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Join station personalities for a virtual happy hour and connect with fellow listeners for a fun event that celebrates local food, wine, and public radio. The theme of the night will be port wine, and we'll be joined by guests including winemaker Peter Ficklin of Ficklin Vineyards, dessert specialist Donna Mott and chef Matt T. Lee, as well as many of your favorite Valley Public Radio voices.

Tickets for this online gathering are $20 and all proceeds will benefit Valley Public Radio. Register today at KVPR.org

Saturday April 17 at 6pm
When I think back to the events of early 2020, before COVID-19 overtook our lives, many of those memories seem like they were only yesterday. Yet at the same time, they also feel like a distant lifetime ago. While it’s easy to remark on the challenges and obstacles we’ve faced over the last 12 months, as I look back AND look ahead, what I actually see are the opportunities and new spaces to grow, adapt and evolve.

As you peruse this issue of Audiophile, I see adaptation and evolution as the persistent theme of our work, and the result is a better station, stronger in its service to you, and more eager to innovate in new areas and opportunities.

Take for example online events. Many of you joined us in early February for a conversation with Tamara Keith, NPR’s White House correspondent, who grew up here in the San Joaquin Valley as a Valley Public Radio listener. When we scheduled this event two years ago, we had expected it would be a typical in-person event. However, despite the COVID-19 precautions pushing us to an online format, it still was an incredible evening. Tamara and host Kathleen Schock brought us fascinating insights and conversation, with great questions from the audience. And thanks to it being an online event, we were able to reach more people, from a larger geographic area than we would have, had the event been held in-person.

As 2021 continues you’ll see more online events from Valley Public Radio, including a fun “Night Out” online fundraiser with fellow listeners, Valley Public Radio staff and supporters coming up on April 17. Later in the year we’ll also host a free online station open house, and other events with local and national public radio personalities. And while we look forward to resuming in-person events when it is safe and prudent to do so, I suspect online events will remain an important part of our station’s outreach to the community, even after the pandemic has passed.

Another area of adaption and evolution comes with our programming. From local productions of shows like Young Artists Spotlight, to our new partnership to cover COVID-19 with Radio Bilingue, Vida en el Valle and The Fresno Bee, we are finding new ways to serve our audience and create new content. To be sought out by Microsoft, one of the largest tech companies in the world, to be part of this pilot project to re-invigorate local journalism is a great honor, and we are excited to bring this enhanced coverage to local listeners thanks to their generous support.

We also are bringing the valley innovative new programs with fresh ideas and storytelling. Take for example NPR’s hit new show Throughline. The show launched two years ago as NPR’s history focused podcast, and has been named one of the top podcasts in the world by the likes of Time Magazine and The Atlantic. Now it’s coming to the airwaves of Valley Public Radio bringing you a wider perspective on history you never knew existed, and proving the past is always connected to the challenges of the present day.

To be clear, everyone at the station is eager for the time when we can resume “life as normal.” We miss seeing the large crowds at our annual wine tasting event every May, and other gatherings. While our wine tasting won’t happen this year, we have no doubt those events will return. But two things can be equally true. For while we long for those days, we are also excited about the possibilities that exist NOW to improve our service, to reach you in new ways, and to connect with new listeners who maybe have never turned to public radio. This is an exciting time and we look forward to continuing to find new ways to serve you.
For a listing of our music selections, visit KVPR.org or contact the station.

Carnegie Hall Live Recorded performances from New York City’s most famous stage. Through March 31. Wednesdays at 8:00pm.

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.

Concerto 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 7pm.

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 FM99’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 FM99.

Young Artists Spotlight Student performances Thursdays.

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.

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 6:30pm.

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 8am to 9am.

Star Date Weekdays at 6:19am, 2:58pm and 10:00pm.

Talk & Entertainment

It’s Been a Minute NPR’s Sam Sanders 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 7pm, 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.
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Bakersfield Street Medicine Team Works To Combat Misinformation On COVID-19 And Vaccine

By Madi Bolanos

On a cloudy morning in Northeast Bakersfield, Dr. Mathew Beare walks along a narrow trail of damp fallen leaves to a small homeless encampment. For over a year, Beare and his street medicine team have made the drive every Thursday from Clinica Sierra Vista in downtown Bakersfield to this barren site just off of Chester Avenue.

Beare tells his patient, Melissa, that she’s tested negative for the novel coronavirus. It’s her second negative test. In addition to administering COVID-19 tests, the team provides medical check-in’s, food, prescribed medication when needed, and syringe exchanges.

