

MARCH 2014

NEWS BRIEF



GSES OFFERING INCENTIVES TO BOLSTER REO SALES

Government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac recently introduced new incentives to bolster home sales through their HomePath and HomeSteps programs, respectively, which are designed to help the firms liquidate the real estate owned (REO) properties they hold in their portfolios.

By: *MortgageOrb.com*, February 14, 2014 | To read the article in full, please visit: http://www.mortgageorb.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.15076

COMING TO AMERICA: MORE PEOPLE MOVED TO U.S. FROM INTERNATIONAL LOCATIONS IN 2013

The United States experienced an influx of people from international locations in 2013, with more household goods moves made to the U.S. in 2013 than moves from the U.S., according to the International Migration Study recently released by UniGroup Relocation.

By: *RisMedia*, February 23, 2014 | To read the article in full, please visit: <http://rismedia.com/2014-02-22/coming-to-america-more-people-moved-to-u-s-from-international-locations-in-2013/>

AS WEB'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY APPROACHES, 87% OF U.S. IS ONLINE

As the 25th anniversary of the World Wide Web approaches, 87% of U.S. adults use the Internet, according to a Pew Research Center survey.

By: *Sharon Gaudin*, *Computerworld*, February 27, 2014 | To read the article in full, please visit: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9246654/As_Web_s_25th_anniversary_approaches_87_of_U.S._is_online

HOUSE PLANS VOTE TO LIMIT FLOOD INSURANCE INCREASES

House Republican leaders have cleared the way for a floor vote on a bill that would roll back portions of a 2012 overhaul of the federal flood insurance program, offering hundreds of thousands of property owners relief from sharp premium hikes.

By: *Greg Gordon*, *McClatchy Washington Bureau*, February 24, 2014 | To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2014/02/24/219179/house-plans-vote-to-limit-flood.html>

BOOMERANG BUYERS MAKING MOVES TO RETURN TO HOME OWNERSHIP

Now that the worst of the foreclosure crisis is in the rearview mirror, former home owners who lost their homes to a short sale or foreclosure are re-entering the housing market. They've spent the last few years rebuilding their credit — and they're ready to buy again.

By: *Daily Real Estate News*, Tuesday, February 25, 2014 | To read the article in full, please visit: <http://realtomag.realtor.org/daily-news/2014/02/25/boomerang-buyers-making-moves-return-home-ownership>

HomeBUILDING TRENDS: HOMES GETTING BIGGER

Though the average size of new homes keeps getting bigger, there is more to this home buying trend than meets the eye, according to Census Bureau data presented by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) during the International Builders' Show in Las Vegas in early February.

By: *American Land Title Association*, February 25, 2014 | To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.alta.org/news/news.cfm?newsID=24006>

MT. GOX BITCOIN CUSTOMERS COULD BE OUT OF LUCK, EXPERTS WARN

What can you do if you deposited bitcoins at Mt. Gox, which shuttered on Tuesday with little explanation? Probably not much.

By: *Joseph Ax and Karen Freifeld*, *Reuters*, February 27, 2014 | To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/27/us-bitcoin-legal-idUSBREA1Q07U20140227>



First American Title™