

“Late filing your taxes? You may be in luck. But hurry!”

- By Senate Royce West

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VOLUME 75 NUMBER 2

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

September 22 - 28, 2022

GENERATORS SAFETY TIP

A shut-off switch was supposed to prevent 99% of generator-related deaths. It failed a family of three.

BY PERLA TREVIZO, THE TEXAS TRIBUNE AND PROPUBLICA, AND MIKE HIXENBAUGH, NBC NEWS



Photo Credit: Briggs & Stratton.

The generator industry's promised fix for deadly carbon monoxide poisoning was put to the test last year on a narrow patio outside Demetrice Johnson's home after Hurricane Ida plunged much of Louisiana into darkness.

Johnson's brand-new generator — equipped with a safety mechanism that manufacturers have said prevents “more than 99%” of carbon monoxide poisoning deaths — hummed into the night, inches from her family's back door on Sept. 1, 2021, powering an air conditioner and a refrigerator.

If carbon monoxide lev-

A police report photo shows the position of a generator with the exhaust pointed toward the back door of Demetrice Johnson's home. Photo Credit: Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office



els got too high, the generator was designed to automatically sense the danger and trigger a shut-off switch.

But by the time emergency responders entered the three-bedroom brick house in Jefferson Parish the next morning, Johnson and her children, 17-year-old Craig Curley Jr. and 23-year-old Dasjonay Curley, were dead. They had been poisoned by exhaust fumes that flowed from the generator into their home, according to a sheriff's office report, exposing a safety deficiency that federal officials and consumer advocates have warned about.

The safety switch's fail-

ure to save Johnson and her children is detailed in an April report by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) that was obtained this month by ProPublica, The Texas Tribune and NBC News through an open records request. The federal report followed an investigation by the news organizations that detailed the family's deaths and found that attempts to make portable generators safer have been stymied by an oversight process that empowers manufacturers to regulate themselves, resulting in limited safety

Continue **Family** Page 2

New York AG: Donald Trump and Family Committed ‘Staggering Fraud’

During a highly anticipated news conference, James said Donald J. Trump, his children Eric, Ivanka, and Donald Trump Jr. repeatedly lied and made false claims to lending corporations and insurance agents.

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia

New York Attorney General Letitia James laid out the “staggering fraud” she said former President Donald Trump and his family committed for more than a decade.

During a highly anticipated news conference, James said Trump his Donald J. Trump, his children Eric, Ivanka and Donald Trump Jr., all repeatedly lied and made false claims to lending corporations and insurance agents.

She alleged the family overvalued Trump's assets by billions of dollars.

James wants to stop Trump and his family from ever doing business in New York again.



“These acts of fraud and misrepresentation were similar in nature, were committed by upper management at

the Trump Organization as part of a common endeavor for each annual statement and were approved at the

highest levels of the Trump Organization — including by

Continue **Fraud** Page 4

Tarrant County sends more kids to youth prisons than any other in Texas

Many blame this judge

BY JOLIE MCCULLOUGH

Critics say state District Judge Alex Kim is sending too many children to the state's failing youth prison system. The longtime GOP politician points to a rise in teen

FORT WORTH — On a recent Wednesday, 10 boys and girls wearing olive drab jumpsuits sat in a jury box waiting to learn if they would have to remain in a Texas county's juvenile jail.

Detention is meant to be a last resort for children accused of criminal behavior. Over the last 15 years, the state has tried to keep as few youths locked up as possible, instead focusing on drug treatment, family counseling and other support

services to help kids get and stay out of trouble.

But in Tarrant County, incarceration is becoming more the norm. Although juvenile arrests have dropped sharply in recent years, children accused of crimes are being held longer in the increasingly overcrowded detention center. More than half of the kids detained last year were Black, while less than

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EDITORIAL PAGE

Let It Be Known: FEMA and the Ad Council

By Dr. John E. Warren, Publisher San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper



Dr. John E. Warren

Recently the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), spoke to students at Howard University as a part of a new "Ready Campaign" aimed at African American communities to encourage advanced preparedness for storms and all natural disasters. The Deputy Administrator told the students that FEMA was there to reaffirm its commitment to equity and to say loud and clear that every community deserves to be protected from hazards. After all, September is Disaster Preparedness month.

