

NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL: A LOOK AHEAD

STORIES TO WATCH IN 2012

This year will bring thousands of news stories; here are several in particular to watch for based on what's taken place so far

BULLISH TREND: BABY STEPS SHOULD CONTINUE IN 2012



Construction was going strong in 2005 when these houses in Sycamore Creek in the Temescal Valley south of Corona were being built. Home construction slowed significantly in the recession and is expected to remain slow in 2012.

ECONOMY LIKELY TO KEEP GROWING Inland hiring and lending are up, but the housing sector will still impede gains

BY JACK KATZANEK STAFF WRITER jkatzanek@pe.com

filled with encouragement. Unemployment in the two-county tion of housing. The Inland area's area in November, the most re- economic boom was based on homes are facing foreclosure or A major distribution center is cent month for which there's da- more subdivisions, more office short sales. nearing completion, small busi- ta, was as low as it's been in 31 workers preparing escrow documonths. There were almost ments for buyers, more malls and aggressive and Inland Southern 20,000 Inland workers on payrolls public facilities to support these Husing said of the 2012 economy. California offices are adding who couldn't say that when 2011 started. Also, there have been reports for workers in Riverside and San of increased entrepreneurial Bernardino counties. But there lending in the past few months, and business owners who borrow in order to expand usually more than a faint echo of the hire people. Businesses with fewer than 100 workers are responsible for about two-thirds of all new

There is, however, the ques- see any improvement next year subdivisions — and there doesn't appear to be a lot of that kind of "more" coming in 2012. John Husing said that there were almost 30,000 residential building permits issued in Riverside County alone in 2005, the peak of the economic expansion. There built on spec, meaning the develwill probably be less than 3,000 permits in 2011, and he doesn't company to operate there.

because too many existing

"We're dragging an anchor,

ON THE DOCKET



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE Norma Lopez, 17, was walking home from school when she was abducted July 15, 2010. Her body was found days later.



The slavings of a Moreno Valley high school student and a Riverside police officer will go to trial **BY RICHARD K. De ATLEY** STAFF WRITER rdeatley@pe.com

Two major Inland slaying cases are expected to go to trial in 2012.

ness owners appear to be more more support staffers.

All of these trends bode well are few indications that the area's economy in 2012 will be much boom years that came to an end in 2007, economists say.

The last quarter of 2011 was jobs in the Inland area.

the lack of home construction,

Husing said the economy will continue getting strong support from the logistics sector, which Redlands-based economist saw an increase in new jobs in 2011. A Chicago-based developer has almost completed building a 692,000-square-foot distribution center in Moreno Valley that was oper is bullish about finding a

EDUCATION: STATE BUDGET CUTS FUNDING AMONG CHALLENGES FACING TEACHERS, POLICY MAKERS

BY JANET ZIMMERMAN STAFF WRITER jzimmerman@pe.com

Educational leaders won't be ing year as they struggle with cover the shortfall. So far, revefunding uncertainties, improv- nue was sufficient to avoid auto- major regional routes and start San Bernardino and connect it ing high school graduation rates matic mid-year cuts that would and getting more kids to college. have shortened the K-12 school In December, the state an-

nounced nearly \$1 billion in funding cuts to education, and Gov. Jerry Brown has introduced a tax increase initiative for next without challenges in the com- year's ballot that he says will SEE EDUCATION/C7

TRANSPORTATION: CONSTRUCTION WORK ROAD PROJECTS, FEDERAL POLICY TO DOMINATE COURSE OF 2012

BY DUG BEGLEY STAFF WRITER dbegley@pe.com

Inland area commuters will face a 2012 similar to 2011: Conin new places even as current projects progress.

From Temecula to San Bernar-

dino, drivers will confront construction along Interstate 215. Crews are widening the freeway to three lanes from Interstate 15 to Scott Road in Murrieta. Work struction will continue on many to widen the freeway through more smoothly to Highway 210 north of downtown is not expec-SEE ROAD WORK/C4

Earl Ellis Green, 45, of Rubidoux, is charged with the shooting and beating death of Riverside Police Officer Ryan Bonaminio during a foot chase along the edge of Riverside's Fairmount Park in November 2010.

Green could face the death penalty if convicted. He has pleaded not guilty.

Jesse Perez Torres, 35, of Long Beach, is accused of slaying Norma Lopez, 17, of Moreno Valley. Perez Torres was arrested in October, more than a year after Norma was killed while walking home from summer school at Valley View High School.

Perez Torres lived in the neighborhood of the school at the time of the slaying, and moved out about one month later.

Prosecutors linked him to the case through DNA found at the crime scene near Norma's body, which was found five days after she disappeared. Perez Torres has pleaded not guilty.

