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BREAKING NEWS: Mueller recommends no prison for Flynn, citing 'substantial assistance'

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Rex Tillerson
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of State



Tom Price
Secretary of Health
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Michael T. Flynn
National Security
Adviser



Sally Yates
US Deputy
Attorney General



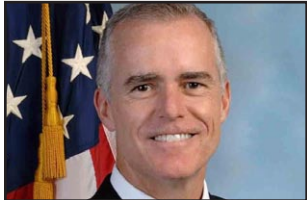
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US Attorney for the
Southern District of NY



H.R. McMaster
National Security
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Tom Bossert
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Security



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See COHEN, page 6

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Attacks on Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's clothes echo early labor movement

By Einav Rabinovitch-Fox,
Case-Western Reserve University
UPI

As the youngest woman ever elected to Congress, 29-year-old Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has attracted much media attention.

A young outspoken woman who defines herself as “an educator, an organizer, a working-class New Yorker,” Ocasio-Cortez has positioned herself as an outsider who isn’t afraid of speaking truth to power.

While her radical political positions -- from abolishing ICE to Medicare for all -- are responsible for some of that publicity, her fashion choices have also drawn a lot of scrutiny.

“I’ll tell you something,” Washington Examiner reporter Eddie Scarry tweeted on Nov. 16, “that jacket and coat don’t look like a girl who struggles.”

It seems that some critics just can’t accept the fact that an unapologetic Democratic socialist like Ocasio-Cortez -- who calls for a more equal distribution of wealth and fair shake to workers -- can also wear designer clothes.

To a historian like me who writes about fashion and politics, the attention to Ocasio-Cortez’s clothing as a way to criticize her politics is an all-too-familiar line of attack.

Ocasio-Cortez isn’t the first woman or even the first outsider to receive such treatment.

In particular, I’m reminded of Clara Lemlich, a young radical socialist who used fashion as a form of empowerment while she fought for workers’ rights.

Lemlich -- like Ocasio-Cortez -- wasn’t afraid to take on big business while wearing fancy clothes. ‘We like new hats’ In 1909, when she was only 23, Lemlich defied the male union leadership whom she saw as too hesitant and out of touch. In what would come to be known as the “Uprising of the 20,000,” Lemlich led thousands of garment workers -- the majority of them young women -- to walk out from their workplace and go on a strike.

That 14-week strike between November 1909 and February 1910 was the largest strike by women to date, turning what was thought of as a disorganized workforce into a united, political force.

A 1912 group photograph of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union Local 25 Executive Board, which includes Clara Lemlich (top row, third from left). Kheel Center/flickr, CC BY Strikers demanded better wages, hours and working conditions. But they also called to end the pervasive sexual harassment in the shops, safer workrooms and for dressing rooms with mirrors and hooks on the walls, so workers could protect their elegant clothes during the workday. “We like new hats as well as other young women. Why shouldn’t we?” argued Lemlich, justifying strikers’ demands. And when they went out to the streets, strikers were also wearing those nice clothes of theirs, updated according to the latest trends.

As historian Nan Enstad has shown, insisting on their right to maintain a fashionable appearance was not a frivolous pursuit of poor women living beyond their means. It was an important political strategy in strikers’ struggle to gain rights and respect as women, workers and Americans. Two women strikers on picket line during the ‘Uprising of the 20,000’ in New York City. Library of Congress

When they picketed the streets wearing their best clothes, strikers challenged the image of the “deserving poor” that depicted female workers as helpless victims deserving of mercy.

Wearing a fancy dress or a hat signaled their economic independence and their respectability as ladies. But it also spoke to their right to be taken seriously and to have their voices heard.

Activism and fashion can work together



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OPINION Palestinian terrorist organizations stand in the way of Middle East progress

The nation of Israel once again witnessed horrific rocket attacks on innocent men, women and children living near the Gaza Strip. The terrorist organization Hamas launched over 500 rockets targeting civilian territories, resulting in one Israeli death and wounding 70 others.

Unsurprisingly, these attacks were not against military targets; rather, the rockets were indiscriminately fired into populated civilian territories within Israel, destroying homes, businesses and restaurants and terrorizing thousands of unsuspecting people.

Israelis are no strangers to unprovoked attacks on their land. They have seen this all too many times before. The more things change, the more they stay the same. Now Hamas will retreat into the shadows and anti-Israel detractors will criticize Israel for taking strong action to defend itself and its citizens. A cease-fire between Hamas and Israel, mediated by Egypt, appears to be holding for the moment.

