By Jan Rahn
Managing Editor

Post offices in Perkins County and Wallace will be experiencing altered hours soon. Effective Saturday, March 9, Venango, Madrid and Wallace will have a cut in hours of operation, each varying slightly.

Two other post offices in Perkins County, Grant and Elsie, will join the rest of the nation in August when Saturday mail delivery is halted.

Service will be cut back to five-day-a-week delivery. However, packages will continue to be delivered on Saturday. Package delivery has gone up considerably while other mail has decreased dramatically.

A few community meetings and surveys by area postal patrons have done little to sway the opinion and outcome of decisions made by the U.S. Postal Service.

Venango Post Office

Lori Bleavins, Venango's OIC (officer in charge) said there was a lot on input at a town meeting on Jan. 29 to discuss post office hours.

It was announced by Kelley Lacey of McCook, postal plan coordinator for the area, that on March 9 the hours of operation in Venango will change.

New hours are: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and on Saturday 10-11:45 a.m.

Madrid Post Office

Window hours at the post office in Madrid will also change effective March 9, according to OIC Jennifer Harger.

A village customer's meeting and survey in January did not have much of an impact on the decision made by the postal service to reduce hours.

Hours effective March 9 will be: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to noon; Saturday 8-9 a.m.

Wallace Post Office

A community meeting on Feb. 5 was attended by approximately 80 postal patrons who had lots of good input and questions, said OIC Denise Maline of the Wallace Post Office.

"I was really pleased," said Maline.

Wallace, among with other post offices along the Highline, will see a halt in rural mail delivery on Saturdays come August, and in the meantime will see a shift in hours.

The post office is also in need of a carrier, since their rural carrier was reassigned to Hershey and there is a substitute carrier driving up from Imperial.

New post office hours going into effect March 9: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to noon; Saturdays 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Grant Post Office

Handling operations on a daily basis in Grant are Postmaster Mary Bieber and Barb Moul, sales and service associate.

Effective in August, packages will be delivered on Saturdays but no mail will go out on rural routes. The window will be open for stamps and mail pickup by in-town customers.

Hours include Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. with closure during the middle of the day from 12:30-1:30 p.m. On Saturdays the window is open from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

These hours will not change.

Elsie Post Office

The community has not had a meeting yet, and none is scheduled, according to OIC Joy

Kugler, who is the officer in charge while postmaster Billie Shaw is temporarily working in the Brule post office.

Elsie's hours are: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30-4:15 p.m. The post office is open on Saturday for an hour from 8:30-9:30 a.m.