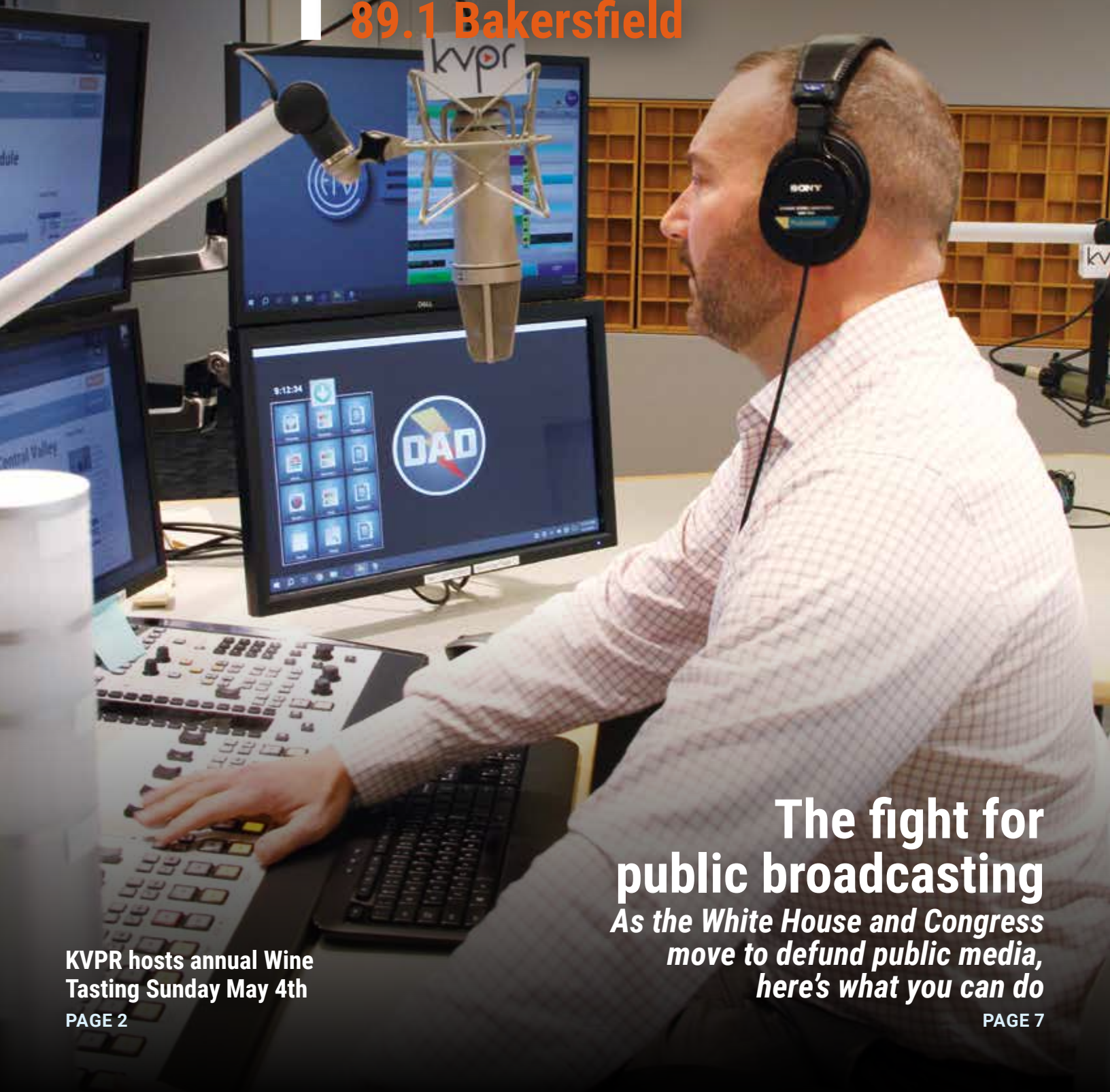




Summer • 2025

89.3 Fresno  
89.1 Bakersfield



**The fight for  
public broadcasting**  
*As the White House and Congress  
move to defund public media,  
here's what you can do*

**KVPR hosts annual Wine  
Tasting Sunday May 4th**

PAGE 2

PAGE 7



2 0 2 5

# LET'S RAISE A GLASS!

WINE TASTING • LOCAL CRAFT BREWS  
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SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025  
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# Young Artists Spotlight returns for 2025

**Saturday nights at 9:00 PM on KVPR**

This year, KVPR's acclaimed series Young Artists Spotlight goes to the concert hall, with a season featuring recorded concert performances from the Central Valley's top student ensembles. Listen in and hear why the future of classical music in the San Joaquin Valley is especially bright. KVPR's David Aus hosts the local series and podcast.

