

# POSTAL NEWS

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Updated: 1:15 PM Dec 31, 2009

## **1. United States Postal Service to hold public meeting in Panama City**

The U.S. Postal Service has lost billions of dollars over the past two years. Now, they are trying to get out of the red and back into the black by possibly consolidating post offices in our area.

Posted: 8:01 AM Dec 31, 2009

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### Post Office Cuts In Bay County

The recession has taken its toll on the United States Postal Service, which has lost eight billion dollars the last two years.

With possible job cuts on the horizon, the postal service implementing other cost-saving measures.

A recent study found the Panama City processing and distribution facility on Sherman Avenue has too much manpower and equipment.

Postal officials are considering a consolidation, moving some of the facility's operations to Pensacola.

They say the move will increase efficiency, improve productivity and save an estimated half-million dollars.

But the Sherman avenue facility would lose nine positions, although those workers could be reassigned to other post offices.

"I'm stressing positions not people because we believe we can place anybody who may be displaced by this or other agencies. We believe we can accommodate everybody. We have made that effort in the past and will continue to do so in the future," Joseph Breckenridge, spokesman for the USPS said.

We've also learned some mail carriers from the east side station in Parker could be transferred to another post office. Currently, the postal service leases the building

housing the east side station. Local postal officials are holding a public meeting on the Sherman Avenue facility proposal on January 14 at 7:00 at Legion hall at the Bay County Fairgrounds. You can see a summary of the plan, as well as presentation materials, prior to the meeting, by logging onto [usps.com](http://usps.com).

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## **2. Postal Service to dispense medication in event of bio attack**

By REBECCA NEAL | Last Updated: December 31, 2009

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Print this page E-mail this article In the event of a biological weapon attack on the U.S., it will be up to the U.S. Postal Service to deliver needed medications to Americans, under an executive order signed Dec. 30 by President Barack Obama.

The leaders of the Health and Human Services and Homeland Security departments have six months to create a plan for the Postal Service to distribute medicines, with "anthrax as the primary threat consideration." In such events, letter carriers delivering medications may be accompanied by local law enforcement officers.

The plan must include provisions for getting medications to federal employees with essential responsibilities during an attack.

Anthrax garnered attention as a biological weapon in 2001 after letters containing anthrax powder were mailed to news organizations and two Democratic senators. Five people died, including two postal workers in Washington, and 17 were infected, including several Postal Service employees.

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