Wine Tasting returns
Sunday May 1
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Expanding local news coverage in Bakersfield
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KVPR partners with NPR's 1A
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KVPR launches ‘The Other California’ podcast
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Afer a two-year hiatus, KVPR’s largest fundraising event of the year is back Sunday, May 1st on the grounds of the riverside Lester Estate in Fresno. For over three decades, valley wine lovers have embraced this beloved event which benefits KVPR, while enjoying wines from dozens of wineries from across California.

“We are excited to bring this event back to the valley after being dark for two years,” said KVPR President and General Manager Joe Moore. “We know our guests are looking forward to being back together with old friends, while helping to support public radio and enjoying epicurean delights. This year we’ll be celebrating these reunions throughout our event.”

KVPR Development Director Joe Garcia is also looking forward to the return of this annual fundraiser. “It’s been great reconnecting with our vintner coordinator, Barry Bennett, and all of the volunteers and vendors who make this event such a fun day,” said Garcia. He noted, “Some of the elements of this 36th version of the event have changed, but we’re excited that this year’s guest experience will be better than ever.”

As in previous years, guests age 21 and older will enjoy an afternoon of tasting fine wines and delicious food on the lush, manicured grounds along the San Joaquin River, as well as live music from the Steve Ono band, a silent auction and raffle. All proceeds from the event will support KVPR.

While COVID-19 concerns led the station to cancel the 2020 and 2021 editions of the event, the wine tasting is now back. “As an outdoor event at a large venue with plenty of space for guests to roam, we’re confident our guests will enjoy the celebration safely,” said Moore. In addition to other changes on the event grounds like additional hand sanitizing stations, guests will be required to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result upon entry. Guests must also wear masks while riding in transportation on the way from the event entry point at Van Ness and Bluff Avenues to the Lester Estate at the river bottom.

The return of the wine tasting is also important to the station’s finances. “Typically this event generates a profit of around $80,000 for the station, so it’s been difficult to endure the last two years without that revenue,” said Moore. “We can’t wait to welcome people back and usher in the return of one of the valley’s most anticipated wine and food events, all while helping to support the news and music services KVPR brings to the San Joaquin Valley.”

Tickets for the 2022 KVPR Wine Tasting are $100, and are available for purchase at KVPR.org/wine.
NOTES FROM THE TOP
by Joe Moore, President & General Manager

life is often a series of beginnings and endings. I’d like to take the occasion of this letter to recognize the departure from our board one of our dearest leaders at KVPR long-time chairperson, David Parker. David and his wife, Connie, announced early this year they are relocating to Southern California, where David is taking a position as a workers’ compensation judge. We here at KVPR, and his colleagues on the station’s Board of Directors, will miss his steadfast leadership through especially challenging times.

David often shared with me he was a reluctant leader, but nonetheless answered the call becoming chairperson in 2014, after the sudden and unexpected death of our previous board chairperson, Ed Palacios. Unlike many, David didn’t seek the spotlight or choose to dictate a particular agenda. Instead, he found ways to help the station grow and thrive, and support the staff and management of KVPR to do their work to the fullest.

I know now why former General Manager and President Mariam Stepanian sought out his leadership and counsel, and the station is better off for it. He helped lead us through the completion of our broadcast center construction and fundraising, as well as Mariam’s passing and the pandemic.

We are incredibly happy for David and Connie as they embrace this new chapter of their lives, and know they will be missed by all of their friends in Fresno and Bakersfield, and throughout the San Joaquin Valley. We are honored to have our current Vice Chairperson Dr. Jay Center serve as acting chairperson for the remainder of this term, and continue the strong tradition of leadership that Ed and David brought to our organization.

While we are recognizing this departure, station staff are also busy working on many other beginnings. As you’ll read in this edition of KVPR Magazine, we are soon to launch an expanded local news presence in Kern County, with the addition of our first Bakersfield-based reporter thanks to our participation in the Report for America program. We are also excited to announce KVPR has been selected as one of a handful of stations nationwide to be a part of the 1A Remaking America program. Over the next few years, we’ll be working with the team from WAMU/NPR’s talk show 1A to bring stories and voices from the San Joaquin Valley to the national dialogue.

And finally, our team is hard at work to bring back the rich tradition of our station’s annual wine tasting. After a two-year hiatus the event will return Sunday May 1, 2022 at the Lester Estate in Fresno. As always, all proceeds will benefit KVPR and the programs you love and rely upon. We hope to see you there!

jmoore@kvpr.org • 559-862-2481

ON THE COVER: KVPR’s new podcast “The Other California.”
ARTWORK: EVA SILVERMAN
KVPR PROGRAMS

MUSIC

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

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA The weekly broadcasts offer a unique format that illustrates the fascinating stories found inside the music. Broadcasts are Tuesdays at 8pm.

CLASSICS ALL NIGHT with Peter Van De Graaff Host Peter Van De Graaff plays sweet and soothing selections for late night and early morning listening. Late nights & early mornings: weekdays until 3am; weekends until 5am.

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

CONCIERTO Classical music at KVPR.org and KVPR 89.3 HD-2 by composers and performers, presented in English and Spanish. Hosted by Frank Dominguez. Saturdays at 9pm.

EARLY MUSIC NOW Music from the Medieval, Renaissance and early Baroque eras. Sundays at noon.

