COVID-19 Hits the Inland Empire, KVCR Jumps into Action to Provide Information to Community

As schools and districts in Riverside and San Bernardino counties suspended classes to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, KVCR-TV joined other PBS stations throughout the state to support At-Home Learning for students in our region. Ben Holland, KVCR-TV Program Director, worked quickly to create an all new daytime schedule. We provided the program descriptions to the San Bernardino County Superintendent of School Curriculum, Instruction and Academic Enrichment department. They creatively and rapidly created a curriculum for grades 4-8 and 9-12 for the day-by-day schedule. Working at a feverish pace, our KVCR team, including website coordinator - Sean Houlihan, created landing pages for the learning material in order to complement the week-day programs. Our production staff member, Tim Stytle quickly created a promotional spot for television, informing KVCR viewers of the changes to our schedule and the educational priorities behind them. All this happened in two days.

At 6:00am on March 23 KVCR launched the new TV schedule covering the first two weeks of school outages. The new 12 hour weekday schedule includes curriculum-based programs for Pre-K to 3rd grade from 6:00am to 9:00am. Programs include *Sesame Street, Peg + Cat* and *Curious George*. Content targeting grades 9-12+ airs from 9:00am to 12 noon with programs like *NOVA* and *American Experience*. Grades 4-8 are served from noon to 3:00pm. These grade level appropriate shows include History Detectives and Huell Howser’s California Missions. Remaining consistent with grade levels based on day part, new programs will be added as At-Home learning continues. SBCSS is already at work with additional curriculum to compliment the TV programs. The programs KVCR is broadcasting typically cover and reinforce subjects including English and language arts, social studies, science, and math. Adult learning programs for all ages round out the TV programming schedule from 3:00pm – 6:00pm each week day. These include cooking, crafting, painting and woodworking.

Concurrent with Empire KVCR TV efforts to support At-Home Learning, the KVCR News team fast-tracked the creation of a new radio show, *Inland Edition*. Currently hosted by Lillian Vasquez, Rick Dulock produces the program and David Fleming’s digital editing prowess allows for quick assembly once elements are recorded. We were able to pull the show together in record time. The idea was formed on a Thursday and the first show premiered the following Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. *Inland Edition* is a public affairs program from Empire KVCR News. Each episode conveys information about current conditions related to the coronavirus pandemic, as well as resources and services available in our two-county region. Our first guest was Ted Alejandre, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. Wednesday’s show had Dr. Judy White, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools.

Moving forward, as we work together to slow the spread of the virus and keep people as safe as possible, we’ll be inviting community leaders, educators, officials and other experts to converse on any number of relevant topics. As each episode is produced, it will be presented to various segments of our local population over the air, online and through social media.

*Inland Edition* airs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. and repeats at 5:30 p.m. It’s been a team effort as Empire KVCR answers the call for communicating educational information to families and students, and for informing our community about resources and best practices so that we have the best chance to flatten the curve of COVID-19 cases in our region.
Local Food Bank Struggles To Deal With Increased Demand Due To Coronavirus – Local food banks struggle to keep up with increased demand after the coronavirus. Stephanie Otero, CEO of Feeding America Riverside / San Bernardino, shared that coronavirus has forced a lot of people to seek assistance from a food bank.

Congressman Mark Takano On Coronavirus Relief, Test Kits, And More – Congressman Takano spoke about the Families First Act, which includes free coronavirus testing, expanded family and medical leave, paid emergency sick leave, and more.


Local Preschool Deals With More Kids, Less Toilet Paper Thanks To Coronavirus – Preschool owner in San Bernardino is coping with more kids and less toilet paper due to the coronavirus pandemic. She stated she’s seen an increase in kids at the preschool, as their parents – who maybe work jobs in the medical profession – are forced to work more hours.

San Bernardino County Fire Agencies Join Together To Provide Services During Pandemic – County officials gave an update on how county fire agencies are working together to provide emergency services during the pandemic.


UCR Coronavirus Shutdown - UC Riverside suspends in-person attendance based on coronavirus concerns.

Riverside County Competes in Mock Trials – Eight teams in the 38th annual Riverside County Mock Trials Competition confront each other in the elite round.

Norco Mann Fire – 175 acre Mann Fire forces evacuations in Norco, affecting about 500 homes and 1,500 people.

