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# THE BALTIMORE TIMES

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## Read How Putin Critiques America and The West

By Peter Bramble

Recently, Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, gave a speech criticizing the wokeness of Western nations, including the USA. He aptly described their progressiveness especially around gender identity and progressive values. Hear him in his own words:

‘The USA and the other western nations,’ says Putin are overseeing “the aggressive deletion of whole pages of their own history, reverse discrimination against the majority in the interests of minorities. It is their right, but we are asking them to steer clear of our home. We have a different viewpoint.

“The proponents of the new approaches go so far as they want to eliminate the whole notions of men and women, and those who dare say that men and women exist, and this is a biological fact, they are all but banished. Parent number one, parent number two, or parent that has given birth, or instead of breast milk, you say human milk. And you say all of that so the people who are not sure of their sexual agenda are not unhappy.

“There are some monstrous things when from a very young age, you teach to children that the boy can easily become a girl and you impose on them this selection, this choice... you push the parents aside and make the child take these decisions that can destroy their lives.”

Putin goes on to say that such mistreatment of children in the area of

*Continued on page 12*

## Get Ready ‘Cause Here He Comes CCCA To Present The Temptations’ Otis Williams



*Dr. Otis Williams is a founding member of the legendary musical group The Temptations. The sole surviving member of the original Temptations, he will turn 80 on October 30, 2021. (See article on page 10) Photography by Scott Leon/Courtesy of Ume*

# Baltimore Girl Gets an Emmy

By Donnie Manuel

Baltimore is synonymous with many things— crime, violence, the Orioles, the Ravens, crab cakes, and even a chicken box, and a half and half, but not for Emmys. That is until now.

Actually, allow me to digress for a moment to clarify. There have been a few other Emmy awards out of Baltimore but it's rare and certainly no one I have ever known personally, so excuse my bias. Now, for those who may not know, an Emmy Award, or simply Emmy, is a trophy given for excellence in the television industry.

Let me introduce you to the always pleasant and effervescent Tene Wilder. She was born and raised in Baltimore. She attended Milford Mill High and after graduating, pursued with earnest a career in the coiffeuse industry.

Wilder started out at age 13 doing hair out of the basement in her mom's house. Most of her clients were friends and associates from religious services on weekends. Her mother noticed her passion and skills and encouraged her to go after her dream of one day owning a salon of her own. In fact, she credits God and her mother for any successes she may have achieved.

I met Wilder about twelve years ago when she was the proud owner of "The Wilder Experience," a hair salon located on Calvert Street in midtown Baltimore. As soon as you entered the establishment you could tell something

special was impending. From the chic artwork that donned the walls to the ultra-modern furnishings that completed the ambience, every client felt as though they were reveling in an experience versus just getting their hair done.

When Wilder owned the salon, she was also a part of a Local 798 Hair and Makeup Union, which afforded her opportunities to do other things related to the beauty industry. About four years ago she decided to transition and explore some business opportunities in New York. "It changed my life," Wilder exclaimed.

In New York, she was offered the opportunity to work behind the scenes in the television show "Pose," and began her journey to an Emmy. She works with a team on the show and she says when she met them, "it was like home."

"It was a pleasure being a stylist on the show— that world is so— it's beautiful. This is probably the best job I've ever worked on— by far!" Wilder said. "It also brought my vision to light too."

Wilder won the Emmy for Outstanding Contemporary Hairstyling. What an outstanding accomplishment for anyone, let alone someone from such humble beginnings— a little girl from Baltimore. When asked where she envisions herself five years from now and if she is satisfied with where she is now, her reply in typical Baltimore lingo— "No...I got an Oscar to get!"

Wilder's fervent desire is to help change the world so that women of color can be seen for their talent.



*Baltimore native Tene Wilder won the Emmy Award for Outstanding Contemporary Hairstyling. Wilder started out at age 13 doing hair out of the basement in her mom's house where her clients were friends and associates from church.*

Courtesy Photo/Tene Wilder

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# Guest Editorials/Commentary

## Who's Responsible for the Rust Shooting?

By Thomas L. Knapp

On October 21, 2021, actor Alec Baldwin shot and killed one person (cinematographer Halyna Hutchins) and wounded another (director Joel Souza) on the set of *Rust*, a western film he was making in New Mexico.

Reportage generally describes the shooting as an “accident,” but it wasn’t. There are two kinds of firearms discharges: Intentional and negligent. This incident is no exception. But that doesn’t mean the intent or negligence was wholly Baldwin’s.

Was the shooting intentional or negligent? And whose intent or negligence contributed to it? From afar, this looks like a complicated question.

Don’t write off intent entirely. The motion picture industry in general and the *Rust* set specifically were in the throes of ongoing labor disputes. It’s not beyond belief that sabotage was involved.