JAZZ NIGHT IN AMERICA Host Christian McBride takes listeners on a tour of live jazz performances from today's top stars. Saturdays at 8pm.

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. Suzanne Bona hosts every Sunday from 9am to Noon.

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

THE THISTLE & SHAMROCK Host Fiona Ritchie's weekly program has become a gathering place on the radio for those that love music with Celtic roots. Sundays at 8pm.

WEEKEND CLASSICS Musical selections from KVPR.

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 to 6pm.

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. Monday-Thursday 1pm to 2pm. (NOTE: Forum is preempted by BBC Newshour until further notice to bring listeners the latest on the war in Ukraine.)

FRESH AIR WEEKEND Hosted by Peabody Award-winning Terry Gross. Sundays at 6pm.

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. The only national, English language news and culture program from a Latino perspective. Saturdays at 7pm.

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.

VALLEY EDITION Hear the issues that matter to Valley residents each week with a mix of in-depth reports, studio discussions and more. Valley Edition airs live on Fridays at 1pm, and is repeated Fridays 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 9am.

STAR DATE Weekdays at 6:19am, 2:58pm and 10:00pm.

TALK & ENTERTAINMENT

IT'S BEEN A MINUTE NPR brings us casual conversations about the connections: between pop culture and current events. Saturdays from 4pm-5pm.

MILK STREET RADIO Host Christopher Kimball explores the wide world of food. Saturdays at 10am.

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

RADIOLAB Radiolab believes your ears are a portal to another world, where sound illuminates ideas and the boundaries blur between science, philosophy and human experience. Mondays at 7pm.

TED RADIO HOUR Innovative ideas from the world's top thinkers. Sundays at 4pm and Fridays at 8pm.

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

THINK Host Krys Boyd brings us conversations about current events, culture, history, food, wine and the arts. From KERA. Weekdays at 2pm.

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 9am.

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.

Listen to our live audio streams online at KVPR.org or on your favorite connected device.
# SPRING 2022 AUDIOWEEK

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**CLASSICS ALL NIGHT WITH PETER VAN DE GRAAFF**

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**Daniel J. Keys**

**EPHEMERAL**

All pastel show March 12, 2022 to March 26, 2022

*Shakespeare’s 23rd sonnet:*

So long as men can breath or eyes can see,
So long lives this and this gives life to thee.

A Sense of Place fine art gallery
2003 N Van Ness Blvd, Fresno, CA 93704
559-392-6775 www.ASenseofPlacefineart.com

CrimsonGlow, pastel/ 18 x 12
KVPR launches ‘The Other California’ podcast

The Other California tells small town stories of the San Joaquin Valley and the people who live there. Season One begins March 18.

San Joaquin Valley native and author and historian Gerald Haslam spent most of his career chronicling life in the Valley – celebrating its vibrant communities but never overlooking its warts.

“It harbors no movie stars, no beaches, no redwoods, but has an abundance of tenacious people of all colors, as well as miles and miles of farm and ranch land, rich oil fields, and communities churning with desperation, joy, passion, and hope, or the hope of hope,” he wrote in “Haslam’s Valley.” “Pretty? Not generally. Rich? For a few. Interesting? Oh yeah.”

KVPR draws the name of its newest podcast from the title of one of Haslam’s many books: The Other California: The Great Central Valley in Life and Letters.

In KVPR’s The Other California, host Alice Daniel takes us into small rural towns throughout the San Joaquin Valley, and introduces us to the people who make them what they are.

For many Californians, these towns might not be more than a sign on a freeway exit off of Highway 99 or Interstate 5, but they’re home to
incredible stories of community, family, and overcoming obstacles that are an important piece of the California story. The podcast will explore themes like immigration, identity, and what makes these communities special to those who live there.

“We’re taking the listener to a place they may have driven through but don’t know anything about,” said Daniel, who also serves as KVPR’s News Director. “After they hear the podcast, we want them to have a different perspective that will inspire them to be more curious, more tolerant, more open-minded about the world.”

The podcast begins with Daniel’s own valley origin story and an interview with the late Haslam himself – he died last year at the age of 84 – where he explains what he means by “The Other California.” In the episodes that follow, listeners will visit six towns in six different counties: Woodlake, Chowchilla, Avenal, Taft, Huron, and Livingston.

These are towns molded by California’s pervasive desire to reshape the landscape in the quest for a new economy – be it gold, agriculture, oil, prisons, weed or warehouses. Episodes will look at each place from various angles including the town’s economy, history, local changemakers, traditional arts and youth. The entire KVPR news team is involved in reporting this project.

“We’re thankful for the support of Cal Humanities for making this podcast possible,” said Alex Burke, KVPR’s Content Director. “Their generous grant has allowed us to take a deeper dive into exploring the diverse and often overlooked histories of our valley, and bring those stories to an ever wider audience.”

In addition to the podcast, snippets of The Other California and will be featured on KVPR’s newsmagazine Valley Edition, and during local broadcasts of Morning Edition.

The first episode of The Other California debuts March 18. Find it at KVPR.org, or wherever you listen to podcasts.

This project was made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit www.calhum.org.
Climate change resilience begins with water, say these UC ag researchers

BY KERRY KLEIN – KVPR

They're optimistic that increasing ag's resilience to a changing climate can also improve its relationship with the environment.

