

National News

August 31

WSJ: Regarding your editorial “[How the Post Office Delivered for Hillary](#)” (Aug. 26) highlighting Hatch Act violations by the U.S. Postal Service: This issue has been addressed by Congress and the Office of Special Counsel (OSC), and the Postal Service has fully committed to addressing the issue and to correcting the problem. Furthermore, although the OSC concluded that a longstanding practice of the Postal Service violated the Act, the OSC also determined that the violation was not intentional and that it was not motivated by any desire by the Postal Service to support or oppose a particular party or candidate. Instead, the OSC concluded that the practice was a part of the efforts of the Postal Service to foster and maintain a working relationship with the National Association of Letter Carriers. Postal Service leadership did not in any way guide union leadership in selecting the candidates for whom postal union employees could campaign. (Thomas J. Marshall *General Counsel U.S. Postal Service*)

August 30

Post&Parcel: Courier and express delivery companies have pledged their support – in both cash and transportation resources – to help with the Hurricane Harvey relief efforts in the US. In official statements issued yesterday (29 August), FedEx [said](#) it has committed \$1m in cash and transportation support to deliver critical medical aid and supplies in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, and UPS also [made](#) a more than a \$1m pledge to support recovery efforts in Texas and Louisiana. Inevitably, deliveries for post and parcels in the affected areas of Texas and Louisiana have been disrupted by the storm.

Post&Parcel: The US Postal Service (USPS) will be combining its My USPS and Informed Delivery platforms, so users can interact with their incoming mail and packages in one dashboard. “The integration with My USPS will make Informed Delivery the single digital point of entry for consumers to view images of their mail and manage their packages. This will help the Postal Service maintain the relevancy of mail in today’s highly digital environment,” said Chief Customer and Marketing Officer Jim Cochrane. The integration is scheduled to take place in September – after which all features previously available through My USPS will become part of Informed Delivery.

August 29

Reuters: Ford Motor Co and Domino’s Pizza Inc in September will begin testing Michigan consumers’ reactions to having their pies delivered by self-driving vehicles, the companies said on Tuesday. In a blog post last week, Sherif Marakby, head of Ford’s autonomous and electric vehicles, signaled the automaker’s broader ambitions, saying Ford planned to cooperate “with multiple partners” in deploying self-driving vehicles “designed to improve the movement of people and goods.” Previously, Ford executives had said the company expected to launch a self-driving shuttle for commercial ride-sharing fleets in 2021. A number of start-up delivery services, many of them funded by venture capital, have been experimenting with on-demand delivery of different packages, including groceries, prepared food and beverages. So have larger companies, from Uber Technologies [UBER.UL] to Amazon.

USAToday: Shipping giants UPS, FedEx and the United States Postal Service have indefinitely ceased delivery to major swaths of Texas and Louisiana amid Hurricane Harvey devastation, potentially disrupting supplies of critical medicines, food and other packages. The storm may also have damaged some delivery infrastructure, though it's too early to assess the full extent of the impact. Although it's unclear how many residents are awaiting packages, the outages raise serious concerns about vulnerable residents who rely on just-in-time delivery of mail-order prescriptions and other goods. Many neighborhoods in Texas are not reachable because of flood waters. And others aren't being serviced because local shipping centers were temporarily shuttered due to storm planning or lack of employees.

TheHill: The great eclipse of 2017 was a unique nationwide astrological phenomenon enjoyed by tens of millions of Americans. It was so significant that the United States Postal Service (USPS) engineered a ground-breaking stamp to commemorate the event. A USPS spokesperson [said](#) that the stamp’s release was meant to enable “a new generation to bridge the gap and tighten the connection between physical mail and the digital world.” If only long overdue reform of the USPS itself, which is swimming in red ink and being dragged down by a slew of decidedly earthly problems, could be as simple, innovative, and transformative as the 2017 eclipse stamp. The burden of the USPS’s inefficiencies, operational ineptitude and runaway costs ultimately cast a long shadow on postal ratepayers, or even taxpayers, who would be forced to provide a bailout if USPS’s financial position sufficiently deteriorates. The great eclipse of 2017 may be over, but the opportunity to enact formative postal reform that will right-size the agency, move it toward more innovative, free-market, private-sector solutions and forestall an exorbitant taxpayer bailout is still on the horizon. Congress must get this done well before the next total eclipse in 2024.

