

# Gunlocke’s expansion project complete

**110 new jobs added at Wayland facility**

**The Leader Staff**

WAYLAND - The Gunlocke Company has recently completed a \$2.6-million expansion project that included the creation of 110 new jobs, according to Governor Andrew Cuomo, who made the announcement

Monday in Albany. State Senator Tom O’Mara, R-Big Flats, a member of the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee, stressed that Gunlocke’s expansion received critical support from the Recharge NY discount power program, which provides lower-cost economic development power to qualifying

businesses and not-for-profit organizations committed to retaining and creating local jobs. “The Gunlocke Company’s expansion project, which is creating 110 new jobs in Wayland, has been an important piece of Steuben County’s overall job creation and preservation strategy,” O’Mara said. “In particular, the long-standing ReCharge NY economic

development power allocations have been vital to maintaining jobs and promoting economic growth and stability in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions. ReCharge NY helps give employers like Gunlocke the long-term economic stability they need to retain and create jobs, and strengthen the state’s business climate.” Cuomo said ReCharge NY is

supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs across the state and has been an instrumental piece of the state’s economic success over the last several years. “Providing low-cost power to companies like Gunlocke allows them to grow and thrive in New York, spurring the local

**See PROJECT, A8**

## Wrench tossed into Russia probe

**Manafort allegations throw new uncertainty into Trump-Russia investigation**

**By Eric Tucker and Chad Day**  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The breakdown of a plea deal with former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and an explosive British news report about alleged contacts he may have had with WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange threw a new element of uncertainty into the Trump-Russia investigation on Tuesday. A day after prosecutors accused Manafort of repeatedly lying to them, trashing his agreement to tell all in return for a lighter sentence, he adamantly denied a report in the Guardian that he had met secretly with Assange in March 2016. That’s the same month he joined the Trump campaign and that Russian hackers began an effort to penetrate the email accounts of Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign. The developments thrust Manafort back into the investigation spotlight, raising new questions about what he knows and what prosecutors say he might be attempting to conceal as they probe

**See PROBE, A8**

# 9+ acre lot still empty

**No current plans from Arnot Ogden**

**By Stephen Borgna**  
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PAINTED POST - Arnot Ogden has yet to move forward with plans to construct a large walk-in medical care facility on the 9.72 acre vacant lot on Hamilton Street across from the Walmart Plaza in Gang Mills, more than two years after purchasing it. There are no plans in place at the moment for the property, according to Erwin Town Manager Rita McCarthy. McCarthy said the town has not had any communications with Arnot Ogden regarding the land since the two parties met in early 2017 to discuss a concept for the property while the town was developing its latest masterplan. “Arnot Ogden has not contacted the town about this since the development of the masterplan in early 2017,” McCarthy said. Arnot Ogden purchased the



**A view of the 9.72 acre vacant lot on Hamilton Street across from the Walmart Plaza in Gang Mills from Interstate Highway 99.** [STEPHEN BORGNA/THE LEADER]

commercially-zoned property in April 2016 in a Department of Transportation auction for approximately \$1.5 million. The walk-in care facility officials expected the site was

intended for would be similar to the Guthrie Medical Offices on Centerway. Arnot Ogden, founded in 1888, is a nonprofit, 256-bed tertiary hospital in Elmira, with several

offices in the Corning/Painted Post area. Attempts to obtain comment from Arnot Ogden were unsuccessful.

# Melania Trump, Karen Pence assemble kits

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Melania Trump and Karen Pence are helping to assemble military comfort kits for troops deployed overseas at the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Trump said Tuesday the packs are “one small way that we can say thank you and honor the sacrifices that members of the military make year-round.” The first lady adds, “Our prayers remain with all those serving overseas and for the

families who wait for them to come home.” Mrs. Trump then joined Mrs. Pence, cabinet secretaries’ spouses, military families, Elizabeth Dole and other volunteers to assembling the packages. The packages contain snacks such as popcorn and peanuts, playing cards and toiletries including bottles of hand soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and tissues. They will be sent to troops deployed in Iraq, Poland, Djibouti and Kuwait.



**First lady Melania Trump greets other volunteers Tuesday at the Red Cross in Washington as she pitches in to assemble military comfort kits that are provided to members of the military as they prepare for deployment.** [CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]



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# At FDA, a new goal, then a push for speedy reviews

By **Matthew Perrone**  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dr. Jeffrey Shuren was adamant: The United States would never cut corners to fast-track the approval of medical devices.

“We don’t use our people as guinea pigs in the U.S.,” Shuren said, holding firm as the new director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s medical devices division.

Again and again in 2011 — four times in all — Shuren was summoned before Congress. Lawmakers accused the agency of being too slow and too demanding in reviewing new devices like heart valves and spinal implants, driving U.S. manufacturers overseas where products faced less rigorous review. Each time, he pushed back.