On the rare day it rains in western Fresno County, the soils in Jeffrey Mitchell's experimental fields soak up the water like a sponge. "The water disappears within less than a minute, even for four inches of water," he said, laughing.

Mitchell is a cropping systems specialist with the University of California Cooperative Extension. His quick-absorbing soils keep the rainfall from pooling and overflowing, like it does in many surrounding fields. "There's the risk of that water evaporating if it stays there long enough," he said, "and even more serious, perhaps, is that the water wouldn't even infiltrate into the field at all and it would just simply run off and go out eventually into the ocean."

Mitchell's water-efficient soils are the product of more than two decades of research into regenerative agricultural practices. Since the late 1990s, he's rotated eight acres of farmland through tomatoes, cotton, chickpeas and melons, all while planting cover crops such as grains and grasses between the rows of cash crops.

Along with other soil health practices—including no-till farming, which involves minimal soil disturbance—Mitchell's research has shown that cover crops impart
a wealth of benefits, including “increased infiltration, cooling the soil, reducing evaporation directly from soil, and having water actually go through the plant in what’s called transpiration rather than just being a loss through soil-water evaporation,” he said.

At some soil depths, cover crops can even boost carbon storage, all without a significant increase in water demand. Mitchell’s research has earned him two awards from a national no-till farming association, the most recent of which as 2020 Innovative Educator of the Year.

Mitchell spends much of his time at the UC’s West Side Research and Extension Center in Five Points, where he’s one of many scientists whose work on improving ag practices runs parallel with water conservation and resilience in the face of a changing climate.

The research center lies in a rural area of western Fresno County scattered with unincorporated farmworker communities and within rumbling distance of the Super Hornets taking flight from Naval Air Station Lemoore. The facility is pretty unassuming, comprised of a dozen or so low-lying buildings surrounded by big open sky. “We are still sort of an outpost out here, it’s not exactly a highly populated area,” laughed agronomist and center director Robert Hutmacher.

Built in 1959, it’s one of nine such centers in various ecosystems throughout the state designed to bridge the gap between academic research and the industry. Research specialists study new crop varieties and farming techniques, then crop advisors help growers bring them into practice. What they study here is a cross-section of what’s grown nearby, said Hutmacher, including “cotton, sorghum, industrial hemp, barley, wheat, processing tomatoes, garlic, onions, alfalfa, pistachio trees, table grapes and wine grapes, almonds, garbanzo beans,” and a variety of grains.

In some respects, this modest research station is on the front lines of climate change. It’s on the Valley’s west side, where surface water is already scarce and the soil is full of salts that prevent plants from taking in nutrients. Like its neighbors, this publicly funded institution is likely to face cuts to its groundwater usage looming under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

But when it comes to water conservation, the facility also has a history of being a little ahead of its time. For instance, it’s one of the places where drip irrigation, now dominant in California agriculture, was pioneered in the 1970s. At the time, “It was not
always perceived as something that was important or cost effective,” said Hutmacher, “but with all these changes, water availability, predictability of water supplies, problems with groundwater management and salinity management…all of those things together just sort of pushed everything toward improved water conservation.”

A recent regional climate assessment helmed by researchers at UC Merced estimates that average annual temperatures in the San Joaquin Valley have risen one degree Fahrenheit in the last 70 years, and warming could continue by another 5 to 8 degrees by the end of the century.

Interestingly, however, when contemplating the future of ag, it’s not rising temperatures that concern Hutmacher the most, but water availability. From a regional perspective, Hutmacher believes ag will survive in the Valley—but for individual growers, he understands the future is scary. “If you’re not mobile, you’re tied to 1,000 acres of land that infrequently can be supplied by a water district and then by a couple of wells that someone is going to start restricting your use of, it is existential crisis material,” he said.

That’s one reason other researchers in Five Points are taking a close look at some of the Valley’s most important crops. “There’s six acres of pistachios planted in May of 2019,” said nut crop advisor Mae Culumber, gesturing to a field of trees that are bare now but in just a few years will be overflowing with a commodity that earned California nearly $3 billion in 2020.

Although winters on average are getting warmer, temperatures still swing erratically, explains Culumber, and trees that have become accustomed to milder winters can be caught unawares by sudden cold snaps. “They’re going to be more susceptible to potentially getting damaged and maybe even sometimes killed from that extreme change,” she said.

So one of Culumber’s projects involves restricting irrigation after harvest in order to essentially induce early dormancy, in the hopes that it can help the trees weather erratic winters while reducing their water requirements. “Toward the end of the growing season, we have different timing of when we’re cutting off the irrigation for the season,” she said. “We want to try to find practices that are viable and maintain the productivity for agriculture but that are also sustainable and environmentally conscious as possible.”

Just a few hundred feet away, George Zhuang and Karl Lund, viticulture advisors to Fresno and Madera Counties, respectively, tend to two acres of grapevines just a few inches tall. “We just planted those vines this year, so they are baby vines,” said Zhuang.

Most grapes have been grafted onto a few universal varieties of rootstocks that are in widespread use around the world, says Lund. So here in Five Points—in tandem with other UC research stations doing similar work—they’re testing new varieties of rootstocks for tolerance to heat, salinity, and especially drought.

