

“The truth will set you free. But not until it is finished with you.” ~ David Foster Wallace ~



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VOLUME 74 NUMBER 50

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

August 25 - 31, 2022

2022 RECORD BREAKING FLOODS

Heavy rain floods streets across Dallas-Fort Worth area

By JAMIE STENGLE and JAKE BLEIBERG



Stalled cars sit abandoned on the flooded Interstate 635 Service Road on Monday, Aug. 22, 2022, in Mesquite, Texas. The National Weather Service issued a flash flood warning early Monday morning which was extended until 1 p.m.

(Eliás Valverde II/The Dallas Morning News via AP)

DALLAS (AP) — Heavy rains across the drought-stricken Dallas-Fort Worth area on Monday caused streets to flood, submerging vehicles as officials warned motorists to stay off the roads and water seeped into some homes and businesses.

“The Dallas-Fort Worth area was pretty much ground zero for the heaviest rain overnight,” said Daniel Huckaby, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

The official National Weather Service record station at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport reported 9.19 inches (23 centimeters) of rain in the 24 hours ending at 2 p.m. Monday. That ranked second for the top 10 most rain over 24 hours in Dallas on record. The most was 9.57 inches (24.3 centimeters) that fell Sept. 4-5, 1932.

“We’ve been in drought conditions, so the ground soaked up a lot of it but when you get that much rain over that short a period of time, it’s certainly going to cause flooding, and that’s what we saw, definitely in the urban areas here,” Huckaby said.

Across the area, rainfall amounts ranged from less than 1 inch (3 centimeters) to over 15 inches (38 centimeters), said National Weather Service meteorologist Sarah Barnes. By Monday afternoon, the rain had moved out of the area, she said.

“There was quite a bit of variation in the rainfall totals,” Barnes said.

Continue **Floods** Page 4

Biden announces long-awaited student debt forgiveness plan

By SEUNG MIN KIM, CHRIS MEGERIAN, COLLIN BINKLEY and ZEKE MILLER



AP Photo/Evan Vucci, File

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Wednesday announced his long-awaited plan to deliver on his campaign promise to provide \$10,000 in debt cancellation for millions of Americans — and up to \$10,000 more for those with the greatest financial need.

Borrowers who earn less than \$125,000 a year, or families earning less than \$250,000, would be eligible for the \$10,000 loan forgiveness, Biden announced in a tweet. For recipients of Pell Grants, which are reserved for undergraduates with the most significant financial need, the federal government would cancel up to an additional \$10,000 in federal loan debt.

Biden is also extending a pause on federal student loan payments for what he called the “final time” through the end of 2022. He was set to

Continue **Loan** Page 2

13-year-old Fort Worth girl becomes youngest Black person ever to be accepted to medical school

McQuarter also started her own foundation, *Brown STEM Girl*, which offers mentorship and encouragement to girls to follow their dreams, and consider careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

FORT WORTH, Texas - Fort Worth's Alena Analeigh McQuarter landed in the record books this summer as the youngest Black person ever accepted to medical school.

The 13-year-old is currently a junior in college, attending Arizona State University and Oakwood University at the same time online.

She is one year away from graduating with a double Bachelor's degree.

She will attend a master's program before attending medical school at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Heersink

School of Medicine.

This isn't the first time McQuarter made history. At 12 years old, she became the youngest person to ever intern with NASA. Since, she's decided she has set her sights on the medical field.

"I was like, this is what I want to do. I want to go into healthcare. I want to help others and get involved with underrepresented communities," she said. "There are viruses all over the world that don't have cures and I want to be the person who helps to find those cures."

McQuarter also started her own foundation, *Brown STEM Girl*, which offers



Photo Credit/Fox 4 TV

mentorship and encouragement to girls to follow their dreams, and consider careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

On top of studying, Alena also travels, plays soccer and bakes.

Continue **Girl** Page 6



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EDITORIAL PAGE

“White Only” Sign

My Day

By Dr. J. Ester Davis
Esterdavis2000@gmail.com



Commissioner John W. Price

“It is history. It is not critical race theory. It is a critical race fact.”
JWP

In the continental USA, John Wiley Price, the name and the man needs no introduction. His actions are clearly unmatched, dialogue unmistakably understood, his service to the people of Dallas County exemplary, and his ‘art of appearances’ ready for print in any cou-

ture magazine. On Thursday, August 18, 2022, under the watchful eye of the invited public, the legendary county servant, rededicated the ‘white only’ Water Fountain Sign, in the newly renovated Dallas County Courthouse.