In essence, it is a return to an agreement reached in 2014, which the Palestinians periodically violate, prompting Israeli military action. The Israeli people deserve a chance to live normal lives, free from terrorist assaults and the destruction and misery that such attacks bring. Terrorist groups including Hamas are all too eager to deny them the right

to peaceful existence, let alone recognize their very existence’s legitimacy.

Why are Israelis held to such a double standard by the international community and complicit media? Any other country

that routinely faced attacks and threats from hostile forces would be given understanding. Yet according to the enablers of terrorist organizations such as Hamas, Israel should turn a blind eye to the plight of its people being bombarded with hundreds of rockets in the middle of the night.

That double standard is morphing into a single standard at this point. Groups of rogue troublemakers are allowed to plan and commit acts of aggressive violence, while Israel is required to ignore the flashing neon warning signs and carry on as if all is fine.

This is beyond the realm of reasonable expectations. Enough is enough. Since declaring its independence in 1948 and bringing about the rebirth of a Jewish state in its ancient homeland, Israel has dedicated itself to pursuing peace.

During this past summer, I was given the opportunity to travel to Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan,



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Israel.

This hospital is the largest, most comprehensive medical center in the Middle East and also serves as an advanced research center with some of the brightest minds in medicine working to develop life-saving medical innovations.

I saw firsthand how the Israeli people are dedicated to progress and peaceful living -- and not just for the people of Israel. Heads of Sheba Medical Center explained to me how it is their sacred mission to provide world-class care to anyone who arrives in this city of peace in need of medical attention, regardless of origin or religion. The point of the matter is this: The Israeli people are some of the most generous, gifted and peaceful people that I have ever had the pleasure of meeting and spending time among.

They share dreams and aspirations of living normal lives. Despite these rather modest expectations, they are unfortunately the recipients of tragic and senseless attacks from hateful terrorist organizations steeped in dangerous ideology.

America has had a longstanding history of friendship and partnership with Israel. Israel works closely with the American intelligence community and is a strategic asset for America. It is an oasis of stability in a volatile region. The United States has an obligation to defend our interests by standing shoulder to shoulder

with our closest ally.

Thankfully, the Trump administration recognizes this special bond and truly places itself alongside our Israeli allies. On Tuesday, State Department Spokesperson Heather Nauert stated: “We stand with Israel as Israel defends itself against these attacks. It is simply unacceptable to target civilians.”

Until bloodthirsty Palestinian terrorist organizations will permanently cease their attacks on innocent Israeli civilians, Israel will be obligated to utilize its talented army to defend the state. Flare-ups of violence emanating from Gaza derail progress toward the peace and reconciliation that Israelis so earnestly seek.

Imagine a world in which the Israeli people were not forced to take defensive or preventative military action against those infected with blind hatred.

I pray that, at some point, peace will truly descent on Israel and its holy capital city of Jerusalem, but until then, Israel is righteous in taking the necessary steps to fight terrorism and defend its people.

Armstrong Williams is manager and sole owner of Howard Stirk Holdings I & II Broadcast Television Stations and Executive Editor of American CurrentSee online magazine. Watch our Right Side Forum every Saturday on NewsChannel 8 TV 28, 10:30 a.m. to 11

The shape of things to come: 2084 and an AI world

By: Harlan Ullman,
Arnaud de Borchgrave
Distinguished Columnist
UPI

Technologists and political scientists are describing the shape of things to come in terms of a “cognitive age” in which artificial intelligence and deep and machine learning will create a societal transformation equal to or surpassing the effects of the industrial and information revolutions.

In this revolution, information and data will become the new oil and fossil fuels that powered the industrial age.

Fanciful thinking, perhaps, but consider the possible world of 2084.

You arrive home. Keys have been replaced by facial or retinal recognition. The door opens.

Your house welcomes you and asks if the temperature of 72 degrees is satisfactory.

Before you can take your coat off or place items down, your house updates you on the latest news.

You are told that, due to traffic, your spouse will be returning 20 minutes late.

You are further informed that your refrigerator, freezer, stove, dishwasher and microwave have all conferred and generated a shopping list that will be delivered by drone at a specific time.

As you enter your living room, your house robot asks what you would like for dinner.

It then reminds you that the gardener drones will be arriving to trim the bushes and cut the grass and that your self-driving car has returned from the shop, where the latest update has been installed. Its battery is fully recharged with a radius of 500 miles. The robot asks whether you will be attending the virtual cocktail party set for 6 p.m., so the necessary bookings are made for your joining this group remotely. As you enter your study, you ask your computer the status of your bills.

