

Swift guilty verdicts in trial of former cop

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — After three weeks of testimony, the trial of the former police officer charged with killing George Floyd ended swiftly: barely over a day of jury deliberations, then just minutes for the verdicts to be read — guilty, guilty and guilty — and Derek Chauvin was handcuffed and taken away to prison.

Chauvin, 45, could be sent to prison for decades when he is sentenced in about two months in a case that triggered worldwide protests, violence and a furious reexamination of racism and policing in the U.S.

The verdict set off jubilation mixed with sorrow across the city and around the nation. Hundreds of people poured into the streets of Minneapolis, some running through traffic with banners. Drivers blared their horns in celebration.

“Today, we are able to breathe again,” Floyd’s younger brother Philonise said at a joyous family news conference where tears streamed down his face as he likened Floyd to the 1955 Mississippi lynching victim Emmett Till, except that this time there were cameras around to show the world what

happened.

On Wednesday, Philonise Floyd described his thoughts while watching Chauvin being handcuffed. He recalled to ABC’s “Good Morning America” how it appeared “a lot easier” on Chauvin than when his brother was handcuffed before his death, but said it still represented “accountability.”

“It makes us happier knowing that his life, it mattered, and he didn’t die in vain,” he said.

The jury of six whites and six Black or multiracial people came back with its verdict after about 10 hours of deliberations over two days. The now-fired white officer was found guilty of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

Chauvin’s face was obscured by a COVID-19 mask, and little reaction could be seen beyond his eyes darting around the courtroom. His bail was immediately revoked. Sentencing will be in two months; the most serious charge carries up to 40 years in prison.

Defense attorney Eric Nelson followed

Chauvin out of the courtroom without comment.

Chauvin was booked soon after the verdicts were read into Minnesota’s only maximum-security prison, Oak Park Heights, about 25 miles east of Minneapolis. He is being held in a single cell under administrative segregation for his safety, Department of Corrections spokeswoman Sarah Fitzgerald said.

President Joe Biden welcomed the verdict, saying Floyd’s death was “a murder in full light of day, and it ripped the blinders off for the whole world” to see systemic racism.

But he warned: “It’s not enough. We can’t stop here. We’re going to deliver real change and reform. We can and we must do more to reduce the likelihood that tragedies like this will ever happen again.”

The jury’s decision was hailed around the country as justice by other political and civic leaders and celebrities, including former President Barack Obama, Oprah Winfrey and California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a white man, who said on Twitter that Floyd “would still be alive if he looked like me. That must change.”

General: Terrorism fight in Afghanistan will be difficult

BY SARAH CAMMARATA

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The top general for U.S. Central Command told House lawmakers on Tuesday that it will be difficult to battle terrorism in Afghanistan without U.S. troops in the country.

Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie told House Armed Services Committee members that he is working with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to come up with a plan should a renewed terrorism threat from the Taliban emerge once U.S. troops leave Afghanistan.

“Some of the forces are going to remain in Central Command because we are going to look at offshore, over the horizon options,” he said during a hearing on national security challenges and military activity in the Middle East and Africa.

Throughout the hearing, McKenzie, the

top U.S. commander for operations in the Middle East and Central Asia, said while it’s going to be difficult to conduct counterterrorism operations, it will not be impossible.

The general pointed out an MQ-9 armed drone can be over a target in a “matter of minutes” even if it’s based far from Afghanistan. However, McKenzie’s plans so far were scant on details.

His comments Tuesday come as Democratic and Republican lawmakers have voiced concern about President Joe Biden’s decision last week to withdraw U.S. forces from Afghanistan by Sept. 11.

Lawmakers repeatedly urged McKenzie during the hearing to share details on the military’s reorganization of counterterrorism capabilities and assets in the region to prevent terrorism attacks. Yet, many answers were put off by McKenzie to be discussed in a closed House session scheduled

for later in the afternoon.

But Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., pressed McKenzie for details on what “over the horizon” capabilities will look like to ensure that counterterrorism efforts can continue without U.S. troops in Afghanistan to counter a terrorist threat.

“I’m actually conducting detailed planning by direction of [Austin] to look at those options right now. We’ll report back to him by the end of the month with some alternatives. But I can broadly state that if you leave Afghanistan, you want to go back in and conduct these kinds of operations, there are three things you need to do,” McKenzie said.

“You need to find the target. You need to fix the target, and you need to be able to finish the target. ... the first two require heavy intelligence support,” he said.

US-backed peace meeting postponed as Taliban balk

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An upcoming international peace conference that was meant to move Afghanistan's warring sides to a power-sharing deal and ensure an orderly U.S. exit from the country has been postponed, its sponsors announced Wednesday. They cited a lack of prospects for meaningful progress.

As peace efforts stalled, Germany's Defense Ministry suggested NATO military planners were contemplating a possible withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan as early as July 4. That's more than two months ahead of the planned Sept. 11 pullout date.