Skydive Perris Grounded – World famous Skydive Perris is grounded for an undetermined period because of coronavirus exposure risks and the skydiving operation is taking a major hit.

San Bernardino County Fire Agencies Join Together To Provide Services During Pandemic – County officials gave an update on how county fire agencies are working together to provide emergency services during the pandemic.

In conversation with Larry Chance, of The Earls | Lillian Vasquez talks with Ignazio Boschetto, of Il Volo. Il Volo is on their ‘10 years live’ tour, with a stop in Indio March 7th. | Emmanuel Rogers speaks with actor Michael O’Neil. He’s part of a new series, Counsel of Dads | Lillian Vasquez in conversation with Violinist and conductor Andre Rieu. | Kenny Vance, one of the founding members of Jay and the Americans. | David Fleming speaks with NPR’s Bob Boilen, the host and creator of All Songs Considered and The NPR Tiny Desk Concert | Lillian Vasquez in conversation with John Tesh about his new TV special.

Lifestyles takes a fresh look at arts, culture and issues across our unique region. If it’s interesting and it’s here in the Inland Empire, it’s Lifestyles with Lillian Vasquez.

Actress Wendie Malick shares her career, which includes her popular acting roles on the TV series Just Shoot Me and Hot in Cleveland.


Author, speaker, and podcast host Manoush Zomorodi, she is the new host of the TED Radio Hour. Manoush shares her background in public media and what she hopes to bring to the TED Radio Hour. AND Actor, producer, writer, and comedian Shawn Wayans. He shares a number of projects including his newest project, The Boo Crew, that’s geared towards children.

Award-winning radio and TV host, composer, and author John Tesh. John talks about his new public television special, John Tesh, Songs and Stories from the Grand Piano.

Director, producer, actor, and writer Cady McClain, she talks about her many acting roles and her memoir, “Cady McClain:Murdering My Youth.”
Preparing for TV Pledge is the Production of the Month

Empire KVCR Production completed local pledge content for 10 programs, including the latest from audience favorites Celtic Thunder. Empire KVCR had three levels of concert tickets to offer as “Thank-You” gifts for viewer support. We have already sold out the “Soundcheck Level”. The “Soundcheck Level” is where members get to experience the Soundcheck that takes place prior to the concert. In addition, local pledge breaks were created for musical prodigy Ethan Bortnick promoting his new concert at the Fox Performing Arts Center in Riverside. Empire KVCR is the exclusive source for Meet & Greet Tickets for this concert. Because of the hard work and dedication of Empire KVCR Production Staff, this pledge drive was our most successful from the past years. We exceeded our goal. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus it affected two events which had to be canceled, including the Andre Rieu concert, and the Lawrence Welk home tour in Palm Springs. We are still moving forward with the October concerts that include Ethan Bortnick and Celtic Thunder.

The Legacy List As baby boomers downsize living spaces and settle estates, this program helps aging homeowners catalog a lifetime of belongings, locating treasured heirlooms and unexpected valuables in the attic, closet, or even under the floorboards. Host Matt Paxton, a nine-season veteran of A&E’s Hoarders, is joined by military memorabilia expert Avi Hopkins, fashion collectibles authority Jaime Ebanks, and Mike Kelleher, a walking encyclopedia of pop culture trinkets and antiques. Sundays at 10:00pm

No Passport Required
Join Chef Marcus Samuelsson on an inspiring journey across the U.S. to explore and celebrate the wide-ranging diversity of immigrant traditions and cuisine woven into American food and culture. Tuesdays at 7:00pm

Inside California Education: Community Colleges
Inside California Education is a magazine-style weekly series that takes a fresh look at the challenges and opportunities facing California’s public schools. Highlights include an innovative effort to attract and nurture students who are the first within their families to attend college; and how colleges are creating high-paying career opportunities in agriculture, nursing, biotechnology, and even firefighting. Viewers will learn how community college remains an extremely affordable way to obtain an associate’s degree or certificate, make a mid-life career change, or transfer to a four-year public institutions in the UC and CSU system. Wednesdays at 6:00pm

POV: The Rescue List In a rehabilitation shelter in Ghana, two children are recovering from enslavement to fishermen. But their story takes an unexpected turn when their rescuer embarks on another mission and asks the children for help. April 9 at 10:00pm

