

# The FORUM



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Escapees Mail Service Newsletter  
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## Proposed Postage Rate Increase

The United States Postal Service is set to increase postage rates beginning in May 2007. Mail will now be priced on shape and weight. Here are a few of the most popular postage amounts and their new prices:

	Old rate	New rate
First class mail (1 oz.):	\$0.39	\$0.42
Priority flat-rate envelope:	\$4.05	\$4.65
Priority flat-rate box:	\$8.10	\$8.80

For more information on the new rates, visit their website, <http://www.usps.com/ratecase/>. As always, Escapees Mail Service employees look for the most economical and secure way to send your mail. Keep in mind, we also offer FedEx delivery options for your mail, which does offer guaranteed delivery and tracking. We are also currently looking at partnering with other delivery companies to offer even more options for sending your mail.

## Off-Limits Mail

Please remember that Escapees Mail Service is not equipped to handle many packages containing off-limit items. The following items are examples of items we cannot accept at our office. Although we've accepted them in the past, as of May 1 these items will be refused. Please make arrangements to have these items shipped directly to your location.

1. Refrigerated/perishable items (medication, food, etc.)
2. Alcoholic beverages
3. Aerosol items
4. Automobile oil
5. Any items marked "hazardous" or "flammable"

## We're Here for You!

We offer three methods for changing your mailing instructions.

- **PHONE:** Simply call 800-231-9896 to speak to a representative or leave a voice message.
- **E-MAIL:** Drop us an e-mail with the dates and places you're planning to visit.
- **WEB:** With your MySKP login, you can submit your mailing instructions online. Don't have a MySKP login? Call us to set one up today!

Regardless of what option you pick, please have your name and PMB (personal mail box) number handy so you can include it with your instructions.

**Don't forget: Back issues of this newsletter can be found on our website, [www.escapees.com](http://www.escapees.com).**

## E-mail and Phone Scams

Every day it seems a new scam is invented and circulated on the Internet. The most recent one we have been made aware of involves jury duty. A person, supposedly representing your local court official, calls to tell you that



a warrant has been issued for your arrest because you missed jury duty. As always, they need your Social Security number and date of birth to cancel the warrant. If you receive a call like this, do not give them your personal information!

We don't usually pass along obvious scams like this to our members, but since jury duty is a unique situation for RVers, we felt it best to pass this one along. Polk County is very understanding about Escapees members and the fact that you are most often traveling outside the county. Should you receive a jury duty summons while you are far away from Livingston, simply call the clerk's office at the phone number listed on the summons and tell them you are an Escapees member that is "away traveling." They will take your name off the rolls for that particular jury duty event.

You can still fulfill your civic duty by checking in with the district clerk's office when you are staying or passing through Polk County. They'll be more than happy to see if there is an opening for jury duty. If you are 70 or older, you can request a permanent waiver from jury duty from the clerk's office. Simply call 936-327-6804 and ask them to send you the waiver.

Please be leery of any person that cold calls you asking for your personal information. If you are the victim of identity theft, remember that your Escapees Mail Service subscription automatically includes \$25,000 limit ID theft insurance. Contact our office should you become an ID theft victim for more information on this benefit.

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## Mail Service Satisfaction Survey

It has been quite a while since we have sent out a mail service customer satisfaction survey. We believe you'll let us know if we need to improve! However, it's time we solicited comments on improvements or changes you'd like to see with the service. You may find the short survey online at [www.escapees.com/mailservice/survey](http://www.escapees.com/mailservice/survey) Thank you, in advance, for your constructive comments and ideas.

## New Postage Equipment

We are also currently researching new postage equipment for our mail service. Our lease expired earlier this year, and there have been some new advances in postage equipment since our last lease. The new equipment we are looking into now allows mailers to send e-mail confirmations to its customers, confirming the shipment, along with the price of the mailing. This will be especially beneficial to our mail service subscribers because you'll know immediately that a shipment was sent. No longer will you have to wonder if you had mail sent that day. We are currently waiting for the testing process to take place. We'll keep you posted on our progress and let you know if/when we secure the new equipment.

As you can see, we've been hard at work finding ways to better serve you, our mail service members. We continue to be quite proud to not only be the largest mail forwarding service, but also the best! Please do take a moment to complete our satisfaction survey to let us know how we are doing. Don't forget to stop by Rainbow's End for a tour of the mail service facilities when you are in our neighborhood.

**Safe travels,**



**Angie Carr, Executive Director**

**and the entire Escapees Mail Service staff!**

