

O.C. REMEMBERS 9/11

Alan Burley, 23, a Cal State Fullerton student, sets out flags on campus.

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ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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BRUCE CHAMBERS, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Electric rates could climb

Provisions in state legislation include greater emphasis on renewable power sources.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California is close to passing a sweeping overhaul of its energy regulations that could lead to higher electricity rates for many people, lower rates for some and require utilities to generate more power from renewable sources such as wind and solar power.

The state Senate passed AB327 on Monday on a 33-5 vote, after the bill passed the Assembly overwhelmingly in May. Gov. Jerry Brown is expected to sign it into law.

The proposal would replace "outdated, electric-rate restrictions adopted during the state's energy regulation crisis over a decade ago," said its author, Assemblyman Henry Peera, D-Fresno.

Existing law requires utilities to get 33 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by the end of 2020. AB327 would give the Public Utilities Commission the ability to raise that requirement without

THE \$39 MILLION GAVIN HERBERT EYE INSTITUTE at UC Irvine is complete, financed with private funds, ready to provide a range of care.

A CLEARER VISION FOR EYE PATIENTS



ED CRISOSTOMO, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

450,000
 Californians with low vision or blindness

34
 patient exam rooms in Gavin Herbert Eye Institute

2
 operating rooms at the institute

1,500
 square feet of education and conference space

Gavin Herbert, right, chats with Jerry Hansen during the UC Irvine Health Gavin Herbert Eye Institute open house.

UC Irvine dedicated a new \$39 million eye institute on Wednesday that was paid for entirely with private donations, many from Orange County's global hub of eye care companies.

The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute contains the campus's first outpatient operating rooms and will eventually conduct stem cell clinical trials aimed at restoring vision.

Chancellor Michael Drake called the institute a place for patient care, research and education. As a practicing ophthalmologist, he said he will no longer have to commute to UC Irvine Medical Center in Orange.

Eliminate blindness by the year 2020."

DR. ROGER STEINERT
 INSTITUTE DIRECTOR,
 DESCRIBING THE GOAL IN 2012

STORY BY COURTNEY PERKES
 ON NEWS 13

THE MORNING READ

MAY THE FAN BE WITH YOU



COURTESY OF PATRICIA MONTERO
 David Montero and his son Miles.

'Star Wars' changed the reporter's life. Would it do the same for his son?

By DAVID MONTERO
 ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

It was Sunday morning, and I was stalling.

With Miles, my 7-year-old son, in the back seat, I meandered along the roads of Long Beach and Lakewood, doubt settling over me.

What if he didn't like it? What if he was bored?

What if it didn't change his life forever?

"Where are we going?" he finally asked.

I made a U-turn and pulled into a doughnut shop, decisively, as if that's where we'd been headed all along. He smiled. I got out of the car, knowing a pastry purchase would buy me a few more minutes. Once we got home, there would be no going back.

He picked out a chocolate with sprinkles. I wasn't hungry, but to keep a cool facade, I pointed to a chocolate with coconut shavings.

SEE FAN • PAGE 12

INSIDE



FULL CUSTODY OF TRIPLETS

Lawrence and Kristina Dodge, above, do not have to share custody of their triplets with the girls' surrogate mother, a judge has ruled. LOCAL 1

TIME FOR A FLU SHOT

Public health officials say this is the ideal time to get vaccinated. WELLNESS 1

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DEDICATED TO BETTER SIGHT

Donors support UCI's vision

UC Irvine's Gavin Herbert Eye Institute has been built to be one of the world's foremost centers for eye research, treatment and patient care. Support from private donors, foundations and businesses help fund construction.

Gavin Herbert Eye Institute will offer one-stop care for a variety of patients' needs.

“It is no longer a need for people to think, ‘I need to go up to L.A. to get my eye care.’ We have it all here. This now becomes the catalyst for growth of innovation.”

DR. ROGER STEINERT
FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE

IRVINE • When the new Gavin Herbert Eye Institute at UC Irvine opens to patients Tuesday, the \$39 million, privately funded center will offer one-stop care ranging from fittings for glasses to cataract surgery.

COURTNEY PERKES
REGISTER WRITER

In addition to doubling patient capacity and adding the first outpatient operating rooms on campus, ophthalmologists and business executives envision a research center for academic and corporate use. The institute is expected to eventually test stem cell research to restore sight now underway in campus labs, as well as conduct clinical trials for products made by the host of eye care companies located in Orange County.

“It is no longer a need for people to think, ‘I need to go up to L.A. to get my eye care.’ We have it all here,” said Dr. Roger Steinert, founding director of the institute. “This now becomes the catalyst for growth of innovation.”

The project was paid for entirely with private funds, including \$10 million from Gavin Herbert, founder of Allergan Inc. of Irvine. Other major donors include Abbott Medical Optics of Santa Ana, the Alcon Foundation, the charitable arm of Alcon, which has a plant in Irvine, and Bausch & Lomb, with surgical headquarters in Aliso Viejo.

“I think it will help them bring new therapies and products to market sooner,” Herbert said Wednesday as he toured the 70,000-square-foot building. “Residents of Orange County are going to have even better access – earlier to new technology.”

Dr. Ralph Clayman, dean of the medical school, said the



Abbott
Formerly American Medical Optics and based in Santa Ana, produces devices for refractive surgeries, implants and eye care products.



Alcon Laboratories
Based in Fort Worth, Texas, with offices in Irvine, manufactures and produces surgical products, pharmaceuticals and contact lenses.