From the stages of Fresno and Bakersfield, to Disney Hall in Los Angeles, we'll hear talented student groups live in the spotlight. This year's season features performances by the Bakersfield Youth Symphony Orchestra, the California State University Bakersfield Concert Band, the FOOSA Festival/Fresno Summer Orchestra Academy and the Youth Orchestras of Fresno. Join us for the broadcast series on KVPR Saturday nights at 9:00 PM through May 24th and online at KVPR.org/YAS.

**Support for Young Artists Spotlight on KVPR comes from the Bonner Family Foundation.**



## 2025 Broadcast & Podcast Season:

Saturday April 5, 2025, 9pm: **Bakersfield Youth Symphony Orchestra**, June 2024 Concert

Saturday April 12, 2025, 9pm: **Bakersfield Youth Symphony Orchestra**, November 2024 Concert

\*Saturday, April 19, 2025, 9pm: **Fresno Philharmonic** - Brahms and Tabla

Saturday April 26, 2025, 9pm: **California State University Bakersfield Concert Band**, Fall 2024 Concert

Saturday May 3, 2025, 9pm: **The FOOSA Festival/Fresno Summer Orchestra Academy**, Scriabin Poem of Ecstasy, Shostakovich 11

Saturday May 10, 2025, 9pm: **The FOOSA Festival/Fresno Summer Orchestra Academy**, Bloch, Lyapunov, Mahler 5

Saturday May 17, 2025, 9pm: **Youth Orchestras of Fresno**, Ruggero Leoncavallo: Pagliacci

Saturday May 24, 2025, 9pm: **Youth Orchestras of Fresno**, George Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue* French pianist, Jean-Baptiste Doulcet; Overture, Toot Toot Tootie Toot (Dance of the Reed-Pipes), Peanut Brittle Brigade (March), Sugar Rum Cherry (Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy), Entr'acte, The Volga Vouty (Russian Dance), Chinoiserie (Chinese Dance), Danse Of The Floreadores (Waltz Of The Flowers), and Arabesque Cookies (Arabian Dance).

ON THE COVER: Justin Sacher in studio behind the mic

Summer • 2025  
Volume 47, Number 1



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## MUSIC

**FRESNO PHILHARMONIC** Hear recordings of the Fresno Philharmonic's 2024-25 Masterworks series following each live concert. Select Saturdays at 9 p.m.

**PERFORMANCE TODAY WEEKEND** Live concert recordings that can't be heard anywhere else, and highlights from new classical releases. Saturdays at 9 p.m.

**SUNDAY NIGHT JAZZ** KVPR's David Aus presents jazz classics and new recordings. Sundays at 9 p.m.

## NEWS & 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 9 to 11 a.m.

**ALL THINGS CONSIDERED** Newsmagazine from NPR. Weekdays 3:30 to 6 p.m. Weekends 5 to 6 p.m.

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

**THE CALIFORNIA REPORT** This statewide newscast is heard weekday mornings at 6:51 and 8:51 a.m. The California Report Magazine, a half-hour news magazine program, is heard Fridays at 8 p.m.

**FRESH AIR WEEKEND** Hosted by Peabody Award-winning Terry Gross. Saturdays at 7 p.m.

**HERE AND NOW** News and features from NPR and WBUR in Boston. Mondays through Thursdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**LEFT, RIGHT & CENTER** A fast-paced hour of smart, witty, and serious talk that takes on the week's front-page issues. Saturdays at 2 p.m.

**LATINO USA** Hosted by Maria Hinojosa. English language news and culture program from a Latino perspective. Wednesdays at 9 p.m. and Saturdays at 3 p.m.

**MARKETPLACE** Business news with host Kai Ryssdal. Weekdays at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

**MORNING EDITION** National and international news from NPR. Weekdays from 3 to 9 a.m.

**ON POINT** Host Meghna Chakrabarti leads provocative conversations that help make sense of the world. Weekdays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

**OPEN TO DEBATE** Global thought-leaders challenge conventional wisdom and each other on a range of topics. Sundays at 8 p.m.

**REVEAL** Produced by the Center for investigative Reporting, Reveal goes deep into the pressing issues of our time. Hosted by Al Letson. Saturdays at 4 p.m.; Mondays at 8 p.m.