When the pandemic first hit, Beare says, the team paused their weekly visits to figure out how they could continue without exposing staff or patients to the virus.

“You’re talking about a population with multiple chronic illnesses and a lot of chronic lung disease,” he says. “So when we started finding out the nature of COVID we thought for sure the unsheltered are going to get hit the worse.”

But he says, it was quite the opposite.

“Initially when we came out, people were really reluctant to even get tested for COVID. As one person got tested someone else was like ‘well can I get tested?’” Beare says. “And then it spread.”

The doctor says he hasn’t seen a single positive test which means the team can continue to focus on treating the roughly 30 people they see each week.

A woman named Shelly, who chose not to share her last name, receives her fourth negative test result. Shelly lives with her partner in a tent about 10 yards away from others in the encampment. She says it’s easy to social distance from the general population except when she goes to the store.

“When I go to the store I get concerned,” she says. “I put on my mask and everything, hand sanitizer and stuff, but there are a lot of other beliefs going on about that.”

There are also beliefs circulating about the COVID-19 vaccine. Shelly says she won’t take it based on the research she’s done online.

The Clinica Sierra Vista Street Medicine Team consults a patient about an on-going ear ache in Bakersfield, CA.
“It changes your DNA, some people could die from it,” she says. “If I had a PhD I could explain it better.”

But medical experts, including Beare, say it won’t change your DNA. Shelly remains skeptical but she says she might consider it if Beare recommended it to her.

“But I would want to see every tiny ingredient in that type of shot,” she says.

In a situation like this, Beare says he tries to educate about the safety of the vaccine and compare the risk versus the benefit. But he says he understands why the unsheltered population might be hesitant.

“There’s a lot of different reasons people might refuse the vaccine,” he says. “For someone in this situation there’s probably a huge distrust in the systems.”

And at this point, they can’t even offer the vaccine, Beare says. Until then, the team is working on preemptive measures, like treating on-going medical conditions, getting the most susceptible people housing and building trust.

Beare says it helps to have Scott Dopp, a formerly unhoused person, on the team. Dopp says he lived near Chester Avenue for almost four years. He credits Clinica Sierra Vista for helping turn his life around.

“They got me into a program and got me into transitional housing and I really liked what they did for me so I ended up volunteering,” he says.

Now he’s a paid employee doing outreach work and driving patients to and from their scheduled doctor’s appointments.

“A lot of people out here I know personally, so when word gets out who we are and how we’re trying to help them, it works out good,” Dopp says.

It’s worked out well for Terry, who’s lived at the encampment with his two dogs for nearly five years. He has several chronic illnesses and recently, the street medicine team helped him get into a transitional housing program for people who have COVID-19 or are at risk of contracting it.

“Dr. Beare and those guys they’ve really helped me out a lot,” he says.

It’s left Terry with a deep appreciation for the five member team.

Even though he already has access to housing, Terry spent Wednesday night in his tent so he can say his final goodbyes to the team.

“I owe them everything,” he says. “They’re good people, all of them are.”

Due to the success of the street medicine effort, Dr. Beare says they’ve started a second team in Bakersfield, and the clinic hopes to start another one in Fresno.
Valley Public Radio’s strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator. This is the seventh consecutive year that Valley Public Radio has earned this top distinction from the organization. The designation was awarded December 23, 2020 in a letter from Charity Navigator.

Since 2002, using objective analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added 17 metrics, focused on governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, to its ratings methodology. These Accountability & Transparency metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity’s overall rating, reveal which charities operate in accordance with industry best practices and whether they are open with their donors and stakeholders. On June 1, 2016, CN upgraded their methodology for rating each charity’s financial health with CN 2.1. These enhancements further substantiates the financial health of CN’s four star charities.

“Valley Public Radio’s exceptional 4-star rating sets it apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public,” according to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. “Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating. This adds Valley Public Radio to a preeminent group of charities working to overcome our world’s most pressing challenges. Based on its 4-star rating, people can trust that their donations are going to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support Valley Public Radio.”

“It’s important our donors trust that we’re using their donations wisely to further our mission of expanding your world through voices and sounds that inform and inspire,” said Valley Public Radio’s President and General Manager Joe Moore. “Our 4-star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our supporters our good governance and financial accountability. We are especially honored to receive this designation for seven consecutive years, an honor received only by 7 percent of the non-profit organization’s evaluated by Charity Navigator.”

