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Free Coffee Day!

To celebrate those employees with Birthdays in February (see Birthday Listing on page 3), there will be **free coffee** from the vending machine starting early AM on February 18th through early AM on February 19th. ENJOY!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

Improvement Idea Winner

By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

Congratulations! Sharley Dubisette, a Furnace Operator in the 600 Group on second shift, is the Improvement Idea winner for the month of January.



Sharley's idea is to install a safety guardrail across the platform area on 110 furnace. This is where the person climbs to set the thermocouple in the cutout on the door before the door is closed. The guard will protect the employee from falling backwards off the platform.

A total of 7 improvement ideas were submitted in the month of January. Others contributing ideas were **Gregory Bruno, Michael Townsend, Sarah Mansuetti, Chuba Blaze, John Moss, and Evelyn Chmielewski**, with 1 idea each. Thank you, everyone, for letting us know your ideas for improvements here at Rex.

The next Improvement Idea spin will be held on Monday, February 18, at 3:10 PM in the Induction area. Sharley will be drawing the name of one lucky employee for the "Employee Appreciation" spin. It could be you!

If you have an idea for an improvement here at Rex, write it down and put it in the box outside of the door to the Production office. You could be the next person taking a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance!

Monthly Winners

By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

Our Improvement Idea winner for the month of December was **Vindon Griffin Jr.**, a Furnace Operator in the 300 Group on first shift. Yao Kangni Soukpe, James Forbes, Gregory Smith, Kris Hunsicker, and Tom Felder, who also put in improvement ideas in December, received a "Thank You" pin and a \$5 lottery ticket.



Vindon Griffin Jr. (right), the Improvement Idea winner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner, Plant Manager.

Before he took his spin, we had Vindon draw a name for the "Monthly Employee Appreciation" reward. That lucky winner was **Richard Harris**, an Inspector on third shift. Richard took his spin the following day and won a reward of \$50.



Richard Harris (right), the Employee Appreciation winner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

Out of all the correct guesses submitted for **The Rex Riddle**, one name was drawn to receive a \$5 instant lottery ticket. That winner was **Ray DeHaven**.

Vindon drew 5 names from a bucket that contained the names of all Rex employees, and the winners each received a \$5 instant lottery ticket. Those 5 lucky winners of lottery tickets were

Rafael Abreu, Nenneth "Lee" Holder, James Brough, Monserrate "Mike" Santiago, and Gregory Bruno.



Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr., hands out "Thank You" pins and lottery tickets to Yao Kangni Soukpe, Greg Smith, and Tom Felder, who submitted improvement ideas in December.

When **Vindon** took his spin, he won a reward of \$100.

For refreshments everyone enjoyed an assortment of cookies, bag snacks, and free hot beverages from the vending machine.



Ray DeHaven (right) was the Riddle winner.

Why not join us next month to see if you'll get a chance to spin the wheel as the next Employee Appreciation winner!



Monserrate Santiago (15 yrs.), Frank Rapine (9 yrs.), Ray DeHaven (6 yrs.), and Sharley Dubisette (6 yrs.) were on hand to receive their anniversary gifts from Scott Wagner. Also celebrating an anniversary were Dave Brough (39 yrs.) and Chris Kent (1 yr.)



Mike Santiago (left) was one of the lottery ticket winners.

Rex Big Annual Wheel of Chance Spin

By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

The Ninth Year of our Improvement Idea Program has come to a close and it's time to reward those employees who submitted their improvement ideas in 2012—a total of **93** improvement ideas! Our Rex Big Annual Wheel of Chance Spin will take place on February 18, 2013, in the Induction area, after the monthly spin. There will be three different Wheel of Chance spins.

Spin #1 is for any employee who submitted at least four improvement ideas in 2012. Ten employees qualified for this drawing. They are: **Brian Wingate** (13), **Vindon Griffin Jr.** (10), **Gregory Smith** (9), **Evelyn Chmielewski** (6), **Tom Felder** (5), **Terry Copenhaver** (4), **Robert Feldman** (4), **Michael Jackson** (4), **James Forbes** (4), and **Chuba Blaze** (4).

Spin #2 is for all employees who were Monthly Winners in 2012. If they won two times, their names will be placed in the container two times. There will be nine employees in this drawing, and one will have his name in three times. Those employees are: **Vindon Griffin Jr.** (3), **Kris Hunsicker**, **Raymond DeHaven**, **Brian Wingate**, **Tom Felder**, **Terry Copenhaver**, **Gregory Smith**, **Derek McAlarney** and **Sharley Dubisette**.

Spin #3 is for any employee who submitted at least one approved idea that was fully implemented in 2012. Twelve employees qualified to be in this drawing. Those employees are: **Michael Davis**, **Ray DeHaven**, **Vindon Griffin Jr.**, **Robert Feldman**, **Brian Wingate**, **James Forbes**, **Chuba Blaze**, **Keith Bannon**, **John Moss**, **Derek McAlarney**, **Gregory Smith**, and **Michael Jackson**.