And yet the next year, Shuren and his team adopted an approach that surprised even some of his closest colleagues: The FDA would strive to be “first in the world” to approve devices it considered important to public health.

The agency’s shift mirrored the talking points of the \$400 billion medical device industry — a lobbying behemoth on Capitol Hill — and ushered in a series of changes that critics say have allowed manufacturers to seek regulatory approval for high-risk devices using smaller, shorter, less rigorous studies that provide less certainty of safety and effectiveness.

Under Shuren, annual new device approvals have more than tripled, while warnings letters to device manufacturers about product safety and quality issues have fallen roughly 80 percent, an Associated Press investigation found.

The assortment of medical devices now on the market includes spinal rods that can leave metal shards



**A patient’s head cap is marked to pinpoint an area of the brain to use the transcranial magnetic stimulation at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System on Nov. 7 in Palo Alto, Calif.** [TONY AVELAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

in children and a nerve-zapping obesity implant that may not work for many patients.

The cheaper and faster medical device approvals began despite multiple, high-profile safety problems involving pelvic mesh, hip replacements and other implants.

An AP analysis of FDA data shows that since 2012, tens of thousands of injury and death reports have been filed in connection with devices that were cleared through a streamlined pathway that minimizes clinical trial testing. The FDA’s database for reporting device problems often includes incomplete, unverified information submitted by manufacturers, physicians, lawyers and patients. Because of these limitations, it’s often unclear whether a device played any role in an injury or death.

In response to questions from the AP, the FDA said its “first in the world” goal was not about a competition with other countries but rather was adopted as part of a strategy that also focused on quickly identifying defective products to ensure U.S. devices “remain safe, effective and of high quality.”

The agency said it has focused on taking steps to reduce the time and cost of device development

“that do not compromise our standard of reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness.”

Warning letters have declined, the FDA said, because the agency is using a new approach that involves fewer warnings but more inspections to oversee companies that violate its rules.

Last week, the FDA announced a new goal to be “consistently first” among the world’s regulatory agencies to identify and address medical device safety issues.

The agency also rejected the idea that Shuren’s approach to regulation has changed over time, saying he has worked for years to improve patient safety.

Still, some current and former FDA officials are worried about the ambition to be first on approvals. They include Dr. Peter Lurie, who calls the agency’s new direction “an invitation to a race to the bottom for scientific standards” seemingly prompted by industry pressure. Lurie held senior posts at FDA from 2009 to 2017 and now heads the non-profit Center for Science in the Public Interest.

The FDA’s medical device standards are still considered among the highest in the world, requiring “reasonable assurance” of both safety and effectiveness.

## PROJECT

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economy while securing New York’s clean energy future for generations to come,” Cuomo said.

ReCharge NY, a major statewide initiative for retaining and creating jobs and spurring capital investments, was approved by the Legislature and signed into law by the governor in 2011. The program is currently

## PROBE

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Russian election interference and any possible coordination with Trump associates in the campaign that sent the celebrity businessman to the White House.

At the same time, other figures entangled in the investigation, including Trump himself, have been scrambling to escalate attacks and allegations against prosecutors who have spent weeks working quietly behind the scenes.

Besides denying he’d ever met Assange, Manafort, who is currently in jail, said he’d told special counsel Robert Mueller’s prosecutors the truth in weeks of questioning. And WikiLeaks said Manafort had never met with Assange, offering to bet London’s Guardian newspaper “a million dollars and its editor’s head.”

Assange, whose organization published thousands of emails stolen from Clinton’s campaign in 2016, is in the Ecuadorean Embassy in London under a claim of asylum.

It is unclear what prosecutors contend Manafort lied about, though they’re expected to make a public filing ahead of sentencing that could offer answers.

Dissolution of the plea deal could be a devastating outcome for a defendant who suddenly admitted guilt last September after months of maintaining his innocence and who bet on

reducing costs for approximately 750 businesses and not-for-profit organizations statewide.

Last year, The Gunlocke Company received a ReCharge NY allocation of 1,680 kilowatts that helped the commercial furniture manufacturer retain and create jobs, and generate an estimated \$2.63 million in new capital investment, officials said. Gunlocke was one of 12 state businesses that shared a total allocation of 6.45 megawatts under the ReCharge

NY program. “The ReCharge NY program has been a great benefit to Gunlocke and we would like to extend our gratitude to Governor Cuomo, NYPA, ESD and NYSEDA for providing significant support to our expansion project,” said Roy Green, Gunlocke Director of Sustainability. “We look forward to continuing our company’s growth in the Southern Tier and expanding our ongoing sustainability initiatives.”

his cooperation getting him a shorter sentence. But it’s also a potentially major setback for investigators given that Manafort steered the campaign during a vital stretch of 2016, including a time when prosecutors say Russian intelligence was working to sway the election in Trump’s favor.

