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### Free Coffee Day!

To celebrate those employees with birthdays in April (see Birthdays on page 3), there will be free coffee from the vending machine starting early AM on Monday, April 23 through early AM Tuesday, April 24.

ENJOY!  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

### Improvement Idea Winner By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

Congratulations to **Trevor Levonski**, Inspector, second shift, for being the Improvement Idea winner for March. There were four ideas submitted in March. Besides Trevor's winning idea, **Chris Kent** submitted two ideas, and **James Stanton** submitted one idea. Thank you all for letting us know your ideas for improvement here at Rex.



Trevor's idea is to fabricate a lid for the oiling tray we made for inspection. The tray has no lid and must be cleaned and cleared of debris that falls into it every time it is going to be used. The oil tray allows us to easily oil cylinders after inspection, and then pack them. Even though the tray saves us time, we lose time having to clean it each time we use it.

The next Improvement Idea spin will be held on Monday, April 23 at 3:10 pm in the new Vacuum Bay. Trevor will be drawing the name of one employee for the "Monthly Employee Appreciation" spin. Come to the spin to see if your name is chosen. Then you will be the lucky person taking a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance.

Can you think of an idea for an improvement here at Rex? Just write it down on a piece of paper and drop it into the box outside the Production office door. You could be the next winner taking a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance.

**DEADLINE FOR APRIL IMPROVEMENT IDEAS  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 9 A.M.**

### Monthly Winners

By Scott Wagner, Plant Manager



Jim Forbes, February Improvement Idea winner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner, Plant Manager.

Our Improvement Idea winner for February was **Jim Forbes**, Maintenance 'A' first shift. Jim won \$200 on his spin. There were four ideas submitted in February. Besides Jim's winning idea, **Andy Hiddemen**, **Frank Rapine**, and **Ray Souder** submitted one idea each. Each of them received a "Good Idea" pin and \$5 lottery ticket.



Andy Hiddemen (left), and Ray Souder, received lottery tickets and a handshake from Scott Wagner for submitting Improvement Ideas in February. Frank Rapine also submitted an idea but is not pictured.



Bernadette Hoffman, this month's Employee Appreciation winner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner.

The lucky winner of "Monthly Employee Appreciation" was **Bernadette Hoffman**, who won a \$125 reward on her spin. Five names were drawn from a bucket that contained the names of all Rex employees. **Yao Kangni Soukpe**, **Jim Koester**, **Derek McAlarney**, and **Sandy Zigon** each received a \$5 instant lottery ticket. **Spencer Freund** was the Rex Riddle winner and he, too, received a \$5 lottery ticket. Employees celebrating anniversaries received their anniversary gifts from Plant Manager Scott Wagner.



Spencer Freund, this month's Rex Riddle winner, receives his lottery ticket and a handshake from Scott Wagner.

For refreshments, we all enjoyed fruit and cookies along with free coffee. Please come to next month's spin to see if your name is the one picked to be the Monthly Employee Appreciation winner. Then you will have an opportunity to take a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance.

**Congratulations!!**



This month's lottery ticket winners from left: Derek McAlarney and Sandy Zigon are congratulated by Scott Wagner. Other winners not pictured are: Yao Kangni-Soukpe, Jim Koester, and Mike Townsend.

## *Minor League Baseball Training Ground for Young Talent*

It's April and baseball is back. No doubt we will hear a lot about the Philadelphia Phillies, our major league team. Thursday, April 5 marks the home opening day when the Phillies play the Miami Marlins at Citizens Bank Park. However, did you know that on Tuesday, April 3, a couple of days before the Phillies play, the Reading Fightin' Phils and the Lehigh Valley IronPigs play an exhibition game at First Energy Stadium in Reading, PA? You wouldn't know that unless you were a Minor League baseball fan.

For those of us less schooled in the sport of baseball, Minor League Baseball (MiLB) is a hierarchy of professional baseball teams that are affiliated with Major League Baseball (MLB). Each MLB team has its own network of Minor League teams sometimes called "farm teams" or "farm leagues" which are used for player development. In other words, every MiLB team is contracted to one of the Major League teams.

The Minor League network includes 160 domestic teams divided into 18 leagues, plus 96 international teams based in Arizona, Gulf Coast (Florida), Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. The Phillies have nine Minor League affiliates. In addition to the Reading Fightin' Phils and the Lehigh Valley IronPigs, they have the Clearwater Threshers, Lakewood Blue Claws, Williamsport Crosscutters, and two Gulf Coast teams named Phillies East and Phillies West. In the Dominican Republic, they have the Phillies Red and Phillies White teams.



**Mike Schmidt**

These Minor League teams serve as a training ground for young talent. Many famous Major League players have been harvested from the minors. Mike Schmidt, famous Phillies third baseman, spent two seasons in the Phillies farm system before being recruited into the Major League in 1973. He played 17 seasons for the Phillies.



**Ted Williams**

Ted Williams first honed his unique batting skills as a Minor Leaguer in the San Diego Padres farm system from 1935 - 1938. The following year in 1939, he was recruited into the Major League by the Boston Red Sox where he played for 19 years until 1960.

Roberto Clemente signed with a Dodgers Triple AAA affiliate in 1952. Three years later in 1955, he was recruited by the Pittsburgh Pirates where he carved out a Hall of Fame career over his 18 seasons with that franchise.

