

Postal

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would continue six days a week.

The plan accentuates one of the agency's strong points: Package delivery has increased by 14 percent since 2010, officials say, while the delivery of letters and other mail has plummeted. Email has decreased the mailing of paper letters, but online purchases have increased package shipping, forcing the Postal Service to adjust to customers' new habits.

"Things change," Donahoe said. In fact, the Postal Service has had to adapt to changing times ever since Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first postmaster general by the Continental Congress in 1775. The Pony Express began in 1860, six-day delivery started in 1863, and airmail became the mode in 1918. Twice-a-day delivery was cut to one in 1950 to save money.

But change is not the biggest factor in the agency's predicament — Congress is. The majority of the service's red ink comes from a 2006 law forcing it to pay about \$5.5 billion a year into future retiree health benefits, something no other agency does. Without that payment — \$11.1 billion in a two-year installment last year — and related labor expenses, the mail agency sustained an operating loss of \$2.4 billion for the past fiscal year, lower than the previous year.

Congress also has stymied the service's efforts to close some post offices in small towns.

Under the new plan, mail would be delivered to homes and businesses only from Monday through Friday but would still be delivered to post office boxes on Saturdays. Post offices now open on Saturdays would remain open.

Over the past several years, the Postal Service has advocated shifting to a five-day delivery schedule for mail and packages — and it repeatedly but unsuccessfully has appealed to Congress to approve the move. An independent agency, the service gets no tax dollars for its day-to-day operations but is subject to congressional control.

The proposed change is based on what appears to be a legal loophole — and that may be a gamble. Congress has long included a ban on five-day-only delivery in its spending bills, but because the federal government is now operating under a temporary spending measure rather than an appropriations bill, Donahoe says it's the agency's interpretation that it can make the change itself.

"This is not like a 'gotcha' or anything like that," he said. The agency essentially wants Congress to keep the ban out of any new spending bill after the temporary measure expires March 27.

Might Congress try to block the idea?

"Let's see what happens," he said. "I can't speak for Congress."

Two Republican lawmakers said they had sent a letter to leaders of the House and Senate in support of the elimination of Saturday mail. It's "common-sense reform," wrote Darrell Issa of California, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, top Republican on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

But Alaska Democratic Sen. Mark Begich called it "bad news for Alaskans and small business owners" who he said need timely delivery to rural areas.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she was disappointed, questioned the savings estimate and worried the loss of Saturday service might drive customers away.

"The Postal Service is the linchpin of a \$1 trillion mailing and mail-related industry that employs more than 8 million Americans in fields as diverse as direct mail, printing, catalog companies, magazine and newspaper publishing and paper manufacturing," she said. "A

healthy Postal Service is not just important to postal customers but also to our national economy."

She noted that the Senate last year passed a bill that would have stopped the postal service from eliminating Saturday service for at least two years and required it to try two years of aggressive cost cutting instead.

The House didn't pass a bill.

Republican House Speaker John Boehner said Wednesday, "I think trying to act in this postal area is pretty difficult. But I understand where the postal commission is coming from. They're in charge with running the post office, but yet the Congress, in its wisdom, has tied their hands every which way in order for them to actually run the post office in a revenue neutral way."

"And so Congress needs to act, there's no question about that, and I hope we'll act soon."

President Barack Obama's spokesman, Jay Carney, said the White House learned only Tuesday about the agency's decision to cut Saturday service. He said the White House is still evaluating the decision but would have preferred its own comprehensive overhaul package that failed to pass Congress last year be adopted "for the sake of a stronger future Postal Service."

The president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, Fredric Rolando, said the cutback is "a disastrous idea that would have a profoundly negative effect on the Postal Service and on millions of customers," particularly businesses, rural communities, the elderly, the disabled and others who depend on Saturday delivery for commerce and communication.

The National Farmers Union said "impacts on rural America will be particularly harmful."

Despite that opposition, the Postal Service clearly thinks it has a majority of the American public on its side. The service's market research indicates that nearly 7 in 10 people support the switch as a way to reduce costs, Donahoe said.

He said the savings would include employee reassignment and attrition.

AP: Lawmakers To Get Classified Drone Info

BY JULIE PACE
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has directed the Justice Department to give Congress' intelligence committees access to classified legal advice providing the government's rationale for drone strikes against American citizens working with al-Qaida abroad, a senior administration official said Wednesday.

A drumbeat of demands to see the document has swelled on Capitol Hill in recent days as the Senate Intelligence Committee prepares to hold a confirmation hearing for John Brennan, who helped manage the drone program, to be CIA director.

