

# BUSINESS

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Stock	Change	Price	%
Manpwl	12147	48.88	-1.48
McDnlds	57120	62.89	+1.19
MerchBsh	12	22.99	-.01
Middleby	1133	54.38	+.60
Mylan	40904	13.00	-.19
Penney	35846	39.04	+1.24
PeopUtdF	40507	18.02	+.67
RockAgs	166	1.99	+.02
SearsHldgs	47773	90.62	+3.64
Spherion	2130	5.40	+.12
TelData	3136	38.53	+.72
TorDBk g	8874	59.36	+2.59
UnionBksh		20.10	—
UPS B	31679	64.70	+1.18
VerizonCm	110152	35.47	+.76
VermontP	12	1.38	+.01
WalMart	120191	59.88	+.59
Westaff		.85	—
Wyeth	47374	43.25	+.58

## Dollar and precious metals

Key currency exchange rates Thursday in New York.

Dollar equals	Exchange rate
Yen	109.56
Euro	0.6802
Pound	0.5469
Canadian dollar	1.0519

Metal	Price (troy oz.)
NY Merc Gold	\$830.90
NY Merc Silver	\$13.604

**Treasuries**

30-year bond	4.38
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## Calendar

**TODAY**  
**Champlain Connection BNI Chapter:** 7:30-9 a.m., The Echo Center, Burlington. 578-0862.  
**Burlington Sunrise Rotary Club:** 7:15 a.m., Rusty Scuffer, 148 Church St., Burlington. Speaker: incoming governor T. Tall. 863-6670. carleton.david@gmail.com

## Commercial Properties

**Burlington**  
**Northgate Housing Limited Partnership** sold an apartment building with 30 acres at 275 Northgate Road to Northgate Residents Ownership Corp., \$20,788,962, March 24.

**Greensboro**  
**Esnid LLC** sold a farm with 37 acres at 1050 Garvin Hill Road to Eureka Satellite LLC, \$150,000, April 30.

**Hartford**  
**Valley Land Corp.** sold an auto dealership with 5.4 acres at 303 Sykes Mountain Ave. to Heritage Automotive Group Inc., \$1,250,000, May 30.



Maj. Gen. Michael Dubie speaks to the crowd gathered at Revision Eyewear in Essex before Thursday's open house tour.

EMILY NELSON, Free Press

# Revision Eyewear unveils new manufacturing facility

By Matt Ryan  
 Free Press Staff Writer

## Essex

ESSEX — Revision Eyewear, creators of the Sawfly, the Desert Locust, the Bullet Ant and the Hellfly, can now make their military goggles and sunglasses from top to bottom at their Essex plant.

The company unveiled its new multimillion dollar manufacturing facility at an open house Thursday afternoon. More than 100 people walked through the 45,500-square-foot factory — made up of the facility, a lab, a warehouse and offices — to see how the sturdy lenses are made.

By the end of the year, Revision Eyewear will have sold more than 1 million sets of eyewear since moving to Vermont in 2002, according to Jonathan Blanshay, the company's president and CEO.

Blanshay helped found the company in Montreal in 2001. The company moved to Williston the following year, and to the Essex factory last year.

Blanshay said the U.S. military purchases about 90 percent of the company's

products at \$35 apiece. The Canadian military, law enforcement, tactical units and Vermont's Shamrocks Motorcycle Club also purchase the products. They sell for about \$100 apiece in retail, Blanshay said. He declined to share the company's revenues for last year.

The lenses can withstand a shotgun blast from 16 feet, according to the company. Blanshay said he intended his products' colorful names to evoke the strength of a bug's vision and exoskeleton.

Revision Eyewear has spent about \$6 million — \$3.5 million from company investments and \$2.5 million in loans from the Vermont Economic Development Authority and TD Banknorth — to expand and upgrade the Essex factory to keep up with demand.

About \$3 million went to building the lab and improving the warehouse and offices. The other \$3 million went toward the manufacturing facility.

Kelly Wilson, the company's manufacturing manager, said the facility can produce 5,000 lenses a day. The process of molding polycarbonate pellets into lenses, coating the lenses and assembling them into goggles and sunglasses takes about three hours, Wilson said. The coatings help to keep the lenses from fogging up or being scratched, he said.

The company used to manufacture its lenses out of state, Wilson said.

About 90 people work at the Essex factory — up from 50 employees a year ago. The company also has offices in London and Montreal.

Gov. Jim Douglas and Maj. Gen. Michael Dubie, head of the Vermont National Guard, attended the open house. Douglas made a joke about Blanshay's having "a vision" for his company, and he and Dubie thanked Blanshay for his work and support of the Vermont National Guard's Fallen Heroes Memorial.

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## In Brief

### Dell 2Q profit drops 17 percent

Computer maker Dell Inc. said Tuesday its second-quarter profit fell 17 percent, hurt by restructuring charges. The earnings per share fell to 10 cents, down from 12 cents in the second quarter of last year. Dell shares plunged 1.5 percent to \$28.75. For the three-month period that ended Tuesday, Dell's earnings dropped to \$616 million, or 31 cents per share, from \$650 million, or 32 cents per share in the same period last year.

### Boeing sends machinists final offer

Boeing Co. delivered a final contract offer to machinists Thursday that would boost wages over three years, the latest effort to avoid a strike that could cost it millions of dollars. Chicago-based Boeing said the proposal is the "best and final" offer and would increase the roughly 27,000 union workers in Washington.

### Gustav likely to push up gas prices

Fears about Tropical Storm Gustav pushed oil prices above \$120 a barrel Thursday, but price gains were limited as traders bet the government would release more oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve if supplies are tight. Regardless of where the storm hits, oil prices are likely to be headed higher.

### CDC: Salmonella outbreak appears to be over

WASHINGTON — The government says the salmonella outbreak that sickened more than 100 people appears to be over, but its ultimate cause remains unknown, partly because of shortcomings in the food safety system. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the outbreak, which began in Mexico in 2006, is the largest outbreak of salmonella in a decade.

### Sears' 2Q profit drops 62 percent

CHICAGO — Beleaguered retailer Sears' second-quarter profit reported a hefty drop in second-quarter earnings, despite a restructuring aimed at cutting costs. The company led by financier Edward Lampson delivered a downbeat outlook, predicting that margins will feel continued pressure from a weak economy. The performance — the latest in a series of disappointing reports for the Hoffman Estates-based operator — left some analysts unimpressed.

### Toyota lowers 2009 global sales goal

TOKYO — Toyota lowered its global sales goal for 2009 by 700,000 vehicles to 9.7 million, that even one of the world's most durable automakers is being hurt by rising material costs, a slow economy and soaring gas prices. Toyota Motor Corp had previously set a goal of 10.4 million vehicles. The lower target would still be a 2 percent drop from the company's 2008 sales goal of 9.5 million, a figure that was reduced last month from 9.7 million.

Toyota has been on such a potent growth streak in recent years it is getting closer to ending its 77-year run as the world's top automaker.

### Jobless claims fall for 3rd straight week

WASHINGTON — The number of jobless claims declined last week, the lowest since a six-year high reached earlier this year, the Labor Department said Thursday. Applications for unemployment benefits were seasonally adjusted 425,000, down 10,000 from the previous week, the Labor Department reported, a better figure than the 427,000 analysts expected. The four-week moving average also fell to 446,250 from 446,250 the previous week.