

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Irvine news briefs: UCI law professor helps U.N., hot pepper on menu, more

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UCI TEACHER TAPPED TO PROMOTE FREE SPEECH

The United Nations Human Rights Council has appointed UC Irvine law professor David Kaye to a position where he will promote and protect the right to freedom of opinion and expression worldwide. Issues include the safety of journalists, electronic surveillance, hate speech and more, according to a statement from UC Irvine. The Special Rapporteur position is a three-year term. Kaye started in his role Aug. 1.

Kaye has been a UCI law professor since 2012. Students in the university's International Justice Clinic, directed by Kaye, will assist.

SPECIAL DISH FEATURES HOTTEST PEPPER

Start drinking water now to get your mouth ready for one of the world's hottest chile peppers – the Trinidad Moruga Scorpion pepper – that will be featured in a \$28 lamb dish at the Clay Oven Indian restaurant through September.

The New Mexico State University's Chile Pepper Institute has ranked the pepper No. 1 for its 2 million Scoville heat units (equivalent to about 400 jalapenos per pepper) although the Guinness World Records last year declared the Carolina Reaper (2.2 million Scoville heat units) the hottest.

The \$28 Shiv dish, named for the god of creation and destruction, features the Trinidad Moruga Scorpion pepper, which is hot, sure, but also features a "fruit-like flavor," said the restaurant's owner and chef Geeta Bansal.

"When combined with the other ingredients, the Shiv features a wide spectrum of flavors like salty, sweet, spicy, piquant and astringent," she said in a statement.

And it comes with a side of legal language. Diners have to sign a legal waiver before taking a bite.

If you finish it, you'll earn a certificate deserving of a place beside any Ivy League school degree and the chance to win one of Clay Oven's Tandoori turkeys for Thanksgiving.

CITY TO CONSIDER BROADCOM CAMPUS

Developer FivePoint Communities is expected to argue its plan for a 2 million-square-foot corporate campus for tech giant Broadcom that should be approved at a special City Council meeting scheduled to start at 2 p.m. Tuesday at One Civic Center Plaza.

The planning commission had approved the master plan 4-1 in July.

There was concern about a large bridge in the design that would cover a future section of Marine Way overhead. Commissioner Mary Ann Gaido, who voted against the plan, said it represented a land giveaway

to the developer since the large pedestrian bridge that would double as a plaza would hover over a public road.

Councilman Larry Agran appealed the planning commission's approval.

The planning commission's vote came before Broadcom announced it would lay off 2,500 people in its cellular division worldwide.

The Orange County Register has reported that of those 2,500 positions, 240 jobs will be lost in Irvine, based on layoff notices sent to the state.

PEDEGO BIKE RIDER TRAVELS 3,300 MILES

When Cathy Rogers, 57, wanted to peddle alongside her husband, Paul, and a team of riders on road bikes in the annual Big Ride Across America to benefit the American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific, she got on an electric bike from Pedego.

It's the first time one of Pedego's bikes have been driven cross-country.

Rogers, from Pittsburgh, isn't new to cycling. She started cycling clothing company Aero Tech Designs. But she's a casual cyclist who didn't mind the extra boost the electric bike enabled in winds and over mountains.

Pedego, based in Irvine, sponsored Rogers' 48-day, 3,300-mile cross-country journey from Redmond, Wash., to Washington, D.C., where she arrived last weekend. The Pedego Interceptor retails for \$2,895.

Pedego has more than 50 dealerships and sells their bicycles in more than 800 stores.

MEDAL COLLECTORS SHOW OFF HARDWARE

The Orders and Medals Society of America is bringing its annual show of medals – knighthood, decorations for bravery, service, etc. – to the Hotel Irvine at 17900 Jamboree Road from Aug. 14-17.

The convention will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 16. Cost to attend that day is \$6.

The rest of the convention is reserved for the Society's members.

The Society is a nonprofit historical research group.

For more information, visit omsa.org.