



POSTAL NOTES

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Effective Jan. 22, 2012, it now costs a penny more to mail letters to any location in the United States, the first price change for first-class stamps in more than two and a half years. The new 45-cent price for Forever stamps is among the price changes listed below:

- Letters (1 oz.) - 1-cent increase to 45 cents
- Letters additional ounces - unchanged at 20 cents
- Postcards - 3-cent increase to 32 cents
- Letters to Canada or Mexico (1 oz.) - 5-cent increase to 85 cents.
- Letters to other international destinations - 7-cent increase to \$1.05

NEW STAMP RELEASES:

New Mexico Statehood: A scenic landscape by contemporary New Mexico artist Douglas West was used for the state centennial stamp. New Mexico became the 47th state Jan. 6, 1912.



Year of the Dragon: Fifth in the series of designs by artist Kim Mak, celebrating Lunar New Year, which in 2012 is Jan. 23, a bit earlier than usual.



Love Ribbons: From graphic designer Louise Fili, is a stamp featuring a design of pink-tinged, satin ribbons that spell out the word "Love" in a graceful, cursive script on a bright red background. The U.S. Postal Service issued its first *Love* stamp in 1973.



Arizona Statehood: Arizona was part of Mexico until 1848, when the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the U.S.-Mexican War, resulted in the United States' acquiring most of the land that makes up the present-day state. Arizona became the 48th state in the Union on February 14, 1912. The stamp art celebrates this beauty with an original painting of Cathedral



Rock, one of the colorful and much admired sandstone rock formations of Sedona, Arizona.

John H. Johnson: The 35th release in the Black Heritage series celebrates one of the most influential black publishers, founder of Ebony and Jet magazines, and an important leader in the Civil Rights movement. The design is based on a photo by David McCann.



Did You Know?

The USPS is ranked the top postal service: # 1 among world's 20 biggest economies!

A review of the performance of universal postal service providers ranks USPS, Japan Post, Australia Post, Korea Post and Deutsche Post in its top five. USPS earned the premier ranking due to its high operating efficiency and public trust in its performance. The ranking considered factors including the average number of citizens served by the postal system in a country, the number of letters and parcels delivered by each postal employee and data on service reliability and public trust measured over three years.

The report found that USPS delivers nearly double the number of letters per employee as its closest competitor and more than five times more letters per employee than fifth-place Deutsche Post. Despite increasing competition from digital communications, postal services retain a key role in societies across the globe. The expansion of e-commerce means there's an even greater need for fast, efficient and reliable postal services. "People tend to think the Internet has made the postman redundant," said Scott-Jackson. "But postal services provide the backbone for e-commerce deliveries."

And, from Mr. Zip:



*Sugar is sweet,
Roses are red -
Don't make a phone call,
Send a card instead!*