“We Come This Far by Faith” escorted his opening words filling the halls of the Dallas County Courthouse with a beloved hymn... ‘We come this by faith... leaning on the Lord..

Trusting in his Holy Word, ...he’s never failed me yet...Oh—OOO—OOO—can’t turn around, we come this far by faith.’ Several in attendance knew the words written by Albert A. Goodson published first in 1956. Some did not. Soon there was a hand cadence with a beat all in joyous mixed harmony. Commissioner Price was flanked by two other com-

missioners who shared words of their support for all history. His next words expressed ‘thanks’ to parents who bought their young with their cell phones, of course, to this factual making event. It is interesting to note that we could not find another county program like it on the world wide web. A publication was shared with all “If These Walls Could Talk”, the Dallas County Records Building Complex, historic panels, markers and objects. The Commissioner alluded to other findings in the building that would be forthcoming for history to view.

Robert Pitre, a local tenured business owner says to me, you know how this all got started. Well, he came down to the courthouse on business one day. Some of the black employees ...just in conversation remarked about having to look at the

‘white only’ sign every day. Mr. Pitre, sought the advice and wisdom of Dr. Terry Flowers, Headmaster at St. Phillips School, who arranged a field trip for his students to go see the sign. This rites of passage awaken something in the students. So lead by Jordan Pitre, the students returned to speak before the commissioners about the sign. And . . . the rest is history.

Sidebar: Attention: Dr. Flowers. I hope I am correct remembering you are from South Side Chicago.

Were these signs also in your childhood Chicago?

Again, thank you Commissioner for your consistency.

It is history.

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“Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.”

- Thomas Jefferson -

Continued **Loan** Page 1

deliver remarks Wednesday afternoon at the White House to unveil his proposal to the public.

If his plan survives legal challenges that are almost certain to come, it could offer a windfall to a swath of the nation in the run-up to this fall’s midterm elections. More than 43 million people have federal student debt, with an average balance of \$37,667, according to federal data. Nearly a third of borrowers owe less than \$10,000, and about half owe less than \$20,000. The White House estimates that Biden’s announcement would erase the federal student debt of about 20 million people.

Proponents say cancellation will narrow the racial wealth gap — Black students are more likely to borrow federal student loans and at higher amounts than others. Four years after earning bachelor’s degrees, Black borrowers owe an average of nearly \$25,000 more than their white peers, according to a Brookings Institution study.

Still, the action is unlikely to thrill any of the factions that have been jostling for influence as Biden weighs how much to cancel and for whom.

Biden has faced pressure from liberals to provide broader relief to hard-hit borrowers, and from moderates and Republicans questioning the fairness of any widespread forgiveness. The delay in Biden’s decision has only heightened the anticipation for what his own aides acknowledge represents a political no-win situation. The people spoke

Continue **Loan** Page 4

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 2510 E. Ledbetter, Dallas, Texas 75216
 P. 214-371-2024



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PAUL ARRIVES IN JERUSALEM AND IS ARRESTED

ACTS 21:1-40

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

Previously as Acts chapter 20 concluded, Paul had an emotional meeting with the Ephesian elders at Miletus. According to Acts 21:1-3, Dr. Luke describes the voyage of Paul and others as they leave Miletus and sailed down the southern coast of Asia Minor to Patara, and as they headed for Tyre. In verse 4, there are many biblical scholars who are not in concert as to whether Paul made a crucial mistake when he went up to Jerusalem. Paul had a desire to go to Jerusalem in order to carry the offering from the Gentile believers to the suffering saints in Jerusalem. I frankly believe that Paul had not stepped out of God’s will when he went up to Jerusalem. Although danger awaited Paul, he was not intimidated, knowing that he must suffer as a missionary.

After Saul’s conversion, the Lord even told Ananias, that Saul would suffer, for Acts 9:15-16 states: “But the Lord said unto him Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and Kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him (Saul) how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake.” In going to Jerusalem, Paul had to suffer, for great leaders undergo sufferings for the cause of Christ! Furthermore, Paul had received great assurance from the Lord in the comfort that He gives, in that Acts 23:11 states:

“And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.”

