

Lawndale Tribune

AND LAWNDALE NEWS

The Weekly Newspaper of Lawndale

Herald Publications - Inglewood, Hawthorne, Lawndale, El Segundo, Torrance & Manhattan Beach Community Newspapers Since 1911 - Circulation 30,000 - Readership 60,000 (310) 322-1830 - April 7, 2016

Inside This Issue

Certified & Licensed Professionals	4
Classifieds	3
Food	4
Hawthorne Happenings ...	4
Legals	2, 6-7
Looking Up	6
Pets	8
Police Reports	3
Sports	5

Monarchs Slide Into Action



Morningside's Tomas Morena steals second base as Lawndale shortstop Jesus Sanchez awaits the ball in last week's non-league baseball game. Photo by Joe Snyder

Reluctant Postal Service Must Drop Mail Rates

By Rob McCarthy

It's rare when the price of a first-class stamp gets cheaper, but it will on Sunday when the U.S. Postal Service is forced to reduce some rates under a deal made with the federal government.

The Postal Regulatory Commission agreed the Postal Service could raise first-class, international and business postage rates until it could raise \$4.6 billion to offset losses and debt that mounted since the economy cratered in 2007. The mail service is expected to reach the target amount on April 10, so the price of a first-class stamp will fall by two cents.

A first-class stamp on Sunday will cost 47 cents, and an additional ounce for first-class falls to 21 cents. The biggest drop will be an international first-class letter, which will cost \$1.15 rather than a \$1.20. Mailed postcards will be a penny cheaper to mail at 34 cents.

No refunds will be issued for unused first-class or Forever stamps not used by Sunday's expiration date for the temporary increase in effect since 2014. A Postal Service spokeswoman advised not buying books of first-class or Forever stamps until the rates change.

The Postal Service tried to block Sunday's action in federal court, arguing that it needed the \$4.6 billion influx of revenue to overcome the decline of first-class mail volume because of business closures from the Great Recession. The mail service badly needs to modernize equipment, buy new vehicles and fund employee health care and retirement benefits, according to the postal commission that oversees it.

"We were mandated by Congress that we pre-fund future retiree health benefits to the tune of \$5.8 billion a year. Here we're mandated to do that then in 2007, boom, the Great Recession hits. We've never been able to recover from that," said postal spokeswoman Eva Jackson.

A federal appeals court denied the Postal Service's motion to force its bosses at the postal commission to extend the two-cent increase on a first-class stamp. The last hope is an act of Congress before Sunday, and that

appears to be a longshot.

"The (emergency) surcharge granted to the Postal Service last year only partially alleviated our extreme multi-year revenue declines resulting from the Great Recession, which exceeded \$7 billion in 2009 alone," said Postmaster General and CEO Megan J. Brennan.

"Removing the surcharge and reducing our prices is an irrational outcome considering the Postal Service's precarious financial condition,"

The Postal Service warned the forced reduction on first-class, postcards and some business postage would worsen its annual operating deficit, which has been improving of late. The Postal Service added more than \$1 billion in revenues last year and in 2014, primarily from the stamp-price surcharge. Postal officials argue it's time for a permanent rate increase.

"Removing the surcharge and reducing our prices is an irrational outcome considering the Postal Service's precarious financial condition," its CEO said. The mandatory action will reduce revenue and increasing its net losses by approximately \$2 billion per year, according to her office.

Unless Congress or another federal court steps in to extend or make permanent an existing surcharge for mailing products and services - including the Forever stamp -- the Postal Service will be required to reduce prices on April 10. The Postal Regulatory Commission, which oversees U.S. mail operations, estimates the Postal Service this weekend will reach the \$4.6 billion cap from the surcharge.

Despite improving revenues the past two years, the Postal Service posted a \$5.1 billion deficit in 2015 and can't pay its retirement-fund obligations. The Postal Service is \$50 billion in debt after several years of running up huge losses, and it's not making legally required payments to a retiree health-benefit

fund. Employee costs were higher last year, as sales in mailing services other than first-class postage increased and employees worked more overtime.

With Sunday's loss of the two-cent add-on for a stamp, the Postal Service will have less money this year to pay overtime, buy equipment and replace aging vehicles in its nationwide fleet, according to officials. It is looking for ways to expand mail products and services, and has no intention of stopping mail delivery on Saturdays, according to Jackson, a USPS spokeswoman for Southern California.

Postal Service prices for mailing are capped by law at the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers. However, the law permits price increases beyond the inflation rate for extraordinary or exceptional circumstances. That was the case when the Postal Service received approval for the slight 4.3 percent surcharge on postage.

The Postal Regulatory Commission capped the emergency surcharge to \$4.6 billion over the objections of postal officials who preferred it be permanent. The Postal Service has experienced rapid growth lately in package volume, yet it is "not nearly enough" to offset the decline in revenues from first-class mail, they say.

"First-class mail volume has dropped and it's not going to come back," said USPS spokeswoman Eva Jackson. We've lost that first class mailing volume."

Online bill paying also cuts into first-class postage sales as more Americans bank, make purchases and pay their bills online, according to postal officials. They emphasize that the Postal Service is looking at new, competitively delivery services in rural and hard-to-reach areas to increase revenues. The mail service has trimmed 300,000 positions since Congress ordered it to pre-pay for retiree benefits, which spokeswoman Jackson said had never been done before.

