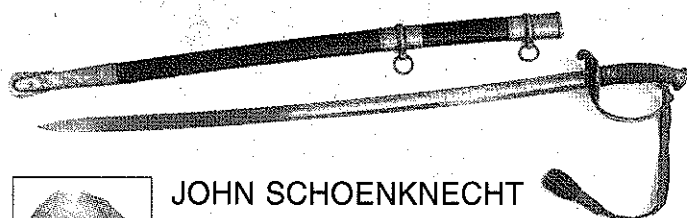




Recent home sales listings. 7A

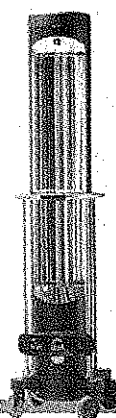


JOHN SCHOENKNECHT
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Waukesha County's Daily Newspaper

National Manufacturing Month begins

TLX Technologies hosts tours for over 300 students

By Alison Fox
Freeman Staff

PEWAUKEE — October is National Manufacturing Month, and TLX Technologies in Pewaukee celebrated by opening its doors on Wednesday to over 300 Southeastern Wisconsin high school students.

Company employers spent the day talking with students about the wide range of careers TLX Technologies — and the manufacturing field in general — has to offer. The students also toured the facility and were able to experience first-hand how working in a manufacturing environment would feel.

This is TLX Technologies' third year hosting the tour, and Neil Karolek, the company's president, said its point is to open students' eyes to the options available to them.

"We invite the students here so they can get a better understanding of what manufacturing is all about," he said. "If a half-dozen students come out of here saying they would be interested in potentially working in this field, I would be happy."

Karolek said there is a stigma attached to the manufacturing industry because people often think of manufacturing buildings being "oil-filled and rat-infested" where people are mindlessly sitting and putting parts together.

"This is not true at all," he said. "There are so many different things someone can do just within this one building. From start to finish, there is the product design on the computer, then the prototype design, then it meets production, and it all gets shipped out. We cover a range of stuff, a lot of ground."

TLX Technologies designs and produces solenoids — a current-carrying coil that acts like a magnet when a current passes through — for a variety of markets, including the automotive industry.

Karolek said the company started very small in the early 2000s, has since boomed and is always struggling to fill technician and engineer positions.

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Charles Auer/Freeman Staff

Don Kincade, a development engineer at TLX Technologies, explains his testing lab where the company's products are tested under adverse conditions. Solenoids are subjected to extreme heat and cold, humidity and corrosive materials while being run to ensure they will survive their planned lifespan. Many of the company's products are used in cars and will be expected to last for 10-20 years.



Students from Burlington tour the shop floor at TLX Technologies during a day for learning about careers in manufacturing.

Poll: Walker with first lead in months

AG race remains close; most voters know little about candidates

By Arthur Thomas
Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA — Gov. Scott Walker became the first Wisconsin gubernatorial candidate to show any sort of lead in the Marquette University Law School poll on Wednesday, while the race for attorney general

remains a general heat where both candidates have little name recognition.

In the latest poll, 50.5 percent of likely voters

would choose Republican Walker if the election were held now, compared to 44.7 for Democrat Mary Burke. The poll sampled 585 voters who said they are absolutely certain to vote in November, giving it a margin of error of 4.1 percentage points. In every poll going back to March, the two candidates had been within the margin of error, making the race a statistical tie.

Walker's lead evaporated, however, in poll results including all registered voters. On that measure, he received support from 46.4 percent of respondents compared to Burke's 45.1 percent, well within the margin of error.



Walker



Burke



Schimel



Happ

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Pollsters often take measures of likely and registered voters to try to gauge voters' opinions on candidates and the chances a person will act on those views by voting.

The shift among likely voters came after two weeks that included bad news for both candidates. Burke was plagued by stories about portions of her jobs plan being

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Month

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TLX Technologies is not the only company that has experienced growth. There is

an extremely high demand for employees in general when it comes to manufacturing and skilled trades, and Karolek said it's important for high school students to be aware of this.

Along with TLX Technologies, many local companies will be working with schools and organizations throughout National Manufacturing Month to help raise student awareness of their field and its high demand. Friday will be the Waukesha County Business Alliance's "Manufacturing Day," where Waukesha County middle-school students will tour manufacturers, including Weldall and Dedicated Computing.

lege to get a degree in mechanical engineering.

Lambo said many students believe that a four-year college is their only option right out of high school. She said it's important for students to know there are many different educational paths and options.

"Working in the field gave me the confidence to go back to school for engineering later in life because I knew it was what I loved and wanted to do," she said.

She said she would love to see more women getting involved in the field.

"I like to call women in the field 'unicorns' because they don't exist," she said.

Throughout the tour, students saw the design, production and testing of the company's products. They talked with employees about what a typical day on the job entails.

"One of the things we talk about with the students is basic working skills like showing up to work on time," Karolek said. "If we can find the right people with the right work ethic, we can train them to be successful."

Karolek and Lambo both said they would love to invite parents along on future student tours. They said it would be a great way for parents to see that a trade skills career is a great option for their kids.

"A student can go home and tell their parents that this is something they would be really interested in," Karolek said. "And they say 'No way, you're going to a four-year college to be an accountant.'"

"I would love for the parents to come and see everything that we do here. I'd even be willing to come in on a Saturday and bring pizza."

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