

Why not 1 billion Americans — or 3 million Charlotteans?



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Date 2022-08-05 09:44

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America — and Charlotte — could afford to be a lot bigger

By Aaron Houck

Quick—wherever you are, look at the people around you, or remember the last time you were in a group. Now imagine the group tripling in size. That's the America Matthew Yglesias desires. In his book *One Billion Americans*, Yglesias argues that the U.S., with its 330 million people, is "empty," with depressing future consequences for the nation and the world. His thesis: the U.S. should embark on a program of intentional population growth until the country has (at least) one billion residents.



Who you befriend can affect your economic mobility

By Ely Portillo

When it comes to economic mobility — low-income children's ability to rise from poverty — we've known for a while that where you live influences your chances of success. Now, a new study suggests it's not just where you live, but who you know that can tip the odds.



ICYMI: Try the 'bucket of doom' to eliminate mosquitoes without harmful pesticides

By Ruth Ann Grissom

Bucket of Doom. A slasher movie from the 1970s? The latest season of Fortnite? No, but for many homeowners, it might be something equally thrilling – an effective, inexpensive and safe way to control mosquitos.

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