

THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD

Derek Chauvin gets 22.5 years in prison

BY HOLLY BAILEY

The Washington Post

MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota judge on Friday sentenced former police officer Derek Chauvin to 22 1/2 years in prison for the murder of George Floyd, a Black man whose desperate gasps for air beneath the knee of the white officer captured on a viral video forever changed the American conversation on race and justice.

Chauvin, who was fired after the killing and then convicted by a jury in April on charges of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree manslaughter, had faced up to 40 years in prison.

In rendering his sentence, Hennepin County District Judge Peter Cahill, who oversaw Chauvin's trial, offered brief remarks, saying it was not the time to be "profound or clever" from the bench. He said he had based the sentence on the facts of the case and not "public opinion."

"The sentence is not based on his emotion or sympathy. But at the same time, I want to acknowledge the deep and tremendous pain that all the families are feeling, especially the Floyd family," Cahill said. "You have our sympathies and I ac-

knowledge and hear the pain that you're feeling."

The killing on May 25, 2020, captured on a gruesome Facebook video, shook the nation and forced a painful reckoning on issues of race and police brutality that continues to play out across a divided America. Chauvin's conviction, a rarity in a country roiled by multiple high-profile cases of Black people being killed by police, was praised by Floyd's family and activists as a historic moment of justice and a potential sign of change.

Before the sentencing, the court heard victim impact statements from four members of Floyd's family, including the man's 7-year-old daughter, Gianna, who in a small, singsong voice spoke of how her daddy used to help her brush her teeth and play with her. "I miss him," she said.

A woman off-camera asked Gianna Floyd if she wished her father were still alive.

"Yeah, but he is," Gianna said.

"Through his spirit?" the woman asked.

"Yes," the little girl replied.

In the courtroom, Chauvin, who sported a freshly shaved head and wore a light gray suit, appeared to watch the video, occasionally blinking



Former Minneapolis police Officer Derek Chauvin addresses the court Friday in Hennepin County, Minnesota.

but otherwise unemotional. As three other Floyd family members approached a podium inside the socially distanced courtroom, the former officer turned his head to listen to them speak but otherwise had no reaction.

Brandon Williams, Floyd's nephew, asked the judge to sentence Chauvin to the maximum punishment.

"Although Chauvin will be sentenced today and spend time in prison, he will have the luxury of seeing his family again, talking to them," Williams told the court. The Floyd family had been "robbed" of that luxury, he said. "No more birthday parties, no graduations, holiday gatherings . . .

No opportunities to simply say I love you."

'What were you thinking?'

The family members were not allowed to address Chauvin directly, but Floyd's brother, Terrence, looked toward the former officer and posed questions that have flummoxed even those who know Chauvin. "Why? What were you thinking? What was going through your head when you had your knee or my brother's neck when you knew he posed no threat anymore?" Terrence Floyd said, as tears rolled down his face.

Philonise Floyd, the man's younger brother who testified in the trial and who has

become the public face of the family's push for justice, told the court of the anguish of having to relive his brother's death again and again through the video of his killing, of the "nightmares" he had on a regular basis.

"I have had to sit through each day of Derek Chauvin's trial and watch the video of George dying for hours, over and over again for an entire year," Philonise Floyd said. "I had to relive George being tortured to death every hour of the day . . . not knowing what a good night's sleep is."

Shortly before being sentenced, Chauvin approached a court lectern and spoke briefly, offering his condolences to the Floyd family. But he declined to speak at length, citing other "legal matters" he is facing. He did not apologize for his role in Floyd's death.

"I do want to give my condolences to the Floyd family," Chauvin said, briefly glancing back toward Floyd's siblings and nephew. "There's going to be some other information in the future that would be of interest. And I hope things will give you some peace of mind."

Before Chauvin spoke, his mother, Carolyn Pawlenty, appealed to Cahill on behalf of her son, describing him as a