**SCIENCE FRIDAY** with Ira Flatow. Talk about science and the environment. Fridays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; rebroadcast 9 to 11 p.m.

**TODAY EXPLAINED** Hosts Noel King and Sean Rameswaram take on one essential news story that defines our moment, and bring listeners the context they need to understand it. Weekdays at 6:30 p.m.

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

**STAR DATE** Radio's guide to the universe. This 2-minute segment can be heard weekdays at 5:19 a.m.

## TALK & ENTERTAINMENT

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

**FREAKONOMICS** Host Stephen J. Dubner uses an economic lens to explore the hidden side of everything. Tuesdays at 9 p.m.; Sundays at 11 a.m.

**HIDDEN BRAIN** Explore the forces that drive human behavior with host Shankar Vedantam. Saturdays at 10 a.m.; Mondays at 9 p.m.

**PRX REMIX** A creative showcase for the best documentaries, stories, and audio pieces from indie producers and new voices. 10 p.m. to midnight Monday-Thursday; 11 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday.

**THE MOTH** True stories told live, from professional and amateur storytellers based in New York. Saturdays at noon; Sundays at 7 p.m.

**THE PULSE** Stories from the intersection of health and science. Hosted by Maiken Scott. Thursdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m.

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

**TED RADIO HOUR** Innovative ideas from the world's top thinkers. Tuesdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 4 p.m.

**THIS AMERICAN LIFE** Hosted by Ira Glass. Themed stories with a unique focus on our everyday experiences. Wednesdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at noon.

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

**UNEXPECTED ELEMENTS** From the BBC, Unexpected Elements looks beyond everyday narratives to discover a goldmine of scientific stories and connections. Thursdays at 9 p.m.

**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 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Sundays at 10 a.m.

**WITH GOOD REASON** Exciting discoveries, rigorous debates, and new knowledge, with host Sarah McConnell guiding the conversation. Fridays at 8:30 p.m.

## KVPR CLASSICAL

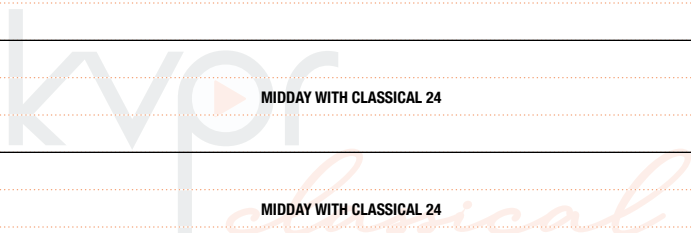
**CLASSICAL 24** Timeless classical music. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year on KVPR Classical 89.1 HD-2, 89.3 HD-2.

**SUNDAY BAROQUE** This program celebrates the current wealth of recorded Baroque music. Now on KVPR Classical, Sundays 9 a.m. to noon.

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

# SUMMER 2025 AUDIOWEEK

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
12 am								12 am
1 am								1 am
2 am	BBC WORLD SERVICE							2 am
3 am								3 am
4 am								4 am
5 am								5 am
6 am	MORNING EDITION							6 am
7 am	WEEKEND EDITION SUNDAY						WEEKEND EDITION SATURDAY	7 am
8 am								8 am
9 am								9 am
10 am	WAIT WAIT...DON'T TELL ME	1A					HIDDEN BRAIN	10 am
11 am	FREAKONOMICS	HERE AND NOW				SCIENCE FRIDAY	WAIT WAIT...DON'T TELL ME	11 am
Noon	THIS AMERICAN LIFE						THE MOTH	Noon
1 pm	BBC NEWSHOURL	BBC NEWSHOURL					BBC NEWSHOURL	1 pm
2 pm	THE PULSE	ON POINT					LEFT, RIGHT & CENTER	2 pm
3 pm	SPLENDID TABLE	MARKETPLACE						3 pm
4 pm	TED RADIO HOUR	ALL THINGS CONSIDERED					LATINO USA	4 pm
5 pm	ALL THINGS CONSIDERED						REVEAL	5 pm
6 pm		MARKETPLACE					ALL THINGS CONSIDERED	6 pm
7 pm	THE ARTS HOUR	TODAY, EXPLAINED					WAIT WAIT...DON'T TELL ME	7 pm
8 pm	THE MOTH RADIO HOUR	ON POINT					FRESH AIR WEEKEND	8 pm
9 pm	OPEN TO DEBATE	REVEAL	TED RADIO HOUR	THIS AMERICAN LIFE	THE PULSE	CALIF. REPORT MAGAZINE WITH GOOD REASON	TRAVEL WITH RICK STEVES	9 pm
10 pm		HIDDEN BRAIN	FREAKONOMICS	LATINO USA	UNEXPECTED ELEMENTS	SCIENCE FRIDAY	PERFORMANCE TODAY WEEKEND	10 pm
11 pm	SUNDAY NIGHT JAZZ							11 pm
	PRX REMIX							