Mr. Erik Hooks, the Deputy Administrator speaking to the students said, "Blacks are the communities that are on the frontlines of climate change

and related extreme weather events." Hooks also referenced an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report that said socially vulnerable populations, including Black and African American communities may be more exposed to the highest impacts of climate change. With the full knowledge of how serious this matter is to the Black and African American communities in particular, one must ask why would FEMA and the Ad Council be addressing this issue with an ad campaign based on Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and college speeches with no dollars to ensure the targeted populations are reached?

How can there be "equity" with no dollars when, in America, issues of public policy - without dollars - are meaningless? FEMA as an agency of the federal government has a budget for everything it does. If the Black Press, including Black Media, is the "Trusted Messenger" of our communities for more than 195 years, where are the dollars to support the campaign?

Let's look at what FEMA is calling a 'Readiness

Campaign' based on PSAs running nationwide in Spanish and English. The Ads for this campaign have been developed and provided by the Ad Council. The ads are both print and electronic. White Media can afford to run them for free and give the appearance of community service. But let's take a look at the Ad Council itself. It was established as a nonprofit in 1942; changed its name during World War II and raised monies for the War effort. It reverted to the name Ad Council as a nonprofit after the War, and today receives more than 1.8 billion dollars from Media among its 385 donors. The White Press writes off its donations to the Ad Council, which, in the past and perhaps still does today, provide print ads to small community newspapers which historically ran them for free when they had no paid ads to run.

One of the large contract donors and participants with the Ad Council in various campaigns is the federal government. The same federal government that, according to a General Accounting Office report, in recent years spent less

dollars with the Black Press than its contracts with the Ad Council. Now FEMA, on behalf of the federal government, is calling for "equity" without spending "equitable" dollars with the Black Press. We should "Let It Be Known" that mentioning the word "equity" does not in and of itself produce equitable participation in the programs and policies around us. We applaud the disaster relief efforts of FEMA, the agency's efforts and its continued impact in making the difference between life and death for so many everyday.

With 1.8 billion dollars in Media contributions, the Ad Council could have provided dollars by itself for a paid media campaign for the local and community newspapers like the Black Press. Let us not forget the multi-billion dollar advertising agencies who also contribute to the Ad Council with write offs while too often controlling the trickle down dollars reaching smaller media like the Black Press.

Let It Be Known that the Black Press will be looking more closely at those who come to us in the name of equity with empty hands.

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Continued **Family** Page 1

upgrades.

CPSC investigators couldn't say whether the shut-off sensor on Johnson's 6,250-watt Briggs & Stratton Storm Responder had activated at any point during the night, but when emergency responders arrived the next morning, the generator was in the "on" position with an empty fuel tank.

"This tragic incident exemplifies one of the limitations" of voluntary safety upgrades that have been championed by generator makers in recent years, one of the agency's engineers

wrote in a letter to the industry that accompanied the report.

Briggs & Stratton did not respond to messages requesting comment.

The Portable Generator Manufacturers' Association has repeatedly said that automatic shut-off sensors would prevent more than 99% of deaths associated with what they call "misuse." Joseph Harding, the group's technical director, said in an email that the association stands by that claim in the wake of the CPSC investigation into the Louisiana case. Harding said no safety feature can prevent 100% of deaths.

"Unfortunately, the incident in Louisiana was a perfect storm of misuse operating in an outdoor location," he said. "This tragic situation was in the 'less than 1%' category."

Portable generators are one of the deadliest consumer products on the market, killing about 80 people in the U.S. each year and poisoning thousands of others. The machines, used to power medical equipment and appliances during electrical outages, emit toxic levels of carbon monoxide fumes that can turn deadly when allowed to build up inside homes.

