

# The ReX Files

Volume 19, Issue 6

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## **Free Coffee Day!**

To celebrate those employees with birthdays in June (see Birthdays on page 3), there will be free coffee from the vending machine starting early AM on Monday, June 25 through early AM Tuesday, June 26.

> **ENJOY!** HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

## **Monthly Winners**



inner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner,

Our Improvement Idea winner for April was Jim Forbes. Maintenance 'A' first shift. Jim won \$200 on his spin. There were four Improvement Ideas submitted in April. Besides Jim's winning idea, Andy Hiddeman, Trevor Levonski, and Ray Souder submitted one idea each They all received a "Good Idea" pin and \$5 lottery ticket. Employees who submitted Improvement Ideas in April receive their Good Idea

The lucky winner of "Monthly Employee Appreciation" was Tom Felder, who won a \$125 reward on his spin. Five

names were drawn from a bucket that contained the names of all Rex employees. Folly Agbo, Andy Hiddemen, Yao Kangni Soukpe, Maria Monje, 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 Rex Riddle winner Spencer Freund





Scott Wagner presents instan lottery tickets to this month's - Top from left, Folly inners gbo and Maria Monje. ttom: Andy Hidder ther winners not picture ao Kangni Soukpe and Sand

anniversaries received their anniversary gifts from Plant Manager 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.

## Newsletter

June 2018

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

Congratulations to Ray Souder, Material Handler, for being May's Improvement Idea winner. Ray's was the only idea submitted in May, and it was good enough to be acknowledged for the win.

Ray's idea is a lean, continuous improvement idea. The 500 line is very congested and also very narrow. Placing the work storage lanes at an angle will create a faster, more efficient work flow and also minimize the risk of hitting a furnace with the fork truck. We are planning to remove equipment from this area



and will consider this concept when we do the layout for racking and storage.

The next Improvement Idea spin will be held on Monday, June 25 at 3:10 pm in the Vacuum Bay area. Ray 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 JUNE IMPROVEMENT IDEAS** THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 5 P.M.

#### By Scott Wagner, Plant Manager



ins and instant lottery tickets from Scott Wagner. From left: Andy Hidd Ray Souder. Trevor Levonski also submitted an idea but is not pictured.





Tom Felder, Employee Appreciati winner, is congratulated by Scott Wagner.



Scott Wagner presents anniversary gifts to employees celebrating nis month — From left: Tim Plaugher (28 yrs), and Linda Palmarozza (2 yrs). Ron Makos, not pictured, celebrates 14 years

## Sprains and Strains Prevention



Sprains and strains account for about a third of workplace injuries. A *sprain* is an injury to a ligament, the tough, fibrous tissue that connects bones to other bones. Sprain injuries involve a stretching or a tearing of this tissue.

A *strain* is an injury to either a muscle or a tendon, the tissue that connects muscles to bones. Back injuries are the most prevalent in regard to strains. Depending on the severity of the injury, a strain may be a simple overstretch of the muscle or tendon, or it can result in a partial or complete tear.

Follow these helpful rules and you will greatly reduce the chance that you will experience a painful sprain or strain.

#### Minimize the chances of sprains:

- Use extra caution when working on slippery surfaces such as ice or wet floors.
- Always wear appropriate and proper fitting footwear for your job.
- Use extra caution when walking across uneven surfaces. These are areas where you could easily turn or twist an ankle.
- When stepping off ladders, always look where you are placing your feet before you put your full weight on them.

#### Minimize the possibility of strains:

- Before any heavy lifting activity, always warm up, using moderate stretching exercises. Do not stretch aggressively as you may over-stretch and injure yourself.
- Always plan the lift. Consider the weight of the object, how far you must carry it, and your route of travel.
- Always carry objects close to your body; lift slowly and smoothly, avoid twisting.
- Move heavy objects by pushing or pulling whenever possible. Pushing is always preferable.
- Always lift with your legs and not your back.
- Always stand close to the object that you are lifting and be certain that fingers and toes are clear when setting it down.

# Celebrate Father's Day — June 17, 2018

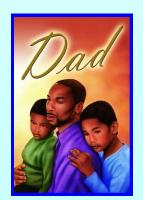


A GOOD father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, and unnoticed people, and yet is one of the most valuable assets in our society.