August 28

PostalEmployeeNetwork: The APWU and the USPS recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), RE: Peak Season Exception Periods – 2017 Date Changes, modifying the Peak Season (Holiday Season) Exception period for 2017 to “ensure adequate coverage” and “accommodate customer service.” The start of the Peak Season Exception Period will be from Nov. 11, 2017 (Pay Period 24), and will go through Jan. 5, 2018 (Pay Period 1). All Holiday Clerk Assistants (HCAs) will be paid at the PSE rate of \$16.98, reflecting the 2.3% PSE pay raise that will go into effect Nov. 25. Function 4 HCAs will be hired for three consecutive pay periods within the exception period: either Nov. 11 – Dec. 22 or Nov. 25 – Jan. 5, 2018. The MOU does not change the length of the exception period.

August 27

Ecommercebytes: You can count on shipping costs to go up each year, and January is the favorite month for USPS, UPS, and FedEx to raise rates. Blogger D. Eadward Tree (a pseudonym for a magazine-industry insider) says the USPS aims to raise shipping rates on January 21, 2018. The USPS has leeway for how much it can raise *competitive* mail rates - popular with small online sellers - and Tree said the USPS is most likely to file the new rates with the Postal Regulatory Commission in October.

August 24

PostalNews: As provided for in Article 15, Section 3E of the National Agreement between the National Postal Mail Handlers Union and the United States Postal Service, both parties have agreed to jointly produce a Contract Interpretation Manual (CIM), which represents a good faith effort to identify contractual issues on which the National parties are in agreement regarding interpretation and application of the parties' National Agreement. The latest issue of the CIM is Version 4, which was released on August 24, 2017. [Click to download and open CIM Version 4](#)

Post&Parcel: FedEx Office has announced the expansion of its FedEx SameDay City local courier delivery service to Jacksonville in Florida, as well as Austin and San Antonio in Texas. FedEx SameDay City offers door-to-door delivery of time-sensitive parcels within hours with real-time notifications. Priority service is available seven days a week, in as fast as two hours. Standard service offers pickup as late as 1 p.m. for business delivery, and as late as 4 p.m. for residential delivery, by the end of day. The service is now available in more than 25 markets.

FederalNewsRadio: More than 200,000 U.S. Postal Service employees have just received their first two catch-up cost-of-living adjustments, and will soon receive their third COLA, thanks to a provision in a postal union labor contract that members approved this month. Members of the National Association of Letter Carriers on Aug. 19 received a 1.2 percent retroactive pay raise, effective Nov. 26, 2016, and received two backdated COLA payments worth \$21 and \$333, which will be paid annually. Postal workers covered under the union contract will receive a third annual COLA worth \$270 on Sept. 2. The final contract also contains a no-layoff clause that protects letter carriers after six years of service as career employees.

GovExec: For years the U.S. Postal Service has put its stamp of approval on defective shoes that can quickly fall apart, putting letter carriers at risk of injury and often forcing them to pay for costly replacements out of their own pockets, union officials say. The issue came to light after a study conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health revealed that the soles of shoes worn by letter carriers in the Boston area frequently disintegrated. While defective footwear may account for a relatively small proportion of accidents, wearing low-quality shoes can take a toll on letter carriers' bodies over time, said Bobby Damatin, the safety representative for the National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 34. USPS provides letter carriers with an annual stipend of \$400 for uniform expenses, but Damatin said that's not enough to keep safe, agency-approved shoes on their feet. He estimates that newly purchased shoes last roughly three months on average before they start noticeably deteriorating.