“In Madera County, we’re looking at cutting 20 percent of our pumping” over the next 20 years, Lund said. “So if we don’t do anything, that’s sort of the way the industry is headed…we’re just going to drop 20 percent of our acreage.”

He and Zhuang are confident that by finding new varieties of hardier rootstocks, the grapes we love—and that raked in more than $4 billion for California in 2020—can continue to flourish with fewer resources. “We’re just adapting to whatever is being thrown at us,” said Lund. “You can’t outsmart mother nature, mother nature’s going to always throw something new at you and you just have to re-adapt.”

“Human beings, we have the talent and we have the research skills to adapt to the climate change or whatever challenges we have, and we’ll still be able to make some progress,” agreed Zhuang.

Whatever benefits these researchers uncover, it’s up to growers in more than 8 million acres of productive farmland in the Valley to adopt them.

Jeff Mitchell knows that’s no small task, but he’s optimistic big change can happen. He’s seen it. In a conference room in Five Points, he points to a wall of portraits of local growers. “These are all farmers who have done amazing things by changing the paradigm of their production system here,” he said. He hopes more will do the same in the future.
Ramsey unlocks the door to the small brown building on Forest Drive, near the Wawona Hotel.

“So the first thing that people see when they walk in are these first exhibits here,” he says, surveying the industrial rectangular room filled with informational panels staggered throughout the space.

The exhibits and artifacts inside detail the early history of Chinese immigrants in Yosemite.

“The building was originally constructed as a laundry facility for the Wawona Hotel,” Ramsey says.

The laundry operated from 1918 to the early 1930’s. The people who worked here were primarily Chinese immigrants who came to California during the Gold Rush.

Yosemite National Park revisits history to tell more inclusive story of Chinese immigrant contributions

BY SOREAH HOK – KVPR

Ranger Adam Ramsey, the Supervisor for Wawona District Interpretation, was one of the researchers who poured over archives in Yosemite National Park’s library to find names and dates connected to the Chinese Laundry building.
The building itself has been restored and was just re-dedicated and unveiled as an exhibit in October.

Ramsey says the goal when it reopens in April is to recreate the interior to look like a laundry facility from the time period. Many of the details came from a member of the Washburn family, who established the Wawona community. The family hired mostly Chinese immigrants and the daughter of the hotel owner, Wawona Washburn, kept detailed journals.

They included “firsthand accounts of what it was like in this building,” says Ramsey, for example that “she watched them taking irons off of a wood burning stove and using them to iron clothes and sheets.” Ramsey motions to a pair of rusted iron stoves and tests out the stove's squeaky doors.

“You can see they were in kind of a rough state. They were sitting outside for decades,” Ramsey says.

In fact, the stoves may have been outside for as long as 80 years. They’ll be restored as part of next year’s project.

In another corner of the exhibit, a large and sturdy wooden hand cart is sectioned off. Ramsey says it's an example of what many Chinese immigrants used to build some of Yosemite's main roads.

“You can get from Fresno to Yosemite Valley in less than three hours because Chinese workers hauled this cart around and tools and built it all by hand,” Ramsey says. “Pretty amazing.”

That’s another big part of Yosemite’s untold history: the hundreds of Chinese workers who built main roads like Tioga Pass and Wawona Road.

“The whole route between here and Yosemite Valley is just this really improbable, twisty and turvy road,” Ramsey says.

Researchers found out these workers built the road during the winter using blasting powder and hand tools such as pickaxes and shovels - and finished it in just four-and-a-half months.

“The speed at which they pulled it off, I think, is a real testament to the skill of the workers who did this,” Ramsey says.

Honoring memories was the driving force that helped fund this history project. A couple from Sacramento, Sandra Yee, 86, and her husband donated the first pot of money that was used to start the project.
“I just feel so great to be part of that,” Yee says.

Yee recalled her family’s deep history with Yosemite. Her parents were Chinese immigrants who ran a small grocery business during the Great Depression. Yee says after saving up enough money to take their first family vacation, her father decided to go to Yosemite.

“He just was blown away by how majestic and how magnificent Yosemite was,” Yee says.

It was then, Yee says, that Yosemite became a huge part of her family’s life.

“He swore from that year on that he was going to return to Yosemite every single summer and you know, he did,” she says.

Yee says her dad eventually saved enough money to buy a small cabin in Yosemite, and the laundry building was something she always passed by.

“There was this building that was completely neglected at the beginning of the road and we were told then that it was a Chinese Laundry,” Yee recalls the first year her family bought the cabin in 1953.

Yee credits some of Yosemite’s rangers with getting her interested in the project, like Yenyen Chan who did detailed research on the Chinese in Yosemite. Yee says she knew it was a project she wanted to be a part of.

When they later became members of the Yosemite Conservancy, a non profit partner that funds special projects, Yee and her husband were able to make an impact with donations.

“My husband and I wanted to do something not only to commemorate my parents’ love for Yosemite and the legacy they left for our family, but also to memorialize the Chinese, the early Chinese who did such monumental work,” Yee says.

Former California State Park Superintendent Jack Shu from La Mesa, found out about the hidden history 10 years ago in a video by the Yosemite Conservancy.

“That video said so much about the Chinese contributions that I had never heard about,” Shu says. He was also inspired to make an annual pilgrimage in Yosemite.