	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								6 am
7 am	MORNINGS WITH CLASSICAL 24							7 am
8 am								8 am
9 am								9 am
10 am	SUNDAY BAROQUE						10 am	
11 am							MIDDAY WITH CLASSICAL 24	11 am
Noon								Noon
1 pm	MIDDAY WITH CLASSICAL 24							1 pm
2 pm								2 pm
3 pm								3 pm
4 pm	EVENINGS WITH CLASSICAL 24							4 pm
5 pm								5 pm
6 pm								6 pm
7 pm	EVENINGS WITH CLASSICAL 24							7 pm
8 pm								8 pm
9 pm								9 pm
10 pm	CLASSICAL 24 OVERNIGHT							10 pm
11 pm								11 pm

# KVPR announces new Director of Radio

**Elizabeth Arakelian to supervise KVPR's broadcast and digital radio programming.**

(CLOVIS, CA) – KVPR is pleased to announce the station's new Director of Radio, Elizabeth Arakelian. This new role will have her responsible for KVPR's broadcast and digital radio programs and podcasts. In addition to this new position, she'll continue to host KVPR's local news podcast *Central Valley Daily*, which is published every weekday morning. Her new role officially began April 1.

For the last two years, Arakelian has hosted the station's flagship morning news show, *Morning Edition*. Arakelian joined KVPR in 2021, originally hosting local broadcasts of NPR's afternoon news program, *All Things Considered*. She has an extensive journalism and media analytics background, which includes stints with the *Turlock Journal* and CNBC in New York City. Subsequently, she worked in higher education as a public relations professional upon her return to California. She earned her bachelor's degree in English language literatures from UC Santa Cruz, and received a master's degree in journalism from New York University.

A native of Turlock, Arakelian brings with her a deep understanding of the Central Valley, its people and communities, while her professional experience has equipped her to help guide this aspect of KVPR's radio offerings.

"We're really excited to welcome Elizabeth into this new leadership position at KVPR. Radio is the core of our business and our service to the community. With her background in journalism, analytics and media presentation, she is a great fit for this role," said KVPR President & General Manager Joe Moore. "Liz is well positioned to help advance KVPR's mission to bring

listeners across our region voices and sounds that inform and inspire."

"It's been a privilege to deliver the news to our listeners as a host, and I'm excited to serve our audience in a more strategic role as Director of Radio," said Arakelian. "I'm also happy to remain involved in our daily news operations as I'll keep hosting the *Central Valley Daily* podcast. KVPR is such a valuable resource for the San Joaquin Valley and we've seen great community engagement and growth in recent years. I'm looking forward to helping keep our momentum going in this new role."

## About KVPR

KVPR (Valley Public Radio) is Central California's NPR station, providing news and information from around the world and here locally in the Valley, with acclaimed public radio programs like NPR's *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, and KVPR's own *Central Valley Daily* podcast. KVPR's broadcast signal serves residents in Fresno, Kern, Tulare, Kings, Madera, Merced and Mariposa counties, and can be heard on 89.3 in Fresno and 89.1 in Bakersfield. The station also operates KVPR Classical, a 24/7 classical music channel broadcasting on 89.3 HD-2 in Fresno and 89.1 HD-2 in Bakersfield. Both stations can be heard online at KVPR.org, on the KVPR app, smart speakers, and other connected devices.



# Public broadcasting is at risk. What it means for KVPR.

BY JOE MOORE, PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER, KVPR

**As the White House and Congress move to defund public media, you can help protect KVPR**

After a raucous House DOGE subcommittee hearing where chair Marjorie Taylor Greene called NPR and PBS stations “Anti-American” and “Communist,” the White House is reportedly moving forward with President Trump’s pledge to defund America’s public radio and television stations.

Beginning on April 14, multiple media reports have indicated that the Trump administration is preparing to use a procedure known as “rescission” to request Congress repeal existing funding for The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). This proposed action represents a real threat to KVPR and all public broadcasting outlets. Once the memo is formally introduced to Congress, a vote on this request could happen at any time in the following 45 days.