Carbon monoxide deaths

caused by generators predictably follow nearly every major power outage caused by extreme weather, which scientists say is becoming more common with climate change. Generators played a role in at least 10 deaths in Texas during the February 2021 winter storm and electric grid failure, according to medical examiner investigations and incident reports. The Louisiana Department of Health reported that at least six people, including Johnson's family, died of carbon monoxide poisoning after Hurricane Ida.

Federal regulators have

Continued **Family** Page 6

Continued **Prisons** Page 1

one-fifth of the county is.

In 2019 and 2021, the county sentenced more children to the state youth prison system than any other.

This summer, the state's youth prison director said counties should only send kids to the crumbling prison system after they have "exhausted all available resources for intervention and are left with no option." In Tarrant County, at least a quarter of kids were sent to prison for nonviolent crimes, like unauthorized use of a vehicle or theft, either when they are first found guilty or after violating probation conditions, county data

shows.

The shift toward increased incarceration has in large part been pinned on the juvenile courts, led since 2019 by a longtime conservative politician turned scandal-plagued judge.

State District Judge Alex Kim has been featured prominently in the local newspaper for his popular livestreamed court hearings in which he has publicly identified children and required at least one 12-year-old to name his drug and weapons suppliers. (Kim pointed The Texas Tribune to state law which requires children placed on probation for gun offenses to report how they got the gun, but the

law states children must give that information to their probation officer within 30 days, not in a public hearing.)

Kim was also accused of racism after telling a Black teen's mother it was predictable her son would get caught in a stolen car with a gun if he is rapping, as opposed to singing in a church choir. The judge countered that he never mentioned the teen's race, according to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

The high percentage of Black children in the county's juvenile jail reflects the teens being arrested for gun offenses, Kim said, and he blames the overall rise in

detention and prison sentences on a startling increase in teen gang violence in the county.

The judge said he doesn't "play around" and isn't typically inclined to give repeat chances if a child violates their probation.

"I'm not the guy who says, 'Quit doing that, or I will tell you to quit doing that again,'" he said, seated in a courtroom pew before the recent hearing.

"This story has been edited for length."

The article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2022/09/21/texas-tarrant-county-juvenile-prison-alex-kim/>.

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PAUL'S DEFENSE BEFORE FESTUS

ACTS 25:1-27

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith



By way of a summary, the grand Apostle Paul had been held in prison for two years, and really Paul was not guilty! Festus is the new Governor who succeeded Felix. In chapter 25, Paul is making an appearance before the new Governor, Festus. Thus far, we have seen Paul before a great mob on the steps of the castle in Jerusalem, his appearance before the

Sanhedrin, and before Felix and then in a private meeting with Felix and his wife Drusilla. Now Paul will make his appearance before Festus. Paul is really appearing before some high political figures of the Roman Empire. When the Lord apprehended Paul on that dramatic Damascus Road, He said: "He is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear

my name before the Gentiles, and Kings, and the children of Israel" (Acts 9:15). You see, Paul is definitely being moved according to God's plan and program. As chapter 25 opens, the Jews were requesting that Paul be brought to Jerusalem for a hearing; however, Festus preferred that Paul's hearing would be in Caesarea. God was certainly inter-

vening in this process, for the Jews' plan was to kill Paul! God will protect His own! (vv. 1-4). Paul is given an opportunity to defend himself against the accusations of the Jews. The Jews presented complaints they could not prove (vv. 5-7). From verses 8-12, Paul was very shrewd in knowing that he was not going to receive justice from Festus, as he had

not received justice from Felix. Both Felix and Festus were guilty of being rascals and very covetous. Festus was going to take Paul back to Jerusalem, where he would not be granted an equitable hearing, therefore, Paul appealed to Caesar, exercising his rights as a Roman citizen. Going back to Jerusalem would have been nothing short of

death for Paul. So, Paul appealed to Caesar! God is still intervening, and Paul is going to Rome to the court of Caesar!