“I made a commitment to at least hike up Sing Peak 10 times;” he says.

Sing Peak is named after a famous backcountry chef, Tie Sing, who was pivotal to the park’s history, cooking elaborate dinners for dignitaries who came to visit. The tenth hike will happen next summer, when Shu turns 70.

“People expect to have the pilgrimage now. They anticipate it. They want to have it happen again,” he says.

He’ll be joined by a group of other people who became interested after the first time he did it. Shu says he now feels more a part of the park’s history.

“And I believe it does have an effect on how all Americans see Chinese Americans, that we’re not foreigners, that Chinese have been a part of the fabric of this country, have contributed towards it for many, many generations,” he says.

A Yosemite spokesperson says it’s the park’s responsibility and privilege to retell the stories of those who worked and found a new life here. A future project at the Yosemite History Center in Wawona will focus on the narratives of Buffalo Soldiers, Black soldiers segregated in the U.S. Army, who established many of the backcountry trails still used today.
South valley listeners will soon hear more local content specific to their communities on KVPR. The station has announced it will expand its coverage of local news in mid-2022 with the addition of a Bakersfield-based reporter, thanks to a partnership with the national program Report for America. The expansion marks the first time the station will have a full-time reporter based in the south valley.

The new initiative is one of nearly 270 Report for America corps newsrooms across all 50 states, including 70 new partners launching in 2022. Report for America helps support a portion of the costs for new reporting positions at newsrooms across the country. KVPR’s Bakersfield project also involves a new public media collaborative known as Public Health Watch, which is a nonprofit, nonpartisan investigative news organization that focuses on threats to America’s well-being.

“We’re honored and enthused to partner with Report for America and Public Health Watch to expand our local coverage with a reporter based in Bakersfield. Kern County accounts for about one-third of our overall audience, and until now, it was the largest area in California without a dedicated public media reporter based in the community,” said KVPR President and General Manager Joe Moore. Beyond covering local news, the project will also explore the local impacts of climate change and the connections to the health of valley communities.

“Yes, local news is in crisis—but this batch of newsrooms also fills us with tremendous hope,” said Steven Waldman, president and co-founder of Report for America. “Newsrooms across the country are pushing to cover essential local beats like schools and rural areas, at the same time they try to better represent all of the people in their communities.” Those chosen include daily and weekly newspapers, digital-only news outlets, and radio and television stations. They all offer exciting opportunities for prospective corps members to include dozens of open beats.
Report for America, which is an initiative of The GroundTruth Project, is a two-year program (with an option for three years) that delivers a wide-range of benefits to its corps members. Beyond paying up to half of the journalists’ salaries, it provides ongoing training and mentorship by leading journalists, peer networking, and memberships to select professional organizations. To help connect corps members to the community, they are required to do a service project, which often includes engaging middle or high school students in journalism related activities. Corps members will be selected from a highly-competitive, national competition. Last year, more than 1,800 applications were received. Those hired become employees of their respective newsrooms and will begin their employment June 1, 2022.

“Report for America provides a unique opportunity for journalists to pursue meaningful, local beat reporting that sadly is missing from many of today’s newsrooms,” said Earl Johnson, director of admissions at Report for America. “Beyond talented reporters and photojournalists, we are looking for a diversity of individuals who see journalism as a calling, who want to make a difference within their communities. Report for America prioritizes a diverse corps and is working with a number of professional organizations and college journalism programs to help ensure that newsrooms reflect the audiences they serve,” added Johnson.

Report for America is supported in its efforts by a number of philanthropic leaders, including the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Meta Journalism Project, Natasha and Dirk Ziff, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Craig Newmark Philanthropies, the Joyce Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Lumina Foundation, Microsoft, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, SpringPoint Partners, the Walton Family Foundation in partnership with the University of Missouri School of Journalism, the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation, the Heising-Simons Foundation, the Henry L. Kimelman Foundation, the Tow Foundation, and the Google News Initiative.

“Make no mistake, the greatest threat to democracy is the collapse of local news,” said Charles Sennott, GroundTruth chief executive officer and co-founder of Report for America. “We are excited to welcome these newsrooms and look forward to empowering them to meet the growing information needs of the communities they serve.”

About Report for America

Report for America is a national service program that places talented emerging journalists in local newsrooms to report on under-covered topics and communities. Launched in 2017, Report for America is creating a new, sustainable system that provides Americans with the information they need to improve their communities, hold powerful institutions accountable, and rebuild trust in the media. Report for America is an initiative of The GroundTruth Project, an award-winning nonprofit journalism organization with an established track record of training and supporting teams of emerging journalists around the world, including the recent launch of Report for the World in partnership with local newsrooms in India, Nigeria and Brazil.
NPR has announced that Ayesha Rascoe has been selected as the host of Weekend Edition Sunday, NPR’s Sunday morning news magazine carried by 794 public radio stations nationwide. Rascoe’s first day on the air will be March 27.

“I am beyond honored to take on this role and work with the fabulous team behind Weekend Edition Sunday. Covering the White House for NPR has been the highlight of my career so far. At NPR, I’ve found my voice and worked with amazing colleagues. I’ve also been privileged to get to know the dedicated listeners who make up the heart of public radio,” said Rascoe. “While I will miss the Washington Desk, I look forward to connecting to listeners every Sunday. And one day, I’m going to solve one of those puzzles!”

