

# Carriers and the mail make news online

Alyssa Dickerson  
Lapi and Travis Lapi



second I met him, the world shifted,” Alyssa said. “It was him.”

At first, they were just friends, but that changed in May 2020. In true letter carrier fashion, Travis asked out Alyssa by giving her co-worker a letter to slip into her DPS. They have been together since. Before they were married, they often sent letters in the mail to each other despite living nearby. Travis proposed in October 2024, and they were married in November 2025.

Their wedding hosted many guests from the postal world. The groom’s mother is the Nassau, DE, postmaster and her husband is a retired postmaster in New Egypt, NJ. The bride’s best friend, **Alisha Cumberton**, a New Jersey Merged Branch 38 member, was also in attendance.

Travis told *The Postal Record* that his favorite thing about Alyssa is “just how much she loves me. I mean, she loves me when I’m up. She loves me when I’m down, and most importantly, she loves me when I don’t even love myself.”

Alyssa’s favorite thing about Travis is “how resilient he is,” she said. “He has gone through a lot, and he still manages to get up every single day and still smile and still make jokes no matter what.”

Even though they deliver in separate towns, Alyssa told the Link that marrying another letter carrier has its perks: “I’m grateful to have a partner who also understands the job.”

Travis agreed. “It’s nice being married to someone who does the same thing, and they know what your day was like,” he said.

## 206 Boy Scouts complete annual Barefoot Mailman Hike

Before the sun had even risen on Saturday, Jan. 31, 206 Boy Scouts had begun a two-day 34-mile trek from

**M**ail-centered stories frequently appear on social media and online news sites. The following are a few that have come to NALC’s attention recently. If you find a story you’d like us to consider featuring, send it to [postalrecord@nalc.org](mailto:postalrecord@nalc.org).

### It’s a postal love story, baby, just say, ‘yes’

For more than 250 years, letter carriers have served as messengers of love—delivering love letters across the country. But the letters aren’t always what contains the love, sometimes the carriers are. Garden State Merged Branch 444 members **Travis Lapi** and **Alyssa Dickerson Lapi**, two letter carriers in New Jersey, met when Alyssa joined the Postal Service in March 2020, and they had an instant connection.

“The second we laid eyes upon each other was a pretty wild moment,” Travis told the USPS Link, a daily news website for USPS employees.

“I don’t really believe in love at first sight, but I kind of have to, because the



**Boy Scouts participate in the 57th annual Barefoot Mailman Hike in 2022.**

Pompano Beach to South Beach, FL. Although the Barefoot Mailman Hike has been an annual tradition for 61 years, the endeavor originates from much further in the past.

The trek honors and remembers the letter carriers who delivered a “star route,” a contracted-out mail delivery route beyond where the Post Office delivered with its own employees, to South Florida. The barefoot mailmen traveled the beachside wilderness multiple times a week from 1885 to 1892. They traveled mainly on foot and by rowboat through tidal rivers and lagoons to deliver the mail to south Florida before there were paved roads there. At that time, the carriers had to travel 68 miles along the coast from what is now Palm Beach to Miami. This route was called the “barefoot route” because the carriers were known to walk barefoot on the beach.

Although the conditions are not as harsh as they once were, the hike is meant to test Scouts’ preparedness. Prior to the Barefoot Mailman, each Scout must complete four pre-hikes totaling about 20 miles. Rules have been put in place that the scouts must follow in order to participate—only

Scouts above 12 are permitted, the official uniform must be worn the entire time, and the Scouts must each individually be in charge of their own gear and supplies. This is meant to mimic the self-reliance of the letter carriers who once navigated the area.

The physical strain of the long hike wasn’t the only thing Scouts had to prepare for. The area experienced lower temperatures than it had in years, with the low over the two days being 35 degrees, a rarity for South Florida.

According to TAPinto Pompano Beach, one participant described the 2025 hike as a “forced march through a wind tunnel while questioning every life choice I’ve made since birth.”

**Social media helps reunite childhood pen pals**

Back in 2008, Amy, who lived in England, was pen pals with Hana, who lived in Egypt. They wrote letters to each other about their lives, families, birthdays and activities they did.



**A statue in Hillsboro Beach, FL, memorializes James Hamilton, the third and most famous of the Barefoot Mailmen.**

## Mail makes news online (continued)



Amy (l) posted on TikTok that she was looking for her pen pal Hana from Egypt

On Dec. 23, 2025, Amy posted TikTok image slides of photos, letters and an Egyptian calendar Hana had sent to her. The TikTok included text, which said, “TikTok please do your thing and help me find my pen pal from nearly 20 years ago!!”

It went viral only four days after it was posted. By the beginning of February, the post had 7.5 million views and almost 400,000 likes.

The next day—five days after it was posted—Amy received a direct message from Hana, which said, “HAI AMYY,” and they were finally able to connect after almost two decades.

### Lunar New Year stamp issued

The Lunar New Year celebrates the start of the new year based on the lunar calendar. It’s mainly observed in east and southeast Asian cultures. Although the beginning of the lunar calendar varies from culture to culture, it is meant to mark the beginning of spring. It is celebrated with festivities including parades, special foods and gifts.

The USPS Lunar New Year Stamp focuses specifically on Chinese tradi-

tion. In the Chinese zodiac cycle, each year is associated with a different animal and there are 12 animals in the full cycle, starting over after the 12 years. The Lunar New Year, celebrated in Chinese culture on Feb. 17 this year, signifies the beginning of the year of the horse.

Each animal and in turn, year, has certain traits that define it and those born within that year are said to have inherited the traits of that animal. The horse is defined by its speed, strength and endurance, and those born in the year of the horse are characterized by their energy, free-spiritedness, confidence and strong work ethic.

The stamp depicts a horse mask, which highlights the ornate masks often worn during Lunar New Year parades. The paper flowers on the mask represent the beginning of spring, and the gold leaves symbolize luck. **PR**



The Lunar New Year stamp