



POSTAL NEWS

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POSTAL SERVICE DELIVERS LAST-MINUTE CHRISTMAS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Postal Service has last-minute help for Yule. Post Offices will be open on Friday, Dec. 24 and mail will be delivered, even though it is a federal holiday. On Christmas Day, December 25, Express Mail (the premium expedited service) will be delivered.

Customers can obtain Express Mail delivery for Dec.25 when shipping Express Mail items on Friday, Dec. 24 from a Post Office within the overnight service area of the addressee. Any address within the same 3-digit ZIP Code area is within the guaranteed overnight service area, eg., “123XX” to “123YY.” Other addresses within the overnight service area can be obtained from your local Postal retail unit, 1-800 ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777), or www.usps.com.

The local Post Office has last-minute stocking stuffers, too. For those hard-to-shop-for relatives, why not consider a Postal money order? Available in any amount up to \$1,000, postal money orders cost just 90 cents up to \$500 and only \$1.25 from \$501 to \$1,000.

What about the college student on your list? Pick up the tab for their long-distance calls by purchasing a pre-paid USPS FIRSTCLASS PHONECARD.

And, of course, for the stamp collector on your list, www.usps.com has wonderful stamp choices to choose from, including some matted and framed pieces prominently featuring the more popular stamps for the perfect gift.

Traveling out-of-town, or looking for a convenient Post Office? The U.S. Postal Service has answers. Call 800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777) for local Post Office service hours, rates, ZIP Codes and general holiday mail information. Or use the “Post Office Locator” feature on www.usps.com. The option lists post offices in close proximity to the address entered. Once the list appears, click on one of the options and a map appears with directions to that location. The feature includes alternate places to

buy stamps, such as grocery stores and ATMs as well. This feature is located on the homepage of the Postal Service's web site at www.usps.com.

Celebrating the New Year, or January 6? There's still time for personalized high-quality holiday greeting cards – they're just a click away at the Postal Service's NetPost CardStore. With easy access on www.usps.com, NetPost CardStore lets customers personalize holiday greetings by designing greeting cards online.

A hybrid service (starting out electronically and becoming hard-copy mail), NetPost CardStore has an extensive library of images and photos that you can select when creating cards. Personal photos and images can be uploaded easily as well.

Customers can even enclose a gift card from a variety of popular retailers in their personalized card. While gift cards have become popular in recent years, and online greetings have been available for some time, this innovation pairs the two, bringing the power of the internet to the tradition and impact of sending gifts cards and keepsakes through the mail. Creativity is virtually unlimited when designing a card for First-Class delivery with a print from a digital image and a gift card from the recipient's favorite retailer. Gift cards are now available from Barnes & Noble, Bed Bath & Beyond, Big Bowl Asian Kitchen, Carrs, Chili's, Circuit City, Corner Bakery, Dominick's, Genuardi's, Little Italy, Lowe's, Macaroni Grill, Maggiano's, On the Border, Pak 'n \$ave Foods, Pavilions, Randalls, Safeway, Starbucks, Tom Thumb's, and Vons.