According to Baseball Almanac, Inc. – there have only been 21 players that skipped the Minors and went straight to the Majors. The two most recent were Xavier Nady in 2000. He was drafted from the University of California to the San Diego Padres. In 2010, Mike Leake went from Arizona State University to the Cincinnati Reds.



**Roberto Clemente**

Salary is the biggest discrepancy between Minor League and Major League players. Some Minor Leaguers make a modest but decent income between \$20,000 to \$67,000. Most players on the Rookie teams, however, barely make enough to live on and are forced to live with host families or have their parents pay their bills. Recently some Minor League players have brought a lawsuit against their Major League owners demanding to earn at the very least minimum wage.

Regardless of what drama goes on behind the scenes of Minor League teams, their fan base continues to grow. The Reading Fightin' Phils average about 6,000 fans per game, and the Lehigh Valley IronPigs that play home games in Coca Cola Park stadium in Allentown, attract over 10,000 fans per game. That's a handsome following in any sport.

### **Levels for Minor League Teams**

**The levels of MiLB are as follows, starting with the highest level and working down to the lowest:**

- 1. AAA or Triple A is the highest MiLB level, and where players are most likely to be called up to the parent Major League team.**
- 2. AA or double A**
- 3. Class A advanced or "High A"**
- 4. Class A, or "Low A"**
- 5. Class A short season or "short season"**
- 6. Two Rookie ball teams play between 70 and 80 games in a season. This is where newly drafted players often start their pro careers.**



Employees celebrating a birthday in April are listed below. Let's wish them a happy day.

- 5 Patrick McCabe
- 12 Walter Bates
- 13 Andrew Hiddemen
- 17 Jim Koester
- 17 Adrian Rivera
- 19 Tom Felder
- 27 Spencer Freund
- 28 John Rex

### REX RIDDLE #81

What can be seen in the middle of the months March and April that cannot be seen at the beginning or end of either month?



To submit your guess for The Rex Riddle, take a slip out of the folder in the rack in the Production Office, fill it out, and drop it in the box outside of the Production Office door. Guesses will be taken until the morning of the monthly spin. One name will be drawn from all the correct answers to receive a \$5 instant lottery ticket.

Answer to last month's riddle:

I am used to bat with, yet I never get a hit. I am near a ball, yet it is never thrown.

**ANSWER: Eye lashes**

### Yearly Work Anniversaries

The following employees are celebrating their Work anniversaries in April:

1 to 5 Years

Chris Hailey (2 yrs)  
Trevor Levonski (5 yrs)

6-10 Years

Over 10 Years

Brandon Reynolds (20 yrs)  
Greg Smith (11 yrs)

*You will receive your annual gift at the monthly spin.*



## Earth Day: Simple Ways to Celebrate Our Planet

Earth Day aims to inspire awareness of and appreciation for earth's environment. It is an annual event celebrated on April 22. More than 193 countries worldwide hold Earth Day events to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

The idea for a national day focused on the environment came from Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin. After witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California and inspired by the anti-Vietnam war movement, Nelson realized that if he could combine that energy with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would force environmental protection onto the national political agenda. The date April 22 was chosen because it fell between spring break and final exams when many students would be free to participate.

The first Earth Day took place on April 22, 1970, when 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies.



Earth Day is now a permanent date on our calendars. More and more people are participating in small ways that make a big difference. Listed below are some simple environmentally friendly activities that each of us can do on Earth Day and every day.

### Buy reusable bags

It's been estimated that Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year, and just the production alone for those requires about 12 million barrels of oil. Not to mention, they take up lots of space in landfills and cause major problems for marine wildlife. Instead, buy some reusable bags to use when you go to the grocery store.

### Use a refillable water bottle

Just because you're tossing your plastic water bottles into the recycling bin doesn't mean they're not hurting the environment. Besides the fact that it takes over 1.5 million barrels of oil to manufacture all of those bottles each year, there are still over two million tons of water bottles that have ended up in U.S. landfills. Buy a reusable bottle, preferably one that has a filter attached to it, so you'll be getting fresh water every time.

### Get produce from a local farmer's market

Besides supporting area businesses, you'll also be helping the Earth by buying local fruits and veggies. That's because food in the grocery stores travels an average of 1,500 miles to get to you, and all that shipping can cause pollution plus an increase of fossil fuel consumption and carbon emissions. When you buy locally, it's transported shorter distances.

### Unsubscribe to catalogs

Over 100 million trees are cut down each year to produce junk mail including catalogs. Plus they usually just end up in the trash anyway. Sign up for the free opt-out service at [catalogchoice.org](http://catalogchoice.org) and they'll help you get your name off the mailing lists for all those unwanted pieces of mail.

### Spend time outside

Sometimes we can be so caught up in what's happening on Instagram or Facebook that we forget how much fun it is to be outside. Earth Day is just a reminder of how beautiful and awesome our planet is. Take advantage of it! Most outdoor activities are free, so it's a great way to spend time with your friends. Go to the park and swing, taking in deep breaths of the fresh air. Plant a tree in your backyard or in coordination with an environmental group.

### Cook a special Earth Day meal

Invite friends and family over for a meal, and plan a menu that uses locally produced foods, is healthy and has minimal impact on the environment. Favor vegetables, fruit and other produce, as these use less resources to grow than mass-farmed meat. If you still would like meat, look for locally produced, organic meat.