From verses 5-7, Paul made a brief visit with the church at Tyre and Ptolemais; however, the departures from both churches was not as emotional as with the brethren at Miletus (Acts 20:37). Paul is now enroute to Caesarea, where he meets Philip the evangelist and his family (vv. 8-9). Philip, the evangelist, had some daughters who had the gift of prophecy. The New Testament had not been canonized; therefore, the gift of prophecy was very much needed in the early church.

In verses 10-14, Paul was warned by the prophet Agabus the fate in which he would encounter in Jerusalem. Although Paul would suffer in going to Jerusalem, nevertheless, he was willing to die for Jesus in Jerusalem. Paul could not be dissuaded from going to Jerusalem! Paul has arrived in Jerusalem and been given a warm reception by the church. The church in Jerusalem has received the offering from the Gentile churches; in addition, the Jerusalem church listened to Paul’s report and greatly rejoiced in the way God has saved the Gentiles.

Among the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem, Paul took a vow with four Jewish men as they shaved their heads in going into the temple. Paul was not commanded to take a vow; however, he took the vow in order to win some. Under grace, if you as a Christian want to take a vow, wishing to shave your head, then that is your Christian business; however, whatever you do, be guided by the Holy Spirit! (vv. 15-26).

As we come to the conclusion of chapter 21, we find Paul in the temple and his companions are taken to be Gentile converts! For Gentiles to enter the temple area where only Jews are permitted was a great desecration. Paul is dragged out of the courtyard and barely rescued by Roman troops, who suppress the riot. Paul was given permission to speak to the crowd. Paul addresses the Jewish mob in their native tongue, Hebrew (vv. 27-40).

May God Bless!



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Parkland offers blood sugar and blood pressure screenings in addition to other important health screenings, educational information, Parkland Financial Assistance and more at Parkland's Access to Care & Coverage healthcare pop-ups. These pop-up locations are accessible on the following days and times at no cost to you and without an appointment:

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Janie C. Turner Recreation Center	6424 Elam Rd., Dallas, 75217	Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday	9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
John C. Phelps Recreation Center	3030 Tips Blvd., Dallas, 75216	Every Thursday	3:30 - 6 p.m.
Catholic Charities Marillac Community Center	2843 Lapsley St. Dallas, 75212	Every Friday	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

As identified by the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment, type 2 diabetes and hypertension are common chronic health conditions in Dallas County. Put your health first and get screened at a healthcare pop-up near you.

For more information on Parkland's Access to Care & Coverage Program, please visit www.parklandhealth.org/connect.

Celebrity Judges Announced for 2022 Big Tex Choice Awards

By State Fair of Texas |

Fair season is in the air, and with it, the irresistible aroma of fried food. It's time to discover who will be crowned the winners of the 18th Annual Big Tex Choice Awards.

Participants in the 2022 Big Tex Choice Awards submitted a total of 51 entries with 35 advancing as semi-finalists — 19 savory and 16 sweet. Of these 35 entries, 10 will compete live in the final round at this year's Big Tex Choice Awards event. The members of the judging panel must decide which "Treats of Texas" will take home the titles of "Best Taste – Savory," "Best Taste – Sweet," and "Most Creative." This panel of distinguished judges, whose backgrounds range from local celebrities to renowned chefs, have the deliciously difficult job of tasting these deep-fried delicacies and crowning the winning dishes.

Without further ado, the State Fair of Texas is proud to present this year's judges who will serve as taste-testers for the iconic competition:

Continue Fair Page 5

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Continued Loan Page 2

on the condition of anonymity to discuss Biden's intended announcement ahead of time.

The continuation of the coronavirus pandemic-era payment freeze comes just days before millions of Americans were set to find out when their next student loan bills will be due. This is the closest the administration has come to hitting the end of the payment freeze extension, with the current pause set to end Aug. 31.

Details of the plan have been kept closely guarded as Biden weighed his options. The administration said Wednesday the Education Department will release information in the coming weeks for eligible borrowers to sign up for debt relief. Cancellation for some would be automatic, if the department has access to their income information, but others would need to fill out a form.

Current students would only be eligible for relief if their loans were originated before July 1, 2022. Biden is also set to propose capping the amount that borrowers pay monthly on undergraduate loans at 5% of their earnings.

During the 2020 presidential campaign, Biden was initially skeptical of student loan debt cancellation as he faced off against more progressive candidates for the Democratic nomination. Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., had proposed cancellations of \$50,000 or more.

