

# POSTAL NEWS

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## 1. No postal jobs cut in Indiana

Posted: April 2, 2009

INDIANAPOLIS » Indiana will be spared, at least for now, any job losses as a result of cutbacks within the U.S. Postal Service. Although the agency is eliminating 32 positions, 70 employees affected by the alterations won't lose their jobs, said Kim Yates of the Greater Indiana District of the Postal Service. The Postal Service recently announced it is cutting management staff and offering early retirement to thousands of postal workers nationwide. (Star report)

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Thursday, April 2, 2009

## 2. Postal Service closing Glendale coding center

Phoenix Business Journal - by Mike Sunnucks

The U.S. Postal Service is closing a coding center in Glendale as part of cost-cutting moves.

The mail service has been hit by the slow economy and also will shutter centers in Charleston, W. Va., and Fort Wayne, Ind. USPS spokesman Peter Hess said there are 727 employees at the Glendale mail center. He said 500 of those are temporary workers and 227 are career Postal Service employees who might be able to transfer to other locations.

The Glendale center is located near Bell Road and 51st Avenue.

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April 2

## 3. Postal consolidation meeting on Tuesday

Public meeting on W-B processing facility moved from Holy Thursday.

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WILKES-BARRE – The U.S. Postal Service has responded to the public and has moved the date for a public meeting on its proposed consolidation of services.

The meeting to discuss the proposal to move some mail processing operations from the Wilkes-Barre processing facility into the Scranton Processing & Distribution Center will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Genetti Hotel & Conference Center, 77 E. Market St., Wilkes-Barre.

A summary of the proposal, the meeting agenda and presentation materials will be made available on the Web site usps.com prior to the meeting.

“The district received several inquiries asking if it could be changed and they wanted to insure anyone who wanted to provide feedback is given the opportunity,” said Ray Daiutolo, regional spokesman for the postal service.

John Kishel, president of Local 175 of the American Postal Workers Union, had asked for the change because the original date – April 9 – is Holy Thursday, a major observance in the Christian faith prior to Easter. Kishel said U.S. Rep. Paul Kanjorski helped convince the postal service to move the date.

“It didn't make sense to schedule it on a day that has such strong religious meaning,” Kishel said. “Now we need people to come out; everybody and anybody needs to come out and speak up. ... ”

The service recently released details of a study that began in January to determine the feasibility of consolidating “redundant operations” to achieve efficiencies and cost savings. The study showed that \$3.9 million could be saved by the move and 44 jobs would be cut.

“With the deep decline in mail volume due to current economic conditions, the Postal Service has an excess of employees and equipment in some mail processing operations,” a release from the regional office stated.

The service said no final decision has been made. Daiutolo said postal service managers will give an overview of the reasons for the proposal and its possible outcomes, and will listen to community input and concerns.

A summary of the proposal, a meeting agenda and presentation materials will be made available on usps.com. Anyone who wishes to submit comments in writing may send them to Marita Hines, Consumer Affairs Manager, 1425 Crooked Hill Road, Harrisburg, PA 17107-9631. Public comments will be accepted through April 24.

#### **4. EDITORIAL: Postal Service crisis**

Published: Monday, April 6, 2009

The U.S. Postal Service -- as venerable an institution as there is in this country -- has fallen into a downward spiral: Last year it lost \$2.8 billion; by 2010 that amount is expected to climb to \$6 billion.

There's little doubt why.

"Snail mail" has been increasingly replaced by e-mail and other Internet methods of communication, like Facebook, Twitter and My Space.

Business transactions, including, but not limited to, bills and payments, are more prevalent than ever on the Internet.

Deliveries that once were the domain of the Postal Service are now split across a host of companies, like UPS and Federal Express.

Magazine subscriptions are generally down, cutting that Postal Service volume as well.

But the Postal Service continues to be a lifeline to millions of Americans, particularly those without computer access and/or those who rely on the mail carrier to provide checks, medicine and other vital items in an accurate and timely manner.

So what to do?

Already the Postal Service is trying to cut costs. Just last week it announced the closing of three mail-processing centers in three states, cutting nearly 1,500 jobs. Other closings are already scheduled or anticipated.

Locally, last week we learned that Kingston's main post office is slightly reducing its customer service hours (an hour each weekday, 30 minutes on Saturday).

Post offices in Saugerties, Rhinebeck and Red Hook also are trimming hours.

The postmaster general has informed Congress that it plans to offer early retirement to 150,000 employees, cut 1,400 managers and close six district offices.

What will most get the public's attention, however, is the concept of mail delivery only five days a week instead of six.

That will be a tough pill to swallow, but the Postal Service's negative financial numbers are compelling.

For now, the Postal Service isn't asking for government money, read "bailout." That's a good thing.

If the postmaster general believes it can come up with a reliable business plan to turn the service around (and avoid its demise), losing one day is a small price for Americans to pay.

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