In verses 13-27, we have King Agrippa and Bernice making a visit to the new Governor Festus. Festus informs King Agrippa regarding the case the Jews had against Paul. Festus reveals to King Agrippa that Paul had done nothing deserving of death, and that Paul had appealed to Caesar. Paul will make a sterling testimony of his Damascus Road experience before King Agrippa in chapter 26.

May God Bless!



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Updated COVID-19 booster available for Dallas County residents

Parkland official encourages COVID vaccine

DALLAS – The updated bivalent COVID-19 booster is now available for Dallas County residents. This booster is designed to provide an immune response to protect against the original strain of COVID-19 and the omicron variant BA.4 and BA.5.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized bivalent formulations of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for use as a single booster dose at least two months following primary or booster vaccination. Most COVID-19 cases in the U.S. are caused by the omicron variant BA.3 and BA.5 and are predicted to circulate this fall and winter, according to the FDA.

This updated COVID-19 booster is referred to as a “bivalent” COVID-19 vaccine because it includes two components, the original strain of COVID-19 and the omicron variant. While the original vaccines and boosters are monovalent, meaning they only had components of the original coronavirus strain.

Recently, Dallas County lowered its COVID-19 risk level from orange to yellow, under the “proceed carefully” guidance. With the return of students and teachers to school and the fall and winter seasons approaching, Parkland Health officials are encouraging those eligible to receive the vaccine to get it.

“While the numbers go down for

adults and older individuals, school-aged children still continue to pass around COVID. Please protect your children and those around them by getting them vaccinated,” said Joseph Chang, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Parkland.

Current FDA guidance recommends the following:

- Individuals 18 years of age and older are eligible for a single booster dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine bivalent if it has been at least two months since they have completed primary vaccination or have received the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.
- Individuals 12 years of age and older are eligible for a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine bivalent if it has been at least two months since they have completed primary vaccination or have received the most recent booster dose with any authorized or approved monovalent COVID-19 vaccine.

Parkland Health offers COVID-19 testing and vaccines to the public at Parkland’s Community Oriented Primary Care (COPC) health centers located throughout Dallas County by appointment only. Individuals are reminded to bring their vaccine card

and a form of identification. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Additionally, most pharmacies and pediatricians’ offices offer testing and at-home test kits can also be used to test children for COVID.

To schedule an appointment:

- Individuals can call the Parkland COVID-19 helpline at 214-590-7000 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Saturday to schedule an appointment. Representatives are available in English and Spanish.

Please do not come to Parkland’s Emergency Room or Urgent Care Emergency Center for a testing or vaccine appointment.

COVID-19 testing and vaccinations are available at no cost to the patient, but Parkland may charge your insurance company or third-party payor (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, etc.).

“Remember that the bivalent vaccine is the only vaccine that specifically protects against omicron variants in addition to the original COVID virus,” said Joseph Chang, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Parkland.

For more information about COVID-19 testing, please visit:
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Continued **Fraud** Page 1

Mr. Trump himself,” James asserted.

She concluded that Trump, his family, and business violated numerous state and federal laws, but conceded that her office doesn’t have the authority to file criminal charges.

James did refer her findings to the U.S. Attorney’s office in New York.

With the civil lawsuit, James seeks the return of \$250 million in funds she said Trump obtained illegally.

In the 220-page lawsuit, James alleged that Trump’s annual financial statements were false and included records that greatly inflated the family’s wealth and the company’s estimated holdings.

She said all his major properties, including the Mar-a-Lago Estate in Florida and Trump Tower in New York were “wildly inflated.”

To help underscore her allegation, James used Trump’s apartment at Trump Tower to demonstrate that the family’s filings weren’t mistakenly overstated.

“The number of grossly inflated asset values is staggering, affecting most if not all of the real estate holdings in any given year,” James asserted.

“[Trump] ignored independent appraisals of their properties and listed them as being worth hundreds of millions more than was reported by those outside assessors,” she declared.