"The Resolute Support headquarters in Kabul are currently considering whether to shorten the withdrawal period," said German Defense Ministry spokesman David Helmbold. "The 4th of July is now being considered as a pullout date. The ministry informed the (German parliament's) defense committee about this today."

Still, the latest delay in getting Afghanistan's warring sides to hammer out a peace deal underscored the difficulties the Biden

administration and NATO are facing in orchestrating an orderly exit from conflict-scarred Afghanistan. Both have said they would begin withdrawing their remaining troops — a total of close to 13,000 — from the country on May 1 and complete the pullout by Sept. 11, no matter what.

The decision to delay the conference came several days after Taliban insurgents, who are key to peace efforts, dismissed the U.S.-promoted conference in Istanbul as a political spectacle serving American interests.

No new date was given for the conference, which was to have started Saturday under the sponsorship of the United Nations, Turkey and Qatar. Turkey's foreign minister said the conference was delayed until after the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, which ends in mid-May.

Just hours before the announcement of the postponement, a suicide bomber attacked a convoy of Afghan security personnel, wounding seven people in the capital Kabul. The Interior Ministry said civilians and security personnel were among the wounded.

US nuclear chief calls on Congress to update triad

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

The Chinese military's nuclear capabilities are increasing rapidly and, for the first time, might be primed for use, the U.S. military officer in charge of America's nuclear arsenal warned Tuesday as he urged Congress to upgrade America's aging nuclear infrastructure.

In an effort to describe how quickly the Chinese nuclear program is advancing, Adm. Charles Richard, the commander of U.S. Strategic Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that he had just ordered all briefs on Beijing's nuclear weapons contain no intelligence information vetted more than one month earlier "because it's probably out of date" that quickly.

Richard testified Tuesday that China is capable of accurately deploying nuclear weapons anywhere within its region, and it "will soon be able to do so at intercontinental range."

"I can't get through a week right now, without finding out something we didn't know about China," Richard told senators in a hearing alongside Army Gen. James Dickinson, who leads U.S. Space Command. Dickinson also pointed to China as among his top military concerns, as it rapidly advances its space-based military capabilities.

Yet, even as China's nuclear weapons arsenal has grown dramatically, Russia remains the primary nuclear threat for the United States, Richard said. While the U.S. has yet to field any recent updates to its nuclear forces, Russia is about 80% complete in modernizing its nuclear capabilities, the admiral said.

Those increases among the primary U.S. adversaries come as Congress debates funding for long-planned upgrades to America's nuclear triad — its system of intercontinental ballistic missiles and its fleets of nuclear-capable bomber aircraft and ballistic missile submarines — and as President Joe Biden's administration reviews the nation's nuclear strategies.

Marine admits to assault on Okinawa

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

NAHA, Okinawa — A Marine accused of sexually assaulting a woman in a Naha parking lot and then shoving a police officer pleaded guilty Wednesday during his first appearance in Naha District Court.

Pfc. Marvin Earl James Jr., 24, a transmission systems operator with 3rd Marine Division at Camp Courtney, is charged with forcible indecency and interfering with the public duties of police.

Prosecutors alleged James forced himself on the woman early on Jan. 31 and later shoved a police officer attempting to question him.

James admitted the charges, said he was drunk at the time and believed he had the woman's consent. But, he said in court, he may have been mistaken.

James' attorney is scheduled to meet with prosecutors May 12 to determine whether the woman should testify.

"I don't want to blame it on drinking," James said as he stood before a three-judge panel Wednesday. "The self-control, I didn't have at the moment."

James said he never felt he was "forcing anything" with the woman.

"I never got a rejection," he said. "She probably didn't make me aware I was forcing it because she was scared."

"Everything is true," he said. "I'm admitting to the facts, but it didn't happen exactly as stated."

After a 30-minute break to confer with his lawyer, James backtracked on the consent question. He said he knew at the time it was a "possibility" he did not have her permission.

AFRICOM boss sees growing China footprint

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — China’s naval base in the East African nation of Djibouti is now large enough to host aircraft carriers, marking the latest sign that Beijing is looking to expand military efforts in the region, U.S. Africa Command’s top leader said.

China, which opened its Djibouti base in 2017, has steadily grown its footprint and operates just 7 miles from Camp Lemmonier, the U.S. military’s operational hub in the Horn of Africa.

“Their first overseas military base, their only one, is in Africa, and they have just expanded that by adding a significant pier that can support even their aircraft

carriers in the future,” AFRICOM’s Gen. Stephen Townsend said Tuesday. “Around the continent, they are looking for other basing opportunities.”

Djibouti, a small but strategically important country that sits at the southern end of the Red Sea, has long hosted various foreign militaries. France, Italy and Japan are among the countries with small outposts there.

But China’s buildup is on a much larger scale, Townsend said. The base is turning into a “platform to project power across the continent and its waters,” Townsend said in a posture statement submitted Tuesday to the House Armed Services Committee.