Those demands were only intensified by the leak this week of an unclassified "white paper" on how decisions are made to target U.S. citizens abroad that the Justice Department confidentially sent to key lawmakers last year. The unclassified memo says it is legal for the government to kill U.S. citizens abroad if it believes they are senior al-Qaida leaders continually engaged in operations aimed at killing Americans, even if there is no evidence of a specific imminent attack.

The senior official said Obama decided to send lawmakers the classified rationale on Wednesday as part of his "commitment to consult with Congress on national security matters." Obama directed the Justice Department provide the Senate and House intelligence committees access to classified advice from its Office of Legal Counsel that the white paper is based on, the official said.

Legal opinions produced by the legal counsel's office are interpretations of federal law that are binding on all executive branch agencies.

The administration official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter by name.

Earlier Wednesday, White House spokesman Jay Carney said Obama was engaged in an internal process deliberation to determine how to balance the nation's security needs with its values. He said Obama was committed to providing more information to Congress, even as he refused to acknowledge whether the drone memo even existed.

"He thinks that it is legitimate to ask questions about how we prosecute the war against al-

Qaida," Carney said. "These are questions that will be with us long after he is president and long after the people who are in the seats that they're in now have left the scene."

Eleven senators, including Democrat Ron Wyden of Oregon, called on Obama to provide lawmakers "any and all legal opinions" that outline the president's authority to use legal force against Americans.

Wyden, a member of the Senate

Intelligence Committee, told The Associated Press that Obama called him Wednesday evening to alert him to the decision to release the legal opinions. The president pledged to launch a "very extensive" public discussion on the government's ability to target Americans abroad, Wyden said.

"This is an encouraging first step," Wyden said. "There is now an opportunity to build on it."

PRESS&DAKOTAN

2013 Beautiful Baby Contest

Chance To Win Prizes!

We will be featuring our annual “Beautiful Baby Contest” in print and online on **Wednesday, February 27, 2013.** If you or someone you know has a child we would love to include them in our feature!

To enter, simply submit your photo and entry form with a \$10 submission fee by **Monday, February 18.**

First place winners in the following categories will receive a framed winners print and prizes from the following sponsors: Photography by Jerry, LilyCrest and JCPenney.

1) 0-12 Months
2) 13-24 Months
3) 25 Months-3 Years
4) 4-7 Years
5) Multiple Births

Beautiful Baby Contest 2013

Category # _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth _____

Child's Name _____

Parents Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Winners will be selected by the staff of Yankton Media Inc. Employees and family members of Yankton Media Inc. are ineligible to win. *Submission of this form authorizes the publication of child's photo in this contest in print and online at www.yankton.net. Submission fee (\$10) must accompany entry form to be valid.

Submit Entry To:
Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan
319 Walnut Street
Yankton, SD 57078

Entry Deadline:
Mon., Feb. 18, 2013

HyVee

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Floral Shop

Wrapped Roses

~~\$35.00~~ **\$19.97**

\$35.00 with vase

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9 beautiful roses in a rose ribbon clad vase

Wild About You

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leopard print container with a "wild about you" pick and assorted flowers

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a variety of single flowers in a lime green base

Simply Divine

~~\$35.00~~ **\$19.97**

2 red roses with a gerber daisy in a square white vase

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bouquet of alstromeria and roses in a beautiful silver vase

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roses and stargazers in a metallic silver vase

Stunning

~~\$155.00~~ **\$125.00**

roses, stargazers, snaps and silver branches in a white jeweled vase

Lake

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tions, shingling, siding and sidewalk improvements.

"We've got 25-40 buildings at Lewis and Clark that have to be maintained," Hofer said. "A lot of them are comfort stations, and it takes this kind of investment over time to keep them up to date";

- a \$100,000 electrical upgrade at Chief White Crane;
- a \$75,000 bike trail upgrade;
- dredging the bay around the boat ramp at Gavins Point.

"That's been an ongoing problem. There is a lot of sedimentation," Hofer said. "It's a popular boat ramp, and we are going to dredge it out to make a better path out to the lake."

- a \$25,000 project to replace the air conditioning unit at the Lewis and Clark Marina restaurant.

"That's been an issue," Hofer stated; and

- two new nine-hole disc golf courses, one in Pierson Ranch and the other in Gavins Point, that will be ready for play by Memorial Day.

You can follow Nathan Johnson on Twitter at twitter.com/AnnInlandVoyage

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Heart Shaped Cheesecake

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14 oz.

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10 oz.

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~~3/\$8~~ **3/\$8**

12 Pks

Chandon Sparkling

~~\$24.99~~ **\$16.99**

750 ml

Tequila Rose

~~\$24.48~~ **\$18.48**

750 ml

Dekuyper Crave Chocolate Cherry Liqueur

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750 ml