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## Free Coffee Day!

To celebrate those employees with Birthdays in December (see Birthday Listing on page 3), there will be **free coffee** from the vending machine starting early AM on December 16th through early AM on December 18th. ENJOY!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!**

## Improvement Idea Winner

By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

**Congratulations** to **Monserate Santiago**, a Furnace Operator in the 600 Group, for being the improvement Idea winner for the month of November.



Mike's idea is to install an arm on the sides of the air hoist that we use in 600-Cell 3. The problem is the air hose getting caught in the chains. This can lock up the hoist. Sometimes it can cause us to lose control and the hoist will go up and/or down on its own. If we had an arm that holds the air hose away from the hoist, it would prevent the hose from getting caught and make our area safer.

There were a total of 7 improvement ideas submitted in the month of November. Others submitting improvement ideas were **James Forbes**, with 2 ideas, and **Ray DeHaven, Trevor Levonski, Michael Townsend, and Victor Lopez**, with 1 idea each. Thank you for letting us know your ideas for improvements here at Rex.

The next Improvement Idea spin will be held on Monday, December 16, at 3:10 PM in the Induction area. Mike will be drawing the name of one lucky employee for the "Employee Appreciation" spin. Your name could be the one drawn and then you'd be taking a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance.

If you have an idea for an improvement at Rex, drop it into the box outside of the Production office. It could be the winning idea and then you'll have the opportunity to take a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance!

## Monthly Winners

By Scott Wagner, Plant Mgr.

Our Improvement Idea winner for the month of October was **Keith Bannon**, a Maintenance "A" Mechanic in the Maintenance Department. Keith, along with Brian Wingate, Gregory Smith, Evelyn Chmielewski, Sharlrey Dubisette, and James Forbes, who also put in improvement ideas in October, received a "Thank You" pin and a \$5 lottery ticket.



Keith Bannon (right), the Improvement Idea winner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner.

Keith drew a name for the "Monthly Employee Appreciation" reward. That lucky winner was **Robert Feldman**, an Electrician in the Maintenance Department. Bob won a reward of \$100 on his spin.



Robert Feldman (left), the Employee Appreciation winner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner.

Keith 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 **Michael Evans, Evelyn Chmielewski, Chris Sholly, Sharlrey Dubisette, and Tim Plaugher**.



Brian Wingate, Greg Smith, Evelyn Chmielewski, and Sharlrey Dubisette receive their "Thank You" pins.

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 **Nancy McKinney**.

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

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

Come to next month's spin to see if you might be next month's lucky Employee Appreciation winner and get your opportunity to take a spin on the Rex Wheel of Chance!



Sharlrey Dubisette, Tim Plaugher, Evelyn Chmielewski, and Mike Evans collect their lottery tickets.



On hand to collect their anniversary gifts from Scott Wagner were Jung Ohm (1 yr.), James Stewart (1 yr.), Derek McAlarney (2 yrs.), Art Hurt (6 yrs.), Fred Cherezov (6 yrs.), Vindon Griffin Jr. (10 yrs.), and James Forbes (16 yrs.).

## Getting to Know You!



For the month of December, our featured employee is Furnace Operator **Monserate Santiago**, who works in the 600 Group. "Mike", the name we all know him by, came to Rex first as an agency employee through Lafayette Personnel Service beginning in September 1997. He became a Rex employee in January of 1998. Before coming to Rex, Mike worked at White Glove and Hammer's Moving Company.

Mike was born in New York, and he has a brother and a sister. He presently resides in Norristown, Pennsylvania. Mike and his lovely wife Myra got married on September 21, 2001, when Mike was 27 years old. He has a daughter, Brienne Marie, and two stepsons, Christopher Shea and Kenneth Wright, and two grandchildren, Loretta and Kayne.

What Mike really enjoys is spending time with his wife and children. And, of course, he loves watching football. In his spare

time, just relaxing in front of the TV with a nice cold beer is a favorite pastime.

Mike's favorite season is winter, as he really enjoys the snow. Thanksgiving is the holiday he likes best because all of the family gets together. Being with his wife and kids and the grandkids is what really makes him happy.

Mike loves Spanish food and he also enjoys eating the varieties of food you can find at the Q-Mart in Quakertown. Mike doesn't travel much but a favorite place to visit is Puerto Rico.

If Mike had to describe himself in just three words, he said "loyal, dedicated, and hardworking" would be an accurate description. If Mike ever won the lottery, he says he would buy a nice house and retire. At the end of the workday, Mike just likes to sit back with a beer and watch a good movie on TV.

Mike loves his job and what he does here at Rex, and we are certainly very happy to have Mike here as part of the Rex Team!

Thanks for sharing, Mike!