The computer comes to life and tells you that your utility, food and credit card bills have been paid and updates you on your bank balance.

It asks if you would like a review of your other holdings, given that the stock markets suffered small losses that day. You decline.

Your children return home and head for the media room, where they will wear special glasses designed for homework and school assignments.

The beauty of these devices is that they measure learning and can register how much or how little of the material is being retained and apply whatever corrections are needed.

These readings are also relayed to your glasses, so you know their learning progress, and that in addition to carrying dozens of newspapers and journals you prefer to read, hosts 500

TV and streaming channels for movies, also can accommodate a virtually unlimited number of books.

Your spouse returns and as you are changing for the drinks party, you cannot find a particular shirt.

You tell your 3D printer to produce a replacement. In two minutes, it is ready to wear.

At exactly 6 p.m., the virtual party begins.

Holograms appear for each of the participants. And the background can simulate any place in the world. Today, you are on top of Mount Everest.

You circulate freely among your friends. The only disadvantage is that 3D printers have not reached the point where food and drink can be recreated so the hors d’oeuvres are served by your house robot.

After dinner and several hours in the media room catching up on news and mail via your helmet, it is bed time.

Your dog was walked by the autonomous dog-walking collar that did not need a human,

You repair to the bedroom, where your bed sets itself to provide the best sleep position. It also measures your vital signs, in essence providing a daily medical exam and alarms itself to awaken you gently at the right time.

The fear of job displacement never materialized.

Many millions of AI repair people were needed to

ensure proper functioning of the AI systems.

Because of climate change, powerful electrical storms were common, often disrupting both inter- and intranet connections.

Hence repair persons were vital.

Virtually every smart home or apartment had two or three permanently assigned repair technicians for these contingencies on a round-the-clock basis.

If this seems fantasy or absurdity, think about homes a century ago. Many lacked electricity and indoor plumbing. Television had not been invented and radio was in its infancy.

Cars were not universal. No one had flown the Atlantic.

Telephone service was limited and cellphones were of science fiction.

Shopping was restricted to local shops and stalls and mail-order catalogs. Someone of that era would be stunned by today’s world.

Of course, the threat of machines becoming human and other Frankensteinian distortions happening cannot be entirely dismissed. Still, AI could indeed revolutionize the shape of things to come.

Harlan Ullman is UPI’s Arnaud de Borchgrave Distinguished Columnist. His latest book is “Anatomy of Failure: Why America Has Lost Every War It Starts.” Follow him @harlankullman.



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President George H.W. Bush's funeral held at National Cathedral

By Nicholas Sakelaris
UPI

World leaders, members of Congress and those close to the family of George

H.W. Bush gathered at the National Cathedral Wednesday to honor the



Former President George W. Bush touches the casket of his father former President George H.W. Bush. Photo by Kevin Dietsch/UPI | License Photo

41st president of the United States.

An honor guard transported Bush's casket from the Capitol to the cathedral for a midday ceremony, after lying in state for two

days.

In his eulogy, former President and son George W. Bush joked, fought back tears and spoke with pride about the life his father lived. He said while

it's a sad day, his father can now hug his daughter, Robin Bush, who died at age 3 and hold the hand of Barbara Bush, his wife of 73 years.

He recalled the last time he spoke to his father on the phone, telling him how he was a great father. Then, Bush said his final words, "I love you, too."

Bush lived a life of public service, which the 43rd president said set an example.

"Dad taught us that public service is noble and necessary," he said. "He strongly believed that it was important to give back to the community and country in which one lived."

See BUSH, page 4

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Bush

continued from page 3

Former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who had a long-lasting bond with Bush, delivered an impassioned eulogy and talked about their times as leaders of their respective countries.

“Let me tell you that when George Bush was president of the United States of America, every single head of government in the world knew that they were dealing with a gentleman, a genuine leader.

One who was distinguished, resolute and brave,” Mulroney said.

As his flag-draped casket say before all five living U.S. presidents, members of Congress, world leaders and other family members, Bush historian Jon Meacham said the 41st president often wondered why he survived when fellow crew members died when his plane crashed in the Pacific during World War II.

Meacham recounted



The casket containing the remains of President George H.W. Bush departs the National Cathedral. Photo by Kevin Dietsch/UPI | License Photo

how Bush waited for his crew members to bail out before he did. When he jumped, his head smacked the tail of the plane -- and he hit the water and bobbed to the surface before reaching a raft. The then-20-year-old Lt. Bush realized none of his crew survived.

“His head bleeding, his eyes burning, his mouth and throat raw from salt water--the future 41st president of the United States was alone,” Meacham said. “He felt the weight of responsibility as a nearly physical burden and we wept.”