Billy Graham



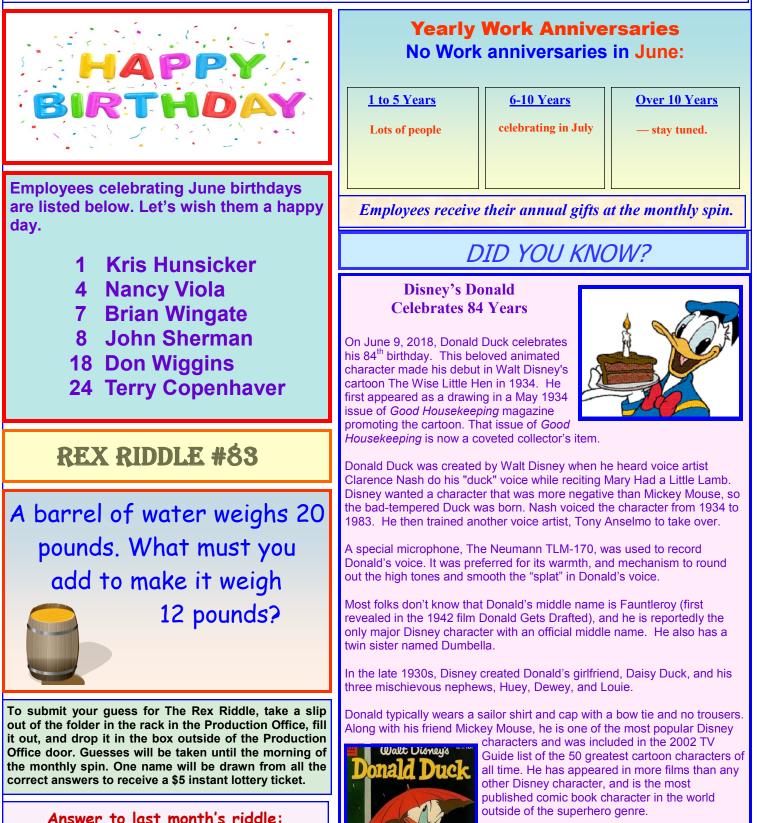








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Two sisters are we, one black and one white. In twin towers dwelling, we're quite the pair. One from the land and one from the sea. Tell us truly, who are we?



Walt Disney said of the character: "One of the greatest satisfactions in our work here at the studio is the warm relationship that exists within our cartoon family. Mickey, Pluto, Goofy, and the whole gang have always been a lot of fun to work with. But like many large families, we have a problem child. You're right, it's Donald Duck."

## Page 3

# **Aluminum: Sustainable Metal for Today and Tomorrow**

Lightweight, durable and highly recyclable, aluminum has become an essential element of daily life. As the sustainable material of choice, its applications span from everyday items like fuel-efficient vehicles, smart phones, zippers and foil to wiring the nation's power grid, the apex of the Washington Monument, and housing the International Space Station.

A pure form of the metal was first successfully extracted from ore in 1825 by Danish chemist Hans Christian. Due to the complexities of refining aluminum from ore, it was considered more precious than gold or silver through most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1886 Oberlin College student Charles Hall and French engineer Paul Heroult separately and simultaneously developed an inexpensive electrolysis process to extract aluminum from aluminum oxide. The large amount of electricity required to power the electrolytic process limited the production of aluminum. Hall received a U.S. patent in 1889.

In 1887, Austrian engineer Karl Josef Bayer developed a chemical process by which aluminum can be extracted from bauxite, a widespread and naturally occurring aluminum ore. Both the Bayer and Hall-Herout processes are still used today to produce nearly all the world's aluminum.

In the early 1900s, U.S. industrialists quickly recognized aluminum's superior properties. Power transmission lines and elevated train electrical wiring were among the first to benefit from the electrical advantages of aluminum. Aluminum found early

industrial uses in engines, such as the one built in 1903 by the Wright brothers to power their first biplane. Aluminum foil entered the market in 1910. The Great Depression resulted in Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects that expanded hydroelectric generation capacity, which in turn increased production capacity of primary aluminum. During this time, the Aluminum Association was formed and held its first meeting in New York City in 1935.

With the onset of World War II, aluminum became a key strategic metal. Primary uses of aluminum included the construction of aircraft frames, ship infrastructures, and millions of mess kits. America's supply of bauxite and readily available electricity for primary metal production resulted in soaring output that eventually topped the production levels of all the allied countries combined. On the homefront, aluminum recycling got an early start. "Tin foil drives" included an offer of free movie tickets in exchange for aluminum foil balls.

After the war ended, American industry shifted gears toward manufacturing consumer products. The early 1950s saw the development of the iconic white-enamel/aluminum-frame washers and dryers. In 1959, Coors Brewing popularized the two-piece aluminum can with a pop-top lid. Equally innovative, a cash payment recycling offer was established for cans returned to the



brewery. In the 1980s, space shuttles were launched with aluminum oxide rocket boosters. Steve Jobs recognized both the beauty and strength of aluminum, creating a thin, light product line of laptops, iPads and iPhones.



The impact of aluminum recycling on the environment has been profound. An amazing 75 percent of all aluminum ever produced is still in use. Recycled aluminum production requires only 8 percent of the energy and creates 8 percent of the emissions compared with primary production. As more companies look for energy-saving innovations in their products and manufacturing methods, the aluminum industry is poised for even greater success.



Today, the aluminum industry contributes nearly \$174 billion to the nation's economy and directly employs over 162,000 workers. These numbers will continue to grow as demand for strong, lightweight, recyclable aluminum continues to increase.



(Information for this article was obtained from the Aluminum Association website)