Negligence seems the more likely explanation, though.

The gun was supposed to be a prop. It was presented to Baldwin by assistant director, Dave Halls, as a “cold gun” during a rehearsal to indicate that it held no ammunition. But when Baldwin drew it, and presumably pulled the trigger, it turned out not to be “cold” after all.

Did Baldwin personally check the gun’s chambers for live ammo before using it?

Did Halls personally check the gun’s chambers for live ammo before pronouncing it “cold?”

Did production armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed personally check the gun’s chambers for live ammo before authorizing its presence on the set?

Is it true that, as *The Wrap* reports, crew members had taken the gun off-set for some target shooting with live ammo earlier in the day, then returned it—possibly with live ammo still in the chambers?

Is it true that, as the *Los Angeles Times* reports, one of the complaints motivating a walk-off of crew members that day related to previous discharges of prop guns?

It sounds like there may have been plenty of negligence to go around on the set of *Rust*. And Baldwin may bear a good deal of responsibility for that negligence in his role as a producer trying to squeeze a lot out of a small budget (\$6-7 million, a pittance by Hollywood standards). Competence, experience, and trustworthiness may be expensive, but they aren’t optional where guns are involved.

As an actor, Baldwin probably bears a good deal less responsibility, but certainly not none.

Yes, the shooting occurred at the end of a long chain of people and protocols, which should have made it impossible for what happened to happen. But he, not those other people, drew the gun and pointed it at Hutchins and Souza.

Even on a movie set, personally checking a gun for live ammo before pointing it at someone is the absolute bare minimum of personal responsibility (off a movie set, by the way, one should never point a gun at someone one does not intend to shoot, even if it’s certainly unloaded).

There’s seemingly plenty of blame to go around here, for everyone and everything except the gun. It’s an inanimate object. Guns don’t kill people. People do, whether intentionally or negligently.

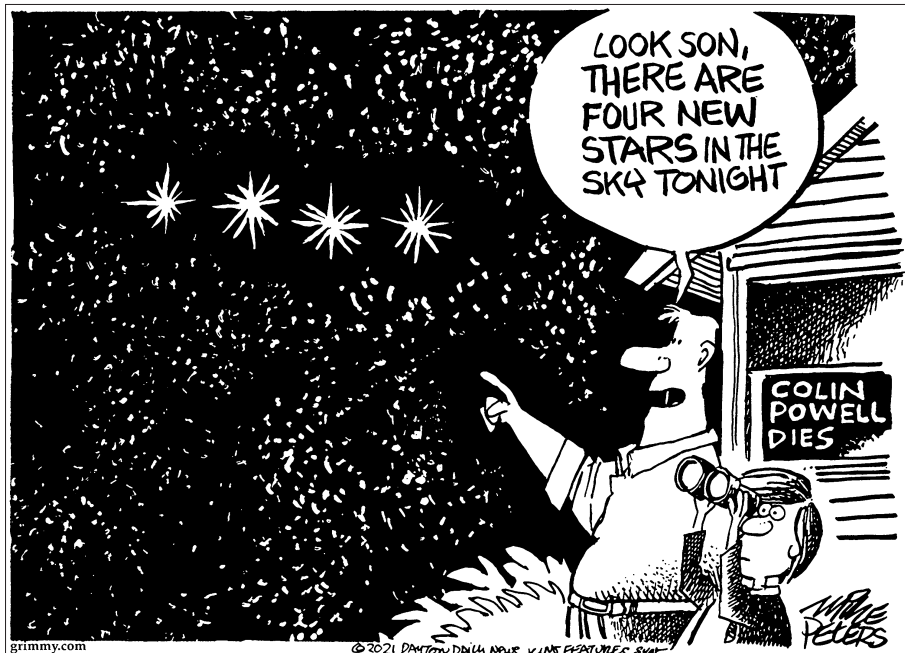
*Thomas L. Knapp (Twitter: @thomaslknapp) is director and senior news analyst at the William Lloyd Garrison Center for Libertarian Advocacy Journalism (thegarrisoncenter.org). He lives and works in north central Florida.*

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## Community Affairs

### Marylanders can shop to see what they will pay for 2022 health plans

Baltimore— Marylanders can now view plans and prices for 2022 private health insurance on MarylandHealthConnection.gov, the state’s online health insurance marketplace. They can get an estimate to determine what they and their families will pay for coverage next year.

This year, thanks to federal and state legislation, the marketplace will provide more savings to more Marylanders than ever before. Many people can even get a health plan for as little as \$1 a month. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, those with higher incomes can now get financial help to cover some of their health plan costs. New Maryland legislation allows adults ages 18 to 34 to get discounts on top of other savings.