Valley Public Radio’s rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge on www.charitynavigator.org. More-detailed information about Valley Public Radio’s rating is available to Charity Navigator site visitors who become registered users, another free service.
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In the span of about a week back in July, Brianna’s parents and her oldest sister were all sick with COVID-19 in different hospitals in the Valley. And that same week? Her grandparents both died of the virus in a hospital in Los Angeles. They lived in Parlier but were in LA when they both got sick.

“I was really close to them,” she says. “My grandma would always take me to the park, she would take care of me, take me and my brother and sometimes my sister to the bus stop.”

She misses them and when the 9-year-old thinks back to that horrible week this past summer, well, it’s something she’s still trying to understand.

“It’s scary for someone small to think about something big, you know, that happened,” she says.

Something big that happened: It’s what the whole family has been thinking about, especially around the holidays. It’s unclear how they contracted the virus. They wore masks, they say, and were careful. But they want to share their story so that others will stay vigilant and won’t experience the pain they did.

“I cried every day, every night,” says Brianna’s oldest sister, Janette. She’s 23 and she’s describing what it was like to be by herself at Clovis Community Medical Center with COVID knowing that her parents and grandparents were also sick with the virus in other hospitals.

“It was very difficult for me. All by yourself,” she says trying to hold back tears. “Sorry. It was really, really difficult.”

Brianna Cisneros is the youngest of four siblings. On this cool December evening, she’s sitting at a table in her backyard with her two sisters, her brother and her father. A dog barks nearby, there’s music playing from a neighbor’s house down the street. Signs of normalcy in a not so normal year.
She didn’t even know she had COVID-19 when she came to the hospital. She was there to have her baby and she was tested for the virus. The only symptom she had when she came into the hospital was a cough, she says.

“And a few hours after, fever, shortness of breath, chills, headache,” she says.

She says labor was especially difficult because she was having so much trouble just breathing. After her son David was born, nurses asked Janette’s husband to bring him home. Janette needed to stay for several more days because she was so sick.

Janette’s father, Rodolfo Cisneros, remembers getting a phone call from Janette’s doctor telling him his daughter was really sick. But Rodolfo, 52, was in a hospital in Hanford, an hour away. His wife meanwhile had been transferred to a hospital in Lodi. All Rodolfo could do was ask the doctor to take good care of his daughter.

“I told him, ‘Please take care of her. I am in the hospital too,’” he says.

Rodolfo says he lost 20 pounds and like Janette, required oxygen. At one point, he was worried for his life.

“It was scary. I was thinking bad. What’s going to happen to me?” he says.

Meanwhile, the three younger kids still at home struggled to keep everything together. They say they each had minor symptoms of COVID-19, like headaches, but they were never tested. To stay in touch with his parents, Rodolfo Jr., 15, says technology helped but it also made him anxious.

“Thank God you could text your parents anytime that you want,” he says. “But I would get worried when they wouldn’t answer.”

Valeria Cisneros, 19, says the uncertainty of that week was awful.

“So hard because I mean I saw everyone like leaving for the hospital and I tried to be strong for my siblings too,” she says.

And when their grandparents died, the kids were alone.

“My family and I agreed to not tell our parents and sister yet,” she says. “They were not doing well so we kind of had to grieve by ourselves.”

It’s something she hopes other families are able to avoid as COVID-19 cases continue to spike in the Valley.
NPR’s *Throughline* – Bringing You The History You Never Learned

*Hear the show hosted by Rund Abdelfatah and Ramtin Arablouei on Valley Public Radio Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m.*

Valley Public Radio listeners will now be able to hear the hit podcast *Throughline* as a new weekly radio broadcast on KVPR, airing Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. NPR’s history show provides the story and perspectives often missing from history textbooks to help you understand events in the news and ideas dominating our national conversations today.

Through immersive and sound-rich storytelling, co-hosts Rund Abdelfatah and Ramtin Arablouei explain issues like how the U.S. overthrew Iran’s democratic government and changed the world, the direct line between slave patrols and modern American policing, why American ‘democracy’ was designed to be unrepresentative, and more.

In its debut year, *Throughline* was named one of the best podcasts of the year by TIME and The Atlantic. It has also received critical praise from Oprah Magazine, GQ, The Guardian, Refinery29, The New Yorker, Esquire and Vanity Fair, among others.