August 23

SalemNews: First-class postage stamps at 49 cents each may be about to go the way of the carrier pigeon. By next month, the Postal Service may be given permission to increase stamp prices dramatically. Increasing use of online communications has hurt the Postal Service, cutting deeply into its revenue. But, say critics, many in the private sector have had to adapt to change, too. Why can't the Postal Service? Before Congress stands aside and allows stamp prices to continue skyrocketing, lawmakers ought to be held accountable for tying the agency's hands in some respects.

Bloomberg: [Wal-Mart Stores Inc.](#) has [applied](#) for a U.S. patent for a floating warehouse that could make deliveries via drones, which would bring products from the aircraft down to shoppers' homes. An unmanned airborne warehouse -- laden with drones -- could help retailers lower the costs of fulfilling online orders, particularly the so-called "last mile" to a customer's house, which is usually handled by a local or national logistics company. To avoid that expense, Wal-Mart and other retailers often encourage shoppers to pick up those orders at the store, where they might grab a few additional items. The airship could fly to one town and release a flock of drones to deliver packages, after which the drones would return to the vessel and restock while it flew to the next town. Such a system would be more efficient than having the drones fly back to a central distribution hub, according to research firm CB Insights.

August 22

FoxNews: Republican lawmakers are casting a wider net in their search for wrongdoing at federal agencies in past election cycles, after learning the Postal Service violated the law by allowing employees to do union-funded work for Hillary Clinton's campaign while on leave. The lawmakers blasted out letters on Monday to 10 other federal government agencies questioning their unpaid leave policy for union-related political work. Senate Homeland Security Committee Chairman Ron Johnson, R-Wis., led the charge on the review of agencies' practices after spurring an investigation by the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) beginning in October 2016. House Oversight Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., joined Johnson's efforts this week by penning joint letters to the departments of Commerce, Homeland Security, Defense, Justice, Labor, Transportation, Treasury, Agriculture, Veterans Affairs, and the Social Security Administration Monday. The letters concerned what's known as "union official Leave Without Pay (LWOP)" for political campaign activity.

August 21

CIORReview: As a United States Postal Inspector for over 20 years, I've seen the impact distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks can have on the private sector. Hackers attempt to flood compromised systems with repeated requests, overpowering networks and

disabling the systems they support—crippling organizations’ abilities to carry out mission-critical operations. The risks caused by DDoS attacks have grown as the parties behind the attacks continue to evolve. This trend is especially concerning for the United States Postal Service and its business partners in the ecommerce industry. At the Postal Service, we work with a range of companies to package, transport, and track important shipments across the globe. By disrupting networks and forcing servers’ offline, DDoS attacks have the potential to prevent our ecommerce partners from processing the information needed to deliver their shipments on time. This can lead to considerable losses in revenue—as much as \$5,600 for every minute of time offline, based on industry research.

Ecommercebytes: Imagine paying for a service, then later receiving a bill because the company says you didn’t pay enough. That’s the discomfiture online sellers may start experiencing due to a change at the US Postal Service. On August 14th, the USPS began a program in which it verifies shippers have paid the correct amount for postage purchased online for packages through Click-N-Ship or PC Postage label providers such as EasyPost, eBay, Endicia, PayPal, Pitney Bowes, and Stamps.com. If it finds shippers didn’t pay the correct amount, the USPS will make a “payment adjustment” facilitated through the PC Postage platform the seller used. It’s hard to argue with the motivation behind the new [Automated Package Verification System](#) (known as APV), which will also credit shippers if they overpaid for online postage.

August 20

TheHill: The United States Postal Service is an aging, but still powerful, beast. Under federal law, America’s mailboxes are the sole domain of the USPS, and many types of mail can only legally be delivered by the Postal Service. Indeed, by most any definition, the USPS is a monopoly, and if nothing else, it certainly acts like one. Intentionally or not, monopolists tend to operate outside the bounds of competitive businesses. They often attempt to charge higher prices than competitive businesses do, and monopolists tend to have trouble controlling costs or operating, well, like a normal business. The PRC regulates postal rates to prevent abuses of monopoly power. If the USPS gets its way, that could change next month when the Postal Regulatory Commission decides whether to give the Postal Service virtually unlimited power to raise rates on its own. Groups such as ours, along with the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers and the Association for Postal Commerce, have been fighting to keep the CPI cap in place. If the PRC removes it, there will be *no* check on the Postal Service’s monopoly power.