“I’m thrilled to say that average premiums for Maryland families are among the lowest in the country this year and Marylanders in almost every county will have over 30 plans to



choose from,” said Michele Eberle, executive director of Maryland Health Benefit Exchange.

Open enrollment for 2022 coverage begins November 1 for Marylanders to enroll in health and dental plans. Those who qualify for Medicaid may enroll in it any time of year. Last year, nine out of 10 Marylanders got financial help to pay for their plan.

Help is available from more than 700 trained brokers and navigators or by calling 1-855-642-8572 toll-free from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. Deaf and hard of hearing, use Relay. Consumers can chat with a live agent Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To find free help, visit: MarylandHealthConnection.gov.

## Investing in our future generation now

By Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive

As COVID-19 quickly upended our lives in March 2020, some of those most drastically impacted by the world shutting down was our children and families. Over the past 18 months, we've redoubled our efforts to ensure that our families have the support systems in place for childcare, and our students have the resources needed to thrive. Put simply, we're investing in our future generation now.

One of the earliest ways to set kids up for success is giving them access to quality education prior to kindergarten. Yet, many of our families with lower incomes are struggling when it comes to access to early education for their children. While Howard County is known for having one of the highest median incomes in our nation at approximately \$120,000 per household, it also has one of the highest costs of living. In Howard County, 26 percent of families with children under the age of

five find quality early childhood programs out of their reach.

Additionally, about 5.3 percent or nearly 17,000 of our residents live below the national poverty line, and one of our largest demographics struggling with poverty are women with children under the age of five.

years, HoCo STRIVES which stands for Strategies To Reach an Inclusive Vision and Equitable Solution, has brought together government, nonprofits, community partners, and families to steer investments in the very resources and services that the most vulnerable in our community need to be successful in

program, which works with rising middle school students to get them math and English ready, or support those that have fallen behind. Additionally, we are providing after school academic support for our vulnerable K-3 students at some schools. In addition to providing support to students, the after-school program will also provide quality programming for their parents and families. This will involve helping them navigate school system and human services agencies, as well as facilitating connections to mental health resources.

Howard County consistently invests in education, and this past year was no exception. For FY 2022, we contributed \$628.3 million to the school system, \$8 million above state-mandated Maintenance of Effort funding level and marking the largest increase over Maintenance of Effort in 7 years. Our average increase over Maintenance of Effort has been \$5.8 million per year, compared to the four years prior of \$4.7 million.

We're providing vital funding, working with community stakeholders, and creating vital programs to support our vulnerable children and families. When we support our next generation, we're also nurturing and caring for the future of our entire community and region.

For many parents, students, and teachers these past eighteen months have been especially grueling, and now it is more important than ever to keep investing in our educational systems. We work tirelessly to find solutions to support our students, parents and educators, and we'll continue to work towards a community where all our children have the resources and support needed to thrive.

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***“For the last several years, HoCo STRIVES which stands for Strategies To Reach an Inclusive Vision and Equitable Solution, has brought together government, nonprofits, community partners, and families to steer investments in the very resources and services that the most vulnerable in our community need to be successful in school.”***

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That is why our Head Start program, which can now serve 362 children in Howard County, is critical for our young residents. Our Head Start program is spread across four early education centers, including this recently expanded space at the Long Reach Village Center. This new center will serve nearly 80 children and was fully renovated to meet the needs of our young learners.

From early math and reading skills to confidence and resilience, Head Start helps children build the skills they need to be successful in school and life. Head Start participants are 12 percent less likely to live in poverty as adults and 29 percent less likely to receive public assistance. Evidence also suggests Head Start not only helps kids develop and allows parents to go to work, but it may also help at-risk kids from ending up in the foster care system.

While Head Start, helps set up some of our young residents for success, we also have put support systems in place for our students already in elementary and middle school. For the last several

school. This includes food access programs, mental health access, and social and emotional learning programs.

These needs were especially evident during the pandemic, where we called on STRIVES to step up its efforts for vulnerable children and families disproportionately affected by shutdowns and virtual learning. We met the emergency food needs of families suddenly facing insecurity, and we created HoCo Scholars to provide a safe space for 140 students to complete their virtual learning and boost their social interactions. The gaps that already existed were exacerbated during the pandemic, which will increase the strain that our children and youth are expected to face as they've returned to school buildings.

This summer we provided an additional \$350,000 to our STRIVES programs to further our investment in these support systems, bringing the cumulative investment to more than \$1.5 million in funding over our past three budgets.

This funding allowed us to double enrollment in the HoCo Scholars'

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# Homeownership Company Landis Announces Giveaway for New Clients

By Stacy M. Brown

Landis has announced the “Landis House to Home” program to help more Americans become homeowners and make their houses feel more like home.