“At Valley Public Radio, we strongly believe that understanding the past is key to understanding the present,” said station President and General Manager Joe Moore. “We are excited to bring this new program to our air, which brings rich storytelling together with rigorous historical analysis. Each week the program’s hosts bring audiences fascinating stories about the past, with insights from some of the world’s top historians.”

“To understand today’s conversations about major issues and events, we need to know the complete history of things like immigration, US-Iran relations and the opioid epidemic,” said Arablouei.

“We want to bring history to life and make it feel urgent,” said Abdelfatah. “*Throughline* is an auditory experience. With sound design and music we create a world that listeners can immerse themselves in.”

Rund Abdelfatah has worked at NPR since 2014. She helped launch and produce *How I Built This*, *Pop Culture Happy Hour*, *Code Switch*, the *NPR Politics Podcast*, and *TED Radio Hour*, among other projects. She got her start in journalism covering local and domestic politics at the Washington Bureau of the BBC.

Before starting as the first producer on NPR’s *How I Built This* in 2015, Ramtin Arablouei was a freelance composer, working on movies, commercials, and podcasts. He has composed music for numerous podcasts at the top of Apple Podcasts’ Top 10.
A Note to Listeners from Rund & Ramtin

Hello!

The news can be disorienting and it can be hard to remember how we got to where we are now. We have something that can help. We’re excited to announce that you will soon hear NPR’s history show, Throughline, on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

The show began because we wondered why, of all the angles covered in news stories, the history behind each story was often glossed over. And because we wanted to bring that history to life.

If you love shows that transport you with stories and lead with curiosity and surprise, you’ll like Throughline. We take you on a cinematic trip into the past to better understand the present. Through sound-rich storytelling, first-hand accounts, and unheard perspectives you won’t find in textbooks, we connect the stories that got us to our current moment.

We couldn’t be prouder to bring our passion project to Valley Public Radio where, every week, you can go back in time with us. Because, as we’re constantly reminded, the past is always present.

Onward (and backwards),

Rund Abdelfatah and Ramtin Arablouei
Hosts, NPR’s Throughline
DUE TO COVID-19 IN-PERSON EVENTS MAY HAVE CHANGED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION. PLEASE CONSULT EVENT ORGANIZERS AND OUR ONLINE CALENDAR FOR CURRENT INFORMATION.

EVENTS/EXHIBITS

**MARCH**

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| Thru 8/28 | Winter 2021 Exhibitions  
Bakersfield Museum of Art | bmoa.org |
| 3-26 | Seen And Unseen Exhibition  
Arts Visalia | artsvisalia.org |
| 11 | KIE Community Colloquia Series: Dr. Michele Moody-Adams (Zoom)  
Kegley Institute of Ethics at CSUB | csub.edu/kie |
| 11 | Parties for the Parkway 2021 Virtual Kick-off Event (Zoom)  
San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust | riverparkway.org |
| 17 | Archaeology of the Sierra National Forest  
Sierra Club, Tehipite Chapter | sierrclub.org/tehipite |

**MUSIC**

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| 19 | Musical Uplink Episode IX: Bernstein, Fancy Free  
Sequoia Symphony Orchestra | sequoiasymphonyorchestra.com |
| 20 | Vive la France: Ibert Divertissement (Livestream Premiere on YouTube)  
Fresno Philharmonic | fresnophil.org |

**APRIL**

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<tr>
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| Thru 6/27 | Extended Exhibitions  
Fresno Art Museum | fresnoartmuseum.org |
| Thru 30 | Peggee Davis and Jana Botkin Exhibition  
Arts Visalia | artsvisalia.org |
| 14 | 34th Annual Charles W. Kegley Memorial Lecture: Dr. Ibram X. Kendi (Zoom)  
Kegley Institute of Ethics at CSUB | csub.edu/kie |
| 15 | Distinguished Speaker Series: Barry Scheck (Virtual)  
Bakersfield College | bakersfieldcollege.edu |
| 17 | A Night Out (Zoom)  
Valley Public Radio | kvpr.org |

**MUSIC**

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<th>Date</th>
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| 16 | Musical Uplink Episode X: Siegmeister, Western Suite, Prairie Morning  
Sequoia Symphony Orchestra | sequoiasymphonyorchestra.com |
| 17 | Bach to The Future: Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 (Livestream Premiere on YouTube)  
Fresno Philharmonic | fresnophil.org |