James began investigating Trump during his presidency.

The investigation gained momentum after Trump’s attorney Michael Cohen told a congressional committee that Trump inflated the value of some of his assets to get loans and insurance.

Cohen said Trump undervalued some things to score tax benefits.

The Trump Organization also allegedly engaged in a 15-year tax fraud scheme and faces trial in New York in October.

Trump’s CFO Allen Weisselberg has pleaded guilty for his role in the scam and agreed to testify against his boss’ real estate company.

Reportedly, the Trump Organization offered to settle with James to stop the lawsuit, but the attorney general said she wasn’t interested in a deal.

Trump’s predicament is much like that of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and D.C. Councilmember Kwame Brown.

In 2012, Brown received one day in jail, six months home detention, and 480 hours of community service after pleading guilty to federal bank fraud charges.

Brown also pled guilty to a campaign finance violation.

The councilman admitted

providing false documentation to secure two personal loans, totaling more than \$220,000.

In the campaign finance case, he admitted aiding and abetting another individual, a relative, to make a cash payment of \$1,500 to a campaign worker for the 2008 Council campaign.

“Kwame Brown squandered his bright political future and an opportunity to be a role model for the district’s youth,” stated then U.S. Attorney Ronald Machen.

“His greed and ambition led him to forge documents and break the laws governing campaign spending.”

In 2013, Kilpatrick received a 28-year federal prison sentence after a jury convicted him of racketeering, bribery, fraud, and extortion.

Ironically, Trump commuted Kilpatrick’s sentence, enabling the former mayor to get out of prison after serving just 8 years.

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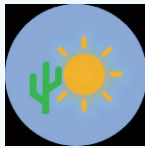
Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Sept 22



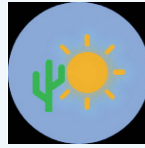
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L - 72°

Friday, Sept. 23



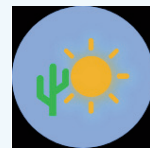
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Saturday, Sept. 24



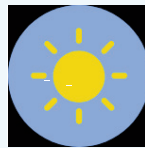
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Sunday, Sept. 25



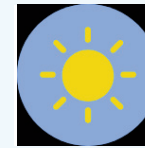
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Monday, Sept. 26



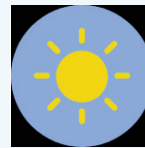
H - 85°
L - 65°

Tuesday, Sept. 27



H - 83°
L - 62°

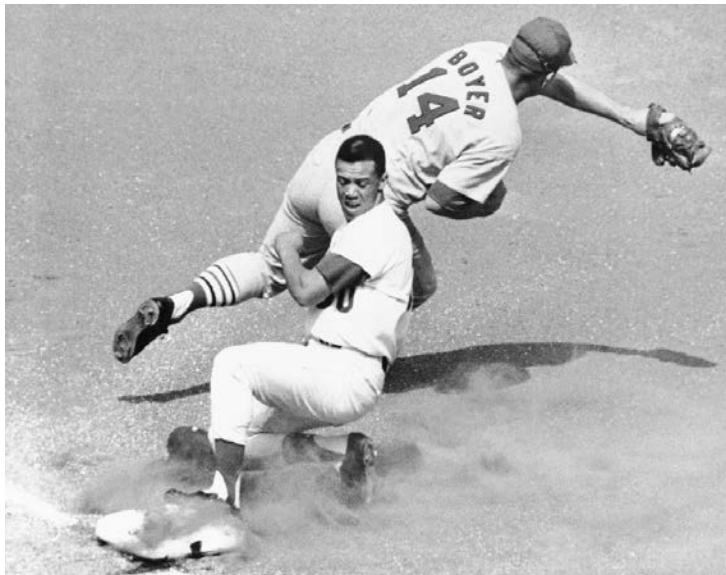
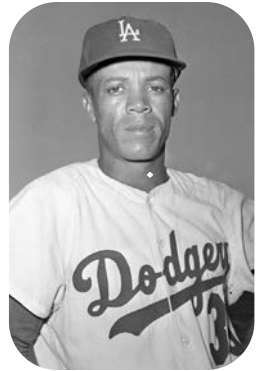
Wednesday, Sept. 28