“Ayesha brings multi-faceted experience to the host chair, having covered some of the pivotal moments in recent history from her vantage point as NPR’s White House correspondent,” said Sarah Gilbert, NPR’s Vice President for News Programming. “Ayesha’s commitment to the intersection of news, and her wide-ranging appreciation for, and engagement with all things cultural made her the natural choice for this role.”

Rascoe is currently a White House correspondent for NPR. She is covering her third presidential administration. Her White House coverage has included a number of high profile foreign trips, including President Trump’s 2019 summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi, Vietnam, and President Obama’s final NATO summit in Warsaw, Poland in 2016. As a part of the White House team, she’s also a regular on the NPR Politics Podcast.

Prior to joining NPR, Rascoe covered the White House for Reuters, chronicling Obama’s final year in office and the early days of the Trump administration. Rascoe began her reporting career at Reuters, covering energy and environmental policy news, such as the 2010 BP oil spill and the U.S. response to the Fukushima nuclear crisis in 2011. She also spent a year covering energy legal issues and court cases. She graduated from Howard University in 2007 with a B.A. in journalism.

Weekend Edition Sunday debuted on January 18, 1987, with host Susan Stamberg. Two years later, Liane Hansen took over the host chair, a position she held for 22 years. Recent hosts include Audie Cornish (2011–2012), Rachel Martin (2012–2016) and Lulu Garcia-Navarro (2017–2021.) Every week listeners tune in to hear a unique blend of news, features and the regularly scheduled puzzle segment with Puzzlemaster Will Shortz, the crossword puzzle editor of The New York Times.
KVPR will bring San Joaquin Valley voices to national NPR audiences through ‘1A Remaking America’ collaboration

KVPR will bring more stories from the San Joaquin Valley to the national audience of the daily weekday newsmagazine program 1A through 1A Remaking America. A two-year collaborative effort, 1A Remaking America will examine the local causes and effects of a nationally growing distrust in institutions.

The 1A Remaking America collaborative project is supported by a $750,000 grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and will be spearheaded by WAMU 88.5, Washington’s NPR station and the station that produces 1A. Over the course of two years, KVPR and five other public media stations will be an editorial partner to WAMU – the KVPR news team will work closely with 1A’s production team to source stories, conduct live broadcasts and events, produce collaborative content and elevate local journalism.

“The 1A Remaking America initiative will help us bring the critical issues facing our diverse and often overlooked region to the center of the national conversation,” said Alex Burke, KVPR’s Content Director. “In addition to highlighting local stories and voices, the project will give us more capacity for newsgathering, and help us facilitate meaningful conversations in the communities we serve.”

WAMU selected the partner public media stations, including KVPR, because of their deep community ties. Additionally, each participating station’s community continues to grapple with the pandemic and polarized politics – 1A Remaking America will provide a platform for nuanced, diverse issues and concerns from the San Joaquin Valley to be brought to 1A’s 4.5 million weekly listeners on over 440 NPR stations.

“We’re thrilled for this support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting as we work to explore what’s transpiring in local communities and impacting our democracy in partnership with our public media colleagues,” said Erika Pulley-Hayes, general manager of WAMU/DCist. “As a pillar of public media, CPB support recognizes the merit of this work and the value of dialogue between local communities and national content creators. We look forward to deepening our relationship with them and our partnering stations over the next two years.”

The events supporting 1A Remaking America are still in development. As the coronavirus pandemic continues to change, all 1A Remaking America events will be held online and will be a space for local communities to gather and discuss the issues that matter most to them. When the pandemic allows for in-person gatherings again, 1A Remaking America will transition to live, in-person events held across the country. More details about this will be available in the coming months.

1A Remaking America can be heard on KVPR weekdays from 9 to 11am, on-demand via 1A’s podcast and found on the1A.org.
# Events/Exhibits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Thru 8/14</td>
<td>Boom Oaxaca Exhibition</td>
<td>Arte Áméricas, 1630 Van Ness Ave., Fresno</td>
<td>arteamericas.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>San Joaquin Valley Town Hall: Rick Steves</td>
<td>Saroyan Theatre, 730 M Street, Fresno</td>
<td>valleytownhall.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Distinguished Speaker Series: Erika Sánchez (Virtual)</td>
<td>Bakersfield College</td>
<td>bakersfieldcollege.edu</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Spring Fling Photography Contest</td>
<td>Kings River Conservancy</td>
<td>kingsriverconservancy.org</td>
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# Music

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Kings Symphony Orchestra: Annual Young Artist Concert</td>
<td>Hanford High School Presentation Center</td>
<td>kingssymphony.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Special EFX All-Stars in Concert</td>
<td>World Records, 2815 F Street, Bakersfield</td>
<td>shopworldrecords.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-26</td>
<td>Pacific Artist Series III</td>
<td>Butler Church, 4884 E. Butler Ave., Fresno</td>
<td>fresno.edu/events/music</td>
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# Theatre/Dance

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>22 Thru 5/14</td>
<td>Nice Work If You Can Get It</td>
<td>Stars Theatre Restaurant, 1931 Chester Ave., Bakersfield</td>
<td>bmtstars.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Thru 6/19</td>
<td>I Remember Mama</td>
<td>2nd Space Theatre, 928 E. Olive Ave., Fresno</td>
<td>gcplayers.com</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Community Calendar Highlights

Due to COVID-19, in-person events may have changed following publication. Please consult event organizers and our online calendar for current information.