China has two aircraft carriers

in service — the Liaoning, a heavily modified, unfinished ex-Russian carrier, and the Shandong, a modernized version of the Liaoning. A third carrier could be ready by 2024 and is expected to be the first equipped with catapults that would allow it to launch heavier planes, a Congressional Research Service report said in March.

Beijing wants additional bases to tie “their commercial seaport investments in East, West and Southern Africa closely with involvement by Chinese military forces in order to further their geo-strategic interests,” Townsend wrote.

China has also stepped up military training efforts and arms sales in Africa, but those efforts

are of less concern and sometimes end up “working out OK for us” because of the poor quality of Beijing’s gear and military advice, Townsend said.

Still, China has emerged as the dominant outside economic force in Africa. Its investments in Africa are outpacing those of the United States and its allies, “as they seek resources and markets to feed economic growth in China and leverage economic tools to increase their global reach and influence,” Townsend said.

China also uses its economic heft to offer loans unfavorable to African countries, which function as debt traps that help secure Beijing’s access to key infrastructure, Townsend said.

Osprey lands on a Navy hospital ship for 1st time

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

An Osprey has made the tiltrotor aircraft’s first-ever landing on a Navy hospital ship, an important step in an effort to increase the speed in which patients and crucial supplies can be brought aboard.

The April 14 landing on the USNS Mercy, whose flight deck underwent major structural work over the past several months to accommodate larger aircraft, took place off Southern California, the Navy said in a news release Monday.

The ship is the midst of compatibility tests with variants of the V-22 Osprey and the MH-60 Seahawk, the Navy said. Ospreys possess rotors that tilt one direction to allow vertical takeoff and landing and another to serve as propellers as on fixed-wing aircraft.

The aircraft and beefier flight deck are expected to increase flight operations and “allow critical patients a quicker route to the ship for treatment” as com-

pared to “a slower boat ride from one of the ship’s tender boats,” the Navy said.

Personnel from several Navy ships were aboard the Mercy to train its civil service crew in the new aircraft landings, including personnel from the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer, the destroyer USS Stethem and the amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli.

The Navy’s Military Sealift Command operates two hospital ships, the San Diego-based Mercy and the USNS Comfort, which is homeported in Norfolk, Va.

Seven months of maintenance work in Portland, Ore., expanded and reinforced Mercy’s deck to handle the size, weight and heat of Ospreys and larger helicopters, the Navy said. Work was also done on the ship’s propulsion system intended to extend its service life to 2036.

The Navy announced in 2018 plans to retire one hospital ship due to high upkeep costs, but the service dropped the plan after an uproar from U.S. lawmakers.

Ariz. governor approves up to 250 National Guard troops for border mission

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Up to 250 Arizona National Guard members will deploy to the state’s southern border with Mexico on state orders to support law enforcement grappling with an influx of migrants, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said.

“It’s become evidently clear that Arizona needs the National Guard, and the White House is aware of that. Yet, to this day, there has been no action from this administration, and it doesn’t look like they are going to act any time soon. If this administration isn’t going to do anything, then we will,” Ducey said Tuesday when announcing the deployment.

The state will provide up to \$25 million of initial funding for the mission, according to the governor’s office. Ducey did not say when troops would arrive.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection in March had more than 170,000 apprehensions at its bor-

der with Mexico, Ducey said. Nearly 19,000 of those apprehensions were unaccompanied children — more than four times the number of kids apprehended in March 2020.

The National Guard will assist with medical operations in detention centers, install and maintain border cameras, monitor and collect data from public safety cameras and analyze satellite imagery for trends in smuggling corridors. They’ll also provide administrative support and logistics to local sheriffs’ offices in border communities.

This state mission is in addition to a federal National Guard mission to support Customs and Border Protection across the entire southern U.S. border that began under former President Donald Trump in April 2018 and continues under President Joe Biden. About 3,600 active-duty service members and Guard troops are also deployed, according to the Defense Department.

Biden to pledge to halve greenhouse gases

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden will pledge to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions at least in half by 2030 as he convenes a virtual climate summit with 40 world leaders, according to three people with knowledge of the White House plans.

The 50% target would nearly double America's previous commitment and help the Biden administration prod other countries for ambitious emissions cuts as well. The proposal would require dramatic changes in the power and transportation sectors, including significant increases in renewable energy such as wind and solar power and steep cuts in emissions from fossil fuels such as coal and oil.

The nonbinding but symbolically important pledge is a key

element of the two-day summit, which begins Thursday when world leaders gather online to share strategies to combat climate change.

China announced on Wednesday that President Xi Jinping will participate. China is the world's largest carbon polluter, with the United States second.

The U.S. emissions target has been eagerly awaited by all sides of the climate debate.

It will signal how aggressively Biden wants to move on global warming, a divisive and expensive issue that has riled Republicans to complain about job-killing government overreach even as some on the left worry Biden has not gone far enough to address a profound threat to the planet.