## What would this mean for KVPR?

KVPR receives around \$175,000 a year in the form of a community service grant from CPB. That represents about 7 percent of our budget. The remaining 93 percent of station funding comes from private sources, including individual members, private foundations, corporate sponsors and fundraising events. Some stations in rural areas are more dependent on CPB funding. CPB also provides funding for the satellite system that connects stations, as well as for music rights and licensing agreements for stations. All of this funding is at risk.



## What would happen to KVPR if federal funding is repealed?

The loss of this funding would have a devastating impact on KVPR’s local broadcast service. To be clear, KVPR would NOT go off-the-air, or go out of business with the loss of federal funding. However, the cuts would significantly degrade KVPR’s service to the community. If Congress approves a rescission of CPB funding, KVPR would face a mix of the following:

- Cuts to KVPR’s local programming, music and journalism
- Changes to or elimination of national programs from NPR or other distributors
- Increased costs for broadcast and digital distribution technology

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social media influencers, podcasters and vloggers and churn out endless streams of content. However, these critics can't see the forest for the trees.

We need public media precisely because of these changes in our landscape. Across the country and here in the Valley, local news is in crisis. Our media landscape is flooded by individuals and outlets peddling misinformation and disinformation. The technological innovations hailed by Silicon Valley have not led Americans to be more informed or more engaged in their government and their communities, but rather less so.

In a landscape where a handful of billionaires control America's dominant commercial media outlets and platforms, can we trust them to put their interests aside in pursuit of accurate coverage? When hedge funds have gobbled up the remaining newspapers, who will be left to hold local officials accountable? Will AI, with its tendency to "hallucinate" and make up facts, really look out for the public interest? We need the trusted coverage of public radio for moments just like this one. Our democracy needs the editorial values of accuracy, honesty, fairness, integrity, transparency, accountability and respect, which lie at the core of the NPR's editorial guidelines.

- Increased reliance on individual donations to support core station operating expenses

### The future of public media is in your hands

As we face the potential imminent loss of federal funding, KVPR needs your help. The future of public media is in your hands. Fortunately, there are three things you can do today to help preserve and protect the public radio and television system we have today:

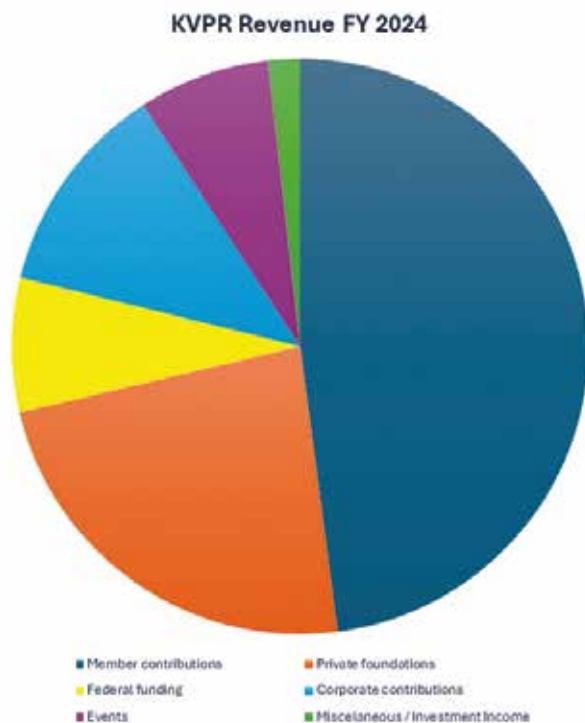
- Sign up at [ProtectMyPublicMedia.org](https://ProtectMyPublicMedia.org) to get updates on what's happening and to learn how you can contact your representatives to share your thoughts on public broadcasting funding.
- Donate to KVPR.
- Tell your friends and family about the threat to public media and let them know how they can help.

