

NATIONAL UPDATE



Letter Carrier Ian Simon greets 3-year-old Ava at her home in Portland, OR. The two share a daily dance ritual that has continued for two years.

Dancing in the streets

LETTER CARRIER, 3-YEAR-OLD BECOME CHEERFUL DANCING DUO

What started out as a daily ritual between a Portland, OR, letter carrier and a little girl has spread throughout the world, bringing joy to all who witness it.

During the past two years, southeast Portland Letter Carrier Ian Simon has developed a special bond with 3-year-old Ava. The pair have adopted the practice of dancing as Simon makes his delivery to her home.

"She gets so excited, it's amazing,"

Simon said in interviews with local media. "It puts a big smile on my face."

Every morning, as Simon nears the house, Ava excitedly approaches the window. That's when the dance party starts. There is no set choreography — it's just a fun tradition that developed a couple of years ago and stuck.

"One of us started to do a little jig, and we just kept on doing it," Simon said.

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2021 USPS stamp releases

Barns

Issue Date:
Jan. 24, 2021



Brush Rabbit

Issue Date:
Jan. 24, 2021



Black Heritage: August Wilson

Issue Date:
Jan. 28, 2021



Lunar New Year: Year of the Ox

Issue Date:
Feb. 2, 2021



Chien-Shiung Wu

Issue Date:
Feb. 11, 2021



Garden Beauty

Issue Date:
Feb. 23, 2021



Colorado Hairstreak

Issue Date:
March 9, 2021



New stamps are available at local Post Offices or online at store.usps.com.



For more information, see the COVID-19 resource page on [LiteBlue](https://www.usps.com/liteblue).

Tips for safeguarding facilities, mail

The Postal Service wants you to remember that the safety and security of the U.S. Mail, facilities, vehicles and your co-workers are a shared responsibility.

Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

■ **Positive identification.** Postal Service photo IDs should be recent,

in good condition and displayed by all employees. Managers and supervisors should provide either caps or shirts with the USPS logo to non-career employees who deliver mail, so they can be identified in public as postal employees.

■ **Building check.** Secure entry points and dock doors when not in use and make sure camera systems and alarms

are functional. Report unknown persons and unbadged visitors on postal property.

■ **Postal vehicle protection.** Always lock empty trailers and secure unattended and out-of-sight vehicles because they can be prime targets for criminals. Account for GSA- and P-tags weekly. Immediately report stolen vehicles to the Postal Inspection Service.

■ **Key accountability.** Maintain a master key inventory of all facility, arrow and vehicle keys and account for all keys at the end of the day.

■ **Mail security.** Exercise diligence when observing mail that is accepted at the counter and follow all procedures for mail acceptance. Any suspicious mail items must immediately be reported to the Inspection Service. Carriers using satchels should keep their cart within view at all times to avoid having mail stolen or rifled through.

Also, ensure all collection boxes, lobby mailboxes and collection receptacles have current, legible Aviation Mail Security decals.

The Postal Service recently distributed a stand-up talk with this information.



Avoiding impersonator scams

The Postal Inspection Service wants USPS employees and customers to protect themselves from government impersonator scams.

The enforcement agency is urging employees and customers to beware of scammers who pretend to represent the Social Security Administration, the Internal Revenue Service and other agencies.

Often, victims are initially contacted via phone or email by a scammer who impersonates an agency official. The victim is then

informed through misrepresentations and threats that he or she must remit payment to resolve an issue specific to the scam.

Here's what employees and customers should know:

■ Scammers often try to create a sense of urgency and isolate victims in order to induce the victims to remit payments, so don't be pressured into making immediate financial decisions.

■ Consult with a trusted friend or family member before making a payment.

■ Don't give your financial or

personal information to anyone you don't know and don't trust.

■ Reduce unwanted telemarketing calls by taking advantage of call blocking services, some of which are free. Contact your telephone carrier for more information.

■ The Postal Service, IRS, Social Security Administration and other government agencies will never call you and ask for payment over the phone or ask for your personal information.

■ Report scams to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at uspis.gov.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Federal Trade Commission have more information about fraud prevention and consumer protection tips on their websites: uspis.gov and ftc.gov.

Kids' stuff

Do you know how to keep your child safe from internet dangers? Many children are using laptops, tablets and other devices to attend classes online during the coronavirus pandemic.

As they explore the internet, children can unwittingly become easy marks for cybercriminals ready to con them into downloading inappropriate content or malware.

To protect kids online, the CyberSafe at USPS team offers the following tips:

■ **Educate:** Establish cybersafe behavior by educating youngsters about potential online dangers.

■ **Communicate:** Regularly ask children what games they are playing or what sites they are viewing online and who they are interacting with.



Many children are using computers to learn from home during the coronavirus pandemic.

■ **Limit:** Set restrictions on your home network to filter content and block certain websites. Also, place parental controls on devices to set screen time limits.

Remember: USPS-issued computers and mobile devices should never be used by family members for any reason.

The CyberSafe at USPS *Blue* and *LiteBlue* pages have additional cybersecurity information.

Recycling information added to USPS products

The Postal Service has launched an effort to encourage more customers to recycle Priority Mail boxes and other packaging products.

Customers and employees are sometimes unaware that many USPS products — stamped with the words “Please Recycle” along with the universal chasing-arrows recycling symbol — are made from recyclable materials and shouldn’t be discarded with other waste.

To encourage more customers to recycle, the Postal Service has joined forces with How2Recycle, a consumer-oriented package labeling system that

uses Federal Trade Commission guidance to help customers properly recycle.

How2Recycle labels give customers precise instructions, including how to prep for recycling, the type of recyclable material, such as plastic or paper, and the packaging format, such as bottles and boxes, to make recycling easier.

Cereal boxes, soup cans and other pantry items often carry How2Recycle guidance.

The How2Recycle labels will be added to Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express and ReadyPost packaging and other Postal Service products this year.

“The Postal Service’s vision is to be a sustainability leader by encouraging a culture of conservation — and recycling is an integral part of those efforts. We’re proud to work with How2Recycle to make it easier for our customers to recycle Priority Mail and other packaging materials,” said USPS Chief Sustainability Officer Jennifer Beiro-Réveillé.

The USPS Sustainability website at about.usps.com/what/corporate-social-responsibility/sustainability/ has additional information about the Postal Service’s sustainability efforts.



Priority Mail boxes and other USPS packaging materials will now bear recycling guidance.

EAP offers 24/7 support

The stressors of this time are unprecedented, which is why the Postal Service wants to remind all workers that the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is here for you around the clock, 365 days of the year. The service is free, voluntary and confidential.



The USPS Employee Assistance Program can help postal workers through troubling times.

Sessions are offered in several formats, including:

■ **Video counseling**, allowing employees to meet with an EAP counselor through a video call;

■ **Online counseling**, offering professional counseling anytime, anywhere, through a computer, tablet or smartphone;

■ **myStrength**, an interactive, individually tailored application that helps users address topics like opioid recovery, depression, insomnia, mindfulness, anxiety and chronic pain; and

■ **Live webinars** that explore topics such as emotional intelligence and navigating personal challenges.

A COVID-19 resource page was added to the website in 2020, and there is also a vast library of healthy recipes.

You can contact EAP by phone at 800-327-4968 (TTY: 877-492-7341); online at eap4you.com; and by chat, accessed through the website.