**MAY**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| 1 | CASA Awareness Day  
CASA of Fresno and Madera Counties | casafresnomadera.org |
| 1 | Old Town Clovis Wine Walk  
Downtown Clovis | oldtownclovis.org |
| 4 | Give Big Kern Day  
Kern Community Foundation | givebigkern.org |
| 5-28 | Andrew Leventis Exhibition  
Arts Visalia | artsvisalia.org |
| 15 | EPU Children’s Center: 30th Annual Fiesta de los Ninos  
Armenian American Citizens League Ballroom at The Vineyards, Fresno | epuchildren.org |
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Valley Public Radio To Participate In New Microsoft-Funded Central Valley Media Collaborative Lab

Valley Public Radio is excited to announce its participation in a new local journalism collaborative that will bring audiences enhanced local coverage of COVID-19 and its impacts on communities of color. The pilot project, which is supported through a grant from tech giant Microsoft, also involves Fresno-based Radio Bilingüe, the nation’s leading Latino public radio network, The Fresno Bee, and Vida en el Valle, McClatchy’s bilingual newspaper for Central California. The Central Valley Community Foundation will administer the project’s local funding.

The partners in the Central Valley Media Collaborative Lab will collaborate to create cross-platform bilingual coverage that will explore how COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on essential workers and has worsened entrenched structural disparities, from institutional racism to poverty and existing health disparities.

Listeners of Valley Public Radio will hear enhanced coverage on COVID-19 from the collaborative on Valley Edition as well as other local news segments. In addition to content from the station’s own reporters, FM89 listeners will also hear interviews and content from reporters with other partner news organizations. Award-winning journalist Rebecca Plevin, formerly with The Desert Sun, KPCC, Vida en el Valle and Valley Public Radio will serve as the collaborative’s editor and will coordinate coverage across platforms and organizations.

As part of an investment in local journalism, Microsoft is also funding similar projects in El Paso/Juárez; Jackson, Mississippi; and Yakima, Washington. In addition to direct funding, Microsoft will support project participants with in-kind technical support as well as training to support data journalism, to combat
“deepfakes” and other disinformation, as well as cyber-threats.

In a blog post, Microsoft’s Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Mary Snapp wrote that the pilot project aims to empower local newsrooms and journalists in a time when news organizations face multiple challenges.

“Local newsrooms are the heart of their communities,” said Snapp. “They not only provide updates about the important local events and high school sports scores that I remember from my childhood but, then and now, provide in-depth local investigations with national importance. Integrity, security and safety are critical to journalists around the globe. We hope our tools will give journalists some ease from worrying about attacks and more time to focus on their essential work. With these global tools, partnerships and local pilot programs, we hope to play a role in supporting journalists, newsrooms and communities as they work to ensure they have healthy journalism for generations to come.”

Valley Public Radio’s President and General Manager Joe Moore says the collaborative is an exciting opportunity to increase collaboration and bring more coverage of local news to the community. “We’re excited to see Microsoft’s commitment to local journalism and specifically the Fresno area, and their focus on listening to the needs of our community,” said Moore.

“By working together with our colleagues at Radio Bilingüe, The Fresno Bee, and Vida en el Valle, we can reach a wider audience and have a bigger impact with our reporting, whether it’s on the radio, in digital, print, in English or in Spanish. When combined with the technology expertise and resources of Microsoft, this project has the potential to elevate local journalism and keep the valley better informed on key issues like COVID-19.”
Meet Valley Public Radio Reporter Soreath Hok

Valley Public Radio listeners will notice a new voice on the airwaves, reporter Soreath Hok. Her coverage of local government, politics and other local news can be heard on Valley Edition, KVPR.org and within local news breaks in Morning Edition and All Things Considered. She has worked in radio, television and digital media for the last 16 years both in the San Joaquin Valley and in Sacramento.

Hok said she is energized by the opportunity to explore audio journalism in a creative environment while being close to home. “I think it’s such an exciting time to return to radio and to be able to explore creative storytelling with audio,” said Hok. “The Valley Public Radio news team is incredibly hard-working and talented. I feel lucky to be part of this diverse group of women.”

Valley Public Radio’s News Director Alice Daniel said Hok is a great addition to the station’s staff. “The news team is thrilled to have Soreath join us. It feels like serendipity that she returned to Fresno right when we were looking for a new reporter. Her production and reporting background are evident every time she turns in a story. She’s a great team player and is always ready to share ideas and support other reporters. Her positive attitude in a time of great challenges is a real plus.”

