

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Halloween 2011
Deposit Balance \$ _____

Proposed Postal Rate
Increases for January



The USPS has released details on proposed rate increases scheduled to go into effect in January. A first class 1 oz letter in the US will go to 45c. International airmail rates go from 98c to \$1.05 up to one ounce. Postcards in the US will be raised from 29c to 32c. A "Forever" postal card will be issued in 2012. Parcels will raise almost 11% and Priority and Express mail rates will raise later in the year. Letter rates to Canada and Mexico will be 85c. Additionally, the USPS is pursuing its appeal to the regulatory commission to raise rates even further, if the mandated cap of 2.1 can be broken.

War of 1812



I believe that the most outstanding stamp proposed for 2012 is the stamp honoring the

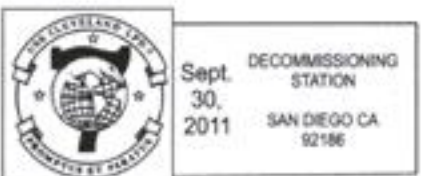
U S Frigate Constitution and the War of 1812.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kathryn E. Macdonald/Released

No details have been released yet, but it would make sense that the stamp be issued in Charlestown MA 02129, site of the historic frigate and on 21 October which is the 215th anniversary of the Launch and Christening of the frigate. Perhaps a one day FPO post office aboard the frigate for first day of issue? Well, we can dream can't we?

Unsatisfactory cancels from San Diego



I have been involved in pictorial cancels for nearly thirty years,

and this is new to me. The last two pictorial cancels requested and approved in San Diego, appeared in "half-tone" form. I have a letter out to the contact in San Diego who approves the cancels, and asked directly, "what went wrong"? My letter is polite and to the point. I have never seen this done to a pictorial/philatelic cancel before. It does not take a trained eye to see what I am referring to. Their issued cancels back to back with my submitted design. Hopefully this will not continue.

Coast Guard: drugs seized, turn over Tuesday in Key West

Miami Herald By Diana Moskovitz

More than 800 pounds of cocaine and 2,300 pounds of marijuana were unloaded Tuesday in Key West after they were seized last month by members of the U.S. Coast Guard. Here is how the Coast Guard described the pair of drug seizures. On Oct. 14, a Coast Guard team boarded a 160-foot Bolivian-flagged freighter northeast of Panama. During an inspection of the vessel, the team found 886 pounds of cocaine, the Coast Guard said. On Oct. 26, the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Gallatin spotted a 30-foot go-fast boat in the Caribbean Sea. A crew stopped the boat, which had 2,300 pounds of marijuana on board, the Coast Guard said. In both cases, the drugs were transferred to the Coast Guard cutter Confidence. Its crew offloaded the marijuana and cocaine in Key West, where it was turned over to federal authorities. *Ed. Note: Notice there is no mention of arrests? Must be a kinder and gentler Coast Guard or a Federal prosecutor with no b...s.*