TheLancasterNews: Most people get mail every day except Sunday. But what happens when the mail comes later than we expect? We found out a few years ago, when the U.S. postmaster general had to take away overnight first-class and periodicals mail from most of the nation. That caused a problem for a lot of consumers and businesses. Now, we may be facing a new slowdown, if something isn’t done by Congress very soon. We are at another crunch point. The U.S. Postal Service has a \$57 billion deficiency on its balance sheet, most of it caused by Congress. Fixing it may require the postmaster general to close more post offices and mail-sorting plants, eliminate mail-hauling truck routes and ground the airmail. The mail would be slowed down even further. The choices are tough, and Congress is never good at tough choices. Businesses that buy postage cannot afford big increases and will simply find alternatives if the rates are jacked up too much. Consumers cannot afford to pay more for slower mail. USPS wants to protect jobs for its workers.

August 18

FresnoBee: Regarding the [Aug. 11 piece](#) entitled “Postal Service might default for fifth time on retiree payments,” consider the following: Imagine a group of prospective homeowners applying for a 30-year mortgage. All but one is allowed to pay off the mortgage over 30 years. The mortgage company forces the one applicant to pay it off in five years during a recession. That, in a nutshell, is what Congress forced the USPS to do with 2006 postal reform legislation by mandating that it pre-pay its 80-year future retiree health-benefit obligation in only 10 years, which no other corporation in the world is forced to do. During the prior three years, the USPS made an operational profit of \$3.2 billion. At 49 cents, a first-class stamp is cheaper than anywhere else in the world. Our postal service, which Benjamin Franklin created, still works pretty well.

August 17

Post&Parcel: UPS has announced that it will start training student delivery drivers to spot and identify road hazards using virtual reality (VR) headsets that simulate the experience of driving on city streets. The company will launch VR training at nine UPS Integrad training facilities in September. Students using the modules must verbally identify potential road hazards such as pedestrians, parked cars and oncoming traffic. UPS claims that the 360° view inside the headset is realistic down to the finest details. The VR training modules replace the touchscreen devices UPS Integrad facilities currently use to teach lessons on road hazards.

TechCrunch: According to a report from ABC News the Postal Service last week reported a loss of \$2.1 billion for the quarter, compared to a \$1.6 billion loss in the year ago period. The response to this continuing and precipitous decline has been to appeal to government to raise rates, which may only serve to drive customers further out of reach for the ailing mail delivery service. What it could do, instead, is look to innovation as a way to boost its flagging bottom line... and one place it could find inspiration is in the national postal service operating thousands of miles to the south, in Australia. For the past few years, the Australian postal service has made a concerted effort to digitize and modernize its operations and the services it provides. [In 2015, the Australia Post announced an initial AU\\$20 million initiative](#) to invest in eCommerce businesses and begin working with a university accelerator program in Melbourne to help those businesses thrive. Beyond the investment fund, the Australia Post is also working to establish itself as the gateway to Australia’s experiments with digital identification. Finally, the Postal service in Australia also encourages entrepreneurship with a startup competition of its own.

