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5 pieces worth reading

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By nixing a Ford Plant that was looking at Pittsylvania County, Youngkin is making a calculated bet

This column from *Cardinal News* analyzes Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin's decision to halt efforts to attract a Ford battery construction plant to the state over concerns about that corporation's ties to a Chinese company, even though the plant would have created 2,500 jobs for Pittsylvania County and the surrounding area. Although there is speculation that Youngkin's decision was simply a partisan political call, Dwayne Yancey argues that the governor took this gamble hoping that another company might come along that could create offer jobs and not have ties to China. In the meantime, Youngkin can contend that he protected the state from possible Chinese corporate hi jinx. Yancey concludes that the proverbial jury remains out on the governor's decision.

Yancey, D. (2023, January 17). "By nixing a Ford Plant that was looking at Pittsylvania County, Youngkin is making a calculated bet." *Cardinal News*. Retrieved from https://cardinalnews.org/2023/01/17/by-nixing-a-ford-plant-that-was-looking-at-pittsylvania-county-youngkin-is-making-a-calculated-bet/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Redevelopment%2Bplanning%2Bbaims%2Bto%2Bturn%2BAmerican%2BViscose%2Bproperty%2Binto%2BRoanoke%2B%2Bnewest%2Bneighborhood&utm_campaign=Wednesday%2C%2BJanuary%2B18%2C%2B2023

'You don't negotiate with these kinds of people'

The New York Times's Thomas Edsall argues that the Republican Party has evolved from what once was a group that generally supported laissez-faire capitalism and low corporate taxes to one that today actively seeks chaos and disruption. He contends that the party's willingness to nominate Donald Trump twice for the presidency, its efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election and support of claims to place responsibility for the insurrection of January 6, 2021 on others besides the actual perpetrators as well as the recent example of the radical behavior and demands of extremists within its House ranks during the election for Speaker all bespeak this transformation.

Ut Prosim (That I may Serve)

Edsall, T. (2023, January 18). “You don't negotiate with these kinds of people.” *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/18/opinion/republicans-populism-political-psychology.html>

The Problem(s) with China population drop

Paul Krugman of *The New York Times* analyzes the news that China’s population declined last year for the first time since the 1960s in this column. He argues that this decrease will create two principal problems for the country’s economic management. First, China’s social safety net is not adequate to care for the nation’s aging population. Second, the country may not now be able to keep overall spending sufficiently high to spur the economy’s productive capacity as its labor force contracts.

Krugman, P. (2023, January 17). “The Problem(s) with China's population drop.” *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/17/opinion/china-population-economy.html>

Opinion: Why Martin Luther King Jr.’s sharpest question remains unanswered

Peniel Joseph argues in this *CNN* piece that the divisions our nation faces today are not so different from the social and political landscape that Dr. Martin Luther King confronted in the 1960s. The issues he cared about most passionately are as salient today as then: Those include: minority population voting rights, environmental justice for minority communities, and equal education and opportunity for all.

Joseph, P. (2023, January 14). “Opinion: Why Martin Luther King Jr.'s sharpest question remains unanswered.” *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2023/01/14/opinions/martin-luther-king-jr-would-be-94-mlk-day-joseph-ctrp>

Operation Warp Speed was a huge success. So why is the US turning away from it?

Kelsey Piper argues in this *Vox* piece that Operation Warp Speed, the remarkably successful public-private effort to develop COVID vaccines as quickly and safely as possible, constitutes an amazing achievement, given that more than an estimated 140,000 Americans are alive today because of the dedication of those involved in the unprecedented effort. Nonetheless, modern miracle or not, the effort has become the rare accomplishment for which neither major political party wishes to claim credit. Democrats seldom admit Donald Trump did anything right during his term and Republicans have sought to politicize and negatively weaponize the entire vaccination effort. The result is the discounting of an especially significant and noteworthy social and scientific success.

Piper, K. (2023, January 18). “Operation Warp Speed was a huge success. So why is the US turning away from it?” *Vox*. Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/future->

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