### We need public radio for moments like this

Critics of public media rightly point out that we live in a very different world than the one of 1967, when President Lyndon Johnson signed the law that created public broadcasting. They claim that America no longer needs the services of NPR and PBS when millions of

### Why should stations receive funding anyway?

Calls to end federal support for public media are not new. However, lawmakers of both parties, and





presidents from Richard Nixon to Ronald Reagan to Joe Biden have all approved funding for public broadcasting through the budgetary process. There is bipartisan support for local public media funding on Capitol Hill, and a new survey from Pew Research shows only 24 percent of Americans support defunding public media. Pew's survey indicates that only 44 percent of Republicans favor defunding. Still, public media has its critics. I'll be the first to admit that our system and our stations aren't perfect. However, there are strong arguments in favor of public funding that often go overlooked:

- 1) The free market doesn't always serve all public needs and interests. The non-profit sector exists to fill the gaps that are left where for-profit enterprises simply can't. From local and national news with depth and substance to classical music, KVPR serves listeners with a distinct service that is available to all for free, with no paywall.
- 2) Public media stations serve 99 percent of Americans, even areas that are otherwise news deserts. Stations like KVPR are the backbone of America's emergency alert warning system, and provide critical coverage that saves lives in emergencies and natural disasters.
- 3) Many critics say stations should survive without public support, just like commercial broadcasters. They forget that public media stations like KVPR are

## Three Things You Can Do To Help:

- 1) Visit [ProtectMyPublicMedia.org](https://ProtectMyPublicMedia.org) for updates and how to contact your representatives
- 2) Support KVPR at [KVPR.org/donate](https://KVPR.org/donate)
- 3) Tell your friends and family how they can help

non-profit broadcast licensees, and are prohibited by the federal law from selling advertising, which is the business model that supports all commercial broadcast stations.

For 47 years, KVPR has served the residents of Central California with voices and sounds that inform and inspire. **WE AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE.** But we need your help. This is a critical moment for KVPR and our entire public media system. Speak out and let your representatives in Congress know how you feel. Let your friends, associates and family know how they can advocate for public broadcasting. And help protect KVPR's service with a gift of support now at [KVPR.org/donate](https://KVPR.org/donate).



## KVPR REMEMBERS KRISTINA HERRICK

The KVPR family was saddened to learn of the passing of longtime classical music host Kristina Herrick this month.

From 1988 through her retirement in 2015, Kristina's voice was synonymous with KVPR. She served as the host of *Clearly Classical*, as well as her award-winning early music program *In the Mode*. Kristina was known for her careful curation of the station's on-air music presentation. Her encyclopedic knowledge of classical music, history and composers made her a unique resource that our audience and local musicians alike treasured.

We'll of course remember Kristina for her on-air talents, but those who knew her and worked with her will equally remember her vibrant enthusiasm for classical music, her quick wit, and her uncanny ability to connect with those super-fan listeners she often encountered.

All of us at KVPR wish her family, friends and loved ones the very best.

# Justin Sacher is KVPR's new local Morning Edition host

Hear Justin Sacher every weekday morning on KVPR 89.3 and 89.1

Justin Sacher is the newest member of KVPR's on-air team, but he's a familiar voice for many Valley residents. He has been on Fresno's airwaves since 2008. Now he's the new local host of NPR's *Morning Edition* on KVPR. Every weekday Justin will bring you the weather, local news updates and more, as the local voice of the nation's most listened-to news radio program.

A journalist and meteorologist, you've probably watched him anchor the weather or seen his news stories on CBS47. Prior to Fresno, Justin spent plenty of overnights tracking storms on live TV in the tornado alley cities of Des Moines, Iowa and Peoria, Illinois.

After graduating with a B.S. in journalism at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, his first on-air job was reporting news and anchoring weather at KECI-13 in Missoula, Montana. Justin remembers getting his Montana driver's license and seeing a moose near his car in the parking



lot. The moose was much larger than the car. Justin decided to spend more time in the DMV.

He recently furthered his weather and climate expertise by earning basic wildland firefighting and fire behavior certifications at Reedley College.

Justin joined the KVPR team in the summer of 2024 as a fill-in host for *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*.

Justin's interests include local history and architecture. He's a real estate agent and co-founder of Modernism in Fresno, a group that showcases overlooked notable building designs.

**morning  
edition**<sup>®</sup>  
NPR NEWS



# Valley beekeepers devastated by honeybee die-offs

BY KERRY KLEIN

**A honeybee research organization estimates as many as 1.6 million hives - more than half the country's cultivated honeybee population - died off this past winter.**



**F**RESNO, Calif. – Tens of thousands of bees are swarming over David Bradshaw's head. That's a good thing – he's a commercial beekeeper and broker, and the insects whizzing through the air are looking for a new place to build their hive.

There's "30,000, maybe," he said, nonchalantly. "They're trying to follow a queen to find out exactly where she went."

Bradshaw has been a commercial beekeeper for 50 years. His bees, which he keeps at his shady estate on the outskirts of Visalia, pollinate almonds, avocados, kiwis and olives. He also sells honey.