August 16

NonProfitMailers: Nonprofit mailers are not happy – and here are three reasons why. 1. USPS is not responding to adversity like a business. On August 7, the National Association of Letter Carriers announced that they had ratified a labor agreement with the U.S. Postal Service. [Read the announcement by the NALC here.](#) And the vote wasn't close: 78,935 to accept the agreement versus 4,732 to reject it, a margin of 16 to 1. It seems letter carriers know a great thing when they see it! 2. USPS is inaccurately raising the fear of bankruptcy. On August 10, USPS released its latest quarterly financial results. It used the opportunity to continue to push for Congressional and PRC help to raise prices more than inflation. It used the fear of bankruptcy as its main argument, even though federal government agencies cannot declare bankruptcy. And the Postal Service has stable revenue, over \$10 billion operating cash in the bank, and over \$340 billion set aside for retiree benefits. The Alliance recently documented that USPS pre-funding of pensions and retiree healthcare is in better shape than all other sectors: federal, military, Fortune 500, and states. 3. USPS is proposing technical adjustments that arbitrarily raise rates. We reported in an Alliance Alert on August 1 that USPS is proposing additional rate increases to nonprofit Marketing Mail (formerly Standard Mail), to be offset by lower commercial rates. [Read the Alliance Alert here.](#) The nonprofit increases would be over and above all other increases. USPS is seeking to change a methodology that has been in place for the ten years since the 2006 PAEA law eliminated sub-classes of mail. It wants to conjure up pseudo-sub-classes, or synthetic sub-classes, or fake sub-classes – choose your cliché – to engineer a transfer of money from nonprofits to commercial mailers.

Forbes: Last week the U.S. Postal Service released its [latest quarterly financial report](#), which detailed an immense loss of \$2.1 billion. While the Postal Service's downward financial spiral has clearly continued in unsurprising fashion, the report also reveals some emerging trends that are also worthy of further discussion and scrutiny. Most notably, the Postal Service's favored fiscal terminology – controllable income – has proven to be an increasingly dubious indicator of its fiscal health. That figure, which the Postal Service used to explain away its ongoing defaults on retiree benefits payments and isolate these defaults as a congressionally-imposed obstacle, has plunged. The \$587 million controllable loss, which only captures losses resulting from its direct product offerings, is now a clear-cut indicator that the Postal Service's operations are failing to achieve profitability in every sense possible. While the postal agency has many low-profit and unprofitable services, notably for some deregulated services, its regulated core First-Class mail services bring in twice the revenue compared to its delivery costs. Despite First-Class mail being a profit engine, the Postal Service points to its volume declines, partly driven by the widespread adoption of digital technologies, as a reason to raise prices on its regulated services.

August 15

WorkdayMinnesota: A two-cent cut in the price of a first-class stamp, which cut Postal Service revenue by \$500 million in the last three months and \$1.5 billion in the first nine months of its current fiscal year, put USPS back in the red so far this fiscal year, a top postal union leader says. Had the cut not slid through, due to inaction by postal management last year, the service would have earned almost \$1.4 billion through the first three quarters of the year, rather than losing \$55 million in that time, adds [National Association of Letter Carriers](#) (link is external) President Fredric Rolando. Still, he notes, the agency's report "shows the underlying business strength of the U.S. Postal Service" because the loss was so small despite the revenue drain from the price cut. Rolando again also called for enactment of legislation permanently solving USPS' financial problems by killing the \$5.5 billion USPS yearly prepayment of future retirees' health care costs – an unique prepayment the GOP-run Congress imposed a decade ago. Other postal unions had no immediate official comment on the USPS' financial report, but the situation out in the field was another matter. That's because the USPS continues to consolidate and close mail distribution centers, costing jobs and drawing protests, this time led by the Postal Workers and the Mail Handlers/Laborers.

August 14

Linn: The latest quarterly financial report from the United States Postal Service describes "essentially flat" revenues, but there are some numbers in the new report that seriously worry top postal officials. Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan and chief financial officer Joseph Corbett acknowledged that first-class mail volumes and revenues have taken a deeper than expected drop in the nine months ended June 30. Advertising mail also has taken a hit, they said. Double-digit increases in package mail volume have continued, but the executives noted that it's more costly to move than letter mail and doesn't contribute as much to the Postal Service's overall expenses as first-class and marketing mail. When all USPS costs mandated by Congress are included, the USPS said its net loss for the nine months was \$1.3 billion this year, compared to a loss of \$3.3 billion for the same period of 2016.