With the special circum-SEE TRIALS/C7

LIVING THROUGH BEING 'WORKING POOR'

omeday I may get too depressed to keep watching the evening news but for now I remain a news junkie. It's bad enough to watch the news every night but I also tape the Sunday morning talking heads shows. Quoting Mick Jagger, "To get my fair share of abuse." Last week I was struck when Diane Sawyer announced half of all Americans ei- both could be fortunate enough to ther live in poverty or are considered working poor. Fifty percent of all Americans live in poverty or are poor? It's difficult to comprehend what this must mean for our families.

The term "working poor" has an ominous tone. A mom or dad or



Mitchell Rosen

have a job and what they bring home is still not enough to keep their families warm, fed, housed and healthy. I seem to be writing about the economy so often because not being able to make ends meet is dominating many of the family counseling sessions in my

office.

Parents are trying to figure out how to explain to their kids things are bad but they don't need to panic. Children are offering to get jobs that don't exist or sell toys they just got for their birthdays. Mom and dad are trying to work overtime to buy the same gifts — reminiscent of "Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry. Seems to come down to how can we reassure the people we love when we ourselves don't know what the future holds?

I don't want to sound like Debbie Downer, but this is a crucial question. It may be the best definition of what family means to be able to support each other at times when

one, two or three in the same family are springing leaks. While it may be tempting to do a Chicken Little. it didn't help the chicken and it won't help the rest of us.

Asking what our family needs from us is not rhetorical and it is certainly not an easy question. Sure, a cool million would be nice but most of us don't have that buried in the backyard or hidden in the attic. What our family needs from us is a sense of inclusion. Especially when times are difficult and there is pervasive sense of going from bad to worse, these are the moments none of us wants to feel alone.

It is more than palliative to be a

presence for someone you love. This could mean going for a walk and talking. It might take the form of sitting together and commiserating about goals for the future. It's a dangerous symptom when any of us stops scheming and planning for the future.

It's also healthy to have a reality check from those who know us best. It helps when the best plan is, "I'm going to buy a lot of Scratchers or win the Lotto" is met with, "Probably not the best time to throw money away. Let's look at the talents you do have."

Mitchell Rosen, M.A., is a licensed marriage and family therapist with practices in Corona and Temecula.

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Jesse Perez Torres is charged with the murder of Moreno Valley teen Norma Lopez.



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE Earl Ellis Green, 44, a parolee, is charged with the slaying of Riverside Police Officer Ryan Bonaminio.





LOCAL

CONTRIBUTED IMAGE Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona Division engineer Erika Garcia, right, directs students in use of a Ground Tracking System during the 12th annual Science Technology Education Partnership Conference in October.

EDUCATION CONTINUED FROM **C1**

year by one week.

At the same time, there was \$1.4 billion in state funding cuts for higher education, prompting community colleges and the Cal State University and University of California systems to increase fees and tuition. And state funding problems continue to threaten plans to open a medical school at UC Riverside, slated to have its first four-year class of 50 medical students in 2013.

The Inland Empire has one of the lowest college-going rates in the country, ranking 94th out of 100 met-

College graduates will be in demand in the coming decritical thinking skills and operate complex machinery and perform higher math. health depends on raising student achievement, economists and experts said.

Much of the effort to im-

OR

20 days

STEM, subjects. School districts across the region have opened academies for STEM education and other narrowly focused subjects designed

school. And starting next year, kindergarten age restrictions will kick in. The Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010 gradually moves the cutoff date for a student's fifth birthday to start kindergarten — to Sept. 1 by 2014.

to keep kids interested in

Starting this year, districts are required to start offering transitional kindergarten to children who turn 5 between Nov. 2 and Dec. 2.

MISSION GROVE THEATERS . Alessandro 121 951-789-8483 SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT= OF TIN TIN (PG) 11:35, 2:15, 4:40, 7:10 **△HUGO** G) 1:45, 7:35 ADVENTURES OF TIN TIN (PG 12:05, 2:45, 5:10, 7:50 ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIP WRECKED (G) 11:15, 11:50, 1:45, 2:20, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 7:55 DARKEST HOUR (PG-13) 3:13, 7:13, 7:35 DARKEST HOUR (FG-13) 11:15, 2:05, 5:15, 8:30 HUGO (FG) 11:05, 4:40 JACK & JILL (FG) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:35 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE (FG-13) 11:45, 12:15, 3:15, 3:45, 7:05, 8:15 NEW YEAR'S EVE (FG-13) 11:05, 2:15, 5:05, 8:00 SHERLOCK HOLMES (FG-13) 11:00, 1:40, 2:05, 3:00, 4:55, 7:00, 8:12 HE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO 11:30, 12:00, 3:00, 4:55, 7:00, 8:12 HE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO 11:30, 12:00, 3:00, 6:30, 7:00 THE MUPPETS (FG) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:05 THE SITTER (R) 11:45, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40 WAR HORSE (R) 12:00, 4:00, 7:30 WE BOUGHT A ZOO (PG) 11:10, 2:00, 4:55, 7:40 w.missiongrovetheater.com





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