One name for each spin will be drawn at random. Each employee can only win one chance at a spin. If the same employee's name is drawn again after having already won a spin, another name will be drawn. Reward values for all 3 spins will range from \$250 to \$1,000.

Thank you all for your great ideas for improvements here at Rex. Good luck at the Annual Spin!

If you are able to, please come and witness this annual event and offer your congratulations to the lucky winners.



Safety Committee Update

The Safety Committee is looking for new members. Look for a posting on the company bulletin board.

The Safety Committee is important. They help us identify issues and improve safety throughout our facility. We have an outside company coming in to help organize and improve our Safety Committee Program. This is a great opportunity to sign up and get involved in an important program here at Rex.

Thanks,

Scott Wagner
Plant Manager

Welcome Aboard!

Joseph Carr 500 Group

Jeremy Raudenbush 600 Group

With the addition of the plastic bottles he was able to collect at Rex Heat Treat, Ray DeHaven, a Rex Material Handler, was able to take over 4,400 plastic bottles to a recycling center in 2012.

BASIC HEALTH CARE INFORMATION DURING THIS FLU SEASON

1. Vaccination

Getting a Flu vaccination is a personal choice based on your own risk factors. The CDC encourages everyone to get a Flu vaccination yearly. Many local pharmacies are distributing Flu vaccines as well as your family doctor.

2. The symptoms of flu include:

- Fever
- Cough
- sore throat
- body aches
- headache
- chills and fatigue
- Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting

3. Should you get sick, it's important to take steps to keep the infection from spreading to your family and/or coworkers.

- Read and follow the signs posted in the restrooms concerning proper hand washing.
- Upon entering the building, use the Hand Sanitizers placed at the entrances of the building.
- Wash hands after using the restroom facilities according to the posted instructions.
- Wash hands before eating.
- Get plenty of sleep.
- Be physically active.
- Manage your stress.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Eat nutritious food and/or take vitamin supplements.
- Avoid touching surfaces that may be contaminated with the flu virus.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

4. Help STOP the spread of germs that make you and others sick by:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your upper sleeve when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands after coughing or sneezing or use an alcohol based hand cleaner.

FOLLOWING THESE SIMPLE RULES HERE AT REX HEAT TREAT, WILL HELP US ALL STAY HEALTHY AS WE GO THROUGH THIS FLU SEASON TOGETHER.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

- 2 James Forbes
- 9 John Moss
- 11 James Brough

Yearly Work Anniversaries

The following employees are celebrating their Work Anniversaries in **February**

1 to 5 Years

Michael Evans

6 to 10 Years

Gregory Bruno

Over 10 Years

Don Wiggins (17)

James Koester (18)

Sandy Zigon (29)

You will receive your annual gift at the monthly spin.

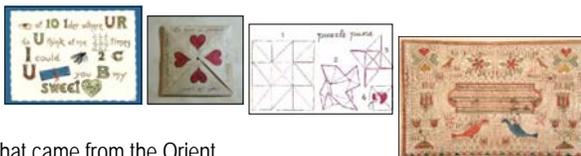
Did You Know?

Believing that birds began to mate on February 14, people in the Middle Ages started the card tradition by sending love letters on that day.

In the 15th century, singing and spoken valentines were slowly replaced by written letters in Europe. The first written valentine is credited to Charles, the Duke of Orleans, who wrote love poems to his wife while he was in prison in 1415. By the beginning of the 16th century, valentines were almost always written.

Early valentines were hand made on colored paper. Often they were tinted with water colors and inks. Other types of valentines found during this era were:

- ♥ **Acrostic** - The first line of the verses spelled out the recipient's name.
- ♥ **Cutout** - The paper was folded and cut into a lace-like design using small, pointed scissors.
- ♥ **Pinprick** - Using a pin or needle, tiny holes were punched in the paper to make it look like lace.
- ♥ **Theorem or Poonah** - These designs were painted through a stencil cut in oil paper, a style that came from the Orient.
- ♥ **Rebus** - Valentines which contained romantic verses written in ink with certain words omitted and illustrated by tiny pictures instead.
- ♥ **Puzzle Purse** - The paper was a folded puzzle with verses written in the folds. Each verse must be read in a specific order and the puzzle refolded correctly.
- ♥ **Fraktur** - The letters were written in a decorative style to imitate the illuminated manuscripts used in the Middle Ages.



The 1800s saw valentines made by factory workers. Black and white pictures were painted by the workers in the early part of the century. By the end of the 1800s, the cards were made by machines. These cards were elaborately decorated with gold leaf, satin, lace and flowers.

In 1840, the first mass produced valentine's cards were made in America. Esther Howland, who sold \$5,000 worth of the cards in her first year, created them.

Valentine Cards

Don't forget February 14th is *Valentine's Day*

The Rex Riddle - #23 ?

What is bought by the yard
And worn by the foot?