The future president was rescued by a submarine.

The question haunted him, “Why was I spared?”

“The rest of his life was a perennial effort to prove himself worthy of salvation on that morning,” Meacham said.

“If we listen closely enough, we can hear that heartbeat even now, for it is the heartbeat of a lion,” Meacham said. “A lion who not only led us but who loved us. That’s why him. That’s why he was spared.”

George W. Bush said his father thought about

this fellow crew members throughout his life. Bush actually had two brushes with death, citing a staph infection he had as a child.

“I think those brushes with death made him cherish the gift of life and he vowed to live every day to the fullest,” George W. Bush said.

President Donald Trump and all four living former presidents -- George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter -- were there. A who’s who of world leaders were also in attendance -- including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, former British Prime Minister John Major, King Abdullah II and Queen Rania of Jordan, Australian Governor-General Peter Cosgrove, Polish President Andrzej Duda and Abdulla bin Hamad al-Khalifa, prince of Bahrain.

The funeral also featured several musical performances. Musician Michael W. Smith performed his song “Friends” to honor the man who was president and his friend. The stirring rendition was backed by a full orchestra and 150-person choir.

Following the funeral, Bush’s casket will be flown to Texas where there will be a funeral service Thursday at the St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Houston. He will be buried later that day at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station alongside former first lady Barbara Bush and the couple’s late daughter, Robin.

Bush is the fourth U.S. president to have a state funeral at the National Cathedral after Dwight Eisenhower in 1969, Ronald Reagan in 2004 and Gerald Ford in 2007. Woodrow Wilson was buried there.

Local heros on parade

James D. Gorham was born and raised in Pitt County, NC where he lived with his mother and father Johnny and Nora Gorham and his four siblings. James attended Nichols Bruce before leaving to attend Epps SHS. Dreaming of a life of prosperity and peace, James traveled to Washington, DC with his older sister Helen, and her husband Willie.

In 1967, James was draft-

ed into the Army branch of the military where he became a decorated Veteran mastering his skills as a Marksman.

He later moved up in the ranks and made Sargent acquiring multiple medals including a Bronze Star with a V for valor.

After serving his time in the military, James returned home and decided to enroll in school for Mechanical Drafting, however

in 1976 he found a more competitive career joining the Metro Transit Authority.

After more than 34 years with Metro, James is happily retired and enjoying life with his wife of 40 years Reeni Gorham.

They have one child Kimberly Bolt, and three grandchildren Kurtland, Korey, and Jayden. James is the matriarch of his family, and is loved by many.



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Mueller recommends no prison for Flynn, citing 'substantial assistance'

By Allen Cone
UPI

Special counsel Robert Mueller recommended Tuesday that President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, not receive any jail time because he has given "substantial assistance" to the Russia investigation.

Flynn, 60, pleaded guilty to lying to FBI investigators on Dec. 1, 2017 -- the first high-ranking Trump adviser to agree to formally cooperate with the special counsel's probe.

He is scheduled to be sentenced more than one year later, Dec. 18 by federal Judge Emmet Sullivan in the District of Columbia.

Flynn gave information to the special counsel "shortly after" he was approached, according to a memorandum by Mueller

in aid of sentencing.

According to the filing, Flynn has sat for 19 interviews with the special counsel and the Justice Department.

He has assisted them "on a range of issues, including contact with individuals on the presidential transition team and Russia." A description of how Flynn helped in the Russian interference investigation is redacted.

"His early cooperation was particularly valuable because he was one of the few people with long-term and firsthand insight regarding events and items under investigation by the SCO," special counsel office, according to the memo.

During the campaign, Flynn was a close adviser to Trump. He led a "lock her up" Hillary Clinton chant at the Republican Na-



Michael Flynn, former national security adviser to President Donald Trump, pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about possible collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign. File Photo by Mike Theiler/UPI | License Photo

tional Convention because

of how the Democratic presidential contender dealt with her emails while serving as secretary of state.

Flynn served in the start of Trump's administration, Jan. 20 to Feb. 13. Then-acting Attorney General Sally Yates told White House officials on Jan. 26 that Flynn had lied to Vice President Mike Pence about his communications on Russian sanctions with then-Russian ambassador to the U.S. Sergey Kislyak.

He was fired two weeks later. Trump asked then-FBI Director James Comey to let the Flynn investigation go, the fired director

has said.