## The Liberty Bell



The **Liberty Bell** is an iconic symbol of American independence, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Formerly placed in the steeple of the Pennsylvania State House (now renamed Independence Hall), the bell was commissioned from the London firm of Lester and Pack (today the Whitechapel Bell Foundry) in 1752, and was cast with the lettering (part of Leviticus 25:10) "**Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.**" It originally cracked when first rung after arrival in Philadelphia, and was twice recast by local workmen John Pass and John Stow, whose last names appear on the bell. In its early years, the Liberty Bell was used to summon lawmakers to legislative sessions and to alert citizens to public meetings and proclamations.

The reason for the difficulties with the bell is not certain. The Whitechapel Foundry, still in business today, takes the position that the bell was either damaged in transit or was broken by an inexperienced bell ringer, who incautiously sent the clapper flying against the rim, rather than the body of the bell. In 1975, the Winterthur Museum conducted an analysis of the metal in the bell, and concluded that "a series of errors made in the construction, reconstruction, and second reconstruction of the Bell resulted in a brittle bell that barely missed being broken up for scrap". The Museum found a considerably higher level of tin in the Liberty Bell than in other Whitechapel bells of that era, and suggested that Whitechapel made an error in the alloy, perhaps by using scraps with a high level of tin to begin the melt instead of the usual pure copper. The analysis found that, on the second recasting, instead of adding pure tin to the bell metal, Pass and Stow added cheap pewter with a high lead content, and incompletely mixed the new metal into the mold. The result was "an extremely brittle alloy which not only caused the Bell to fail in service but made it easy for early souvenir collectors to knock off substantial trophies from the rim".

In June 1778, a 700 wagon caravan escorted the Liberty Bell on its return to Philadelphia from Allentown along Towamencin's Allentown Road. Nine months earlier, when British troops threatened to capture the city, the bell had been whisked into hiding via the same route. After Washington's defeat at the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777, the revolutionary capital of Philadelphia was defenseless, and the city prepared for what was seen as an inevitable British attack. Bells could easily be recast into munitions, and locals feared the Liberty Bell and other bells would meet this fate. The bell was hastily taken down from the tower, and sent by heavily guarded wagon train to the town of Bethlehem. Local wagoneers transported the bell to the Zion German Reformed Church in Northampton Town, now Allentown, where it waited out the British occupation of Philadelphia behind a false wall. (The picture shows the Liberty Bell being paraded through the streets of Philadelphia, 1908, in a recreation of its 1777 journey to Allentown.)



The Holiday Goodies Exchange will take place on Monday, December 16, and Tuesday, December 17, in the employee lunchroom. Please join us for this annual sharing of goodies. Bring in your treat at the start of your shift and check out what others have brought to share. Whether you make it or buy it, whatever you choose will be appreciated and enjoyed. There will be free hot beverages from the vending machine both days.

Come share in the Good Will and Good Treats!



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

- 6 Sharley Dubisette
- 25 Yao Kangni Soukpe
- 26 Maria Monje

## Yearly Work Anniversaries

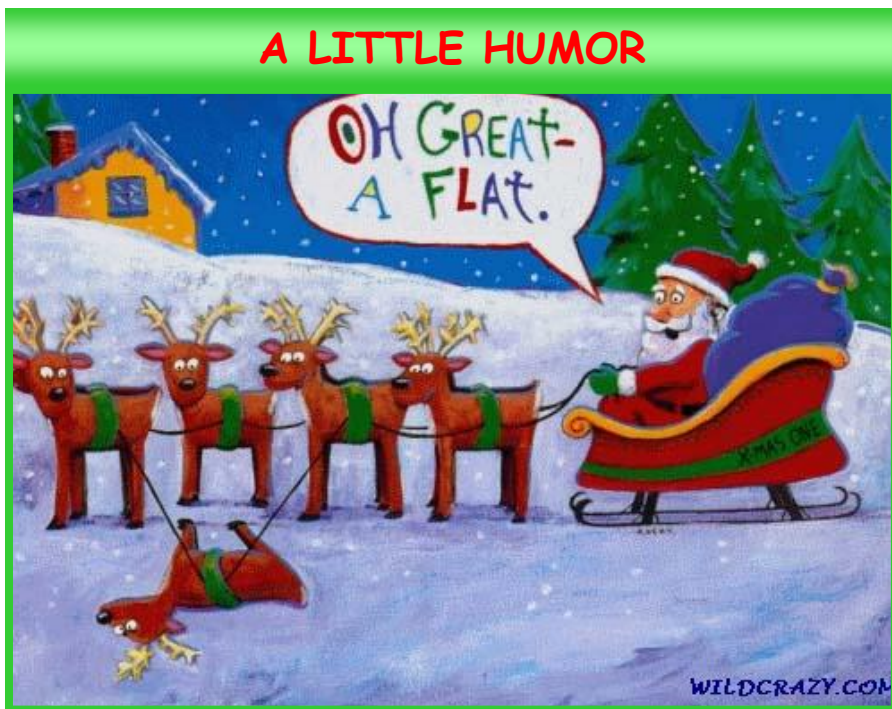
The following employees are celebrating their Work Anniversaries in **December**

### Over 10 Years

Maria Monje (14)

Tom Felder (28)

You will receive your annual gift at the monthly spin.