A LITTLE HUMOR

Over breakfast one morning, a woman said to her husband, "I'll bet you don't know what day this is."

"Of course I do," he answered as if he was offended, and left for the office.

At 10:00 a.m., the doorbell rang and when the woman opened the door, she was handed a box of a dozen long stemmed red roses. At 1:00 p.m., a foil-wrapped, two-pound box of her favorite chocolates was delivered. Later, a boutique delivered a designer dress.

The woman couldn't wait for her husband to come home.

"First the flowers, then the chocolates and then the dress!" she exclaimed. "I've never had a more wonderful Groundhog Day in my life!"



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.

Can you figure out the riddle?

Answer to Last Month's Riddle

- The first is needed to make quotes you see, and it often sticks up when it's time for noon tea.
- The second's biggest distinction is found bearing the symbol of love that is bound.
- The third should be biggest but that can depend, never standing alone or it may offend.
- The fourth is oft used when making a selection or if you should need a gun for protection.
- The fifth is the fattest and oddest by far, and can sometimes be found in a wrestling war.

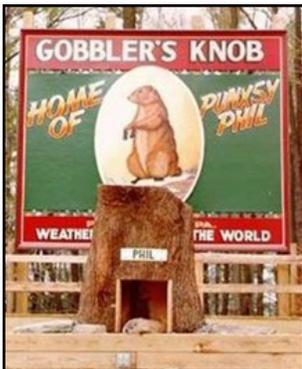
What are they?

Answer: Your fingers

Groundhog Day

February 2, 2013 will be Punxsutawney Phil's 127th prognostication!

Groundhog History



The legend of Groundhog Day is based on an old saying: 'If Candlemas Day is bright and clear, there'll be two winters in the year.'

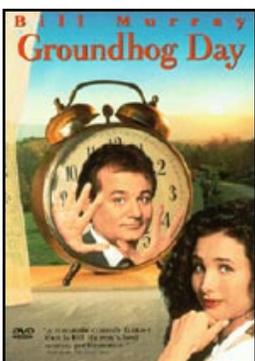
The great, great, great, great grandfather of Punxsutawney Phil first made his prediction in 1887.

Today's Phil weighs in at about 14 pounds. Whereas his wild groundhog (woodchuck) cousins eat grass with the occasional treat of a dandelion or clover, Punxsutawney Phil is pampered with ice cream and dog food.

On the big day—February the 2nd—Phil is taken to a special heated burrow underneath the artificial tree stump at Gobbler's Knob. After he performs his duty of checking his shadow, Phil is taken to his home in the Punxsutawney Library.



The Origins of Groundhog Day



Groundhog Day may be associated strongly with the 1993 Bill Murray film, but its origins lie with German settlers in the 18th century. Punxsutawney, the town in Pennsylvania where the groundhog ceremony takes place every year, was first settled by the Delaware Indians in 1723. The name Punxsutawney, comes from the Indian name for the location "ponksad-uteneey", which means "the town of the sand flies".

When German settlers arrived in the 1700s, they brought the celebration of Candlemas with them. German tradition holds that if the sun comes out on Candlemas, the hedgehog will see its shadow and six more weeks of winter will follow. If no shadow is seen, legend says spring will come early.

The Germans who settled in Pennsylvania continued the tradition but used a groundhog rather than a hedgehog.

The groundhog, also known as a woodchuck [*Marmota monax*], is a member of the squirrel family. Groundhogs in the wild eat succulent green plants, such as dandelion, clover, and grasses.



The first official Groundhog day was on February 2nd, 1887, at Gobbler's Knob, about 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, although its first reference can be found in 1841.



Today it is celebrated in the USA and Canada, with the most popular ceremony in Punxsutawney, although there are several others across both countries. Crowds in Punxsutawney can be as large as 40,000, and have increased in popularity since the Bill Murray film.

Punxsutawney Phil, the world's most famous groundhog, has seen his shadow nearly 100 times, has not seen it 15 times, and nine years are unaccounted for; he only has an accuracy rating of some 39%.

The groundhog's full name is actually "Punxsutawney Phil, Seer of Seers, Sage of Sages, Prognosticator of Prognosticators and Weather Prophet Extraordinary." It was so proclaimed by the "Punxsutawney Groundhog Club" in 1887, the same year they declared Punxsutawney to be the weather capital of the world. So the story goes, Punxsutawney Phil was named after King Phillip. Prior to being called Phil, he was called Bre'r Groundhog.

SAFETY SLOGANS:



ICE AND SNOW . . . TAKE IT SLOW!

SLIPPING ON ICE ISN'T NICE.

WAIT FOR THE BLIZZARD TO SUBSIDE BEFORE GOING OUTSIDE.

SNOWPLOWS NEED ROOM TO GROOM.

DON'T CROWD THE PLOW.

WHEN RIDING ON SNOW, YOU BETTER DRIVE SLOW.

TAKE FIVE, STAY ALIVE!