But, this past winter, something strange started happening at his bee boxes.

"You're expecting a lot of bee activity, bees flying in and out, collecting pollen, nectar—and there's no activity, and as you open the box, there's no bees," he said.

He found that some of his bees had deformed wings. Others were dead – or just gone.

"Pretty soon, it was just overwhelming," he said. "We just couldn't keep up with the amount of dead hives coming in."

Of the 1,800 hives he counted last fall, just 320 survived the winter.

"It's like, what did I do wrong? I'm a very bad steward of my bees. You know, it really hurts," he said.

But this didn't just happen to Bradshaw. This was the most deadly winter on record for commercial honeybees in the U.S.

These busy insects not only make honey, they also pollinate more than 100 fruits, vegetables and grains grown in the U.S., contributing to roughly \$18 billion dollars in agricultural revenue each year.

It's too early to tell what these losses will mean for ag, but beekeepers and others in the bee industry are poised to lose hundreds of millions of dollars.

"I haven't had anything like this happen to me in 20 years," Bradshaw said. "It's unprecedented."

## What happened?

Starting in January, beekeepers all over the country were calling bee scientists in a panic to report their sudden, massive colony losses, according to Danielle Downey, who runs a non-profit research organization called Project Apis m.

"It was like the bees were slipping through their fingers in days," said Downey, whose organization is named after *Apis mellifera*, a species of honeybee.

The group quickly pulled together a survey of beekeepers and received enough responses to account for the majority of the country's cultivated colonies. The results of the survey, published in February then confirmed earlier this month, showed that commercial

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beekeepers lost a “staggering” number of bees: **1.6 million hives – an average loss of 62% –** in just one season.

“These are the highest losses ever recorded,” she said.

These mass die-offs come nearly 20 years after the peak of another mysterious affliction that devastated bees: colony collapse disorder. Even today, scientists haven’t been able to identify a single cause of those losses. Research suggests pesticide exposure and a parasite known as Varroa mites could play a role.

The highest losses from that disorder occurred in 2006, but annual deaths of around 30% of commercial bees are still considered normal.

As for why that number was so much higher this year, Downey says researchers just don’t know yet.

“Is there potentially a new virus?” she said. Plus, “there’s resistance to the compounds that kill the mites, there’s always a concern about pesticide exposures.”

Scientists with the U.S. Department of Agriculture are analyzing samples of bees, larvae and honey, to try to figure out what happened. But Downey said the Trump administration’s cuts to the federal workforce have slowed this work down.

In February, the Trump White House ordered thousands of probationary employees to be fired from the USDA – orders that were echoed across many other federal agencies. In March, a federal board determined **the firings at the USDA specifically were illegal** and ordered those employees to be reinstated for at least 45 days.

Then, just this week, an appeals court ruled that the federal government **can, legally, fire probationary workers**. It’s unclear whether that ruling will supersede the previous one that purported to keep the USDA’s probationary workers employed until at least April 18.

“The USDA scientists that we work with on these things who have been heroically showing up to help us in this crisis – they’re in their own crisis, watching their friends get fired and worried for their own jobs,” Downey said.

Although a March news article from Cornell University suggested that bee experts in academia were stepping up to fill in gaps left behind by staffing cuts at the

federal agricultural department, the USDA itself didn’t answer questions about whether employees at its five Bee Labs were fired but did send KVPR a statement via email.

“USDA is aware of the unusual losses to our nation’s honey bee colonies and is concerned about its potential impact on food production and supply. USDA Agricultural Research Service scientists are working closely with federal partners, stakeholders, and impacted parties to identify the source of this agricultural challenge,” the statement reads.

### Long-term outlook remains unclear

“Even though most years are difficult, this year was exceptionally difficult,” said Dustin Reeder, a commercial beekeeper in the Tulare County community of Terra Bella.

Like David Bradshaw, Reeder is also a bee broker, coordinating the shipping of bee boxes from all over the country to pollinate California almonds and stone fruit before moving on to Washington apples and canola flowers in North Dakota.

Even with so many honeybee losses, Reeder says he has scrounged together all the bees his clients have needed so far. But the experience has been grueling.

“This year I was working at least 20 hours a day,” he said. “I was not able to come home at night. I stayed in my truck and I’d get a few hours of sleep and I’d keep going.”

Because most crops won’t be harvested for many more months, farmers and trade organizations say it’s too early to tell how these honeybee losses will affect agriculture.