Find more events at kvpr.org
### EVENTS/EXHIBITS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>KVPR’s Annual Wine Tasting</td>
<td>Lester Estate, Fresno</td>
<td>kvpr.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>CASA Derby Party 2022</td>
<td>Gardiner Ranch, Bakersfield</td>
<td>kerncasa.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Day Hike: Yosemite Valley Waterfalls</td>
<td>Yosemite National Park, Yosemite Valley</td>
<td>yosemite.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Wine Walk</td>
<td>Downtown Clovis</td>
<td>oldtownclovis.org</td>
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### THEATRE/DANCE

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thru 15</td>
<td>Little Women</td>
<td>Encore Theatre, 324 S. N Street, Tulare</td>
<td>encoretulare.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Thru 7/10</td>
<td>The Music Man</td>
<td>Roger Rocka’s Dinner Theatre, 1226 N. Wishon Ave., Fresno</td>
<td>rogerrockas.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Menopause the Musical</td>
<td>Visalia Fox Theatre, 308 W. Main St., Visalia</td>
<td>foxvisalia.org</td>
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### MUSIC

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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra: Navarro and Mahler 1</td>
<td>Mechanics Bank Theater, 1001 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield</td>
<td>bsonow.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Fresno Philharmonic: Mahler Here and Now</td>
<td>Saroyan Theatre, 730 M Street, Fresno</td>
<td>fresnophil.org</td>
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**LIVE KITCHEN VIGNETTES**

- **HOURS**: M-F 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- **SAT**: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- **CLOSED SUN**: 4250 W. SHAW AVE. FRESNO (559) 276-1500

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**SHOWROOM**

Public welcome
Gov. Newsom proposes expanding Medi-Cal to all Californians

BY MADI BOLANOS – KVPR

Here’s how the benefits would help one Fresno County couple

Maria Guadalupe Toledo Mejia is rounding a ball of masa in her hands. She’s making baleadas for her husband, Sergio Tulio Arevalo Solis, in their apartment in Riverdale, an unincorporated community of nearly 4,000 people in Fresno County. They moved there in 2019 with their three kids, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren after escaping violence in their home country, Honduras. When they arrived, Sergio says he and his wife began working in the fields.

“Primarily picking grapes,” he says in Spanish, “but also wherever they’d send us, wherever there’s work.”

But in the last three weeks, Lupita and Sergio have been forced to stop working. In late December, 42-year-old Sergio says he was having trouble breathing so he drove himself to the nearest hospital. He’s undocumented and uninsured but he was able to get Medi-Cal in this emergency situation.

The doctors admitted him right away, quickly connecting him to oxygen. After a series of tests, Sergio says his doctor told him he had to have open heart surgery as soon as possible. But Sergio hesitated. He didn’t have the money to pay for the surgery.

“I told the doctor if my emergency Medi-Cal didn’t cover the surgery, then discharge me and send me home,” he says. “I’d rather die in my house.”

Gavin Newsom proposes expanding Medi-Cal to all undocumented Californians

Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula, who represents south and west Fresno County, says Sergio’s experience...
is a prime example of why the state needs to expand Medi-Cal to all Californians, regardless of immigration status. Before becoming an Assembly member, Arambula was an emergency room doctor in Sanger.

“Many people in our immigrant communities are fearful of seeking out health care if they do not have coverage,” he says.

He says this has always been the case for undocumented residents, but the pandemic highlighted the underlying inequities within the state’s healthcare system.

“It’s the absolutely appropriate response for us as a state to take after seeing those disparities,” Arambula says. “For us to turn around and invest in those very vulnerable communities to ensure that they have access to health care.”

The Migrant Policy Institute estimates there are 77,000 undocumented people living in Fresno County. Nearly half of them work in agriculture, which had the second highest increase in deaths of an industry during the first 10 months of the pandemic, according to an analysis by UC Merced Community and Labor Center.

In January, Governor Gavin Newsom proposed expanding Medi-Cal to all low-income, undocumented Californians. The state Legislative Analyst’s Office estimates there are nearly 700,000 Californians who would gain access to Medi-Cal, if it were expanded to all qualified adults regardless of immigration status.

The campaign to expand Medi-Cal to all low-income undocumented residents started nearly a decade ago. The state first expanded Medi-Cal to undocumented kids ages 19 and under in 2016. Undocumented people ages 26 and under got access to the benefits in 2020. And this year, undocumented people ages 50 and older will be able to apply.

But as of now, undocumented people between the ages of 27 and 49 still can’t get Medi-Cal, so the governor’s proposal is the last step toward expanding the health insurance to all Californians.

“I think Californians have all come full circle and embraced this idea that our neighbors and our friends and everybody that’s contributing to the social fabric to the economy of our state, deserves to be taken care of,” says Sarah Dar, Director of Health & Public Benefits Policy at the California Immigrant Policy Center.

Dr. Efrain Talamantes, chief operating officer at AltaMed Health Services, the nation’s largest community health center, agrees. He says the undocumented and uninsured face the biggest financial burden in getting medical assistance.