FederalNewsRadio: With two months (August and September) to go in the cost-of-living countdown, federal, military and Social Security retirees are eagerly awaiting their 2018 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Last month, the COLA — based on the nationwide rise in living costs measured by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics — stood at 1.6 percent, but the Consumer Price Index for the month of July dipped slightly, dropping the estimate to 1.52 percent. The actual amount of the 2018 COLA will be based on the average of the indices of July, August, and September, in comparison with the previous year's third quarter average. The final number won't be known until mid-October. Under law, retirees under the FERS program do not get any cost-of-living adjustment until they reach age 62. CSRS retirees qualify for full COLAs regardless of age. Once FERS retirees reach age 62, they get full COLAs up to 2 percent and so-called diet COLAs (less than the full inflation rate) for increases over 2 percent.

August 12

NextGov: Apple's update of the technological capability of the iPhone with the coming iOS release will allow the U.S. Postal Service to expand the opportunities and capabilities that can be provided to mailers. There are three main additional capabilities that may help elevate the impact of Postal Service products: the iPhone camera can read QR codes; the ARKit allows for augmented reality creation, and the iPhone's near field communications capability has expanded beyond Apple Pay. All three features can make it easier for customers to both create and interact with mail piece features. The iOS 11 update, expected to be released in fall 2017, presents new

opportunities for mailers to collaborate with the Postal Service and more easily connect to mail recipients. The Postal Service currently offers promotions for different types of technology applications with mail pieces, including those that engage the senses or promote online shopping. The Postal Service encourages mailers to add these features to their mail pieces to digitally engage customers with a brand, and this relationship will continue as new technology emerges.

August 11

BLS: The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 0.1 percent in July on a seasonally adjusted basis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the last 12 months, the all items index rose 1.7 percent.

PBS: The U.S. Postal Service is warning that it will likely default on up to \$6.9 billion in payments for future retiree health benefits for the fifth straight year. It is citing a coming cash crunch that could disrupt day-to-day mail delivery. The post office says it expects cash balances to run low by October. Postmaster General Megan Brennan stressed an urgent need for federal regulators to grant the Postal Service wide freedom to increase stamp prices to cover costs. She points to continuing red ink due to declining first-class mail volume and the expensive mandates for retiree benefits.

Post&Parcel: California-based startup company Chanje has announced that it will introduce a commercial all-electric truck available at “mass scale” in the US market this year. In a [statement](#) issued today (10 August), Chanje said that its new vehicle will be “the only one of its kind designed from the ground up as an EV and purpose-built to be a long-life truck”. Chanje said that it is focusing on the “medium-duty vehicle segment work” (which includes parcel delivery trucks) and it is looking to work with “large fleet customers to provide renewable energy and charging capabilities as a turnkey service”.

AssociatedPress: The U.S. Postal Service warned Thursday that it will likely default on up to \$6.9 billion in payments for future retiree health and pension benefits for the fifth straight year, citing a coming cash crunch that could disrupt day-to-day mail delivery. The service said it expected cash balances to run low by October and to avoid bankruptcy would likely not make all of its payments as required under federal law. Postmaster General Megan Brennan stressed an urgent need for federal regulators to grant the Postal Service wide freedom to increase stamp prices to help cover costs, citing continuing red ink due to declining first-class mail volume and the expensive mandates for retiree benefits.

Reuters: The US Postal Service has seen record losses as traditional mail is replaced by electronic means. Without enough money to pay for years of employee benefits, the agency is calling for legislation to enable them to raise their prices. On Thursday, the USPS [reported](#) losses of \$2.1 billion in the third fiscal quarter of 2017, compared to a \$1.6 billion loss in the same quarter last year. Over the past 10 years, the USPS has incurred a net loss of \$63.3 billion and they project future losses without legislative and regulatory changes. The agency also warned that it will likely have to default on \$6.9 billion in payments for future retiree health benefits and pensions, according to the [Associated Press](#). If their debt is not addressed soon, the American taxpayer will likely have to cover the costs when future employees retire and cash in on their benefits, to which they are legally entitled. In order to keep the agency running, US Postmaster General Megan Brennan suggested a new pricing system that would allow them to cover its costs.