H - 83°
L - 61°

Maury Wills, base-stealing shortstop for Dodgers, dies at 89

By BETH HARRIS



FILE - Los Angeles Dodgers' Maury Wills is safe at third as St. Louis Cardinals' Ken Boyer takes the throw during the first inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles, Sept. 26, 1965. (AP Photo/FW)

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Maury Wills, who intimidated pitchers with his base-stealing prowess as a shortstop for the Los Angeles

Dodgers on three World Series championship teams, has died. He was 89.

Wills died Monday night at home in Sedona, Arizona,

the team said Tuesday after being informed by family members. No cause of death was given.

Wills played on World Series title teams in 1959, '63 and '65 during his first eight seasons with the Dodgers. He also played for Pittsburgh and Montreal before returning to the Dodgers from 1969-72, when he retired.

During his 14-year career, Wills batted .281 with 2,134 hits and 586 stolen bases in 1,942 games.

Wills broke Ty Cobb's single-season record for stolen bases with his 97th swipe on Sept. 23, 1962. That season he became the first player to steal more than 100 bases.

The Dodgers honored Wills with a moment of silence before the opener of

their doubleheader against the Arizona Diamondbacks on Tuesday and showed his career highlights on the stadium video boards. The team will wear a patch in memory of Wills for the rest of this season.

Manager Dave Roberts, an outfielder during his 10-year MLB career, was moved to tears as he recalled Wills' impact on him.

"He was a friend, a father, a mentor — all of the above for me, so this is a tough one for me," he said. "He just kind of showed me to appreciate my craft, showed me how to be a big leaguer. He just loved to teach. I think a lot of where I get my excitement, my passion, my love for players is from Maury."

Wills had his own stint as

a manager, guiding the Seattle Mariners from 1980-81, going 26-56 with a winning percentage of .317.

He was the National League Most Valuable Player in 1962, the same year he was MVP of the All-Star Game played in his hometown of Washington, D.C.

Wills led the NL in stolen bases from 1960-65, was a seven-time All-Star selection and won Gold Glove Awards in 1961 and '62.

He was credited with reviving the stolen base as a strategy. His speed made him a constant threat on the basepaths and he distracted pitchers even if he didn't try to steal. He carefully studied pitchers and their pick-off moves when he wasn't on base. When a pitcher's

throw drove him back to the bag, he became even more determined to steal.

Born Maurice Morning Wills in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 2, 1932, he was a three-sport standout at Cardozo Senior High. He earned All-City honors as a quarterback in football, in basketball and as a pitcher in baseball when he was nicknamed Sonny.

Wills has his own museum in Fargo, North Dakota, where he was a coach and instructor for the Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks from 1996-97.

He is survived by wife Carla, and children Barry, Micki, Bump, Anita, Susan Quam and Wendi Jo Wills. Bump was a former major league second baseman who played for Texas and the Chicago Cubs.

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SEPT. 30 **THRU** OCT. 23



Review: A classic battle epic in ‘The Woman King’

By LINDSEY BAHR



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Viola Davis in "The Woman King." (Sony Pictures via AP)

Viola Davis should have been leading armies this whole time.

In “The Woman King,” the always regal Oscar-winner is a mass of muscle, battle wounds and world weariness as General Nanisca, the head of the Agojie, an all-female unit of warriors who protected the West African Kingdom of Dahomey in the 19th century. Directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood, who cannot be pigeonholed, the film is a throwback of sorts to the big, exciting, emotional warrior epics that used to be all too common at the multiplex, with the twist that it’s women not men driving the action.