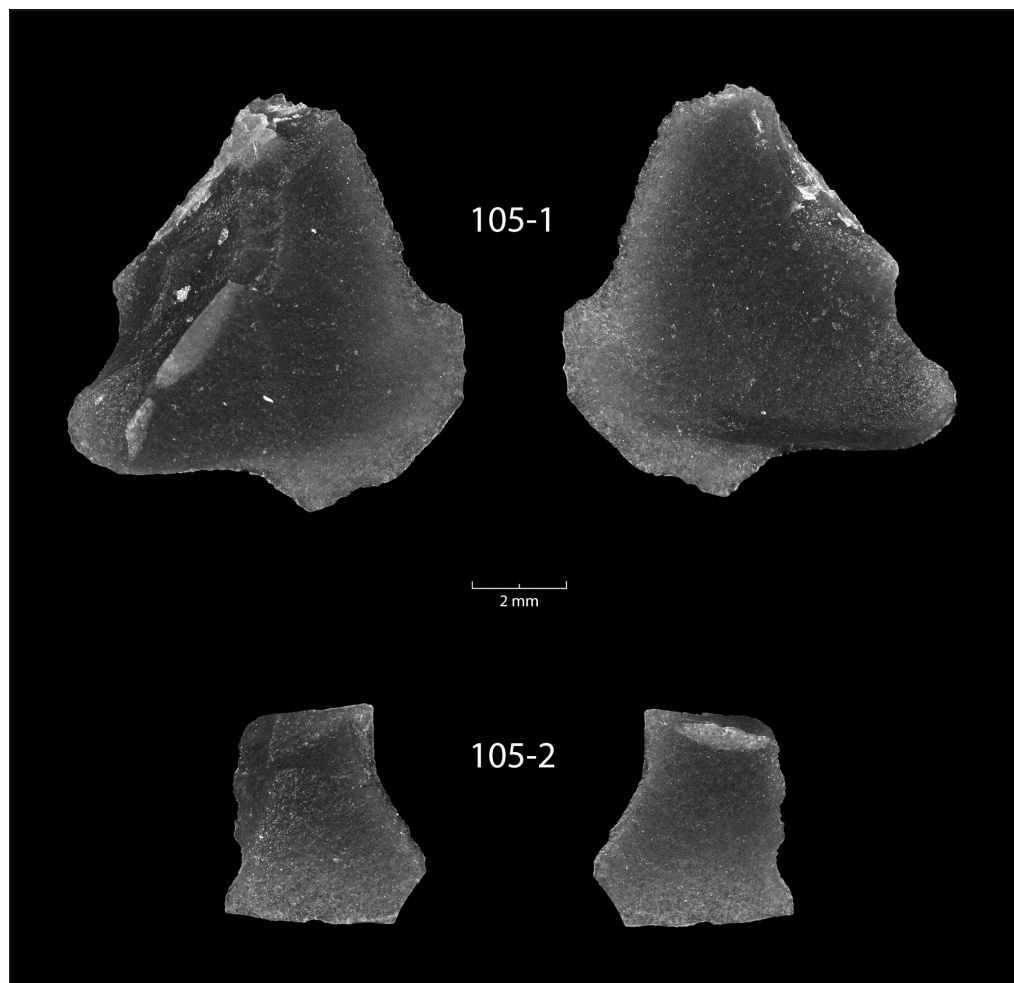
"selfless" public servant who had always tried to help others. She said prosecutors and the media had depicted her son as an "aggressive, heartless and uncaring person . . . a racist." "I can tell you that is far from the truth," Pawlenty said. "My son is a good man."

She pleaded with Cahill to consider a lesser sentence, arguing if her son was sentenced to a long prison term she and her ex-husband, Chauvin's father, would likely die before he is released from jail. "When you sentence my son, you will be sentencing me," Pawlenty said.

Both Pawlenty and Eric Nelson, Chauvin's attorney, said the former officer had played the events of May 25, 2020, over and over again in his mind. Nelson, who said his client had not been scheduled to work that day but came in because the department was short staffed, said his client's brain was consumed by the questions of "what if, what if, what if?"

Chauvin's sentence made him only the second police officer in Minnesota history to be jailed for an on-duty murder and one of less than a dozen officers nationwide.

The Washington Post's Mark Berman contributed to this report.



Submitted photo

Researchers from the University of Texas at Arlington found pieces of ancient obsidian in Lake Huron in Michigan that originated in Central Oregon. Researchers believe the obsidian is the oldest and farthest east the volcanic glass has ever been found in the United States.

Obsidian

Continued from A1

"You get excited and immediately your scientific brain is like, OK how did it get there?" said Ashley Lemke, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology at the University of Texas at Arlington. "Now we have some explaining to do."

A laboratory confirmed the obsidian flakes came from Wagontire, a tiny unincorporated town in Harney County about 130 miles east of Bend. Central and Eastern Oregon have an abundant amount of obsidian, Lemke said.

She believes the flakes came off a stone tool as it was sharpened. The tool must have been traded between hunters several times over the past 9,000 years and ended up in Michigan.

Obsidian is a popular ma-

terial for people thousands of years ago because it was easy to make tools out of it, Lemke said.