The Jay-Z and Will Smith-backed startup that uses technology and data science to help Americans reach homeownership has designed the program to arrive in time for the holidays.

The organization will provide a \$500 gift card to all clients who apply to the Landis program through November 12, 2021 and move in by December 31, 2021. They will provide an additional \$500 gift card to real estate agents who refer clients to Landis.

Officials say the gift card could assist with home improvement, décor, furnishings, and other necessities.

“Landis’s goal is to help as many people as possible on their path to homeownership,” stated Cyril Berdugo, the co-founder, and co-CEO of Landis. “There has been significant demand in the Baltimore area from folks who want to become homeowners who aren’t yet mortgage-ready, and we are excited to help them take their next step towards becoming a homeowner.”

Landis’ average client has a monthly income of \$3,500, and company officials believe \$500 would prove meaningful by allowing them to purchase an item of need.

Because of funding from investors, including Roc Nation’s Arrive and Will Smith’s Dreamers VC, officials say Landis has expanded its presence across the country and brought the “Landis House to Home” program to fruition.

“When Landis asked its clients what



**Because of funding from investors, including Roc Nation’s Arrive and Will Smith’s Dreamers VC, officials say Landis has expanded its presence across the country and brought the “Landis House to Home” program to fruition. (Left to right) Landis Co-Founders Cyril Berdugo and Tom Petit Courtesy Photo/Landis**

additional resources they could provide to make homeownership a little easier, an overwhelming majority had one response: money to kickstart furnishing and updating their home,” Neil Sirmi of Roc Nation wrote in a statement.

“Landis listened, and through their 2021 House to Home program, Landis will provide a \$500 gift card to every new client through the end of the year. Their goal is to distribute over one hundred thousand dollars through this program— helping all of their new customers in a small but meaningful way.”

Berdugo describes Landis as a social impact-driven company with a mission

to guide renters on their unique path to purchasing a home and making that path more accessible, transparent, and empowering.

The company said it aims to assist Americans who have been neglected by traditional financial solutions and coaches them to mortgage readiness to purchase their dream home.

If qualified for the program, clients select their home, and Landis purchases the house on their behalf and rents it to them for 12-24 months while they prepare to obtain a mortgage.

“We believe that we can make a tremendous impact for underserved communities. The traditional players in

the home buying industry only serve those who qualify for a mortgage today and can buy a home today,” Berdugo said. “Those who don’t qualify— whether it be for reasons of poor credit, high debt loads, insufficient savings, or just lack of know-how to navigate the process— are excluded from the market with little guidance on how to get in and have no definitive path forward.”

Home prices in the Baltimore and Towson area have increased nearly 14 percent over 2020, and the cost of the starter home market rose 16.5 percent.

Berdugo says those numbers far outpace the rate of personal income growth, putting homeownership further out of reach for many.

“By buying homes for our clients today and locking in the price at which they buy back from us, when they are mortgage-ready, Landis is providing certainty that when our client has taken all the financial steps necessary to qualify for a mortgage, there is a home they can afford to buy,” the CEO insisted. “They then transition seamlessly from renter to homeowner in the same place they call home.

“Landis aims to change that outcome for everyone by creating personalized homeownership plans with clear, actionable steps to address those obstacles and coach them to mortgage readiness.”

Beyond the current deadline, Landis anticipates expanding the program.

“The ultimate goal is for everyone to achieve financial inclusion and build generational wealth,” Berdugo declared.

To apply, visit <https://in.landis.com/landishome2021/>.

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# Why you want electric vehicle infrastructure in your backyard

By Sheryl E. Ponds, Founder/CEO  
Dai Technologies Corporation  
Special to The Baltimore Times

There are several breakthroughs that are expected to evolve from EV technology. They concern improvements in transportation infrastructure; environmental justice victories; and expansion of economic opportunities that include YOU. The electric vehicle infrastructure is as important to the sustainability of the EV ecosystem as the cars we expect to energize.

## So, what exactly is building the Electric Vehicle infrastructure?

I'm glad you asked. Quite simply it is installing EV charging stations where people live work and play. This strategy is the industry's most effective offensive move to combat Range Anxiety. We need Electric Vehicle charging stations in public and private places, so that the average EV driver will travel without the fear of getting stuck on the road. Range Anxiety encompasses the emotions of anger, abandonment and/or inadequacy that coincide with the fear. For EV's become mainstream transportation, we will need more than hundreds of thousands of charging stations to keep zero emissions drivers RA free. And nearly 10 million charging units by 2030 to for the EV charger network to replicate its fossil fuel predecessor.<sup>i</sup> When you are driving down the road and compare the numbers of EV chargers to the United States' gasoline station network for traditional cars, it appears as if the EV infrastructure has not gotten out of the starting blocks. I know from boots-on-the-ground, hands-on experience the EV infrastructure is up, running and expanding every day.<sup>ii</sup>

The beauty about EV infrastructure is that we don't just count the number of stations that have been developed in settings like gasoline stations. We count the chargers in public parking lots and garages where we work and play. We count the EV chargers in multi-family communities like apartments and condominiums where most of us live. And, DaiTechCorp also counts the EV chargers that are operating in single-family residences whether for reserved parking spaces, garages, or carports.