The prosecutors’ terse three-page filing underscored their exasperation not only at Manafort’s alleged deception but also at the loss of an important witness present for key moments under investigation, including a Trump Tower meeting at which Trump’s oldest son expected to receive “dirt” about Democrat Hillary Clinton from a Kremlin-connected lawyer.

“The fact is, they wanted his cooperation. They wanted him to truthfully reveal what he knew, so they’re not getting what they wanted,” said Washington defense lawyer Peter Zeidenberg. “This isn’t like a good development where they’re clapping their hands and saying, ‘Now we get to crush this guy.’”

Manafort’s motivation, if indeed he lied to Mueller’s team, also was unclear.

Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani said in a telephone interview that Trump and his lawyers agree a presidential pardon should not be considered “now.”

However, he added, “The president could consider it at an appropriate time as Manafort has the same rights as any American.”

The Monday night revelation of the Mueller filing on

Manafort came at a delicate time for investigators, who have gone months without any new charges and continue to probe possible links between Trump associates and WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy website that released tens of thousands of Democratic emails stolen by Russian spies during the 2016 campaign.

As Trump continues raging against the investigation — he tweeted Tuesday that Mueller was doing “TREMENDOUS damage to our Criminal Justice system” — others in the crosshairs have filled the vacuum of Mueller’s recent silence by publicly declaring their innocence, accusing prosecutors of coercing testimony or tempting fate by turning aside negotiations.


An associate of Trump confidant Roger Stone is contesting a grand jury subpoena in court. Jerome Corsi said Monday he was rejecting a plea offer and told CNN that being questioned was like being “interrogated as a POW in the Korean War.”

Stone, under investigation himself for connections to WikiLeaks, has repeatedly disparaged Mueller’s investigation and said Monday his friend Corsi was at risk for prosecution “not for lying but for refusing to lie.”

That statement called to mind a Trump tweet from earlier this month in which he stated without evidence that Mueller’s investigators were “screaming and shouting at people, horribly threatening them to come up with the answers they want.”

# SUICIDE OF THE WEST

## A TALK by JONAH GOLDBERG



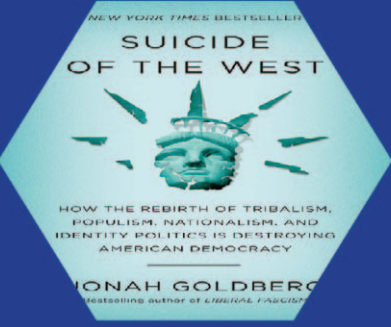
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THURSDAY, NOV. 29, 2018

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Jonah Goldberg, bestselling author and nationally syndicated columnist, holds the Asness Chair in Applied Liberty at the American Enterprise Institute and is a senior editor of National Review. His new book, *The Suicide of The West*, was published in April.

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### FIVE-DAY FORECAST




**Today**  
Cloudy, chance showers, windy  
High | 37  
Low | 30







**Thursday**  
Limited sunshine, flurries possible  
High | 38  
Low | 26



**Friday**  
Cloudy, chance showers  
High | 39  
Low | 31



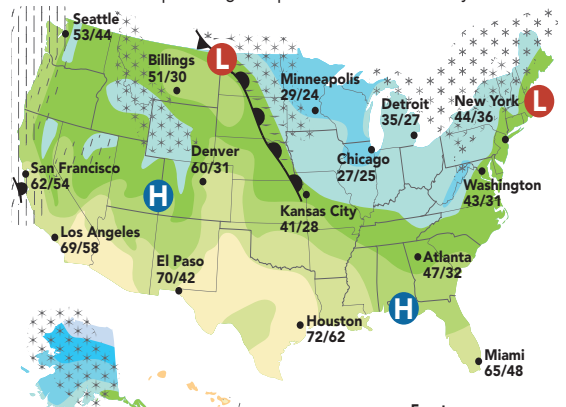
**Saturday**  
M. cloudy, chance showers  
High | 43  
Low | 37



**Sunday**  
M. cloudy, chance isolated showers  
High | 50  
Low | 35

Forecast for Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.







Pressure: High (H), Low (L)

Shower: (diagonal lines), Rain: (vertical lines), T-storm: (horizontal lines with triangles), Flurries: (dotted lines), Snow: (asterisks), Ice: (wavy lines)

Fronts: Cold (line with triangles), Warm (line with semicircles), Stationary (line with alternating triangles and semicircles)

Temperature scale: <-10, -0s, 0s, 10s, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, 100s, 110+

#### MOON PHASES

First	Full	Last	New
			
DEC.15	DEC.22	NOV.29	DEC.7

#### SUNRISE | SUNSET

Sunrise today	7:14
Sunset today	4:38
Sunrise Thursday	7:15
Sunset Thursday	4:38