"Obsidian is special for archaeologists because we can trace it, but it was really special for people in the past because it was super sharp," Lemke said. "Out of all the rocks you could pick, obsidian is one of the best. It was preferred by prehistoric people all over the world."

Lemke and six other colleagues published a study last month with their findings.

The research team has been working at Lake Huron since 2009. They work on boats 50 miles off shore and use sonar and divers to uncover the ancient civilizations that were overtaken by water, similar to how a volcano buried Pompeii, Lemke said.

"No one has built anything

over these sites," Lemke said. "They haven't been destroyed by farm fields or big buildings."

The team has discovered stone structures, rooted trees and a campfire still filled with charcoal.

"That's why we have been working there for so long," Lemke said. "It's not very easy, but the amount and the kind of data you can get is totally different than what you can get on land."

Lemke and her colleagues plan to spend the summer continuing their research 100 feet underwater. They hope to uncover more obsidian from the sediment samples they collect.

"We are going to go and do more samples," Lemke said. "We want to make sure if there is more we are going to get it all."

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STIMULUS MONEY

Lawmakers may adjourn without refunding \$300M in taxes from checks

MIKE ROGOWAY

The Oregonian

Oregonians won't get a refund on \$300 million in personal income taxes generated by federal stimulus payments, as the Legislature is set to close its 2021 regular session or early Saturday without addressing the issue.

Early in the session, both Democrats and Republicans had expressed support for resolving the thorny situation and returning the money to roughly 900,000 Oregon taxpayers. But the issue faded as the session continued.

"It had all the appearances of an easy, bipartisan bill. And even as time went on, as the state became more flush with dollars, I thought for sure now it's not about keeping the money," said Sen. Dick Anderson, R-Lincoln City, who introduced a bill early in

the session to refund the tax money. "For heaven's sake, we've got more than we need. I don't know what else we could have done."

On average, Oregonians who received stimulus payments owed an extra \$333 in state taxes because of the federal money. The specific amounts varied considerably based on personal tax situations, but taxpayers across the income spectrum faced a hit.

It's a complicated issue. The stimulus payments — \$1,800 in two installments last year, and another \$1,400 in March — came in the form of a federal tax rebate that isn't subject to state taxes.

Oregon, though, is one of six states that allow taxpayers to deduct a share of their federal tax bill from their state tax obligations.

That's a tax break most

of the time. But because the stimulus payments were a tax rebate, that meant Oregonians had less to deduct from their federal taxes — and therefore a higher state tax bill.

Lawmakers acknowledged Congress intended all the stimulus money go directly to the recipients, without a tax hit. In February, U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Springfield, wrote to the Legislature's Democratic leadership urging them to refund the tax money.

"This indirect tax will disproportionately impact individuals earning between \$20,000 and \$70,000 and families earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000 annually," DeFazio wrote. "It is unconscionable to ask those working families who have struggled the most during this crisis to bear the weight of the state's budget shortfall."

Death toll in Florida collapse rises to 4

BY TERRY SPENCER AND ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON

The Associated Press

SURFSIDE, Fla. — With nearly 160 people unaccounted for and at least four dead after a seaside condominium tower collapsed into a smoldering heap of twisted metal and concrete, rescuers used both heavy equipment and their own hands to comb through the wreckage on Friday in an increasingly desperate search for survivors.

As scores of firefighters in Surfside, just north of Miami, toiled to locate and reach anyone still alive in the remains of the 12-story Champlain Towers South, hopes rested on quickly crews using dogs and microphones could complete their grim, yet delicate task.

"Any time that we hear a



Gerald Herbert/AP

Rescue crews work in the rubble at the Champlain Towers South Condo in Surfside, Florida.

sound, we concentrate in that area," Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah said. "It could be just steel twisting. It could be debris raining down, but not specifically sounds of tapping or sounds of a human voice."

Officials said they still don't know exactly how many residents or visitors were in the building when it fell, but they were trying to locate 159 people who were considered unaccounted for and may or may not have been there.

Water

Continued from A1

About 60% of the city's water goes to irrigation, Denings said.

Residents and businesses can reduce water use by irrigating landscapes on even or odd days based on house address, eliminating runoff into the street or sidewalk. The city also suggests refraining from extra water uses like filling pools or washing cars with

a hose.

The Bend Park & Recreation District has already reduced water used for landscaping in parks by 15% and has not turned on water play features for the season, said Julie Brown, the district's communications and community relations manager.

For more information, visit the city's website at bendoregon.gov.

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