Allergan
Based in Irvine, researches and develops eye-care drugs to treat dry eye, glaucoma and diseases.



Allergan Foundation
Charity that provides grants in several areas, including health and human services.



Coachella Valley Desert Visionairs
Nonprofit organization founded by Branna Eliscu Sisenwein.



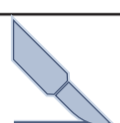
DevicePharm
Based in Irvine, a marketing firm for medical and biotech companies.



Olen Properties
Based in Newport Beach, supports the Andrei Olenicoff Memorial Foundation, which seeks a cure for retinitis pigmentosa.



ReVision Optics Inc.
Based in Lake Forest, manufactures various devices and treatments for presbyopia.



NeoMedix Inc.
Based in Tustin, develops medical devices, including the Trabectome system, a minimally-invasive surgical procedure for glaucoma



IntraLase
Began in Irvine and became part of Abbott Medical Optics, manufactures LASIK devices.



Discovery Eye Foundation
Based in Los Angeles, group seeks cures for various eye diseases.
Molly Zisk / The Register



ED CRISOSTOMO, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

UC Irvine Chancellor Michael Drake, left foreground, Gavin Herbert and other dignitaries listen to guest speakers during the Gavin Herbert Eye Institute open house.

eye institute never would have been built if UCI had relied on state funding. He said he hopes more private donations will allow for customized expansion based on community

needs. “This sets a tremendous precedent,” Clayman said. “Tomorrow maybe it’s a musculoskeletal institute. Maybe the next day it’s a specialized

cancer center on this campus. This is what we should be doing more and more of.” The building was designed with eye-catching features, while also accommodating pa-

tients with limited vision. Reflective dichroic glass art hangs from the 45-foot-high ceiling in the lobby, where sunlight creates colorful reflections that change with the shifting of light. A rotating series of posters contains enlarged copies of research papers with vivid photos of work done at UCI.

UCI consulted with the Braille Institute to select colors, patterns and even bathroom fixtures. For instance, check-in countertops are gray.

“You have to get a color that is contrasting enough so if someone with partial sight puts down a piece of paper, they don’t lose track of it,” Steinert said.

He said noisy hand dryers for the bathrooms were scrapped because the sound would drown out audio clues for orientation such as running water and movement of the door.

The institute will consolidate and expand a number of services. For the first time, it will offer optometry services and also has four exam rooms designed for children.

Dr. Sumit “Sam” Garg, the institute’s medical director, said the nonprofit Sight Life eye bank will move into the building this fall, giving local doctors immediate access to tissue used in corneal transplants and research instead of receiving shipments from Seattle.

“It just gives us another resource,” Garg said.

Previously, patients underwent surgery at UC Irvine Medical Center in Orange. They shared space with other specialties in the Gottschalk Medical Plaza on campus and doctors had their offices in another building.

“It’s just so amazing to have this unified facility instead of being split up,” Steinert said. “Now all of this has been brought together.”

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ENERGY: Coastal residents could pay more, inland residents less

FROM PAGE 1

the Legislature’s approval, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

“It essentially makes the 33 percent a floor, not a ceiling,” said Bernadette Del Chiaro, executive director of the California Solar Energy Industries Association. “That’s huge.”

Sen. Mimi Walters, R-Irvine, in a statement to the Register, focused on the same element of the bill.

“While I supported AB327, because I believe the bill provides greater equity and fairness for all electricity ratepayers, I remain

concerned about the provision of the bill that makes the current 33 percent renewable portfolio standard the floor, rather than the ceiling,” she said.

The bill would allow the PUC to change the rate structure for many utility customers after conducting a detailed investigation. Coastal residents might see higher bills while people in hotter climates such as San Bernardino and Riverside counties, the San Joaquin Valley and the Mojave Desert might see rate relief, concluded a Los Angeles Times analysis.

The PUC also would be

permitted to:

- Charge all ratepayers a fee of up to \$10 a month, which would add as much as \$120 per year to energy bills, as critics point out;
 - Rewrite rules for solar power users, who currently can sell their excess power back to the state’s electrical grid;
 - Require utilities to generate more power from renewable resources such as solar and wind power.
- “The bill is a good package that allows the commission flexibility it needs to set rates going forward. It also includes significant ratepayer protections,”

said Mike Campbell, a program manager with the Division of Ratepayer Advocates, the commission’s independent watchdog arm.

The cost of electricity per kilowatt-hour is regulated by a tiered pricing system. During California’s 2000-2001 energy crisis, the state froze the two lowest tiers.

At the time, prices were soaring and the state faced energy shortages and rolling brownouts.

With some rates frozen, utilities instead have passed on the rising costs of buying and producing power to higher-tier customers

– heavy users of electricity such as manufacturers and owners of big homes with swimming pools and lots of appliances.

The new bill is backed by Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and San Diego Gas & Electric Co. It also has support from consumer groups, senior citizens groups and trade groups for retailers and the solar power industry.

Opponents include the Sierra Club, which sees the legislation as a deterrent to renewable energy, and trade groups for large-scale industrial users, including

the California Manufacturers & Technology Association and the California League of Food Processors.

“AB327 is a powerful reminder of the extent to which utilities influence public policy to the benefit of their shareholders and the detriment of working families. It’s disappointing that so many legislators walked away from their constituents’ interest,” said Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips in a statement. “They’ve now saddled Californians with up to \$120 a year in new charges on their electricity bills.”

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