

# POSTAL NEWS

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- 1. Airline passengers using the post office. Aug 16, 2008.**
- 2. UAE is Deputy Chairman of UPU's Postal Operations Council. Aug 17, 2008.**
- 3. U.S. Postal Service now a lifesaver . Aug 17, 2008.**
- 4. World Postal Union Council Votes Cuba. Aug 15, 2008.**

## **1. Airline passengers using the post office**

Posted: Aug 16, 2008 09:10 PM

Many Airline passengers are avoiding high baggage fees by shipping their luggage through the postal service.

In the last few months, a majority of airlines started charging for first bags and nearly doubling their prices for oversized bags.

Post office officials said they expect to see more and more passengers mailing their baggage and packages prior to departing for their trips, because it will save them up to \$80 for each bag.

"The airline industry is charging anywhere from \$100 to \$125 when you're over 50 pounds on your luggage. And here, you can send it for \$42.50 through the postal service. So it's big savings there," said Debi Blankenship, a post off customer relations coordinator.

Shipping bags through the Postal Service can be done from your home computer using Click-N-Ship, officials said. This guarantees free carrier pick-up from your home or business.

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## **2. UAE is Deputy Chairman of UPU's Postal Operations Council**

(Aug 17, 2008) Close on the heels of being elected as a member of two important bodies of Universal Postal Union (UPU), the United Arab Emirates has achieved another honour in the global postal community with the Postal Operations Council (POC) appointing it as its Deputy Chairman for 2009-2012.

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### **3. U.S. Postal Service now a lifesaver**

In print: Sunday, August 17, 2008 Story Tools

Next month, I'm flying to Illinois for a family reunion. I haven't seen my kin in nine years, when my father died. I'm excited; this reunion is way over due. I purchased round-trip tickets via the Internet, made rental car arrangements over the Internet and planned my hotel stay using the Internet.

Since the Internet became a household name, and e-mailing replaced pretty much all mailings to and from family members and friends, the U.S. Postal Service (stamps to be specific) nationwide has been affected. As a result, you have to pay increased costs for postage, nearly every year to compensate for the financial losses.

Well, thanks to the airlines' new rules, I think the U.S. Postal Service is going to make a comeback. Some airlines are now charging \$15 to \$50 per luggage piece beyond the carry-on. Are you kidding me? They're even reducing the amount of gas per airplane to save money; they charge more than ever to fly just a couple of hours by air, they can surely afford the gas beyond what the general public can.

I realize we're in a recession; failed mortgages, popular restaurants closing, etc. There are now more than 4-million people unemployed in this country. I realize all this, but someone has to cut us a break somewhere. When times are tough, it makes sense to me that you don't raise prices and cut wages, you don't charge more for groceries when families can't even afford gas to get there and you don't make it impossible to fly anywhere in this country.

When times are tough, it would seem to me that this mighty country would make it easier for us to keep commercial interests in business. Market specials to promote business, lower gas prices to generate more summer travel, and for Pete's sake, encourage this country to travel via airlines by making air fare affordable to the average Joe.

Since this reunion is a week of dinners, weddings, and gatherings, I will be taking a bit more luggage than I normally would. Well, guess what? I'm going to box up my clothes and send it via U.S. mail. I can get a box of clothes through the postal system for approximately \$25 dollars, and get it insured!

In these hard times, I believe the U.S. Postal Service is going to become a popular venue for more than just mailing a letter to a loved one. I believe in these hard times, the U.S. Postal Service is going to become very popular again.

Darcy Maness, of Leisure Hills, is the author of the self-published book, *Beast of Highway Twenty-Two*.

[Last modified: Aug 16, 2008 10:39 AM]

#### **4. World Postal Union Council Votes Cuba**

Havana, Aug 15 (Prensa Latina) Cuba was reelected to the Postal Administration and Exploitation Council of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in recognition of its prestige in different international cooperation entities.

The votes achieved by the island, among the highest registered, and confirmed its leadership as representative of the South people's interest in the international postal system.

The choice was done during the 24th Congress of UPU recognizing mail, the administration and exploitation in the island, pointed out a noted from the Computing and Communication Ministry.

Cuba has developed a systematic and comprehensive work at the heart of the institution, which is aimed at looking for solutions for the challenges of the post cards services in the current globalize world, marked by Neoliberalism.

Founded in 1874 and with headquarters in Switzerland, UPU is the UN entity specialized in coordinating cooperation in the world postal system.

Cuba proposed to contribute to boost and effective coordinate post-sales service among the 191 nation members of that institution which specially benefits the poorest ones.

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