Self-service machines at local post offices will be re-programmed in time for Sunday's change in the rates, according to the spokeswoman. •

Weekend Forecast

Friday
Rainy
66°/56°



Saturday
Rainy
65°/55°



Sunday
Mostly
Cloudy
64°/54°



PETSPETS **Pets** PETSPETS

Wowser Schnauzers



Donald

We are looking for volunteers to help with our pet adoption fairs which are held every Saturday at the Petco located at 537 N. Pacific Coast Highway Redondo Beach 90277, from noon-3:30 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering and can commit to at least one Saturday a month, please contact us at info@msfr.org. You can also visit all of our Miniature Schnauzers & Friends rescues at the adoption fair or check out our website, www.msfr.org. If you have any questions about a particular dog's availability you can email us at info@msfr.org. Schnauzers! Bet you can't adopt just one!

Hi there, my name is **Donald** and I'm a lovable, 17-pound, 5-year-old, male purebred Miniature Schnauzer who has had a pretty eventful life. One night I was out for a stroll and the next thing I knew I was in a LA county shelter. I was told that I ended up there after sustaining some nasty injuries when a car hit me. Since I was a stray and injured I wasn't going to be adopted so I was very lucky to be rescued by the MSFR folks. They took me to their Vet who took x-rays and found that that I had several fractures in my pelvis. The surgery, on Feb. 10, to repair my pelvis required a plate and six screws. I have completely recovered from surgery and am now on a mission to find my forever home. My visit to the groomer has transformed me into quite a good-looking guy. My eyes and my natural tail are my best features but my sweet temperament is

what will win you over. If you are interested in Donald, please email info@msfr.org for more information.

If you're looking for a quiet girl, who has good manners and gets along with everyone, just come to adoptions and ask for **Lainey**! I'm a 6-year old, female purebred Miniature Schnauzer. I was rescued from an inland empire shelter after the adoption coordinator contacted the MSFR folks inquiring if they would rescue me. I had a hernia that needed surgery and the shelter knew my best chance



Lainey



Gibson

to find a forever home was to be rescued. My hernia was repaired and I had a dental resulting in the extraction of four teeth. I have a beautiful, natural tail and even though I'm a "full figured" gal, 21-pounds, there's just more of me to love. I'm looking for someone to love me as much as I would love them back. If you are interested in Lainey, please email info@msfr.org for more information.

The call me **Gibson** and I am a most unique looking little guy. I'm a 2-year old, male "Schnoodle" (Schnauzer/Poodle) mix.

Folks think that the "mix" could be a touch of Lhasa Apso but we really don't know for certain. Whatever my questionable heritage is everyone thinks I'm cute as a button with a personality to match. I was rescued from an LA county shelter where they called me a stray. I'm an absolute delight to have around and I'm considered a real treasure. I'm super sweet and I get along splendidly with everyone. I have to admit that I am a bit on the shy side and a tad submissive but when you're only 13 pounds, I call that being cautious. If you are interested in Gibson, please email info@msfr.org for more information.

My name is **Lorena** and I'm a friendly, easy-going, female Pit mix. I was rescued from a high-kill Inland shelter where I was called a stray. The reality is that I got lost trying to run away from all of the noise on July 4 and never made it home. The folks at the shelter thought I could be about 5 years old but my foster Mom said I'm closer to 3-years old. I am a good-natured gal and I'm very teachable because I want so much to please. I'm pretty smart and have learned some great manners. I'm crate trained, well behaved in both the house and the car and I'm super great on the leash. I would be happiest in a home as an only dog. I know that I will make an excellent companion and bring years of happiness to the family who is lucky enough to adopt me! If you have questions or are interested in Lorena, please email emread@verizon.net. •



Lorena

Happy Tails



A "Very Special Happy Tails" for Tracey!

Often times our rescues come to us, via shelters, after being abandoned by their owners when the dogs become old and/or are in failing health. While there are plenty of these heartless, contemptible people in the world, there are also some who are the exact opposite. That's why this is a Very Special Happy Tails for a dog who, despite a terminal medical problem, captured the hearts and now the home of some truly wonderful people.

Tracey is our 6-year-old boy who was rescued in November. We removed a huge melanoma tumor on his back but because of narrow margins, there were no guarantees the cancer wouldn't reoccur. Follow up x-rays and test results continued to provide good news and kept us hopeful. A few weeks ago all that changed when nodules appeared and the biopsy showed that the cancer was back and had spread. There isn't anything medically we can do for this little guy because it's so aggressive but he's still very active and happy.

His adopters have been in constant communication with MSFR since they first spotted Tracey on our website. They immediately wanted Tracey and even after hearing the latest news, nothing could change their minds. These folks have huge hearts, generous spirits and a never-ending compassion for these unwanted dogs. They are previous adopters and most, five of the six, dogs they adopted have been seniors or special needs, who probably never would have been adopted, adored and loved beyond belief for the remainder of their lives. These extraordinary people know that he's in "hospice" care and may only have 6-12 months left but they are determined to make those the best years of his life. In addition to his Mom and Dad, Tracey joins MSFR 2012 alumni Atticus (now named Buddy).

Being in rescue, you meet some despicable, selfish, uncompassionate people but then when you meet the ones like Tracey's adopters – well, it restores your faith in humanity. •