Flynn later filed revised financial disclosure forms revealing payments from three Russian companies with ties to the Kremlin shortly before he joined the Trump campaign. In addition, he retroactively registered with the Justice Department as a "foreign agent" to lobby on behalf of the Turkish government as late as November 2016.

Mueller's memo said the lying offense is "serious," but noted "the defendant's history and characteristics present mitigating and aggravating circumstances." Flynn served in the military

for more than 33 years, including five years in combat, and led the Defense Intelligence Agency.

He retired as a three-star lieutenant general. "The defendant's extensive government service should have made him particularly aware of the harm caused by providing false information to the government, as well as the rules governing work performed on behalf of a foreign government," the memo said. But Flynn "deserves credit for accepting responsibility in a timely fashion and substantially assisting the government," Mueller wrote.

Ex-Trump lawyer Michael Cohen admits lying to Congress in Russia probe

By Clyde Hughes
UPI

Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump's former personal attorney, pleaded guilty Thursday to lying to Congress in the Justice Department's Russia investigation.

Prosecutors laid out the plea agreement in a nine-page filing in New York federal court. The Justice Department charged Cohen for telling House and Senate committees last year that a plan to build a Trump Tower in Moscow ended in January 2016. Thursday's filing said development continued after that date. Trump has said multiple times he had no business dealings in Russia -- and Cohen told lawmakers he never contacted anyone in Russia about the real estate project. The filing Thursday said Cohen, in fact, spoke on the phone with a Russian intermediary for help with the development.

Cohen also admitted to discussing the deal with

Trump, identified in the court document as "Individual 1," on three occasions and briefing family members involved in the Trump Organization.

The documents say Cohen lied to lawmakers out of loyalty and to minimize ties with Russia during Trump's campaign. The investigation, led by special counsel Robert Mueller, is trying to determine if Moscow interfered in the 2016 U.S. election and whether any members of Trump's campaign were involved.

Trump was asked about Cohen on Thursday as he left the White House for a trip to Argentina for the G20 summit.

"This was a deal [for a Trump Tower in Moscow] that didn't happen," he said, adding of Cohen: "He's a weak person and not a very smart person. What he's trying to do is very simple, he's got himself a big prison sentence and he's trying to get a much lesser prison sentence by making up a story. Even if he was right, it doesn't mat-

ter because I was allowed to do whatever I wanted during the campaign."

The case marks the first time Cohen has been charged in connection with the Mueller probe, and the second time he was charged in federal court this year. In August, he pleaded guilty to eight counts that included breaking campaign finance laws. Those charges were brought by U.S. attorneys in Manhattan. In a plea deal in that case, Cohen disclosed that he made a \$130,000 payment to adult film star Stormy Daniels so she wouldn't discuss a prior sexual relationship with Trump.

The president has denied he ever had an affair with Daniels. Although Thursday's agreement doesn't specify cooperation, Cohen has been interviewed numerous times by Mueller's investigators.

"Mr. Cohen has cooperated," Cohen's attorney said as he left the Manhattan court Thursday. "Mr. Cohen will continue to cooperate."

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N.C. votes against certifying GOP House victory pending fraud inquiry

By Clyde Hughes
UPI

One of the closest U.S. congressional races has taken another unusual turn, as the North Carolina board of elections is holding off on certifying the results pending a fraud inquiry.

The investigation is looking at the House race in the 9th District, where Republican Mark Harris edged Democrat Dan McCready by 905 votes.

But three hours of testimony before the elections board was enough to convince the nine-member panel -- with four Democrats, four Republicans,

and one independent -- to vote 7-2 Friday against accepting the result amid claims of voter fraud.

The board will next hold an evidentiary hearing in the coming weeks, NBC News reported.

The controversy centers around absentee ballots in Bladen County, where Harris won convincingly behind a surge of those votes not seen in any other county.

Earlier this year, Harris needed the same surge in the same county to unseat GOP incumbent Robert Pittenger in the party primary by 828 votes, WFAE-TV reported.

Twenty-two percent of Bladen County's votes were cast by absentee-by-mail ballots.

The next highest percent was Mecklenburg County, at 1.6 percent.

Harris won 60 percent of Bladen County's absentee ballots, despite only 19 percent of those being cast by Republicans and 39 percent not identifying their affiliation, Catawba College political science professor J. Michael Bitzer told NBC News.

"North Carolina voters deserve to know the truth, and as more details come to light every day, it becomes increasingly clear that a



North Carolina election officials have voted to hold off on certifying a House race, pending the results of an investigation into claims of voting irregularities. File Photo by Mike Theiler/UPI | License Photo

full investigation must be completed before the election can be certified,"

North Carolina Democratic Party chairman Wayne Goodwin said Monday.

