

After seeing "alarmingly thin" fashion show models, Anne Hathaway made "Devil Wears Prada 2" producers cast less "skeletal" ones, Meryl Streep tells Harper's Bazaar of their cover girl.

BAZAAR



'Devil' is in the details for sequel star Hathaway



New home woe for Letitia 4th Labor Dept. departure

New York Attorney General Letitia James was hit with two federal criminal referrals Wednesday alleging she may have committed homeowners insurance fraud.

Federal Housing Finance Agency Director William Pulte alleged in the mis-

sives, obtained by The Post, that James may have falsified information in filings with Illinois-based Allstate Insurance Company and Florida-based Universal Property Insurance.

The referrals were sent to US Attorney for Northern District of Illinois Andrew

Boutros and US Attorney for Southern District of Florida Jason Reding Quinones. They come four months after a Virginia federal judge dismissed a criminal indictment accusing the prosecutor of mortgage fraud.

Victor Nava and Josh Christenson

WASHINGTON — A fourth employee has left the Department of Labor after being sidelined amid a sprawling watchdog probe of Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer involving alleged travel fraud and other misconduct, The Post has learned.

Melissa Robey, who served as director of advance in the secretary's office, was fired Tuesday at the prompting of the White House, sources said, making her the latest DOL aide in the secretary's office to exit during the inspector general's investigation.

On March 4, Robey was put on administrative leave following allegations that she misused taxpayer dollars for official travel — one day after Chavez-DeRemer's top aides resigned from their positions while facing similar allegations.

Josh Christenson

SPRITZ A CLEAN BREAK

'Suds-free' laundry

By BROOKE STEINBERG

Rinse — no repeats.

There may be a new invention that could significantly reduce the time spent doing laundry.

Scientists in China have developed a spray-on coating for clothes that stops dirt and stains from sticking to the fabric, meaning they can be cleaned on a simple rinse cycle that doesn't require detergent.

The study, published in the journal Communications Chemistry, described laundry as a "mundane chore with roots stretching back millennia," and the spray-on coating can save people time and is also more eco-friendly.

The "self-cleaning fabric coating" would allow people to wash their clothes in just 18% of the time it normally takes to do laundry, the study found.

It would also be more environmentally friendly since washing machines consume a lot of water and electricity and usually require "significant detergent input," which discharges into water sources and can harm aquatic life.

With the new spray-on coating, the release of "detergent and microplastic-laden wastewater is entirely eliminated."

Researchers claim that the coating "fully eliminates the need for detergents and retains its self-

cleaning performance for more than 100 laundering cycles."

The spray coats fabrics with two polymers that bind together — poly(diallyldimethylammonium chloride) and poly(vinylsulfonic acid), or PDADMAC and PVS. Together, they form a polyelectrolyte multilayer, or PEM.

The PEM layers can attract water from its surrounding environment to the fibers of the clothing, effectively forming a barrier that will stop a mess from clinging to

the fibers in the first place, enabling "the effective removal of food stains, oily residues, bacteria, and fungi through simple rinsing with tap water."

Essentially, simply rinsing the clothing item under tap water will wash the dirt away.

The researchers found that "the overall consumption of water, electricity, and time is reduced by approximately 82%."

They also found that the process worked on both synthetic and cotton fabrics and were "health-friendly fabric coatings for direct skin contact."

Scientists said that the findings could transform how people do laundry, taking it from a "traditional detergent-assisted, multi-step process — comprising one washing cycle and four rinsing cycles — to a single detergent-free rinsing cycle."

