PAY INCREASES/DISABILITY PREMIUMS

In anticipation of our getting a one dollar per hour pay increase this year (with the exception of detention who got their increase in February), I calculated the increase to short-term and long-term disability premiums and held out the increase on this third pay period in the month of June so that deductions will go to the regular amount on the July 13th pay day. Also, the pay for July 13th (assuming the pay increase) will be split between old rate and new rate, so for regular folks, there will be 40 hours at one pay and 40 at another. For sheriff, detention, dispatch, EMS, landfill and anybody else not on a 40 hour per week schedule, your pay will be paid according to what you worked. The budget won't be formally approved until Thursday night, but so far it looks good.

Also, just a reminder that the June 29th pay date is the third pay period in June and as such there will be no leave accruals and no life, medical, dental, AFLAC, Credit Union or VALIC deductions.

A NOTE ABOUT FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS

I want to make sure that anyone who enrolled in the flexible spending accounts understands that even though we will receive pre-loaded debit cards to use with our flex accounts (or you already have one from last year—if it hasn’t expired you will continue to use the card you have), YOU STILL NEED TO KEEP YOUR RECEIPTS TO SUBMIT TO SUBSTANTIATE YOUR CLAIMS. Unless you are using an approved no-receipt vendor (there is a list of these on the flex website which is www.myflexonline.com) you have to submit a receipt just about every time you use your card. There is an app called MyFlex that you can install on a smart phone so you may submit your receipts by simply taking a picture of them. I have found that to be the simplest way to submit receipts.

If your card has expired or if you are new to flexible spending, you should have already received your VISA card in the mail. If you have not, you will need to login to myflexonline.com and request a card. You may also request a card for your spouse if you would like them to have one.

The deductible year for our health and dental insurance ends on June 30. The new deductible year begins July 1st. Also, the Vision plan year starts over again on July 1st. Please remember this.

One day a traveling salesman was driving down a back country road at about 30 mph when he noticed that there was a three-legged chicken running alongside his car. He stepped on the gas but at 50 miles per hour. The chicken was still keeping up. After about a mile of running the chicken ran up a farm lane and into a barn behind an old farm house. The salesman had some time to kill so he turned around and drove up the farm lane. He knocked at the door and when the farmer answered he told him what he had just seen. The farmer said that he was a geneticist and had developed this breed of chicken because he, his wife and his son each like a drumstick when they have chicken and this way they only have to kill one chicken. "That's the most fantastic thing I've ever heard," said the salesman. "How do they taste?" "I don't know," said the farmer. "We've never caught one."

What do you get if you cross a cow, a french fry, and a sofa? A cowch potato.

What protest by a group of dogs occurred in 1772? The Boston Flea Party.

Is there something you would like to see in the newsletter? Please email Melody at melody.johnson@cherokeecounty-nc.gov with any suggestions.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Herbert Williams 1
Dustin Lee 2
Sandra Page 3
James Bolick 4
Julie Stillwell 4
Tim Howe 6
Bruce Brown 7
Keith Watkins 9
Jane Stiles 11
Connie Fowler 12
Joy Kephart 12
Bob Raver 13
Katrina Plemmons 14
Jon Crist 15
Jason Rowland 15
Heather Weaver 15
Linda Conley 16
Jake Bryson 17
Anita Kurytak 18
Jimmy Amos 20
Becky Stiles 21
Kirby Styles 22
Lee Mashburn 23
Alicea Ward 24
Adam May 25
Robin Barry 27
Dot Beasley 27
Lynn Hamby 27
Ryan Wilson 28
Valerie Auberry 29
Dedra Cook 29
Stacy Lindsay 30
Nicolette Foster 31
Nacho Lugo Alameda 31
Marc Mainguy 31
Ruth Whitener 31
Ages 25 to 76

Teacher: Kids, what does the chicken give you?
Kids: Meat!
Teacher: Very good! Now what does the pig give you?
Kids: Bacon!
Teacher: Great! And what does the fat cow give you?
Kid: Homework!
Fireworks Injuries

230 people on average go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday.

Injuries by Fireworks Type
- 19% Sparklers
- 9% Reloadable Shells
- 20% Firecrackers
- 4% Roman Candles
- 2% Bottle Rockets
- 6% Novelties
- 2% Multiple Tubes
- 1% Fountains
- 31% Unspecified

Fireworks Safety Tips
★ Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
★ Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
★ Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
★ Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.

Injuries by Age
- 9% 0-4
- 11% 10-14
- 11% 15-19
- 34% 25-44
- 12% 20-24
- 15% 5-9