Democrats are pointing to political operative McCrae Dowless, who was hired by Harris' campaign in Bladen County, for the alleged voting irregularities. Dowless complained loudly about voter fraud in a small race he won in 2016, but refused to answer if he paid people to collect, fill in and turn in absentee ballots, which would violate North Carolina law.

It was reported at the time Dowless told someone he had 80 associates who worked to collect absentee ballots around the county. Those accusations are now raising questions about Harris' primary victory over Pittenger, as well.

Dallas Woodhouse, executive director of the North Carolina Republican Party, said the reported voting irregularities are unproven and accused the elections board of lack of transparency in its investigation.

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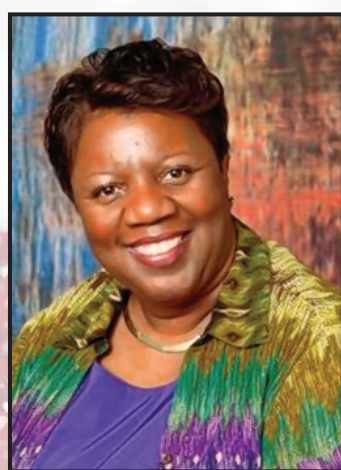
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Green Bay Packers fire coach Mike McCarthy

By Alex Butler
UPI

The Green Bay Packers have fired longtime head coach Mike McCarthy.

Packers president and chief executive officer Mark Murphy announced the move on Sunday, following the Packers' 20-17 loss to the Arizona Cardinals at Lambeau Field in Green Bay. Joe Philbin was named the Packers' interim coach.

"The 2018 season has not lived up to the expectations and standards of the Green Bay Packers.

As a result, I made the difficult decision to relieve Mike McCarthy of his role

as head coach, effective immediately," Murphy said.

"Mike has been a terrific head coach and leader of the Packers for 13 seasons, during which time we experienced a great deal of success on and off the field.

We want to thank Mike, his wife, Jessica, and the rest of the McCarthy family for all that they have done for the Packers and the Green Bay and Wisconsin communities.

We will immediately begin the process of selecting the next head coach of the Green Bay Packers."

McCarthy, 55, posted a 125-77-2 record in 13 seasons as the Packers' head coach. He entered the NFL


ranks in 1993 in offensive quality control with the Kansas City Chiefs.

McCarthy coached quarterbacks for the Chiefs from 1995 through 1998, before coaching quarterbacks for the Packers in 1999.

He became the New Orleans Saints' offensive coordinator in 2000.

He was hired for the same role with the San Francisco 49ers in 2005. McCarthy became the Packers' coach in 2006, McCarthy won a Super Bowl with the Packers in 2011.

The Packers host the Atlanta Falcons at 1 p.m. on Sunday at Lambeau Field.



Green Bay Packers head coach Mike McCarthy was fired following Sunday's loss to the Arizona Cardinals. File photo by David Tulis/UPI | License Photo

Bengals take WR Green off injury report

The Sports Xchange
UPI

Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver A.J. Green appears good to go for Sunday's matchup against the visiting Denver Broncos.

Green, who was not listed on the team's injury report Friday, will provide a much-needed boost for the slumping Bengals after he sat out the past three games due to a toe injury. Cincinnati (5-6) lost all three games without Green in the lineup to drop into ninth place in the crowded AFC race for the sixth and final playoff slot -- one game behind the division rival Baltimore Ravens. The return of Green comes at an optimum time

has 45 receptions for 687 yards and a team-leading six touchdown catches for the Bengals. Green has eclipsed 100 yards receiving in a franchise-best 32 games in his career. He has 601 receptions for 8,900 yards and 63 touchdowns in 110 contests since being selected by Cincinnati with the No. 4 overall pick in the 2011 NFL Draft.



for the Bengals. Starting quarterback Andy Dalton suffered a season-ending thumb injury in Sunday's loss to Cleveland and underwent surgery on Tuesday. Backup Jeff Driskel, who replaced Dalton against the Browns, will make his first career start against the Broncos, who are among four AFC teams with 5-6 records. A seven-time Pro Bowl selection, Green suffered the injury in a 37-34 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Oct. 28.