Administration officials

promised significant announcements on emissions cuts, but would not confirm the U.S. goal before the summit.

The European Union on Wednesday reached a tentative deal intended to make the 27-nation bloc carbon-neutral by 2050.

The agreement commits the EU to an intermediate target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels.

Biden has sought to ensure that his 2030 goal, known as a Nationally Determined Contribution, or NDC, is aggressive enough to have a tangible impact on climate change efforts — not only in the U.S., but throughout the world — while also being achievable under a closely divided Congress.

The climate target is a key re-

quirement of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, which Biden rejoined on his first day in office.

It's also an important marker as Biden moves toward his ultimate goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Scientists, environmental groups and even business leaders had called on Biden to set a target that would cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% below 2005 levels by 2030.

"Wow. That's ambition with a capital A," Georgia Tech climate scientist Kim Cobb said Tuesday after learning of Biden's plans. "That target would put us roughly in line with the most ambitious emissions reductions targets" projected by scientists and environmentalists.

Officer kills Black teen swinging knife

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The fatal shooting of a knife-wielding Black teenage girl by police in Columbus, Ohio, came within minutes of the verdict in George Floyd's killing — causing outrage by some in the community over the continued police use of lethal force.

Officials with the Columbus Division of Police released footage of the shooting Tuesday night just hours after it happened, a departure from protocol as the force faces immense scrutiny from the public following a series of recent high-profile police killings that have led to clashes.

The girl was identified as 16-year-old Ma'Khia Bryant, according to Franklin County Children Services, which said in a release that she was under the care of the agency at the time of her death.

The 10-second clip begins with the officer getting out of his car at a house where police had been dispatched after someone called 911 saying they were being physically threatened, Interim Police Chief Michael Woods said at the news conference. The officer takes a few steps toward a group of people in the driveway when Bryant starts swinging a knife wildly at another girl or woman, who falls backward. The officer

shouts several times to get down.

Bryant then charges at another girl or woman, who is pinned against a car.

From a few feet away, with people on either side of him, the officer fires four shots, and Bryant slumps to the ground.

A black-handled blade similar to a kitchen knife or steak knife lies on the sidewalk next to her.

A man immediately yells at the officer, "You didn't have to shoot her! She's just a kid, man!"

The officer responds, "She had a knife. She just went at her."

The race of the officer wasn't clear and he was taken off patrolling the streets for the time being.

Bryant was taken to a hospital, where she was pronounced dead, police said. It remains unclear if anyone else was injured.

Woods said state law allows police to use deadly force to protect themselves or others, and investigators will determine whether this shooting was such an instance. Ohio's Bureau of Criminal Investigation is now reviewing the killing following an agreement with the city last summer for all police shootings to be handled by the independent investigators under Attorney General Dave Yost's office.

Dems push \$25B for electric buses

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic lawmakers on Wednesday unveiled legislation that would invest \$25 billion to convert the nation's fleet of gasoline- and diesel-powered school buses to electric vehicles, aiming at a component of President Joe Biden's \$2.3 trillion infrastructure plan to improve children's health.

School buses make up 90% of the nation's total bus fleet and typically carry nearly 25 million children each day. Emissions from diesel engines may contribute to respiratory illnesses in children, studies have found, and have been linked to poor academic performance.

The bill introduced Wednesday would authorize federal grant money over 10 years, with 40% of it devoted to replacing school buses that serve mostly nonwhite, poorer communities.

It would cover the expense of purchasing electric school buses, building charging stations and providing workforce training.

The legislation also directs the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct outreach to help school districts with the transition.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man convicted of visa fraud, witness tampering

NC NEW BERN — A Virginia man was convicted on visa fraud charges related to a sham marriage to an Army soldier, and trying to obstruct the testimony of a witness, federal prosecutors said.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina said in a news release that Joshua Kwame Asane, 46, was convicted by a federal jury in New Bern.

Evidence revealed that the marriage between Asane and a U.S. soldier stationed at Fort Bragg was arranged by Asane’s brother, Ebenezer Asane. He was previously indicted for conspiracy to commit marriage fraud and has pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentencing.

Asane and the soldier were married in Cumberland County, the news release said. The couple submitted fraudulent applications to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services requesting Asane’s adjustment of status as a lawful permanent resident, prosecutors said.

In a split decision the jury found Asane guilty of visa fraud, false statements in immigration proceedings, and tampering with a witness, and not guilty of conspiracy and marriage fraud.

Suspected burglar winds up ensnared in wiring

CA CHULA VISTA — A man suspected of trying to steal copper from a San Diego-area building had to be rescued when he fell through the skylight and became entangled in copper

tubes and wiring, police said.

A passerby reported hearing someone calling for help and officers were sent to an empty warehouse, where they found a man hanging upside down from the ceiling, Lt. Frank Giaime told the San Diego Union-Tribune.