## Did You Know?



- \* A Charlie Brown Christmas is the longest-running cartoon special in history, airing every year since its debut in 1965.
- \* The television movie was originally a short documentary produced in 1963 by Lee Mendelson about Charles Schulz called A Boy Named Charlie Brown.

- \* After the Peanuts made the cover of TIME magazine in 1965, an advertising agent for the Coca-Cola Company who had seen the Schulz documentary called Mendelson and asked if he had thought about creating a Peanuts Christmas special.
- \* Television executives hated the movie from the start. It was criticized for being too religious, for featuring contemporary jazz in a cartoon, for not having a laugh track, and for using the voices of real children (except for Snoopy, who was voiced by animator Melendez). However, viewers and reviewers LOVED it. On Thursday, December 9, 1965, A Charlie Brown Christmas was seen in more than 15 million homes. It won critical acclaim as well as an Emmy Award for Outstanding Children's Program and a Peabody Award for excellence in programming.

- \* The logo for Coca-Cola, the movie's first sponsor, appeared several times in original footage of A Charlie Brown Christmas. For instance, in the skating scene, Snoopy throws Linus from the rink into a Coca-Cola sign. Later sponsors objected, and the frames were edited out.



## The Rex Riddle - #31 ?

Solid metals or alloys are what I do.  
Heat them up, cool them down  
Make them soft, hard, or tough . . .  
The customer decides what's enough.

What am I called?

Hint: Check your Employee Handbook Glossary

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

I belong to you but am used more by others.

What am I?

Answer: Your name

## Holiday Fun, Holiday Stress, Holiday Accidents

[www.toolboxtopics.com](http://www.toolboxtopics.com)

All year long you've heard messages that remind you to "work safely...don't take short-cuts...prevent accidents...." To do this, of course, you have to keep your *mind on your work*. But this time of the year, your mind may be everywhere else but on your work. You may be thinking....

- What will I buy everyone for Christmas—I hate shopping!
- How will I *pay* for Christmas—it costs a fortune!
- Traffic is so bad I'm a *wreck* every time I get where I'm going.
- My relatives and their kids are going to be here for a whole week—Lord help me!
- My kids' energy levels and voice levels have quadrupled—give me peace!
- If I hear Alvin & The Chipmunks one more time, I'll smash the radio!



The holidays are a wonderful time for some people and a dreadful time for others. For many, it's a mixture. The experts tell us that even happy, exciting events are stressful to our minds and our bodies.



- Normal routines and schedules are disrupted, which can feel uncomfortable.
- With so much to do, there's a lot of rushing around to get it done.
- Giving presents can be stressful—"Am I giving enough...am I giving too much?"
- Stores and malls during the holidays are crowded and chaotic.
- Holiday gatherings can be fun, but too much food and drink can take its toll.
- "Ghosts of Christmas Past" can remind us of disappointments and bring on depression.

Be aware that you may be more likely to have an accident at this time of the year—on the job, at home or on the road. At work, you may be distracted by personal matters or financial concerns and overlook safe work practices. At home, tension between family members is sometimes high, since they too are feeling both the good and bad holiday stress. Out-of-sort people tend to be accident prone.

You may also find yourself taking extra physical risks—hanging colored lights on the roof, lugging a Christmas tree around, or shoveling snow. And when roads and highways are jammed with frustrated drivers, the number of auto accidents increases. It's a time to drive defensively.



Sometimes, the worst thing about Christmas is *getting* there! Once it arrives, it's lots of fun—so don't have an accident on the way! If you keep in mind that the holidays put extra pressure on everyone this time of the year, it may help keep you and your loved ones accident-free.

**Stay alert. Take extra care. Have a safe *and* happy holiday!**

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### Holiday Safety Tips:



**Don't let this happen to you! Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh, green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights could short and start a fire.**



**Safety is the best holiday present.**



**A Merry Christmas is a safe Christmas. Make sure all your home's smoke detectors are working properly.**



**Put breakable ornaments, or ornaments that could be a choke hazard, higher on the tree to keep them out of the reach of small children and pets.**



**Keep lighters and candles away from children and never leave burning candles unattended. Blow candles out when you leave the room. Consider using electric or battery operated candles instead.**