But Project Apis m. estimates beekeepers alone could lose more than \$600 million.

“Collectively, these economic and biological hurdles will likely make it impossible for beekeepers to rebuild, pollinate, and produce a honey crop this year, which could have continued impacts on beekeeping operations and our nation’s produce supply,” reads a recent press release from the organization.



# KVPR adds another 'Golden Mike' award to its collection at 2025 ceremony

BY SAMANTHA RANGEL

The KVPR newsroom walked away with a prestigious Golden Mike Award at a gala in Los Angeles on Saturday. Hosted by the **Radio Television News Association of Southern California**, the annual event celebrated its 75th year of recognizing broadcast and digital journalism from San Diego to Fresno.

KVPR's award came in the investigative reporting category. The winning entry included the station's coverage of **the scandal surrounding the resignation of Fresno's police chief last June**. The series of stories delved behind the headlines to reveal that an elected official had tried to pressure at least one member of the Fresno city council to push the police chief to resign.

KVPR News Director Cresencio Rodriguez-Delgado said he is proud that the Golden Mikes recognized the station's ability to produce investigative reporting.

"The reporting that this award recognizes was not easy and it took many days and hours to put together. It was also done with rigorous editing and with our audiences in mind as we tried to explain a story of high public interest," he said. "The newsroom understands the mission of journalism and public media is to always keep audiences informed and interested in their own communities."

The award was in the "Division B" category, which is open to small radio station newsrooms. In past years, KVPR has won numerous awards for news and features that tackled some of the biggest stories in the San Joaquin Valley.

"We're very proud of the accomplishments of the KVPR news department in producing investigative journalism that serves the public interest," KVPR President and General Manager Joe Moore said. "The Golden Mikes honor excellence in broadcast journalism and we are grateful for this incredible recognition from our peers."

This year, KVPR was also a finalist in four other categories, including entertainment reporting, business and consumer reporting, and podcast news reporting.

You can find all 75th Golden Mike Award radio and broadcast winners here.

*This report was produced by Samantha Rangel as part of an internship program through Fresno State's Media, Communications and Journalism department.*





# KVPR hosts event with NPR White House Correspondent Tamara Keith

**A packed house came to Fresno City College to hear the former Hanford resident talk about covering the White House**

**K**VPR welcomed NPR's Senior White House Correspondent Tamara Keith to the Valley on February 26, 2025 for an event at Fresno City College's Old Administration Building. A capacity crowd filled the auditorium for the event, which featured a speech by Keith and a conversation moderated by KVPR's *Central Valley Daily* host Elizabeth Arakelian.

A regular on NPR stations nationwide, Keith also serves as a co-host of the NPR Politics Podcast, and from 2022-2023 was President of the White House Correspondents' Association.

Keith's Fresno speech talked about the challenges of covering the White House under different administrations. She also discussed current efforts by the Trump administration to block the Associated Press from access to the Oval Office, and to dictate the composition of the White House press pool, which has typically been the purview of the White House Correspondents' Association.

Keith grew up in Hanford and began her public radio career here as a teen essayist for NPR's *Weekend Edition*. She later covered Fresno and the Central Valley

for KQED's *The California Report*, where she was the Central Valley Bureau Chief. During her visit to the Valley, she also took time to meet with journalism students from Fresno City College and Fresno State, and delivered a talk to students at her alma mater, Hanford High School.

The event was sponsored by Petunia's Place bookstore, Fresno State's Institute for Media and Public Trust, The Maddy Institute, Fresno City College, The Central Valley Community Foundation and the Central Valley Journalism Collaborative.





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If you'd like to join these partners and invest in public radio, please contact Joe Garcia at (559) 862-2472 or [jgarcia@kvpr.org](mailto:jgarcia@kvpr.org) for more information on sponsorship opportunities and rates.



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# Public radio is at risk. Help protect it today.

Efforts are underway in Washington that would strip public radio and television of all federal funding. The resulting cuts would devastate the services of local stations like KVPR. The loss of federal funding would result in a \$175,000 shortfall in KVPR's budget. That's about 7 percent of the station's overall budget.

Congress must approve any repeal of federal funding for public broadcasting. Here's what you can do:

- 1) Sign up at [ProtectMyPublicMedia.org](http://ProtectMyPublicMedia.org) and contact your representatives.
- 2) Donate to KVPR at [KVPR.org/donate](http://KVPR.org/donate)
- 3) Tell your friends and family how they can help.

Your support can make a difference. Help protect KVPR and the programs you love.