The man had fallen through a skylight and was entangled in wiring from an air conditioner unit, city fire Battalion Chief Brendan Barahura said, KSWB-TV reported.

Driver hits squad car, flees, crashes vehicle

ND GRAND FORKS — A driver is accused of striking an unoccupied police squad car in Grand Forks and leading officers on a chase before crashing her vehicle.

According to police, the 35-year-old Buxton woman hit the squad car at the Ambassador Motel and fled the scene. Officers began pursuing the driver, but terminated the chase because of its high speed.

A short time later, the woman was involved in a rollover crash. She was the only one in the vehicle and was taken to Altru hospital with unknown injuries, authorities said.

Police: Driver throws Molotov cocktail at officer

NY NEW YORK — A driver who ran a red light threw a chemical liquid at a New York City police officer, drove away and then tossed a flaming Molotov cocktail as officers pursued him, authorities said.

Body camera footage showed the driver tossing a liq-

uid — later identified as bleach — at an officer who had pulled him over in Brooklyn.

Authorities said the man sped off and then suddenly stopped, tossed the Molotov cocktail at the officers, before fleeing a second time. He later crashed his car and was arrested. An additional Molotov cocktail was found inside the vehicle, according to Police Chief Rodney Harrison.

Charges were pending for the 44-year-old driver, whose name was not immediately released, 1010 WINS AM reported.

State adds ‘X’ gender option for IDs

NJ TRENTON — New Jersey has added an “X” gender option for driver’s licenses and identification cards for those who do not want to specify male or female, the state’s Motor Vehicle Commission said.

The commission said that the option is for residents who identify as nonbinary, as well as for those who do not want to indicate their gender on their ID.

The commission planned to permit the “X” option late last year but delayed the change because of the COVID-19 outbreak. The change also entailed updates to the commission’s computer system.

Fox that attacked people to be tested for rabies

ME TOPSHAM — A fox suspected of having rabies attacked at least three people in a town near Brunswick before it was shot.

The gray fox attacked at least two different people that were walking with their dogs and then chased another man into his house, the Times Record reported. That man shot the animal with a gun, killing it.

One of the people attacked by the fox, a 57-year-old woman, went to the hospital to be evaluated, the newspaper reported.

The fox will be tested for rabies at the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. There have been multiple reported attacks by foxes on people and animals in the past weeks in the area, the newspaper reported.

Prosecutor: Man charged in hate crime spree

NY MANORVILLE — A New York man who authorities said went on a hate crime spree targeting people based on their religion and sexual orientation was indicted on 36 criminal charges, Suffolk County District Attorney Timothy Sini said.

Christopher Keller, 36, of Manorville on Long Island, terrorized numerous people in 2020, shooting at homes and businesses and sending harassing messages via phone and social media that were anti-Semitic and anti-LGBTQ, Sini said. No one was injured, but the crimes “terrorized” many community members, he said.

Keller was arraigned on the indictment last week before a Suffolk County judge.

He is charged with hate crimes, gun crimes, aggravated harassment, menacing and numerous other crimes.

— From wire reports



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Curry shooting his way into history

Associated Press

Never.

That's the last time the NBA saw a shooting stretch like the one Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors has assembled over the past few weeks.

It's been 45 years since the last instance of an NBA MVP being selected from a team that wasn't at least 10 games over the .500 mark, but Curry has shot his way into serious consideration. He's averaging 31.4 points on 49% shooting this season; the only other season in which he averaged more than 30 points was 2015-16, when he averaged 30.1 on 50% shooting — and was the unanimous MVP.

Those Warriors were 73-9. These Warriors are 29-29. That's the big difference, the biggest reason why Curry isn't even more prevalent in the MVP talks.

"He's never played any better, that's for sure," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It's been incredible to watch."

Bob Pettit and Kareem Abdul-

Jabbar are the only players to win MVP awards on teams that had winning percentages below .560. The award typically goes to the best player on a team that finishes high in the standings, not one that'll likely have to scratch and claw just to make the post-season.

That said, these are not typical times.

"Steph Curry left no doubt about who the real MVP is tonight!" Magic Johnson tweeted on Monday, when Curry had 49 points to lead Golden State past Philadelphia.

With 78 three-pointers in his past 11 games, Curry has set the record for most threes in any 11-game stretch from the same regular season in NBA history (and during this run, he's also broken the records for most threes in spans of 10, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four and three games, as well. He already owned the two-game mark before this stretch started).

He's had 10 or more three-

pointers in four of his past five games. Since the three-point line became a thing in the NBA in 1979, including playoffs, only two other players — Damian Lillard and Curry's Golden State teammate Klay Thompson — have at least four games with 10 or more threes made. Ever. In their careers.

Curry just did it four times in a span of eight days.

"I've been blessed with a certain skill set and approach to the game that I've worked on, year after year after year," Curry said. "And that work does pay off. The summers are hard; like, they're the hardest times of the year because I really build up that intensity and have a certain program that gets me in shape and gets me ready to sustain that over the course of the season."

