

# Officer guilty of murder in Floyd's death

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Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Relief, even if fleeting and momentary, is a feeling that Black Americans have rarely known in America: From slavery to Jim Crow segregation to enduring punishments for living while Black, a breath of fresh air untainted by oppression has long been hard to come by.

Nonetheless, the conviction of ex-cop Derek Chauvin for murdering George Floyd nearly a year ago allowed many across this city and the nation to exhale pent-up anxiety — and to inhale a sense of hope.

But what might they feel hope for? The fate of Chauvin — found guilty of murder and manslaughter for holding a knee to Floyd's neck, choking off his breathing until he went limp last May — showed Black Americans and their compatriots once again that the legal system is capable of valuing Black lives.

Or at least it can hold one white police officer in Minnesota accountable for what many declared an unambiguous act of murder months ago.

"This may be the beginning of the restoration of believing that a justice system can work," said civil rights leader Martin Luther King III, echoing a sentiment that many expressed.

"But we have to constantly stay on the battlefield in a peaceful and nonviolent way and make demands," he said. "This has been going on for years and one case, one verdict, does not change how systematic racism has worked in our system."

Alexandria De La Cruz, a Minneapolis mother, brought her 7-year-old daughter to the intersection near where Floyd was murdered, now dubbed George Floyd Square. Along with the hundreds who gathered there — Black, white and otherwise — De La Cruz erupted in cheers after it was announced Chauvin was guilty on all three counts.

"I feel relief that the justice system is working — it's working today," De La Cruz said.

Her daughter, Jazelle, sported a hooded sweatshirt that read, "Stop killing Black people." Perhaps that's a reminder, her mom said, that there's still work to do to ensure the feeling of relief isn't so fleeting this time.

"It's important to bring her (to the



People cheer after a guilty verdict was announced at the trial of a former Minneapolis police officer for the 2020 death of George Floyd.

Morry Gash/AP Photo

square), so she can see what's happening to our people, so that she can see what this country really is," De La Cruz said.

Black Americans have seen similar moments before. In recent years, they followed the convictions of the officers who killed Oscar Grant, Laquan McDonald and Walter Scott. Still, some of these victims' families continue to press for broader accountability from a policing culture they say has never proved it is meaningfully changed or reformed after the convictions of police officers.

And even as the Chauvin trial moved into its final days, the Twin Cities region and the nation were rocked by yet another police killing of an unarmed Black man. This time it was 20-year-old Daunte Wright, in Brooklyn Center, roughly 10 miles north of Minneapolis.

Keith Ellison, Minnesota's first Black attorney general, said the jury's decision was a reminder of how difficult it has been to enact enduring change and prevent the kind of upheaval and civil unrest that ignited the nation and the world last summer.

Furthermore, Ellison pointed out, America has known about and largely ignored the root causes of the upheaval and uneasiness in Black communities. More than a half-century ago, the Kerner and McComb commissions empaneled to study racial unrest warned of the dangers of doing just that.

"Here we are in 2021 still addressing the same problem," Ellison said. "This has to end. We need true justice. That's not one case. That is a social transformation that says that

nobody's beneath the law, and no one is above it."

Rashad Robinson, president of Color of Change, an online racial justice group, echoed the attorney general.

"We cannot, every single time, have uprisings to deliver justice nor should we have to be in a conversation about holding police officers accountable when they go around killing us," Robinson said.

So again, what might Black Americans hope for after the outcome of Chauvin's trial?

It can't be about simply getting more police in front of a judge and jury, or about locking more of them up, said Miski Noor, an activist with the Twin Cities-based Black Visions Collective.

"That doesn't actually stop the murders of Black people," said Noor. "We're trying to get into a world where lives are not lost, when Black people actually get to live."

That's the hope.

As relieved as Floyd's family members are by the guilty verdicts, none see this as a bookend to the pursuit for justice. And three other former Minneapolis police officers face trial for the role they played in the case.

Brandon Williams, a nephew of Floyd's, called the verdicts a "pivotal moment for America."

"It's something this country has needed for a long time now," he said. "We need each and every officer to be held accountable. And until then, it's still scary to be a Black man and woman in America encountering police."

## SPORTS

# Three Warrenton pitchers no-hit Tigers

The Astorian

Playing its first league game in nearly two years, the Warrenton Warriors made a triumphant return to their home field Tuesday, scoring a 16-1 win over Clatskanie in a Coastal Range League baseball game.

A lot went right for the Warriors, as three pitchers combined on a no-hitter with 11 strikeouts, while Warrenton capped a good day at the plate with nine runs in the fourth inning to end the game after five.

It was just the opposite for the Tigers, who committed seven errors, and four pitchers combined to walk eight.

Josh Earls had Warrenton's biggest day at the plate, with three hits and three RBIs. A bases-loaded single by Earls in the fourth turned into a two-base error that scored all three runners.

Duane Falls earned the win on the mound. The first eight outs recorded by the Warriors were strikeouts for Falls, who struck out eight batters in three innings. Dawson Little and freshman Cam'Ron Daniels each pitched an inning to finish the no-hitter.

Warrenton plays a doubleheader Friday at Clatskanie.

### Loggers defeat Pirates

Even after a year off, not much has changed between the Neah-Kah-Nie and Knappa baseball teams.

Going back to 2007, the Loggers have now beaten the Pirates in 29 straight meetings, with the overwhelming majority not going past five innings.

Tuesday's game did go the complete seven, but Knappa won again, 12-7, in a Northwest League game at Rockaway Beach.

The Pirates outthrew the Loggers 10 to five, but Neah-Kah-Nie also committed six errors and walked 14 batters.

Kutter Ball had two of Knappa's five hits, while Cameron Mieth had a double and scored

twice for the Loggers, who led 9-2 after three-and-a-half innings.

Knappa hosts a doubleheader Friday with the Pirates.

### Astoria blanks Valley

Astoria scored its first win of the season Monday afternoon, an 8-0 decision over Valley Catholic at CMH Field.

The Fishermen had all the runs they would need after one inning, with four runs in the bottom of the first.

Tony Tumbarello reached on an error and scored on a double steal, Gunnar Olson scored on a base hit by Bo Williams, and Karson Hawkins drove in Williams and Niko Boudreau on a single to center.

Astoria collected eight hits off three Valley Catholic pitchers, while the Valiants committed five errors in the field.

Olson was Astoria's only multiple hitter, with a single and a double to go with two runs scored. Michael Moore scored twice and Williams drove in two runs.

Olson also pitched six innings for the victory, allowing just two hits and three walks with nine strikeouts.

Astoria hosts Seaside Friday.

### Seaside tops Tillamook

Seaside warmed up for Wednesday's Cowapa League baseball showdown with Banks with a 9-5 win Monday at Tillamook.

In a back-and-forth contest, Seaside led 2-0 after two innings, Tillamook led 4-2 after three, and the teams were tied 5-5 after four.

The Gulls scored two runs in the fifth and two in the seventh to pull away, and pitchers Tanner Kraushaar and Justin Morris did the rest, holding Tillamook to seven hits and four walks with seven strikeouts.

Meanwhile, Tillamook pitchers Trask Petersen and Junior Gonzalez struck out 18 batters with just two walks and seven hits allowed.

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Every ticket bought will come with a free ceramic bowl from our potter Richard Rowland and his team of volunteers. These bowls are one-of-a-kind works of art, and their supply is limited, so buy your tickets soon.

This year since it's an online event we've changed things up a bit. Since we still want people to have the soup they remember, each ticket will come with a pack of 5 Soupous, good for a free soup from local participating restaurants if ticket holders spend \$20 there. Participating restaurants include:

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