As he tried to shore up support among younger voters and prepare for a general election battle against President Donald Trump, Biden unveiled his initial proposal for debt cancellation of \$10,000 per borrower, with no mention of an income cap.

Biden narrowed his campaign promise in recent months by embracing the

income limit as soaring inflation took a political toll and as he aimed to head off political attacks that the cancellation would benefit those with higher take-home pay. But Democrats, from members of congressional leadership to those facing tough reelection bids this November, have pushed the administration to go as broad as possible on debt relief, seeing it in part as a galvanizing issue, particularly for Black and young voters this fall.

Democrats are betting that Biden, who has seen his public approval tumble over the past year, can help motivate younger voters to the polls with the announcement.

Although Biden's plan is changed from he initially proposed during the campaign, "he'll get a lot of credit for following through on something that he was committed to," said Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster who worked with Biden dur-

ing the 2020 election.

A survey of 18- to 29-year-olds conducted by the Harvard Institute of Politics in March found that 59% of those polled favored debt cancellation of some sort — whether for all borrowers or those most in need — although student loans did not rank high among issues that most concerned people in that age group.

Some advocates say Biden's plan still falls short. "If the rumors are true, we've got a problem," Derrick Johnson, the president of the NAACP, which has aggressively lobbied Biden to take bolder action, said Tuesday.

"President Biden's decision on student debt cannot become the latest example of a policy that has left Black people — especially Black women — behind," he said. "This is not how you treat Black voters who turned out in record

Continue Loan Page 5

Continued Floods Page 1

At least one fatality was blamed on the downpours as emergency responders across the area reported responding to hundreds of high-water calls. A 60-year-old woman was killed in the Dallas suburb of Mesquite when flood waters from South Mesquite Creek swept her vehicle from Texas 352 westbound at Interstate 635, officials said.

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, as presiding officer of the Dallas County commissioners, declared a disaster had occurred in the county and requested federal and state assistance for affected individuals.

In Balch Springs, a Dallas suburb where last month a grass fire that started in a tinder-dry open field

damaged over two dozen homes, officials on Monday rescued people from flooded homes. Fire Chief Eric Neal said they rescued four people from one flooded home and one person from another.

"We had to get to them by boat and pull them to safety," said Neal, who added that others chose to stay in their flooded homes.

"As the rain stopped, the water started to recede pretty quick," Neal said.

At White Rock Lake in Dallas, where the water level has been low through the baking summer months, people with umbrellas and water-proof jackets braved the rain Monday morning to watch the deluge transform the lake's previously dry concrete spillway into what looked like a roaring river.

Huckaby said that the flooding started overnight on streets and interstates.

"It fell very, very quickly," Huckaby said. "We had some locations there in Dallas that had more than 3 inches (8 centimeters) of rain even in one hour."

He noted that with so much concrete in urban areas, "there's just only so much that the drain systems can handle."

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins said on Twitter that based on preliminary damage assessments, he was declaring a state of disaster in Dallas County and requesting state and federal assistance.

Meanwhile, the weather caused hundreds of delays and cancellations in and out of Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and at Dallas Love Field.

With the amount of rain that fell Monday, this August now ranks as the second-wettest on record for the area. As of 2 p.m., the National Weather Service reported total rainfall for August of 10.08 inches (25 centimeters) at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. The wettest August was 10.33 inches (26 centimeters) in 1915.

"It will probably put a small dent on the drought I would imagine but I don't think it's going to get rid of it by any means," Barnes said.

She said that over the next week, there are only low chances of more rain.

"Unless we continue to see rain, we'll just probably see drought conditions worsen again," Barnes said.

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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Aug. 25



Friday, Aug. 26



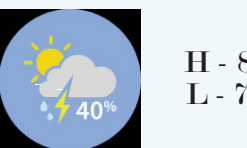
Saturday, Aug. 27



Sunday, Aug. 28



Monday, Aug. 29



Tuesday, Aug. 30



Wednesday, Aug. 31



Griner's detention weighed heavily on Mercury all season

By JOHN MARSHALL



Phoenix Mercury guard Diamond DeShields (1) watches from the bench during the second half in Game 2 of a WNBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Las Vegas Aces, Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/John Locher)

PHOENIX (AP) — A cloud of fear and sadness hovered over the Phoenix Mercury's season as Brittney Griner, their friend and teammate, sat in a Russian prison.