That's why at this point in the season he looks good as ever. Curry has scored at least 30 points in each of his past 11 games. Nobody at his age — anyone 33 or older — has ever done

that before. Kobe Bryant had a run of 10 straight. Curry passed him on Monday night in Philadelphia.

Even Kerr — a gifted television analyst before he became one of the best coaches in the game — is running out of superlatives to offer.

"Whatever I said last game, just use that," Kerr said. "It's the same thing after every game. It's just utter amazement at this guy's skill level, heart, mind, focus. It's just amazing to watch."

His performances sure seem MVP-worthy.

Since returning from a bruised tailbone 12 games ago — Curry missed another game after initially returning, and the Warriors lost that game to Toronto by 53 points — here's his points each night, in order: 32, 36, 37, 41, 32, 38, 53, 42, 33, 47 and 49.

The Warriors are 28-22 with him, 1-7 without him.

If they make the playoffs, he'll be the reason they do.

Barrett, Knicks stretch winning streak to seven games

Associated Press

NEW YORK — RJ Barrett scored 18 of his 24 points in the third quarter and the New York Knicks beat the Charlotte Hornets 109-97 on Tuesday night for their seventh straight victory.

Barrett's offense and the Knicks' defense changed the game after the Hornets scored 66 points in the first half. New York held Charlotte to just 31 after halftime.

Derrick Rose and Immanuel Quickley each scored 17 points off the bench for the Knicks, who moved into fifth place in the Eastern Conference. They are on their longest winning streak since winning eight straight in March 2014.

Julius Randle and Reggie Bullock each had 16 points.

P.J. Washington scored 26

points and Terry Rozier had 21 for the Hornets.

Nets 134, Pelicans 129: Kyrie Irving capped a 32-point performance with a tough turnaround jumper, a driving layup through converging defenders and four free throws in the final minute, and Brooklyn held on to win at reeling New Orleans.

Joe Harris also hit a pair of late free throws to cap his 24-point night for the Nets, who won despite being without both Kevin Durant and James Harden.

Zion Williamson scored 33 points. Brandon Ingram added 27 points for the Pelicans, who fell four games behind Golden State and San Antonio for the final play-in spot in the Western Conference with 14 games left in the regular season.

Hawks 112, Magic 96: Trae

Young scored 25 points, Lou Williams added 22 in his best game since returning, and surging Atlanta pulled away in the final period against visiting Orlando.

Atlanta began the day clinging to the fourth spot in the Eastern Conference, which would mean home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

The Hawks won for the fifth time in six games to move a step closer to locking up their first postseason berth since 2017.

Clippers 113, Trail Blazers 112: Paul George had 33 points, including two free throws with 4.8 seconds left that gave Los Angeles a victory at Portland.

George also had 11 rebounds for the Clippers, playing without Kawhi Leonard. It was the team's sixth straight win over

the Blazers.

CJ McCollum had 28 points but missed a pullup jumper at the final buzzer for Portland, which didn't have Damian Lillard for the game. Norman Powell added 23 points.

Timberwolves 134, Kings 120: Karl-Anthony Towns had 25 points and a season-high 18 rebounds, and Minnesota pulled away over the final five minutes at Sacramento.

Anthony Edwards and D'Angelo Russell added 28 points apiece to help the Timberwolves beat the Kings for the second time this season and the first time in front of fans at Golden 1 Center. About 1,600 front-line workers sat alongside cardboard cutouts after California eased its COVID-19 restrictions earlier this month.

Islanders garner share of East lead

Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Josh Bailey scored twice, Anthony Beauvillier had a goal and three assists, and the New York Islanders beat the Rangers 6-1 Tuesday night.

Jordan Eberle and Jean-Gabriel Pageau each had a goal and an assist, and Brock Nelson also scored. Semyon Varlamov stopped 25 shots to help the Islanders win their second straight and seventh in the last 10 to pull into a tie with Washington atop the East Division ahead of a stretch of three straight games against the Capitals.

Kevin Rooney scored for the Rangers, who had won four straight — all against New Jersey — and lost in regulation for just the second time in 12 games (8-2-2). Igor Shesterkin finished with 22 saves to fall to 0-3-1 in four career starts against the Islanders.

Penguins 7, Devils 6: Jeff Carter picked up his first goal in Pittsburgh as part of a first-period deluge and the Penguins held on to beat visiting New Jer-

sey.

Pittsburgh led 6-0 entering the third before the Devils put together a furious rally. Andreas Johnsson pulled New Jersey within one with 41 seconds remaining but the Devils couldn't generate another shot with the goaltender pulled.

Bryan Rust, Mike Matheson, Brian Dumoulin also scored for the Penguins. Sidney Crosby and Evan Rodrigues each had a goal and an assist, and Jared McCann added two assists to give him 15 points in his last 14 games.

Kings 4, Ducks 1: Andreas Athanasiou and Blake Lizotte each had a goal and two assists and host Los Angeles beat Anaheim.