A Cambodian-American, Hok began her journalism career in Fresno, graduating from Fresno State with a B.A. in English and minor in Mass Communication & Journalism. Her first media job at KFSR, the campus radio station, helped to launch her career in broadcast news. She worked as a producer at two Fresno stations, KMPH FOX 26 and KSEE 24, before moving to KCRA 3 in Sacramento.

After more than 10 years behind-the-scenes as a producer, Hok explored other creative outlets outside of news in advertising, marketing and social media. Most recently, she started a social media marketing company in Sacramento, before deciding to move back to Fresno to help with her family’s business, Sprinkles Donuts. Now, she’s happy to be back in her hometown, returning to the medium that started it all for her.

“I love being back home and rediscovering my city with a fresh journalistic perspective. I can’t wait to uncover the stories waiting to be told,” said Hok.
Valley Public Radio’s signature youth arts program is returning for a 2021 season with a new form and broadcast time. With last year’s season cut short in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the new season will feature socially-distanced performances from local student groups and soloists. The 2021 season will debut Thursday March 18th at 8:00 PM on Valley Public Radio and will continue throughout the spring at that time. Valley Public Radio’s David Aus will be the host.

Listeners can expect to hear a range of types of performances this year, from soloists performing exclusively for Valley Public Radio, to digitally realized performances by larger ensembles. Host David Aus said the goal this year is to show how even the COVID-19 pandemic has kept students and music instructions active, searching for new ways to engage with students through technology and distance learning. “It’s inspiring to see young musicians come together remotely to perform and share their talent with others. That’s always our goal with Young Artists Spotlight, to showcase the gifts of young people and in turn inspire us all. And while the method of doing that has changed thanks to the pandemic, the result is no less powerful,” said Aus.

This year will also feature new elements to Young Artists Spotlight, as for the first time, two radio theater performances will be included in the season, with one from students at CSU Bakersfield, and another from Bakersfield’s Stockdale High School. In addition, this year’s performances will also include online videos posted on the station’s website and YouTube page.

Valley Public Radio President and General Manager Joe Moore said that while this season of Young Artists Spotlight will be different, it still promises to be an engaging broadcast series. “We obviously look forward to being able to invite students back into our Barmann-Chaney Performance Studio. While it doesn’t look like that will be possible for this upcoming season, we’re eager to hear what our local musicians have been working on and to share their success with a wider audience,” said Moore.

Support for this 2021 season of Young Artists Spotlight on Valley Public Radio comes from the Bonner Family Foundation and the California Arts Council’s Arts and Public Media program.
Valley Public Radio has launched a new weekly podcast dedicated to bringing local listeners up-to-date information about the COVID-19 pandemic. On each episode of COVID-19 This Week: San Joaquin Valley, host Kathleen Schock and health reporter Kerry Klein will explore the latest developments in vaccine distribution, new variants of the virus, and the impact to essential workers and communities in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare Counties.

The podcast is also heard in broadcast form as a segment on the station’s weekly news magazine program Valley Edition. New episodes will be published every Friday afternoon. You can find the podcast on KVPR.org, through NPR.org or on the Apple and Google podcast platforms.

“This podcast began as a weekly segment on Valley Edition, and the coverage has been so well received, we decided to launch the segment as a stand-alone podcast, for people who want to the latest information in an accessible and convenient way,” says Valley Public Radio President and General Manager Joe Moore.
For 2021, the Fresno Philharmonic is presenting a series of online performances in their Digital Masterworks Series. Each concert will premier on YouTube, and will later be broadcast on Valley Public Radio on the 2nd Tuesday following each YouTube premier. Join host David Aus and conductor Rei Hotoda for this series of special broadcasts.

Upcoming Fresno Philharmonic Digital Masterworks Broadcasts on KVPR FM89:

**Tuesday March 23rd 8:00 PM - Vive la France: Ibert Divertissement**

Alons-y! This program is a Francophile’s delight culminating in the charming insouciance of Jacques Ibert’s Divertissement. Our season-long exploration of contemporary African-American composers continues with Jasmine Barnes’ timely Resistance Brass Quintet.

**Tuesday April 27th 8:00 PM - Bach to the Future: Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 3**

The Masterworks Series concludes with a celebration of the influence of Baroque music across five centuries. Gabrieli’s music written for St. Mark’s Basilica in Venice was an important turn from the Renaissance to the Baroque musical style. Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 exemplifies the high Baroque style, while works by Beethoven, Villa-Lobos and Kevin Day testify to the Baroque’s lingering inspiration down to the present.
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