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Birmingham golfer Will Swift persevered and was crowned the 2007 champion of the Travis Hudson/Bernard Weinstein Invitational tournament at Musgrove Country Club on Sunday. / A7



weight loss, a family affair

The three-month program, called Dean Foods LEAN (Lifestyle, Exercise and Nutrition) Families Program, offered at Children's Medical Center Dallas focuses on making nutrition and fitness changes for the whole family. / A3



Gonzales may be in for perjury

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales quickly clarify apparent contradictions in his testimony about warrantless spy risk a possible perjury investigation chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee said Sunday. / A9

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USPS restricts stamps on packages

Whitten: Meter postage required as way to improve security

By Ed Howell
Eagle Senior Writer

When mailing larger packages away from the post office, you'll have to check to see that you have metered postage instead of regular postage stamps.

Allan Whitten, postmaster for the Jasper Post Office, said effective today, mail weighing more than 13 ounces and bearing only stamps as postage must be pre-sented at a post office instead of being mailed in collection boxes or picked up from a customer's mailbox.

Previously, the prohibition applied to mail over 16 ounces. Whitten said the issue may particularly affect business cus-

tomers who like to use the blue mail boxes in business districts to send off packages.

"What it goes back to is aviation mail security," Whitten said. "Pieces of mail 13 ounces or more are considered Priority Mail. Priority Mail is transported on airlines."

Officials worry if someone might mail off a larger package with only stamps and no return address — particularly if one wants to use terrorist tactics. Using meter mail requires initial background checks and allows postal officials to trace where a package came from — which is why terrorists have never resorted to using meter strips.

"We don't just let anyone get

them," he said, referring to meter machines.

If the weight of a package is more than 13 ounces, a blue sticker explaining the new rule will be placed on the item, and it will be returned to the sender's address listed on the item — essentially, it will be marked "return to sender." If no address is on the package, it will be sent to a dead letter office and destroyed, Whitten said.

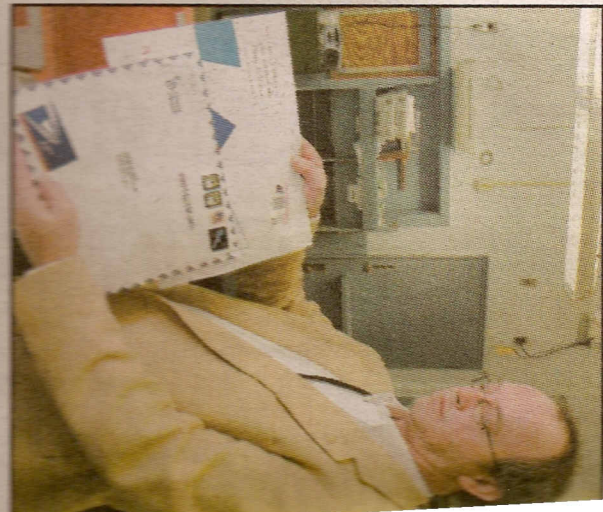
"It's just part of our security system," he said. "We especially want to tell our business customers and even people who use the mail box. I'm going to send out advertising to the general public through a saturated mailing, to say you're not going to be able to send packages like this unless you

present it to one of our mailing clerks."

Some collection boxes also have new stickers that explain the new rules, and clerks have also been instructed to pass along the rule to regular business customers who buy stamps to use the collection boxes.

Customers may still leave parcels and payment for the rural carrier, who will bring them to the post office, complete the transaction and return any change to the customer for the next delivery day.

"If it's already got the postage on there, we are not going to take it," he said. Starting today, customers can see PACKAGES, A9 —



Daily Mountain Eagle - Ed Howell
Allan Whitten, postmaster for the Jasper Post Office, shows the difference between stamped and metered mail.

7:00 AM

Packages — From A1

use one of several online postage applications — available 24/7 — or an Automated Postal Center, if they wish to mail items that weigh more than 13 ounces in Postal Service collection boxes or Post Office lobby mail slots. Online postage applications include the Postal Service's Click-N-Ship service on usps.com and PC Postage from an authorized USPS vendor.

"You also have alternate means of shipping using Click-N-Ship and Postage PC, but then you have to set up accounts to show you who is doing it," he said. "As long as you're doing it that way, we'll pick it up."

Whitten said one can go online to use programs where the postage is already affixed.

They notify the post office of what they have to pick up, and the post office sends someone to pick someone them up.

Of businesses who use the collection boxes, probably 90 percent already use the meters, he said.

Whitten said the rule could also affect a number of people who may use collection boxes for Christmas packages.

"It's just the change in society and we have to take defensive measures to protect not just the general public but ourselves, too," Whitten said.

Anyone wanting more information may go to www.usps.com or call Whitten at the post office at 384-5516.

Wildfire keeps G

HELENA, Mont. (AP) National Park was reopened, a wind-whipped wildfire, but the flames remained evacuated.

Authorities escorted traffic along the southern edge of the Fire managers warned that the blaze flared up like it did Saturday across control lines. A 24-mile closed Saturday.

"We're expecting more of that crews had Saturday with Dale Warriner, fire information.

"We are hitting a couple hundred some helicopters, trying to south," Warriner said.

Guests and 18 employees at the highway remained evacuated mile of the facility, owner Jim of guests was not immediately.

Fire crews were protecting some trees that were close to.

The blaze remained active toward the northeast, but not ended, Warriner said. On Saturday acres to about 1,000 acres, and

Fire