The 30-year-old Green

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BID REQUEST

RPC contracting is requesting bids from any interested NCDOT Certified DBE firms for Contract DA00411 in Bertie Co. bidding on 12/19/18. There will be a pre-bid conference at 3:00 PM on Monday 12/10/18 at the office of RPC Contracting, 934 W. Kitty Hawk Road, Kitty Hawk, NC. Plans and specifications are available for review at the same location or may be downloaded from NCDOT's Project Letting website at: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/pages/Division1Letting.aspx> For More information, please call 252-261-3336, ask for Jay. RPC Contracting is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

BID REQUEST

RPC contracting is requesting bids from any interested HUB Certified minority business firms for the Town of Nags Head FY 18/19 Drainage Infrastructure Improvements project bidding on 12/20/18. There will be a pre-bid conference at 11:00 AM on 12/10/18 at the Town of Nags Head Board Room, 5401 S. Croatan Hwy., Nags Head, NC 27959. Plans and specifications are available for review at the office of RPC Contracting 934 W. Kitty Hawk Rd., Kitty Hawk, NC 27849. For More information, please call 252-261-3336, ask for Jay. RPC Contracting is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NCDOT TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON DECEMBER 13, 2018 REGARDING PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS ON EASTERN AVENUE, NORTH OLD CARRIAGE ROAD, AND SUNSET AVENUE IN NASH COUNTY

STIP Project Nos. R-5720, U-5996, and U-5026

The N.C. Department of Transportation Division 4 proposes to improve Eastern Avenue (Project No. R-5720), North Old Carriage Road (Project No. U-5996), and Sunset Avenue (Project No. U-5026) in Nash County. R-5720 proposes to widen Eastern Avenue (S.R. 1770) from Red Oak Road (S.R. 1003) to North Old Carriage Road (S.R. 1603). U-5996 proposes to widen North Old Carriage Road (S.R. 1603) from Eastern Avenue (S.R. 1770) to Green Hills Road / Reges Store Road (S.R. 1601). U-5026 involves converting the existing Sunset Avenue (S.R. 1770) grade separation with I-95 to an interchange; widening Eastern Avenue (S.R. 1770) between North Old Carriage Road (S.R. 1603) and Halifax Road (S.R. 1544); and extending the existing collector-distributor along I-95 at U.S. 64 to the south of the proposed Sunset Avenue interchange.

A public meeting will be held at Nash Community College, Brown Auditorium located at 522 North Old Carriage Road in Rocky Mount on Thursday, December 13, 2018 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to inform the public of the projects and gather public input on the proposed designs. Maps of the project study area and environmental features will be available at the meeting and on the project website for public review and comment.

Project maps are available online at <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/publicmeetings/>.

The public may attend at any time during the public meeting hours. NCDOT representatives will be available to answer questions and receive comments. Comments and information received will be taken into consideration as the projects develop. Written comments or questions can also be submitted at the meeting or via mail or email by January 14, 2019. Please note that there will not be a formal presentation.

For additional information contact Rachel Evans, NCDOT Division 4 Project Manager by phone (252-640- 6434), email (rceevans@ncdot.gov), or mail (P.O. Box 3165, Wilson, NC 27895).

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this workshop. Anyone requiring special services should contact Samantha Borges, NCDOT Public Involvement Officer (smborges@ncdot.gov), as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Persons who do not speak English, or have a limited ability to read, speak or understand English, may receive interpretive services upon request prior to the meeting by calling 1-800-481-6494.

Aquellas personas que no hablan inglés o tienen limitaciones para leer, hablar o entender inglés, podrían recibir servicios de interpretación si los solicitan antes de la reunión llamando al 1-800-481- 6494.

La Voz Latina

Mexico's new president criticized for militarizing police

By Patrick Timmons
UPI

Mexico's new president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, is promising to deliver a big "transformation."

But among his first orders of business is to codify a militarized police force that has been largely responsible for the country's skyrocketing violence.

"First come the poor," López Obrador said during his inauguration speech Saturday in which he declared an end to neo-liberal economic policies embraced by Mexico since the 1980s, part of his "Fourth Transformation."

In terms of Mexico's security crisis, the new president is proposing the same militarized policing strategy used by his predecessors, Felipe Calderón (2006-12) and Enrique Peña Nieto (2012-18).

In 2006, Calderón put the military on the streets for policing duties and soon after, Mexico's homicide rate surged to levels that were unprecedented at the time.

Peña Nieto's presidency enhanced the role of the military in policing and the bloodshed continued. Mexican authorities say they opened 120,666 homicide investigations from 2012 to 2018, a 17 percent increase over Calderón's tenure.

Peña Nieto did achieve some crime-fighting goals. Mexico has arrested 110 of 122 organized crime leaders in the past six years. But even so, the security situation has only worsened.

Violence is now rampant in previously peaceful states like Guanajuato and Colima and has returned to drug war hot spots like the border regions of Ciudad Juárez and Baja California.