The Mercury pressed on, tried to focus on basketball when they could, "BG" always on their mind.

The difficulties kept coming like a series of blows to the body and soul.

Phoenix's big-splash acquisition opted for a mid-

season "contract divorce." One of the best players in WNBA history got injured. The team's leading scorer went out due to personal reasons. Another key player ruptured her Achilles in the first game of the playoffs.

Hard to imagine a more difficult season in any sport anywhere.

"This season, I don't think there's a sports team that has endured everything that we endured as the Phoenix Mercury, and it's

been completely exhausting," Mercury guard Sophie Cunningham said.

The woes began during the offseason.

Many WNBA players supplement their income by playing on lucrative overseas contracts. Griner had played in Russia since 2014 and was headed back during a break for the FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup qualifying tournaments in February.

Griner didn't get past the

Moscow airport. She was arrested after Russian authorities said a search of her luggage revealed vape canisters containing cannabis oil and she faced a 10-year prison sentence in what became a politically charged case.

Griner pleaded guilty to drug possession charges and was sentenced this month to nine years in prison. It was an expected outcome given the Russian court system — acquittals

account for less than 1% of cases in criminal prosecutions — but the news hit the Mercury and rest of the WNBA hard.

Griner's lawyers have appealed and U.S. officials are hoping to work out a prisoner swap to bring her home.

Griner's detention not only left the Mercury without one of the most dominating defensive players in WNBA history, it left them emotionally drained with each little bit of news — or lack of — about their friend and teammate.

"You can't control this BG situation and I think that's the most frustrating part," Mercury forward Kaela Davis said. "We want to do something, but there's nothing we can do and at the same time we still have practices and games. It's frustrating."

With Griner's imprisonment in the back of their minds, the Mercury struggled to start the season, losing nine of their first 11 games. There were internal tensions, including an in-game shouting match between Diana Taurasi and Skylar Diggins-Smith, a social media dust-up between Diggins-Smith and coach Vanessa Nygaard.

In June, Phoenix announced it had agreed to a contract divorce with Tina Charles. The former WNBA MVP led the league in scoring last sea-

son with Washington and was the Mercury's second-leading scorer before leaving after 18 games.

Phoenix kept plugging along and by the end of the season was still in position to make the playoffs for the 10th straight season.

Then Taurasi, the WNBA's all-time leading scorer, suffered a quadriceps injury and missed the final five games. Diggins-Smith was next, missing the final week of the regular season and the playoffs for personal reasons.

The Mercury managed to clinch the WNBA's final playoff spot on the final day of the regular season, but suffered another blow when Shey Peddy ruptured her Achilles tendon in Game 1 against Las Vegas.

The Aces ended Phoenix's tumultuous season by hitting a WNBA record 23 3-pointers in a 117-80 blowout Saturday night.

"A roller coaster, very up and down, lots of turns, very much you don't know what's going to happen next, what the next day will bring," forward Breanna Turner said. "Making the playoffs is definitely an accomplishment in itself considering everything we've been through."

A turbulent season over, the Mercury now hope for a better future, starting with a return home for Griner.

Continued Page 4

Big student loan forgiveness plan announced by Biden

numbers and provided 90% of their vote to once again save democracy in 2020."

John Della Volpe, who worked as a consultant on Biden's campaign and is the director of polling at the Harvard Kennedy School Institute of Politics, said the particulars of Biden's announcement were less important than the decision itself.

"It's about trust in politics, in government, in our system. It's also about trust in the individual, which in this case is President Biden," Della Volpe said.

Republicans, meanwhile, see a political upside if Biden pursues a large-scale cancellation of student debt ahead of the November midterms, anticipating backlash for Democrats —

particularly in states where there are large numbers of working-class voters without college degrees. Critics of broad student debt forgiveness also believe it will open the White House to lawsuits, on the grounds that Congress has never given the president the explicit authority to cancel debt on his own.

The Republican National Committee on Tuesday blasted Biden's expected announcement as a "hand-out to the rich," claiming it would unfairly burden lower-income taxpayers and those who have already paid off their student loans with covering the costs of higher education for the wealthy.

Biden's long deliberations have led to grumbling among federal loan ser-

vicers, who had been instructed to hold back billing statements while Biden weighed a decision.