***Electric vehicle charging stations are needed in public and private places, so that the average electric vehicle driver can travel without the fear of getting stuck on the road. The infrastructure not only includes the electric vehicle charging equipment that you see, it also encompasses a backbone—a network of power equipment that is not visible.***

Photo Credit: ClipArt.com

The infrastructure not only includes the EV charging equipment (EVCE) that you see, it also encompasses a backbone, a network of power equipment that is not visible. Underground, behind walls then ultimately connected to electrical rooms are miles and miles of copper cables and the pipes they run through. Infrastructure also includes the electrical grid that is run by our local utilities that deliver the power to the transformer, to the meter (EVCE owners usually pay for kilowatts), to the switch-gear, to the electric panel and terminating at the EV charging station.<sup>iii</sup> That's the physical nature of the EV charging infrastructure.

There are also investments, research and brain power, business modeling and policy making on the front end that influence, yet not necessarily determine, where EV charging stations be installed.

At DaiTechCorp, our mission is to ensure urban and urbanized communities have equitable access to EVCE. Our job at DaiTechCorp is to execute on EVCID (EV charging infrastructure development) so that all of us may conveniently use battery- charging stations. As with most disruptive technologies the white male demographic is the group of choice to help mainstream new industries. We saw it happen in telecom with mobile phones, we

saw it with the Internet and social media, and now we're facing the same paradigm with EV adoption. If it's business as usual, the implications would mean Black communities whether in working class OR affluent professional neighborhoods will once again be dead LAST to get any traction for EVCID. I believe, perhaps naively, the situation doesn't have to be the way. Which means, we (you and DaiTechCorp and other Black industry forerunners) have a lot of work do to get our communities to the front of the trend.

**Why you want EV charging infrastructure in your backyard—** Without convenient access to EVCI our neighborhoods will continue to be overwhelmed by problematic health disparities and environmental injustice issues that plague our communities.<sup>iv</sup> Our families suffer the most from poisonous carbon emissions that flow from the exhausts of every gasoline-fueled car that rolls through the

neighborhood. This happens everywhere there are cars, but according to studies Black folks get a higher dose of the exposure.

How did this become an issue? I credit Robert Moses' systematic brand of urban planning. He sold politicians on the notion that chopping up Black communities and urban green spaces for roadways was the best move for economic development in major cities. And they bought it over a half-century ago. And his influence continues to play out today.

Therefore, Black communities are more likely to be located in major thoroughfares where there is more highway traffic and major artery congestion. More traffic, the more carbon particles we inhale, the more probabilities to contract asthma and chronic respiratory illnesses. Black urban residents are more likely to utilize diesel powered mass transit buses, again more emissions. Then our children are the most bussed to "good schools". The results are a trifecta of concentrated exposure to carbon emissions, gases and lead particles that stack negative health and environmental outcomes. Our public health issues cascade downward from the inequality of air we breathe. The impact of the pandemic on our communities has demonstrated this fact.<sup>v</sup>

There is a stop to the cycle of environmental abuse and second-rate transportation policies that we've been subject to for decades. Our neighborhoods require EV charging stations and clean mass transit to create a new paradigm. Each of us can do ONE thing to bring the EV charger infrastructure to our neighborhoods. In my next article, I'll explain how the collective we can get on the leading edge of the EV ecosystem. Then, in a holistic manner empower ourselves to influence if not fully participate in the development of the EV charging infrastructure.

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# Get Ready 'Cause Here He Comes

## CCCA To Present The Temptations' Otis Williams

By Ursula V. Battle

The Temptations delivered Motown's first-ever GRAMMY® at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Grammy® Awards ceremony in 1969 for Best Rhythm & Blues Performance by a Duo or Group, Vocal or Instrumental for the song, "Cloud Nine." Other blockbuster hits by this iconic group include "My Girl," "Just My Imagination," "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone" and "Get Ready." This holiday season, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" "Silent Night" Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" along with other songs from their 1970 album *The Temptations Christmas Card* will be played time and time again.

The group has sold millions of albums, won five Grammy® Awards, and have been inducted into the Grammy®, Rock and Roll, Rhythm and Blues Music, and Vocal Group Hall of Fame.

On Monday, November 1, 2021, City College Center for the Arts (CCCA) will host a special live, virtual event in celebration of the 60-year history of the legendary Rock & Roll Hall of Famer and Grammy® Award-Winning Otis Williams and The Temptations. Dr. Williams is a founding member of the legendary musical group and the sole surviving member of the original Temptations.