World on Fire on Masterpiece Follow the intertwining fates of ordinary people as they grapple with the effects of World War II on their everyday lives. Set in Britain, Poland, France and Germany, the events of the series take place during the first year of the war. Mondays at 8:00pm starting April 13

Nova: Transplanting Hope Follow the patients who desperately need transplants to save their lives, see the profound decisions families face in donating the organs of loved ones who die, and learn about the critical shortage of organs and new research into “organs by design.” April 30 at 7:00pm

The READY CAMPAIGN
The Ready Campaign has contracted with KVCR’s Production Services to spotlight community colleges. KVCR is providing the campaign with two videos highlighting both its Entrepreneurship and Game Development programs. This past month, KVCR has interviewed key instructors such working in the two program area. We also gathered student success stories -- including alumni small business owners Justin, Ximena, and Eric. Editing has begun on the Entrepreneurship Video, and plans for the Game Development video are underway.
IN THE COMMUNITY

KVCR’s Lillian Vasquez was asked to run for Queen of Mardi Crawl in support of United Way Inland Valley. It’s a yearly event held in support of United Way’s 2-1-1 project. 2-1-1 is a toll free, confidential service providing Riverside County residents access and referrals to community and health information 24 hours a day, 7-days a week and in many languages. The information provided covers topics including the need of food and shelter, suicide prevention hotline, health care and mental health services, job training and unemployment services, education and the arts, rent and mortgage assistance, financial assistance, children’s services including day care, senior services including social security, help with healthcare options, and/or ways to volunteer.

KVCR-TV: It’s still Women’s History Month. And we’re celebrating women with a beautifully made documentary—Seeing Is Believing: Women Direct is a documentary film which emphasizes the opportunity for women to use their voice through media to change the social and political landscape and achieve full equality. Focusing on inspiring and uplifting young female storytellers through the mentorship and leadership of four diverse directors.

New Graphics Promoting Empire KVCR
Our graphic team, created this ad to promote what was to be our upcoming radio pledge drive campaign, originally scheduled for April 1-9. The full page ad was placed in the Inland Empire magazine. It was scheduled to be used throughout the fund raising campaign on our website in with our social media efforts. But in light of the challenging time facing the Coronavirus, as a team we elected to cancel the drive and focus our efforts to provide radio content for our listeners. This included the newest radio show added to our schedule, Inland Edition.

KVCR’s Lillian Vasquez was asked to run for Queen of Mardi Crawl in support of United Way Inland Valley. It’s a yearly event held in support of United Way’s 2-1-1 project. 2-1-1 is a toll free, confidential service providing Riverside County residents access and referrals to community and health information 24 hours a day, 7-days a week and in many languages. The information provided covers topics including the need of food and shelter, suicide prevention hotline, health care and mental health services, job training and unemployment services, education and the arts, rent and mortgage assistance, financial assistance, children’s services including day care, senior services including social security, help with healthcare options, and/or ways to volunteer.

91.9 KVCR: The first case of COVID-19 has been confirmed in Big Bear Lake. Mayor Rick Herrick was tested on Thursday, and received a positive test result late Friday evening.
Travel & Delights Season 2
(French with English subtitles)
A delicious travel show where the great chef KELLY takes you to discover the most amazing dishes and original cuisine prepared with local products and very original, even ancestral techniques. Meet some great cooks from all over the world, discover new recipes and enjoy the most beautiful sceneries while preparing delicious food.
April 12 at 11:00am (PT) / 2:00pmPM (ET)

Sheltered (New Episodes 3 & 4)
A 4-part documentary series that follows Derek Marsden, an Ojibway carpenter, as he travels the world to learn the ancient home building techniques of the world’s Indigenous and traditional cultures. His journey will take him to locations in Africa, Central and South America where he will live and work with people who are managing to maintain their customs and lifestyle.
April 19 at 4:00am (PT) / 7:00amET

Inca Nation
A nationalist revolution is brewing in Peru. Tired of a world banking system that has turned them into slaves, Peruvians are turning to radical nationalist groups. A crowd of Christian Nationalists waves the Nazi flag. They’re calling for foreign companies to leave and Peru to be left to indigenous people. People in Peru are desperate. There are no jobs, no money and no health care. Extremist groups provide a real political alternative. “The Spanish exterminated the indigenous people. Now we want a return to power.”
April 20 at 9:00pm (PT) / Tuesday, April 21 at 12:00am (ET)