“If [they] don’t have coverage, who is going to cover the behavioral therapy, the physical therapy, the nutritional therapy, the countless amount of therapies, so that we don’t just save someone’s life, but that we preserve them, so that they don’t fall back into the same situation?” he says.

The California Republican Party disapproved of Newsom’s overall budget proposal describing it as “woefully short on solutions that will fix the problems that are plaguing California.”

The state legislature can still revise the budget, but must approve it by June 15. Newsom will have until June 30 to approve it.

**Fresno County couple anxiously await medical bills**

Back in Riverdale, Lupita washes her hands before cleaning the wound on Sergio’s chest. He ended up getting the heart surgery at a clinic. But Lupita says they still don’t know if the procedure was covered by his emergency Medi-Cal.

“We’re lost,” she says. “We don’t know if or when we will receive a bill for the follow-up appointments.”

And Lupita says it’s all made more difficult by the fact that the medical staff didn’t speak or understand Spanish. “My husband had to download a translating app on his phone so we could communicate with staff,” she says.

Sergio says if the Medi-Cal expansion is approved, it could be life-changing for many.

“It would be excellent,” he says. “Even if it doesn’t directly benefit me, it will help a lot of people in my similar situation.”

In the meantime, Lupita says she’ll only take off two weeks to care for her husband. He’ll be in recovery for five months, she says, so she needs to get back to work in the fields to support their family of eight. They’re anxiously awaiting the medical bills.

This story is part of the Central Valley News Collaborative, which is supported by the Central Valley Community Foundation with technology and training support by Microsoft Corp.
Leila Fadel is the new fourth host of *Morning Edition*, NPR’s morning drive time news magazine carried by 834 public radio stations nationwide. Fadel’s first day on-air was January 31.

“This work is about telling stories that reflect our nation and the world as it is, to have conversations that illuminate and that hold our public officials to account,” Fadel said. “No place does this work better than NPR. I’m excited to take my years of field reporting, at home and abroad, to the host chair and work with a team I’ve long admired.”

“We are delighted to have Leila join the *Morning Edition* team, she has had an exceptional career to date, covering some of the biggest stories of our time on both the national and international stage,” said Sarah Gilbert, NPR’s Vice President for News Programming. “Leila’s experience and range as a journalist and host made her the natural choice for this role.”

Fadel was most recently a national correspondent for NPR based in Los Angeles, covering race and identity. Since returning to the United States she has consistently reported on the fault lines of this divided nation. She won back-to-back Murrow awards for coverage of the 2017 Las Vegas mass shooting and for the 2018 Southern California fires. She flew to Minneapolis in the midst of the pandemic as the city erupted in grief and anger over the killing of George Floyd. She’s reported on policing and race, on American Muslim communities and on the jarring inequities the coronavirus laid bare in the healthcare system. Her “Muslims in America: A New Generation” series in collaboration with National Geographic, won the prestigious Goldziher Prize in 2019.

Previously, she was NPR’s international correspondent based in Cairo, from where she covered the wave of uprisings in the Middle East and their aftermath in Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, and beyond. Her stories ranged from the state-ordered massacre of pro-Muslim Brotherhood protesters in Cairo, to the 2013 coup for which she won the Lowell Thomas Award from the Overseas Press Club, to the harrowing tales of the Yazidi women who were kidnapped and enslaved by ISIS. In 2016 she returned to the United States to be a Council on Foreign Relations Edward R. Murrow fellow. In 2017 she won a Gracie award for the story: She’s Lost 2 Daughters To ISIS; Will Her Younger Girls Be Next?

Before joining NPR, she covered the Middle East for *The Washington Post* as the Cairo Bureau Chief, and the Iraq war for nearly five years with Knight Ridder, McClatchy Newspapers, and later *The Washington Post*. Her foreign coverage of the devastating human toll of the Iraq war earned her the George. R. Polk award in 2007.

Leila Fadel will be joining Steve Inskeep, A Martinez, and Rachel Martin on this bi-coastal, 24-hour news operation. Produced and distributed by NPR in Washington, D.C., *Morning Edition* draws on reporting from correspondents based around the world, and producers and reporters in locations in the United States. This reporting is supplemented by NPR Member station reporters across the country as well as independent producers and reporters throughout the public radio system. Since its debut on November 5, 1979, *Morning Edition* has garnered broadcasting’s highest honors, including the George Foster Peabody Award and the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award. The show reaches 11.7 million weekly listeners on 834 stations.
KVPR receives support from the following local businesses and organizations:

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Almond Board of California
Bakersfield Family Medical Center
Bakersfield Master Chorale
Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra
Barbich Hooper King Dill Hoffman Accountancy Corporation
Bennett, Sharpe, & Bennett
Bertha and John Garabedian Charitable Foundation
Bitwise
Bonner Family Foundation
CCFMG
California Advanced Pain & Spine Specialists
California Arts Council
Central California Blood Center
Central Distributing
Central Valley Community Foundation
Paul C. Chen Accountancy Corporation
China Peak
Clovis Community College
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Fresno Philharmonic
Fresno State, College of Arts and Humanities
GEI Consultants
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Granville Homes
Hedrick’s Chevrolet
Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno
Kern Community Foundation
Kern County Library
The Kharazi Foundation
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