The virtual event will be in the form of a special conversation between Dr. Williams and distinguished musician, composer, and entrepreneur K. Sparks, with Dr. Williams sharing memories on the "Evolution of The Temptations" Music, 1961 – 2021." The public can obtain free tickets to watch the historic broadcast taking place at CCCA, a performing arts center located in the heart of Harlem's City College of New York. Gregory Shanck is the director of CCCA and helps steer the organization's programming and events which brings world-class entertainment to Harlem.

"The event is wonderful," said Dr. Williams. "I get to speak with the people there, and this is a great honor being be-



**Publicity photo of the "Classic 5" lineup of American band, The Temptations in 1964. Clockwise from top: David Ruffin, Melvin Franklin, Otis Williams, Eddie Kendricks, and Paul Williams. Photo by Kriegsmann**

stowed up The Temptations. It is also a great honor to be coming to a place so well known for Black folks and where my good friend President Barack Obama, along with Ella Fitzgerald, Alicia Keys, and other notables have been. Gregory Shanck is happy we are coming there, and we are happy to be going there."

The special conversation between the timeless wonder and K. Sparks is also being held in honor of Dr. Williams' 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 30.

"Well, first and foremost, I thank God for letting me get to be 79 to turn 80 because when I stop and think about it, and I don't mean to put it on the dark side,

but I'm the only Temptation that has made it to this milestone of turning 80," said the legendary artist. "I lost my wonderful friends David, Paul, Melvin, and Eddie and here I am still carrying the banner those brothers helped me to create. It's an honor to still do it, do it on such a high level, and keep the standard of the Temptations hopefully up to where our fans have come to always want to see."

Motown auditioned and signed the original Temptations: Otis Williams, Melvin Franklin, Eddie Kendricks, Paul Williams, and David Ruffin in May of 1961.

They released numerous Gold, Platinum and Multi-platinum hits, have 16 #1 R&B Chart albums, 44 Top 10 R&B chart hits, and four Billboard Hot 100 #1 singles. The Temptations also have a star on the "Hollywood Walk of Fame," and in June of 2019, Dr. Williams, and members of the Temptations' legendary, classic five line-up were inducted into the Apollo Theater's "Walk of Fame." This year marks the 60th Anniversary celebration of The Temptations, who were among the first African American musical artists to crossover into mainstream America and appear on popular, national mainstream television programs, such as *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

"Having such a wonderful history of having all those hit records, being at Motown being with Smokey Robinson and Berry Gordy, and now having a brand new single out "Is It Gonna Be Yes Or No," written by Smokey Robinson, who is also performing with us on it. The wonderfulness seems like it never stops."

The Temptations' 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary campaign launched this summer and will run through June 2022. The year-long campaign includes a 50-city concert tour, and the Imperial Theatre re-opening of the Broadway musical, "Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations," based on Dr. Williams's personal journey.

A songwriter and producer, Dr. Williams is well-known for his fortitude, for fueling the Temptations' enormous and ever-increasing popularity, and for inspiring a new generation of musical artists. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Stillman College.

"Our fans have been there and have always been loyal," said Dr. Williams. "I like to give them credit. The Temptations would be nothing without our fans."

Audience members can join the free, virtual event by registering for tickets at the CCCA website, [citycollegecenter-forthearths.org](http://citycollegecenter-forthearths.org).



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# Read How Putin Critiques America and The West

*Continued from page 1*

transgenderism could be considered a “crime against humanity!”

I never thought that I could ever agree with a villain like Putin. But on this matter, he is one hundred percent correct. America continues to erase wide swaths of its history. They seem to enjoy the tearing down of historical monuments and statues in an effort to erase the memory of certain historical figures and events. Recently, the decision was made to remove the statue of President Thomas Jefferson, because he owned slaves. Is that smart? Don't we need to tell the whole story—the good, the bad and the ugly—if we are to be true to our history and learn from it? We need to tell that Jefferson owned slaves, perhaps he mistreated them, and all that is wrong. But we also need to tell that he wrote major parts of our founding documents and the phrase that “all men are created equal” is attributed to him. It was this very concept that “all men are created equal” that Dr Martin Luther King, Jr used so effectively to challenge the conscience of the nation during the Civil Rights Movement. What irony?

Then, after the advocates for the removal of statues like those of Christopher Columbus, Jefferson, Jackson and others have succeeded, what really changes. After the celebration, what comes next? Nothing but a false sense of progress. But as Putin says, ‘deleting whole pages of one’s history’ is not smart. Remember the wisdom of Edmund Burke, “those who don't know history are destined to repeat it” and of Spanish philosopher George Santayana: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Winston Churchill also had a version of this.