August 10

Post&Parcel: Curbside has teamed up with Yelp so US shoppers can buy goods through the Yelp app for pick up from participating local stores or restaurants within an hour. Curbside works with a range of retailers across the US – including the CVS Pharmacy chain, which will be participating in the Yelp/Curbside service. Shoppers order products online and then the goods are packaged ready for collection.

FinancialTimes: Come 10.30am workers at HSBC’s suburban Hong Kong offices are to be found processing a freshly-delivered document deluge: prying out staples, tallying copies and endlessly slotting them into files. A single contract could run to 100 pages. Everything has to be in triplicate and a shipment of, say, 500 shirts in various colours and sizes — each taking its own page — quickly stacks up. HSBC now aims to revolutionise the \$2tn world of documented trade finance, placing blockchain and artificial intelligence at the heart of global trade flows. It is adopting an IBM technology that can extract information from non-standardised papers and feed it straight into bank processing systems.

August 9

NYTimes: It may be time to stock up on Forever stamps. Regulators appear likely to accept the financially beleaguered Postal Service's request for more freedom to raise the price of mailing letters. It would be the biggest change in the Postal Service's pricing system in nearly a half-century, allowing stamp prices to rise beyond the rate of inflation. After a 10-year review, the Postal Regulatory Commission could make its decision next month. It might limit how high prices could go, but the cost of a first-class stamp, now 49 cents, could jump. It's not known how much. Financial analysts praise the plan, but it has raised the ire of the mail-order industry, which could pay millions more for sending items like prescription drugs and magazines and pass the costs onto consumers. Congress' failure to address the Postal Service's underlying financial woes, such as onerous requirements to pre-fund retiree health benefits, has left the commission more likely to embrace the request for more pricing freedom. The Postal Service has ruled out closing post offices and ending Saturday delivery to reduce costs.

TheHill: Medicare's breaking point is nigh, with the program's trustees projecting that solvency will only last until 2029. At a time when program expenses need to be minimized in a delicate balancing act, more costs may be offloaded onto Medicare by the United States Postal Service (USPS) through reckless congressional actions. In introducing the Postal Reform Act of 2017, lawmakers hope to use Medicare funds to bail out the retirement funds awash in red ink at the USPS. But adding billions of dollars to an already-beleaguered program is simply the wrong solution to a longstanding problem. Certain changes, such as ending Saturday delivery, are actively being considered and would help reverse fiscal damage. But reform cannot end there. Nixing weekend delivery is projected to

bring in \$3 billion a year. The USPS could save another \$1.9 billion by purchasing a mixed fleet of off-the-shelf vehicles, instead of purchasing “Next Generation Delivery Vehicles” (NGDV) with little resale value or technological potential.

ThinkProgress: Since Election Day, unions have lived on borrowed time. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), which has exclusive authority over many key questions of labor law, is still controlled by Democrats. But this period of interregnum is about to end. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) began the process of confirming the first of Trump’s two nominees to the NLRB on Monday. When both nominees sit on the Board, a swift rollback of union rights is likely. As soon as this week, the Senate is likely to vote on Marvin Kaplan, the first of these two nominees. A former GOP Hill staffer, Kaplan drafted legislation—strongly supported by business lobby groups—which would have made it easier for employers to fight unionization campaigns. Trump’s other nominee, William Emanuel, is a veteran management-side lawyer who touts his “particular expertise with laws concerning union access to the private property of employers.” He’s also filed briefs in three cases claiming that employers can force workers to waive their right to bring class actions and similar lawsuits.

DFWCBS: Buffeted by threats from Amazon drones to deliveries by golf cart, the U.S. Postal Service is counting on a different strategy to stay competitive. It is seeking more freedom to raise prices for mailing letters. After a 10-year review, the Postal Regulatory Commission appears likely to grant the Postal Service power to increase the cost of stamps beyond the rate of inflation. It would be the biggest change in its pricing system in nearly a half-century. A decision is expected next month.

