Should USPS deliver mail on Saturdays?

On Feb. 6, 2013, the USPS revealed its plan to get rid of Saturday mail delivery. Starting on Aug. 5, only priority mail and packages will be delivered. Here, two Echo staff members consider the advantages and disadvantages of no mail delivery on Saturdays and the effects it will place on our nation.

### Yes

By Megan Medellin

From 1775, the time of its foundation, the United States Postal Service (USPS) delivered mail to citizens of the United States every day of the week until a congressional mandate in 1981 allowed them to deliver mail only Monday through Saturday, according to “The Daily News” Online. Now mail will not be delivered on Saturdays. This decision is short sighted: mail should still be continued to be delivered on Saturdays.

According to “USPS” Online, the amount of stamped cards and postcards has fallen by about 50 percent since 1997. In November, the USPS reported a record $15.9 billion net loss for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, according to “The New York Times” Online. Due to the amount of debt incurred, the USPS has had to cut costs to match revenue drop.

Part of the reason why the USPS is in debt is because of their health and pension benefits and no layoff provisions. However, Congress could help USPS financially so it can still deliver mail on Saturdays.

One reason why mail should still be delivered on Saturday is because of bills. The ending of mail delivery on Saturday puts more pressure on people who still mail in bill payments to do so on time. Although post offices will still be open on Saturdays, mail will not be moved along on those days. Another reason why mail should still be delivered is that companies, such as small community newspapers that use the mail delivery service to either deliver Saturday editions or mail ad packets on Saturdays, are going to have a hard time finding other means of delivery.

Another reason why mail should still be delivered on Saturdays is because the workers of USPS need those days to make more money. One less day of getting paid for delivering mail means that they will earn less money for their families. How are these workers supposed to support themselves and others when they do not work as much as they used to? Getting another job would be difficult, especially in the economy today. Also, employers are not going to want to hire USPS employees who would only be able to work on Saturday and Sunday.

Overall, USPS should not have made the decision because people rely on Saturday mail to send in important bills. Congress should have given USPS money to help them get out of debt because the employees of USPS need to work on Saturday to earn money to support their families.

### No

By Rachel Thompson

You have seen them throughout your life: mail carriers who deliver papers and drive around in white trucks with a blue and white emblem of a bald eagle. Rain or shine, night or day, you know that mail carriers follow a schedule like other workers do, but now, their six-day route will be shortened by one day. That day is Saturday.

Saying goodbye to our mail-ridden Saturdays will not be a bad thing for our nation. Perhaps, no mail on Saturdays will, in the long run, help reduce the United States’ deficit and bring about a good kind of change to the United States Postal Service (USPS).

This change in mail will be good, according to what USPS postmasters and financial experts are predicting. According to the “Huffington Post” Online, the Postal Service expects to save $2 billion annually. With this much saved, the USPS will try to make up for the $15.9 billion lost from this past year due to a steady decline in paper mail.

With our nation recovering from the financial recession, a few extra billion dollars is a great thing, especially for government agencies like the USPS. The Postal Service will save money, which will keep workers’ jobs secure and their earnings stabilized. Another benefit is that the postal workers will get an extra day off to spend with their families.

According to “US News” Online, medicine and prescriptions will still be delivered on Saturdays since they are priority mail. Consumers will also receive their online purchases since packages will still be delivered on Saturdays. Thus, all important mail will still travel on Saturdays. It is just letters, junk mail, magazines and other mail that can wait until Monday that will not be delivered.

If you happen to fret that a letter or notification will not come, remember, there is always e-mail, which is delivered anytime, every day. So, you will always have some source of mail delivered to you, even if it is not on paper.

For the USPS, change has always occurred, even when Internet and e-mail were not yet in existence. With the Pony Express beginning in 1860, six-day delivery in 1863 and airmail in 1918, changes in mail have always been going on as the world and technology keep evolving. According to “Huffington Post” Online, mail being delivered twice-a-day was cut in 1950 to save money, which was probably a shock to most people, like no mail on Saturday will be. These past changes were good, so we must keep moving on and not let changes like the lack of mail on Saturdays affect our lives.

### Should Saturday mail delivery be stopped?

Students share their opinions about U.S. postal service

- **Daizah Williams, 10**

  “I feel like it’s not a very smart idea. Some people still mail things, and since we don’t get mail on Sundays already, people are expecting things on Saturday.”

- **Jillian Phillips, 11**

  “I feel like even though jobs will be lost, it’ll be good because if it will save the USPS, it will be worth it.”

- **Ana Morales, 12**

  “I don’t really have [much of] an opinion. I still want mail to come on Saturdays, though, because I need my Netflix.”

Source: Interviews, March 2013

Shelby Brown