On the issues around transgenderism, Putin is again right. The progressives have been very busy changing the description of men and women, boys and girls. These social justice issues ran into difficulty when school boards and legislators try to codify the new understandings into law. Take for example attempts to claim that whatever a male or female thinks they are, they

are! That leads to attempts to legislate that men who think they are women can use the female bathrooms in public places. In Virginia, recently, a boy who claimed he was a girl allegedly (now actually because he was convicted and is awaiting sentencing) dressed in a skirt and savagely raped a 14-year-old girl in the bathroom of their school. The woke School Board that was getting ready to approve the policy that boys who think they are girls can use the girl's bathroom, hid the fact of the rape so that they could move forward with their stupid, woke policy. Putin is right! We, who rationally think that such woke policies are idiotic somehow keep silent while foolish and detrimental policies are installed into our culture by people whose thinking has got to be considered as seriously flawed.

We ask, ‘where is all this coming from?’ The answer is: “from our woke Universities and Teachers’ Colleges.” These so-called places of learning are at the root of debasing the society with strange concepts like CRT, Social Justice and Equity, all concepts recently introduced to seduce the society into accepting nice sounding words that with a little analysis can be seen to be detrimental to the wellbeing of any society.

Let's take a look at each of these concepts that were developed and promulgated from our institutions of Higher Learning in recent times.

First, take CRT, Critical Race Theory that says in effect that black people, because they were slaves 150 years ago, are now permanently disadvantaged and white people who held them as slaves are on the other hand permanently advantaged. Take that thought to its logical conclusion. That makes Colin Powell, Oprah Winfrey, Martin Luther King Jr, Thurgood Marshall and great blacks like them permanently disadvantaged? Note that I did not include Barak Obama in this list because his mother was white, and his father was a true African who was not a slave to white slave owners. Worse of all, CRT cancels Dr. Martin Luther Jr's teaching that humans must be “judged by the

content of their character and not by the color of their skin.”

Second, we look at ‘equity’ the hot new concept they claim will even out the wrongs of CRT but in fact it does something worse, it degrades achievement, asking that the genius be made equal to the ordinary. This can only happen by dumbing down the genius to the least common denominator in order to gain equity. It cancels excellence. It says Math is racist! It cancels AP studies in schools as the Mayor of New York just did. It makes us all dumber in a world where Chinese and Indian students are eating our lunch academically while American educators and teachers are concentrating, not on the STEMs, but on CRT and gender issues.

Third, social justice. What is that conceptually? We cannot have justice until what is considered *just* is codified

into law. We already have a lot of extant laws, too many perhaps. But Social Justice, as a concept was developed precisely to circumvent the already codified laws of the land. Social Justice in concept is nothing but extra codified justice, extra judicial in essence and actually a sneaky way of authenticating lawlessness.

The introduction of sneaky concepts like CRT, Equity and Social Justice was designed to undermine the society. And those who promote these concepts are winning. They are quickly destroying America and Russia's Putin sees it, knows it and plans to keep it from coming to Russia. The Russians and Chinese are sitting back and watching woke America, through its institutions—Universities, Military, Justice Department—destroy a once great country from within. And the destruction is happening very quickly to those with eyes to see.

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# Chef Liz Rogers creates ice cream flavors with southern stories

By Stacy M. Brown

The various ice cream flavors at Creamalicious Artisan Ice Cream first open the eyes and water the mouth—Slap Yo’ Momma Banana Pudding; Thick as Thieves Pecan Pie; and Right as Rain Red Velvet are just to name a few.

While a great story stands behind those and the many other flavors, perhaps the most inspiring is the person behind the treats.

Chef Liz Rogers has proven to be more than just a master in the kitchen and few can claim they’re more resourceful, creative, and innovative. And, judging by the national attention and the shelf placements of Creamalicious ice creams, few can lay claim to such historic gains in an otherwise Caucasian-dominated business.

“It’s really hard to break into this market but I wanted to do it for my family and me, and to encourage people to go for their dreams,” Rogers said. “Fear paralyzes us. Live life to the fullest and make it happen.”

Rogers said the idea behind Creamalicious is none other than the four generations of family-owned recipes that mainly originate in the South.

“It encompasses our history of love and family stories of growing up, and being



*Chef Liz Rogers is behind America’s new ice cream, Creamalicious, based on four generations of family-owned recipes that mainly originate in the South. Rogers worked diligently with food scientists to create the flavor profiles and recipes while maintaining ownership of her brand.*

Courtesy Photo/Creamalicious Ice Cream

with my grandparents and my mom, and being able to home in on the history of the South,” Rogers explained. “Each of one the flavors have their own story, and I’m super-excited about Creamalicious.”