Anze Kopitar and Carl Grundstrom also scored for the Kings. Cal Petersen made 24 saves.

Cam Fowler scored, Anthony Stolarz made 18 saves and the Ducks lost their third straight.

Fans were allowed into the Staples Center for the first time in more than a year due to the pandemic.

Bruins 2, Sabres 0: Tuukka Rask recorded his first shutout of the season and Boston extended its winning streak to five games with a win at Buffalo.

Rask made 32 saves including a highlight-reel save on Sabres rookie Dylan Cozens in the first period that helped give the Bruins their seventh win in nine games.

Brad Marchand and Connor Clifton scored for Boston, which held on to fourth place in the Eastern Division.

Hurricanes 4, Lightning 1: Nino Niederreiter, Jordan Staal and Steven Lorentz scored second-period goals to lead Carolina to a win at Tampa Bay.

Jordan Martinook added an empty net goal with 2.2 seconds left. Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 26 shots for the victory.

Brayden Point scored for the Lightning. Andrei Vasilevskiy finished with 32 saves.

Panthers 5, Blue Jackets 1: Sam Bennett scored two goals and Spencer Knight made 33 saves in his NHL debut to lift Florida over visiting Columbus. Jonathan Huberdeau had a

goal and two assists, Aleksander Barkov scored for the first time in four games, and Ryan Lomberg added a goal for the Panthers. Anthony Duclair had three assists. Florida is 7-0-1 against the Blue Jackets this season.

Stars 5, Red Wings 2: Rookie Jason Robertson had a goal and an assist in the first period and Dallas beat visiting Detroit to sweep back-to-back games against the Red Wings and extend its winning streak to four games.

Joe Pavelski, Tanner Kero, Blake Comeau and Jamie Oleksiak also scored for the Stars (19-14-12). Dallas rookie goaltender Jake Oettinger made 24 saves and improved to 9-5-6.

Canucks 6, Maple Leafs 3: Tanner Pearson and Brandon Sutter each scored twice, and host Vancouver beat Toronto.

Quinn Hughes had a goal and two assists for the Canucks, Nils Hoglander also scored and J.T. Miller had two assists. Braden Holtby stopped 37 shots in Vancouver's return from a massive COVID-19 outbreak.

Super League collapses as six English clubs bail

Associated Press

LONDON — The Super League collapsed before a ball was kicked in the European breakaway competition after being abandoned by the six English clubs, leaving the Spanish and Italian participants stranded.

Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester United, Manchester City and Tottenham throughout Tuesday evening deserted the proposal to launch a largely closed midweek competition amid an escalating backlash from their supporters and warnings from the British government that legislation could be introduced to thwart it.

The Super League project was overseen by Real Madrid Presi-

dent Florentino Perez, who also signed up Barcelona and Atlético Madrid in Spain, and Juventus, AC Milan and Inter Milan from Italy. The rival for the UEFA-run Champions League became unviable without the six clubs from the world's richest league.

The remaining fledgling Super League organization was defiant, blaming "pressure" being applied for forcing out the English clubs and insisting the proposal complied with the law and could yet be revived in some form.

"Given the current circumstances," the Super League said in a statement, "we shall reconsider the most appropriate steps

to reshape the project, always having in mind our goals of offering fans the best experience possible while enhancing solidarity payments for the entire football community."

The English clubs heeded the appeals from UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin to remain part of the Champions League, which has a qualification criteria based on a team's performance in the domestic league.

"I said yesterday that it is admirable to admit a mistake and these clubs made a big mistake," he said. "But they are back in the fold now and I know they have a lot to offer not just to our competitors but to the whole of the European game.

"The important thing now is that we move on, rebuild the unity that the game enjoyed before this and move forward together."

As it became clear Chelsea and City were quitting the Super League on Tuesday evening, Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson and his teammates posted a message advocating staying within the open European competitions.

Liverpool, which is owned by the Boston Red Sox investment group, eventually issued a statement thanking those inside and outside the club for "valuable contributions" before making the decision to stick within existing structures.

Dodgers' Urías dominates Mariners

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Julio Urías threw seven dominant innings of one-hit ball, striking out a career-high 11 and leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 1-0 win over the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday.

Corey Seager drove in the only run with a two-out single in the third inning after AJ Pollock's leadoff double. Those were the Dodgers' only hits in the game.

Seattle's lone hit against Urías (3-0) was Mitch Haniger's slow infield single with two outs in the third inning. Victor González worked the eighth, and Kenley Jansen pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth save to complete the one-hitter.

Seattle's Marco Gonzales (1-2) allowed two hits and struck out six. He retired the final 13 batters he faced.

Athletics 7-1, Twins 0-0: Matt Olson hit a grand slam and Mitch Moreland homered twice to back Sean Manaea's shutout, and Jesús Luzardo followed with his own Game 2 gem as host Oakland swept a doubleheader against depleted Minnesota.