But unlike some recent cinematic depictions of armies not entirely comprised of men, they didn’t have to look to fantasy or the comic books to make “The Woman King” — just a history that isn’t widely taught. More people probably know the Dora Milaje than the Agojie, who actually inspired the “Black Panther” fighters.

It is powerful that they are not immortal like Wonder Woman. There’s no condescending Avengers-like battle moment. There are no superpowers or magic lassos of truth. The ropes here are just ropes, but deadly still. They also fight with machetes and, sometimes,

finger nails, up against brutish men and often win. In other words, there’s no tricks, Nanisca explains, just skill (and bruises and scars). There’s a reason she’s described by a young trainee as looking just like some old woman (any warrior should be so lucky to be old).

Written by Dana Stevens, “The Woman King” is a classic “one last fight” tale with a grizzled war veteran in Davis, a new recruit in Nawi (a compelling and complex Thuso Mbedu), and the one who takes her under her wing, Izogie (a terrific part for Lashana Lynch, of “Captain Marvel” and James Bond). Terence Blanchard lends a fittingly rousing score to the action, which, though brutal, is carefully constructed to keep that superhero PG-13 rating.

The world of the “The Woman King” is no paradise though. It’s 1823 and there is rape and rampant hatred of women. There are slavers and colonizers around. The young trainee, Nawi, only arrives at the palace doorsteps after her father gives up on trying to marry her off to anyone who will take her, abusive or not. The women don’t all get along, the king’s brides look down at the soldiers. And Nanisca, too, looks at women’s tears as a sign of weakness.

It’s also a very

Hollywood version of what may have happened as they prepare to go up against the powerful Oyo empire, with some convenient reveals, a love interest, a slightly idealized king figure (in John Boyega) and an old score someone needs to settle. This is not, in other words, a history lesson about the Agojie, though it could perhaps inspire some to seek that out or even write their own. That there are few true surprises isn’t necessarily a bad thing, either. The film is exactly what you need it to be: An exciting and emotionally true spectacle that required a heck of a fight to simply exist.

I’ll stop short of saying that Prince-Bythewood should have been directing these all along too, however. If she’d started and stayed with action, we wouldn’t have gotten “Love & Basketball” or “Beyond the Lights,” and what kind of cinematic landscape would that be? But we should all be so lucky that she gets to do this too.

“The Woman King,” a Sony/TriStar Release in theaters now, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for “sequences of strong violence, some disturbing material, thematic content, brief language and partial nudity.” Running time: 134 minutes. Three stars out of four.

Continued **Family** Page 2

known about these dangers for more than two decades, but the CPSC has not implemented mandatory safety standards that would require manufacturers to vastly reduce carbon monoxide emissions. Instead, the agency allowed the industry in 2018 to develop its own less costly solution: letting manufacturers voluntarily outfit generators with sensors that are supposed to automatically turn off the engines when carbon monoxide builds up to an unsafe level around them.

Harding, the generator industry representative, emphasized that generators should only be operated outside with the exhaust pointed away from win-

dows and doors. He directed reporters to the industry’s public awareness campaign, which instructs users, “To protect yourself from these carbon monoxide emissions, all you have to do is take it outside.”

Based on its own simulations, the agency found that automatic shut-off sensors could prevent 87% of deaths caused by generators — lower than the 99% figure promoted by the industry — while still leaving some consumers exposed to carbon monoxide levels toxic enough to require hospitalization.

CPSC staff members also tested a more stringent approach of equipping the machines with both shut-off sensors and engines that emit far less carbon monox-

ide and found that the combination would eliminate “nearly 100%” of generator deaths and the vast majority of hospitalizations.

In comments to the CPSC, industry officials have argued that requiring generators to emit less carbon monoxide in addition to shut-off switches “would only further exacerbate the burden on manufacturers, add unnecessary cost, and not provide any significant increase in benefit over the shutoff approach alone.”

“This story has been edited for length.”

This article originally appeared in The Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2022/09/21/generators-carbon-monoxide-shutoff-switch-texas-cpsc/>.