For instance, her Porch Light Peach Cobbler represents the hospitality of southerners.

“We always left the porch light on to

say that you’re welcome and that this house is safe,” Rogers recalled. “I remember my mom making 20 peach cobbler and lining them up on the table and giving them out to people in the neighborhood.”

There is also Uncle Charles Brown Suga Bourbon Cake Ice Cream, which Rogers called “really cool.”

“It has brown butter ice cream with bourbon-infused in there,” Rogers exclaimed.

With more than 55 flavors, it’s challenging to have a favorite, she insisted.

Grandma Gigi’s Sweet Potato Pie and Aunt Poonie’s Caramel Pound Cake,

Rogers fondly recalled her Auntie making pound cake in a cast-iron skillet. She noted that “Aunt Poonie” was her godmother, from whom she also learned a great deal.

The Red Velvet Cake also counts as another popular flavor. Rogers says there is much history there as well. “Red Velvet Cake has been a celebration cake in the South when African Americans regained their freedom,” Rogers asserted. “It’s a go-to cake.”

On the business side, Rogers said she worked diligently with food scientists to create the flavor profiles and recipes while maintaining ownership of her brand.

“When I went in to do this, I wanted my intellectual property. The one thing I can say is that when we are doing business in the culinary world, we should make sure that we have something on our own,” Rogers demanded. “It’s not always okay to put your label on someone else’s brand because you don’t always have control.”

Rogers also cautions against naysayers. “I was told not to bother approaching Walmart and how you needed a broker or someone to make contact,” Rogers noted. “I did it by myself without a broker, and my brand is now in Walmart.”

Rogers said she’s “walking in my purpose.”

“This is my passion,” she said. “Money is important, and success is important. But what’s most important is that you have to work smarter.”

For more information about Creamalicious Artisan Ice Cream, visit <https://www.socreamalicious.com>.

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FD-CD-NP-0321

# Ravens have positives entering bye week

By Tyler Hamilton

Losing a game to a division rival never comes at a good time. However, the Baltimore Ravens lopsided 41-17 loss to AFC North Division rival Cincinnati Bengals will give Baltimore something to stew over as they get a break during the bye week.

For starters, at 5-2 the Ravens still find themselves among the top teams in the AFC joining the Tennessee Titans, Las Vegas Raiders and Bengals as the teams with the best records in the conference. The Buffalo Bills and Los Angeles Chargers are right behind Baltimore with 4-2 records each.

The Ravens are still in a good spot—there is no need to panic.

“We played our worst game of the season— worst game in a long time— [and the] Bengals played very well. They were very prepared [and] played a great game. So, it’s week-to-week,” Ravens head coach John Harbaugh said on Monday, October 25, 2021.

When the Ravens return from the bye week, they’ll have games against the Minnesota Vikings, Miami Dolphins and Chicago Bears before three straight games against AFC North opponents. They’ll have a home and road game against the Cleveland Browns surrounding a clash with the Pittsburgh Steelers followed by the Green Bay Packers before a rematch with the Bengals.

Through seven games, quarterback Lamar Jackson has shown flashes of the playmaking ability that made him an MVP in 2019. He posted his best game as a passer two weeks ago and has shown signs of improvement; especially as a pocket passer.

“I see improvement in some areas, and we’re trying to continue that improvement,” Ravens QB coach James Urban said. “Not to discount some of the schemes that we’ve put in; I just think it’s a natural progression. He’s in Year Four in this league, and that’s the progression you need to make. Like I



**Ravens rookie wide receiver Rashod Bateman finished with three receptions for 80 yards, an average of 26.7 yards per catch in the game against the Bengals on Sunday, October 24, 2021. Bateman is finally healthy after dealing with a groin injury requiring surgery and sidelined him for the entire preseason and first five games.**

Photo Credit: BaltimoreRavens.com

said before, if we’re not changing our game, then people are catching up to us or you’re not getting any better. So, that

was an area of his game that we wanted to get improved upon, and that’s what he’s done.”

The Ravens got some positives from rookie wide receiver Rashod Bateman against the Bengals. Bateman showcased the big play ability that led the Ravens to select him in the first round of the draft this year.

The rookie receiver finished with three receptions for 80 yards, an average of 26.7 yards per catch. He is finally healthy after dealing with a groin injury that required surgery that sidelined him for the entire preseason and first five games.

“It definitely feels good to be back on the field— back healthy. [I’m] being able to play comfortable; shout out to the coaches and my players for helping me out [and] leading me through the week as it goes. It’s definitely fun to be back out there playing with the team,” Bateman said.

The bye week should give offensive coordinator Greg Roman some time to look at ways to get Bateman involved in the offense. Finding an option in the passing game should help Baltimore’s offense continue to evolve down the stretch.

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