

**By Carolyn Lee**

***The Imperial Republican***

The price of a first-class mail single-piece letter will increase from 46 to 49 cents Jan. 26, a six and a half percent increase.

Also effective Jan. 26, there will be a one-cent increase, to 21 cents, on each additional ounce on a letter; the cost of one-ounce letters to all international destinations will now be \$1.15, and the cost to mail a postcard will increase one cent to 34 cents.

The changes are intended to generate \$2 billion in incremental annual revenue for the Postal Service.

According to the Postal Service, stamp prices have stayed consistent with the average annual rate of inflation of 4.2 percent since the Postal Service was formed in 1971.

Pricing for standard mail, periodicals, package services and extra services will also be adjusted as part of a filing to the Postal Regulatory Commission.

The governors of the Postal Service voted Sept. 24, 2013 to seek price increases above the typical annual increases associated with changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Imperial Postmaster Jerry Lines said that all stamps are now "Forever," and don't carry prices on them. The same "Forever" stamps a customer purchased last year may be used when the prices increase at the end of January.