

USPS proposes rate increase

By Dennis K. Brown

The US Postal Service has announced proposed price increases for mailing services, including a rise in the cost of a First-Class Forever stamp, expected to take effect this summer.

According to a filing submitted April 9 to the Postal Regulatory Commission, the price of a Forever stamp would increase by 4 cents, from 78 cents to 82 cents, beginning July 12 if approved.

Overall, the Postal Service is seeking an average price increase of approximately 4.8 percent across its mailing services products.

The proposed changes, which have been approved by the Postal Service's governing board, also in-

clude adjustments to other First-Class Mail products, Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail, Package Services and certain Special Services.

The additional-ounce price for single-piece letters would remain unchanged at 29 cents.

Postal officials cited ongoing financial challenges and rising operational costs as reasons for the increase. The agency noted it receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

"In the midst of the severe financial challenges facing the Postal Service, we are using all available tools to ensure we can continue to fulfill our uni-

versal service obligation," the agency said in its announcement.

The Postal Regulatory Commission will review the request before making a final determination.

Additional details on the filing are available through the commission under Docket No. R2026-1, as well as on the Postal Service's Postal Explorer website.

COUNCIL

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To see a recording of the meeting, follow the QR code or visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ok8-WLPlYC8&t=3492s>.



Dennis Brown/LEWIS COUNTY HERALD
 LCHS Track seniors James Applegate and Kailee Johnson (right) joined Track Coach Wes Bollmfield (center) for Saturday Morning Sports on WKKS with Mike Edington and Bill Tom Stone (left) to discuss the season (See schedule below).

SOS warns of filing scam

By Tom Latek
 Kentucky Today

There are several scams making the rounds throughout the state, and the Kentucky Secretary of State's office says there is even a scam involving annual business filings required to be submitted to his office.

Secretary of State Michael Adams is warning business owners to avoid being hustled, as letters notifying them to file their annual reports hit mailboxes across the Commonwealth. Annual reports must be filed between January 1 and June 30 each year and can be submitted online or by mail for \$15.

However, some business owners are being charged upwards of \$160

in addition to the actual \$15 filing fee by unofficial parties sending solicitation letters to file reports on their behalf. To make matters more confusing, the total \$175 charge is the same amount most business owners pay annually for the limited liability entity tax ("the LLET") with their tax return filed with the Department of Revenue.

"Don't get hustled," Adams said. "File your annual business report directly with the Secretary of State and pay only \$15."

The Secretary of State's office added, "It's unclear whether these third parties even file the reports for the fees they charge. Business owners can

search their business online to confirm whether their annual report has been filed. If they have paid for services they did not receive, they may file a dispute with their bank and also report the incident to local law enforcement.

DISPATCHERS

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"Our dispatchers provide a crucial service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year," Bivens adds. "And they do it well."

Emergency Management Director Dennis Brown said E-911 telecommunicators quickly and safely dispatch first-responders to medical emergencies, domestic violence calls, motor vehicle collisions, fires, and other urgent situations.

Brown said all of the information concerning each incident is entered into a local computer database. The Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system also keeps a log of all times associated with each incident and includes information about each responder and other details associated with the incident.

"I'm proud of our dispatchers," Brown says. "They are professional and calm when events can dictate otherwise. They are the true first responders."

"I am especially appreciative of the efforts of each of our dispatchers during the transition time between Portsmouth Ambulance and the implementation of Lewis County EMS," Brown

said.

"Being a dispatcher is a stressful occupation on any day," he said. "While we are transitioning to a county owned and operated ambulance service, that stress is multiplied as the task of securing an available ambulance from our mutual aid providers becomes more difficult."

Brown said the local dispatch center handles more than 1,000 calls each month and dispatches police, medical, fire, and other emergency response agencies to more than 800 incidents or medical emergency calls each month.

Assuring rapid response by police, fire, and medical personnel in the midst of emergencies, the personnel who take 911 calls and send assistance are often overlooked for the critical role they play in coordinating first response and lifesaving efforts.

Telecommunicators Week began in California in 1981 and quickly grew to become a national week of recognition. In 1991 Congress officially designated the second week of each April as a time to remember the critical role that dispatchers play in keeping us all safe.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP
Wednesday

Beginning April 8th, 2026, the City of Vanceburg will be offering **'FREE' Yard Debris pick up** within the city. This will be every Wednesday through the month of June.

Call (606) 796-3044 to schedule pick up.

Yard debris refers to organic materials generated from the maintenance of yards and gardens, including items like leaves, grass clippings, and small branches.
No Trash - No Tires

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Candidate Meet and Greet hosted by Lewis County Republican Party.
 Join us for an opportunity to meet with and hear from your Republican candidates that will be on the Primary Ballot May 19th 2026.

MONDAY APRIL 20TH 2026
3rd Floor of Courthouse 6PM - 7:30





Nerves of Steel



911 DISPATCHERS

Hearts of Gold

LEWIS COUNTY LIONS TRACK & FIELD

2026 SCHEDULE

Meet #4	ROWAN COUNTY INVITATIONAL
📅 SATURDAY, APRIL 18	🕒 10:00 A.M. 📍 ROWAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
Meet #5	ALICE LEIGH INVITATIONAL
📅 TUESDAY, APRIL 21	🕒 5:30 P.M. 📍 RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL
Meet #6	CONQUER THE HILL
📅 FRIDAY, APRIL 24	🕒 5:30 P.M. 📍 BATH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
Meet #7	AREA 7 MEET
📅 SATURDAY, MAY 2	📍 BOYD COUNTY TRACK
Meet #8	BUFFALO TRACE CONFERENCE
📅 WEDNESDAY, MAY 6	🕒 6:00 P.M. 📍 MASON COUNTY
Meet #9	REGION 6AA
📅 TUESDAY, MAY 12	📍 MASON COUNTY
Meet #10	KHSAA 2A STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
📅 FRIDAY, MAY 22	📍 UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

DEPARTURE TIMES WILL BE ANNOUNCED THE DAY PRIOR TO EACH MEET.