In response to this violence, López Obrador campaigned on a promise to withdraw the military from policing.

But for the last two weeks of the presidential

transition period, he attracted criticism for his plan to continue the strategy.

In August, a month after López Obrador's landslide victory, the new public security minister, Alfonso Durazo said they were inheriting a security strategy "in ruins."

"Right now, there is no way to withdraw the armed forces from the streets. It would be irresponsible.

The Federal Police does not have the capacity, and frankly municipal police are too weak and unprepared, and in many cases they are infiltrated by organized crime," Durazo said in a televised interview with journalist Carlos Loret de Mola.

On Nov. 14, López Obrador's transition team announced it would send a bill to Congress to create a nationwide police force in the form of a National Guard.

This new force would be headed and trained by army officers.

Recently, Mexico's Supreme Court invalidated an internal security law on the basis that the Constitution prohibits the military from permanent policing functions.

So putting the military in charge of the National Guard will require changing the Constitution.

That requires a supermajority in Congress and in the states.

On Tuesday, Mexico's Congress was to begin debating the constitutional amendments.

Amnesty International's Secretary General Kumi Naidoo implored López Obrador to change his mind.

"You find yourself at a crossroads," Naidoo said in a video distributed on Facebook.

"You can take the same way that your predecessors followed and risk making the same mistakes, or you can consider a new strategy and build a different kind of approach, one where armed forces slowly go back to their



Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (C) reviews the armed forces accompanied by the secretary of national defense, Gen. Luis Cresencio Sandoval (L), and the secretary of the Navy, Adm. José Rafael Ojeda Duran (R), at Campo Marte, in Mexico City on Sunday. Photo by Mario Guzman/EPA-EFE

barracks."

Amnesty's Mexico researcher, Carlos Zazueta, told UPI the National Guard has not been used in Mexico since the 19th century.

López Obrador's security strategy resurrects it, he said in a telephone interview, and turns it into a "super police force" made up of part of the Federal Police, the Army and the Mexican Marines.

The National Guard will be run by an army officer and trained by the military, Zazueta said.

"This is the key part of the strategy, and it's what worries us the most because the National Guard is not going to be under the command of a civilian," he said.

Gladys McCormick, an expert on the drug war in the Americas and professor of history at Syracuse University in New York, questions how the new force will be implemented.

"The devil is in the details.

It's not just about implementation," she told UPI. "It's also about how this proposal will be paid for, and how will this move from the federal to the state level.

There is nothing new here when it comes to putting military officers in charge of a police force.

This is the same thing that has been trotted out by other administrations."

The new security strategy is opposed by 12 state governors who belong to the Partido de Acción Nacional, the party that ruled Mexico during the Calderón administration. López Obrador's security strategy will appoint security "superdelegates" to supervise public safety in each of Mexico's 31 states and Mexico City, a move the governors see as usurping their constitutional powers.

Human rights abuses

The militarized policing strategy provoked human rights abuses by Mexico's military and its federal, state and local police forces.

Enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions and attacks and murders on human rights defend-

ers and journalists surged, including the mass disappearance of 43 teaching students of Ayotzinapa in 2014.

Even so, the Peña Nieto government attempted to make the military's security functions permanent with a widely criticized National Security Law, which never took effect because human rights organizations challenged it in the Supreme Court.

"The Supreme Court just invalidated Enrique Peña Nieto's security law because it enshrined the military's role in charge of policing, exactly something that López Obrador's security strategy is also trying to achieve, make the military control over policing permanent," said Catalina Perez Correa, a professor at the CIDE, a social sciences institute in Mexico who researches the country's approach to policing and the drug war.

"We have had 12 years of militarized policing," Pérez Correa said, "and it hasn't helped.

Human rights abuses and studies show the violence have only increased.

The military are trained

to use force in an extreme way, to repel invaders and protect the nation's sovereignty.

To combat external threats.

The military is not trained to pursue criminals so they can be brought to justice.

That's meant to be the work of police forces and that is what they are meant to be trained to do, to bring those who violate the law before judicial institutions so they can be tried and face punishment."

On Sunday, the day after the new president was sworn into office, the new deputy interior minister for human rights, Alejandro Encinas, announced the case into the disappearance of the Ayotzinapa 43 would be reopened.

The militarized approach to policing has led to a high death toll in Mexico.

In 2017, Mexico's homicide rate reached unprecedented levels, only to be superseded by 24,000 homicides registered in the first 10 months of 2018, set to be Mexico's most violent year on record.

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