



Real Estate News You Can Use

Brought to you by Brett Roderman

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Because we all need to be uplifted and enjoy a good laugh...

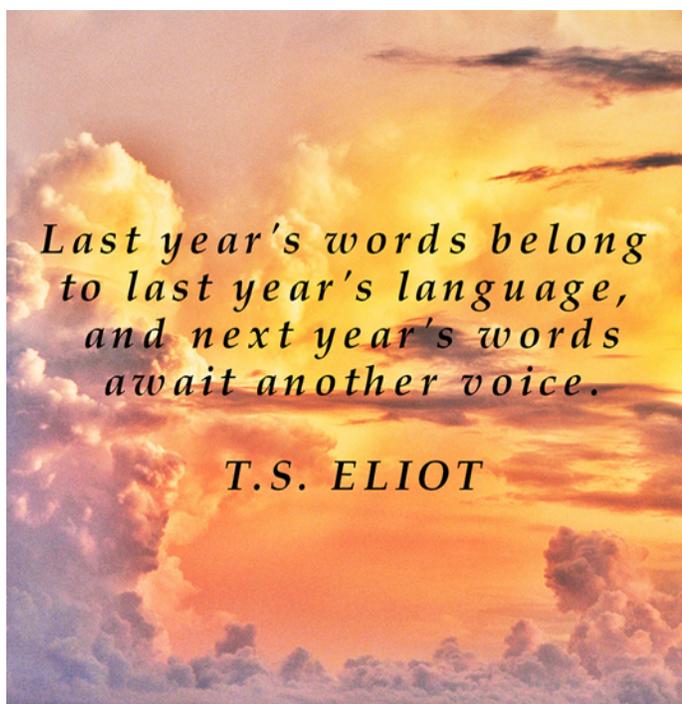
Police Arrive on Scene to ... Play with Toys? When police services in New Zealand picked up a call to their emergency number from a four-year-old boy, they may have been fearing something sinister. Instead, the operator discovered that he was calling the police to ask if they wanted to see his toys. It was clearly a slow day on the South Island, with a dispatch car sent shortly after the call to confirm how cool the boy's toys were. More: <https://tinyurl.com/uplift0122a>

750,000 solar panels to power a steel mill. Colorado will be the site of a pioneering new solar farm being built to provide power to the world's first-ever solar-powered steel mill. The Bighorn Solar Project is a joint venture between BP and Lightsource BP, and the power generated will be sold to the EVRAS North America steel mill in Pueblo. It's a huge step in beginning to decarbonise historically polluting industries. More: <https://tinyurl.com/uplift0122b>



Pickleball takes the United States by storm. A new sport named pickleball is taking the USA by storm, with celebrity fans of the game including Leonardo DiCaprio, Jamie Foxx, Reese Witherspoon and the Kardashians. A hybrid somewhere between ping-pong, tennis and badminton, pickleball is played on a small court about a third the size of a tennis court using plastic balls and paddles, and it's perfect for those who may be overwhelmed by the athletic requirements of regular tennis or badminton clubs. More: <https://tinyurl.com/uplift0122c>

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Links You Can Use Now

January is International Creativity Month. If "be more creative" is on your New Year's resolutions list, here are some online learning resources to spark your creativity and get you rolling.

Udemy is one of the top websites for online learning. In this article, Business Insider drops the 27 most popular courses and how to take them. <https://tinyurl.com/uplift1221>

There are so many different online learning websites, but how do you know which is the best for you? Read this article for a rundown on which ones are best for the artists among us. <https://tinyurl.com/uplift1222>

Always wanted to learn to paint? Head to Domestika, which focuses on classes for the creative individual. Check their selection right here: <https://tinyurl.com/uplift1223>

Who could forget the originators of inspired online learning? Here are the most popular TED Talks of all time, from creativity to power posing and how to be an excellent writer. They've done it, and you can learn from it. <https://tinyurl.com/uplift1224>



Feed Your Soul This New Year with Creative Hobbies

Finding a hobby you love and want to put your energy into can be difficult, as sometimes it feels like there aren't enough hours in the day to start something you actually want to finish. You don't have to become the next van Gogh or Gordan Ramsay, but taking on a creative hobby can work wonders for your mental wellbeing. Here are a few we recommend tying into your New Year's resolutions.

Baking

Whoever said cooking wasn't a creative hobby never made anything delicious! Are you a fan of flavor? Do you often think about whether fruits and flavors would pair well? Put them in the oven and find out! Plus, it's a lesson in focus that can help quiet the mind. Sounds like you can have your cake and eat it too!

Learn photography

With the majority of us carrying smartphones in our pockets and all the filters on social media platforms, it feels like everyone can be a photographer, but it takes real skill. How many times have you wanted to capture a moment and felt like you lost it? Plus, at the end of the year, you can put together an album of all you've taken.

Write

You don't have to see yourself as a famous author to take up the skill of writing. Taking a few minutes to journal every morning can help to alleviate stress, ground you in your mornings and help you tap into your feelings. Expressing yourself through writing is both a skill and a gift. Start with a page a morning and see how you do.

Start a garden

Get your fingers green by starting a garden this year! With the time we've all spent indoors, it's time to get back out there and get in touch with nature. Starting a garden isn't only good for the soul; you can reap the rewards, literally! When you plant seasonal fruits and vegetables, your kitchen will always be full. Plus, if you choose to take up baking, too, you'll have an endless supply of food to play with.

If you know of any local families or organizations that are especially in need at this time, please give me a call at 404-229-7600 or email br@brettroderman.com. I will do my best to spread the word. If there is anything I can do to support you at this time, please let me know.

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Lost at Sea: A True Story of Ocean Survival

It sounds like the stuff of movies, but two men were involved in a terrifying month-long adventure in the South Pacific Ocean after their tracking devices failed.

Livae Nanjikana and Junior Qoloni had embarked from Mono Island in the Solomon Islands archipelago in a small motorboat with the intention of traveling to New Georgia Island, 200 kilometers south. Being experienced seamen who'd made the journey before, they'd planned to navigate mostly by sight, guided by the west coasts of the nearby Gizo Island and Vella Lavella Island. Shortly into their journey, however, things took a horrific turn.

The weather took an unexpected shift, with winds picking up and heavy rain affecting their view of the coastline, making it extremely difficult to see the coasts they were using as a guide. At this point, seafarers would usually turn to their GPS tracking device, but to their horror, they found it had completely died. The men were left with no choice but to turn off their engine to save fuel and hope for rescue.

Finding themselves far off course with no way of knowing where they were, Nanjikana and Qoloni entered survival mode, amazingly able to keep themselves nourished for 29 days by catching coconuts they found floating in the sea, collecting rainwater in a piece of canvas to drink and eating the oranges they'd packed ahead of the trip.

By the time they were finally spotted by a fishing vessel, they'd drifted around 400 kilometers northwest, finding themselves in the sea off Papua New Guinea. Weak and disoriented, they were finally carried off the boat in the town of Pomio to be assessed at a local health clinic. Incredibly, they were able to find positives in their ordeal, with Nanjikana describing it as a welcome break from the difficulties of everyday life.