kern County Supervisor Leticia Perez, right, wiped her eyes during a May 10 public meeting as Tracy, front left, described how Demi and Malakhi died. Perez proclaimed this May as Latina Maternal Mortality Awareness Month in Kern County.

KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS YOUTUBE PAGE

"I want to say thank you for what you do to bring education, awareness and healthier homes to Kern County," Perez said during a meeting on May 10, which is celebrated as Mother's Day in Mexico and parts of Central America.

Kern County has one of the highest infant mortality rates in California and mothers die at a higher rate during pregnancy and childbirth in the San Joaquin Valley than in any other region of the state.

Tracy and Demi inspired others to speak out

Angie Ortiz said Tracy has been an inspiration. Her daughter Celeste Ortiz, another one of Park's patients, died of postpartum hemorrhage in 2016, according to medical board documents. The case prompted the medical board's second accusation of gross negligence against Park and led the agency to revoke his license, then stay the revocation and place him on probation.

"She has always been so easy to share my story with," Angie wrote in a text message. "I'm so grateful for her and all her hard work she has done going after Dr. Park."

Additionally, a half a dozen current and former patients of Park reached out to KVPR after it published previous stories about the medical board's investigation into Demi's death. Several specifically cited Tracy's advocacy as a motivating factor.

Despite her successes, Tracy's work isn't over. She, along with Himes and De Leon, founded a nonprofit to serve expecting moms called Save a Mom, Save a Family, and she's hoping to create scholarships at the high school and university that Demi attended.

She's also continuing her work to reform the system that allowed Park to stay in practice. State law allows him to reapply for his medical license in January 2025, and Tracy says she'll do everything to prevent that from happening.

"He's not going to get rid of me. The medical board is not going to get rid of me," she said. "I will speak her story till I die."

This story is part of 'Moms and Babies at Risk', an investigation into why rates of pregnancy-related deaths are so high in Kern County. Read all four stories at kvpr.org/momsandbabies.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Find more events at kvpr.org

DECEMBER

THEATRE/DANCE

- Thru 18** **The Sound of Music**
Golden Chain Theatre, 42130 Hwy 41, Oakhurst. goldenchaintheatre.org
- Thru 23** **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**
2nd Space Theatre, 928 E. Olive Ave., Fresno gcplayers.com
- Thru 1/8** **Disney's Beauty and The Beast**
Roger Rocka's Dinner Theatre, 1226 N. Wishon Ave., Fresno rogerrockas.com
- 2-17** **Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)**
Encore Theatre Company, 324 South N Street, Tulare encoretulare.org
- 2-18** **The Gifts of the Magi**
Stars Playhouse, 2756 Mosasco Street, Bakersfield. bmtstars.com
- 2-23** **Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn**
Stars Theatre Restaurant, 1931 Chester Ave., Bakersfield bmtstars.com
- 10-11** **Central California Ballet: Nutcracker 2022**
Saroyan Theatre, 730 M Street, Fresno livelyarts.org

MUSIC

- 2** **Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra: Home for the Holidays**
Mechanics Bank Theater, 1001 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield bsonow.org
- 2-3** **Sequoia Symphony: Home Alone in Concert**
Visalia Fox Theater, 308 W. Main Street. sequoiasymphonyorchestra.com
- 3** **Samantha Fish & Jesse Dayton**
World Records, 2815 F Street, Bakersfield shopworldrecords.com
- 4** **Fresno Pacific University: A Festival of Lessons & Carols**
First Congregational Church of Fresno, 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd. fresno.edu/music
- 17** **Fresno Philharmonic: Home for the Holidays**
Saroyan Theatre, 730 M Street, Fresno fresnophil.org

EVENTS/EXHIBITS

- Thru 1/22** **IllumiNature**
Fresno Chaffee Zoo, 894 W. Belmont Ave. fresnochaffeezoo.org
- Thru 12/24** **HolidayLights at CALM**
CALM Zoo, 10500 Alfred Harrell Hwy, Bakersfield. calmzoo.org
- 3** **Martinis & Mistletoe**
Fresno Art Museum, 2233 North First Street. fresnoartmuseum.org
- 10** **Holiday Reception**
A Sense of Place Fine Art Gallery, 2003 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno . . asenseofplacefineart.com
- 19** **Cults & Classics: A Christmas Carol**
Bakersfield Fox Theater, 2001 H Street thebakersfieldfox.com

THEATRE/DANCE

10-15 Dear Evan Hansen
 Saroyan Theatre, 730 M Street, Fresno fresno.broadway.com

MUSIC

8 Philip Lorenz Keyboard Concerts: Anne-Marie McDermott
 Fresno State Concert Hall, 2380 E. Keats Ave. keyboardconcerts.com

22 Fresno Philharmonic: Bird Tales
 Saroyan Theatre, 730 M Street, Fresno fresnophil.org

EVENTS/EXHIBITS

1 Sierra Foothill Conservancy: New Years Resolution Series – Vernal Pool Hike!
 McKenzie Table Mountain Preserve, 22477 Auberry Road, Clovis. sierrafoothill.org

7 Probation Auxiliary County of Kern: 33rd Annual 5K-10K Fog Run
 6299 Lake Ming Road, Bakersfield. runsignup.com/Race/CA/LakeMing/FogRun

18 San Joaquin Valley Town Hall: Thomas L. Friedman
 Saroyan Theatre, 730 M Street, Fresno valleytownhall.com

19 Distinguished Speaker Series: Evan Austin
 Bakersfield College, 1801 Panorama Drive bakersfieldcollege.edu

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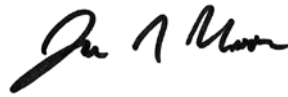
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44 year history. This October, KVPR was awarded one of the highest honors in all of broadcast journalism, the National Edward R. Murrow Award. Reporter Soreath Hok's investigative report on how school districts gamed student attendance figures during the pandemic was a powerful example of the best of local broadcast journalism. It's an example of the very values that Edward R. Murrow exemplified through his work and we are proud to help continue his legacy today.

As we prepare to enter a new year, we don't know what the future will hold, but I know with YOUR help, we will

be there, alongside our partners at NPR, to bring you the news and information you rely on. Please help support the station by renewing your membership or by making a year-end gift. We are so grateful for your support and investment.



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