Industry groups had complained that the delayed decision left them with just days to notify borrowers, retrain customer service workers and update websites and digital payment systems, said Scott Buchanan, executive director of the Student Loan Servicing Alliance.

It increases the risk that some borrowers will inadvertently be told they need to make payments, he said.

"At this late stage I think that's the risk we're running," he said. "You can't just turn on a dime with 35 million borrowers who all have different loan types and statuses."

Continued Fair Page 4

The 2022 Big Tex Choice Awards will take place on Sunday, August 28, starting at 2:00 p.m. Although this year's Big Tex Choice Awards event is closed to the public, you can follow the event live

on our social media channels — @StateFairofTX. RSVP on the Facebook event page, available at BigTex.com/BTCA, and you'll receive notifications in real-time as the competition takes place. The

2022 State Fair of Texas opens on Friday, September 30 and runs through Sunday, October 23. You can purchase season passes and premium tickets online at BigTex.com.

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UT Southwestern
Medical Center

Continued Page 1

13-year-old Fort Worth girl becomes youngest Black person ever to be accepted to medical school



Her mother, Daphne McQuarter, says it is important for her daughter to have balance.

"It was my job to nurture the gift I saw in her and understanding her as a kid and letting her have the space to be a kid," she said.

Alena says she couldn't have achieved her goals without her mom by her side.

"From that young age she always saw something special in me. She knew there was something different, and she used it as a chance to show me that there's a whole world out there that needs what I am doing right now."



Article & Photos Credit/FOX 4 News TV

Nicki Minaj to Receive the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award and Perform Live at 2022 VMAs

By Chelsea Lenora White | Houston Forward Times



Rapper Nicki Minaj performs an unstoppable medley of "Majesty," "Barbie Dreams," "Ganja Burn," and "FeFe" at the 2018 Video Music Awards in New York City. (Photo: MTV International)

By Chelsea Lenora White | Houston Forward Times

Nicki Minaj will receive the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award at the 2022 MTV Video Music Awards, airing live from Prudential Center in Newark, N.J., on Aug. 28 at 8 p.m. ET/PT. She is also set to perform on the show for the first time since 2018.

Minaj will be the first Video Vanguard recipient since another female rapper, Missy Elliott, was honored in 2019. The award wasn't presented in the last two years, due to complications caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minaj is the fourth rapper to receive the honor, following LL Cool J (1997), Kanye West (2015) and Missy Elliott. In addition, Beastie Boys, which started out as a rap trio before veering into alternative, were honored in 1998.

Of the nine Video Vanguard honorees since 2010, seven have been women – Britney Spears, Beyoncé, Rihanna, Pink, Jennifer Lopez, Missy Elliott, and Nicki Minaj. The only male honorees in this time frame are Justin Timberlake and Kanye West.

"Nicki has broken barriers for women in hip-hop with her versatility and creative artistry," Bruce Gillmer, president of music, music talent, programming & events, Paramount and chief content officer, music, Paramount+, said in a statement. "She has shifted the music industry and cemented her status as a global superstar with her crossover appeal, genre-defying style and continuing to be unapologetically 'Nicki'."

Minaj is a VMA nominee this year for best hip-hop for "Do We Have a Problem"

featuring Lil Baby. Minaj has won three times in that category, which puts her in a tie with Drake for the most wins in the category. If she wins again this year, she'll take the lead outright.

Minaj's wins in that category are for "Super Bass" (2011), "Anaconda" (2015) and "Chun-Li" (2018). Her other wins are for "Starships" (2012, best female video) and Megan Thee Stallion's "Hot Girl Summer," on which she and Ty Dolla Sign were featured (2019, best power anthem).

Minaj made her VMAs debut in 2010 – but on the "pre-show," not on the main telecast. She and will.i.am performed their hit collab "Check It Out."

Minaj made her debut on the main telecast in 2012, rapping a surprise verse on Alicia Keys' "Girl on Fire." She became a VMAs mainstay in 2014 and performed on five consecutive telecasts. In those years, she teamed with Ariana Grande and Jessie J ("Bang Bang," 2014), Usher ("She Came to Give It to U," 2014), Taylor Swift ("The Night Is Still Young" and "Bad Blood," 2015), Grande again ("Side to Side," 2016), and Katy Perry ("Swish Swish," 2017). Minaj's most recent VMAs appearance, in 2018, consisted of a medley of four songs from her then-current album, Queen. She performed live from the PATH World Trade Center station.

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