The Athletics have won 10 straight.

Luzardo (1-1) allowed two hits over 5½ innings, struck out six and walked one.

Lou Trivino retired former A's star Josh Donaldson on a called third strike to end the sixth with the tying run on third following a wild pitch.

In the opener, Moreland connected for a two-run homer in the second inning and a solo drive in the fourth off Matt Shoemaker (1-1).

Angels 6, Rangers 2: Shohei Ohtani pitched four roller-coaster scoreless in-

nings, Mike Trout and Albert Pujols homered and Los Angeles defeated visiting Texas.

Kurt Suzuki also went deep for the Angels, who have won six of their nine home games.

Brewers 6, Padres 0: Corbin Burnes struck out 10 in six spotless innings, extending his dominant start to the season, and visiting Milwaukee blanked short-handed San Diego.

Billy McKinney homered to spark a five-run third against Chris Paddack (1-2) that included a two-run double by Travis Shaw and a two-run single from Omar Narváez. McKinney also made a diving catch in left field that likely saved two runs.

Yankees 3, Braves 1: New York broke its five-game losing streak with little offense, getting a run-scoring wild pitch and bases-loaded walk from visiting Atlanta reliever Nate Jones in the eighth inning.

Gio Urshela hit a tying home run in the fifth inning off Charlie Morton and the Yankees won with five hits, which left their four-game total at 16.

White Sox 8, Indians 5: Carlos Rodón followed up his no-hitter by hanging around for five shaky innings to beat host Cleveland for the second time in a week, and José Abreu homered twice for Chicago.

Rodón (3-0) worked around five walks, giving up a homer and throwing 110 pitches.

Nationals 3, Cardinals 2: Yan Gomes drew a four-pitch walk from Giovanny Gallegos to force in the go-ahead run in an odd eighth inning that also featured St. Louis deploying a five-man infield, and host Washington rallied to win.

The Cardinals led 2-1 entering the eighth.

But Gallegos (2-1) walked a batter, then hit one, before Trea Turner's RBI single to right on an 0-2 count tied the game. St. Louis manager Mike Shildt followed with some creative defensive alignments, but it didn't matter much because Starlin Castro struck out looking with the bases loaded before Gomes' go-ahead walk.

Red Sox 4, Blue Jays 2: Xander Bogaerts hit a three-run home run to back Eduardo Rodriguez in his first start at Fenway Park since 2019 as host Boston beat Toronto.

Giants 10, Phillies 7: Buster Posey had his first multihomer game in nearly five years, Alex Dickerson and Wilmer Flores connected during a six-run eighth inning and San Francisco muscled to a win at Philadelphia.

Orioles 7, Marlins 5: Trey Mancini and Freddy Galvis each hit a solo homer in the third inning, and Baltimore won at Miami.

Cubs 3, Mets 1: Jake Arrieta pitched five effective innings, Craig Kimbrel escaped a jam in the ninth and host Chicago beat New York.

Diamondbacks 5, Reds 4 (8): Cincinnati reliever Lucas Sims walked in a run to give Arizona a 5-4 lead over the Reds in the top of the eighth inning before the game was suspended because of rain.

Rays 14, Royals 7: Brandon Lowe, Austin Meadows and Mike Zunino homered and Tampa Bay pounded out 17 hits to roll to a win at Kansas City.

Rockies 6, Astros 2: C.J. Cron homered and drove in five runs and Jon Gray pitched effectively into the seventh inning as host Colorado beat Houston.

Canceled or not, invite to combine still a hot ticket

Associated Press

Kansas State tight end Briley Moore, a graduate transfer from Northern Iowa, frantically scrolled through his waterproof phone.

"It was a dream of mine since I was a little kid to go to the combine," Moore said. "So once I had seen a couple on Twitter got the combine invite, I was taking a shower, checked my phone."

Nothing.

His heart sank.

Then, it hit him.

"Checked my spam on one of my old email addresses from when I was at Northern Iowa and it was in there," Moore said.

"So my uncle, his wife and my fiancée were all out in the living room, and I started screaming when I was in the shower."

They came running. What was the fuss all about?

"I told them I got it."

The annual NFL scouting combine in Indianapolis was canceled because of the pandemic, leaving prospects to show off for scouts, coaches and general managers at their college pro days instead.

While players lamented the lost opportunity to gather in Indy and square off against their peers, an invitation to the combine was still considered a golden ticket for the 323 prospects who were "invited" to the reima-

ined combine (really, 103 pro days spread out over several weeks on college campuses this spring).

"It's not fun not being able to be there and get that experience. But at the end of the day, it's what made today so important," Moore said at Kansas State's pro day.

The scouting combine has morphed from a small gathering of players and talent evaluators to an annual event that even went prime time last year just before COVID-19 upended everything. The annual get-together is the capstone to college football careers for the 300-plus invitees who get to see how they stack up against their peers in their draft class, or even historically.