GovExec: More than 200,000 U.S. Postal Service employees will soon receive a pay raise but face a slight decrease in health benefits under a new labor contract formally agreed to this week. The National Association of Letter Carriers, which represents 213,000 city mailmen and women across the country, ratified an agreement it had **struck** with USPS management to avoid binding arbitration. The agreement will take effect retroactively to May 21, 2016, and continue through Sept. 20, 2019. All city letter carriers will receive a 1.2 percent pay raise retroactive to Nov. 26, 2016, and a 1.3 percent increase effective Nov. 25 of this year. Employees on the second level of the two-grade pay scale will receive a 2.1 percent raise in 2018. On top of those general wage increases, employees will also receive a series of seven cost-of-living adjustments throughout the life of the contract.

August 8

CNBC: Starting Aug. 31, those third-party merchants have to adapt to a significant and costly change. According to an email that Amazon sent to sellers of books, CDs and DVDs, distributors to the lower 48 states will have to deliver items within a window of four to eight days, down from four to 14 days. The company is putting in place a number of policies that force sellers to provide the same speed and quality of service that customers have come to expect from Amazon. But marketplace merchants, who sell out of their garage or warehouse rather than using Amazon’s fulfillment centers, have to build shipping costs into their business model, and they typically operate on very thin margins. The USPS has a **special rate** for media items and says on its website that delivery times range from two to eight days. But sellers told CNBC that coast-to-coast shipments often take a few days longer than that. The risk to missing Amazon’s guaranteed delivery window is that a seller gets bad reviews, which means losing visibility on listings and can eventually lead to suspension.

August 7

FedWeek: The Postal Service carried out its pay for performance program for about 49,000 non-bargaining employees in supervisory, technical, administrative and managerial positions in accordance with its policies and procedures, an IG audit has found. However, it added that “guidance documents could be more accurate and updated more timely,” raising “the risk of inconsistent application of process, noncompliance, or lack of employee accountability.” Based on a closer examination of about a third of the sub-organizations, auditors said that if employees had been evaluated based on individual contributions for their assigned location, ratings of 30 percent would have been higher and ratings of 8 percent would have been lower. Successfully operating pay for performance programs so that they are fair yet draw meaningful distinctions among employees has been a long-running challenge for federal agencies.

August 5

WashingtonPost: The boom in Internet retailing has provided a rare bit of good news to the beleaguered U.S. Postal Service, which is delivering packages at a historic pace — and reaping revenue that helps offset billions of dollars of losses elsewhere in the agency’s budget. But the Postal Service isn’t the only one making money when a mail carrier brings a new pair of shoes or a school backpack to your door. Private companies compete fiercely to sell postage, prepare labels and help retailers find the best deals for shipping their products. But the Postal Service’s dire finances underscore the importance of maximizing the agency’s revenue. And it is this point that has generated sharp controversy within the industry, with officials at several companies complaining that the Postal Service has tipped the scales against them while wasting money in the process.

August 4

Post&Parcel: UPS is expanding its alcohol shipping delivery offering, meaning wine connoisseurs can have their favorite cases of wine shipped directly from the vineyards to their home using one of the UPS Express shipping services. UPS will now ship wine, beer and liquor to consumers and businesses in 11 countries throughout Asia Pacific including: China, Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand. In Malaysia, only businesses can import wine and beer. According to the International Organization of Vine and Wine, 43% of all wine is consumed in a different country to that in which it is produced, and the global wine market is expected to reach \$380 billion by 2022.

WashingtonPost: The Food and Drug Administration is strengthening efforts to detect opioids illegally entering the country through the mail, reflecting heightened concerns about the flood of synthetic fentanyl and similar drugs being shipped from China and elsewhere. Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, in internal remarks to a group of senior managers Thursday, said he was deploying about

three dozen employees to international mail facilities run by the U.S. Postal Service to help detect and analyze suspicious packages, as well as to the FDA's cybercrime and forensic-chemistry units. Public health leaders and policymakers worried about the nation's opioid epidemic are increasingly focusing on the international mail problem. Just last week, the White House opioid commission, headed by New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R), called on the Trump administration to boost funding, staffing and technology to try to "staunch the flow of deadly synthetic opioids" arriving through the mail.

Post&Parcel: FedEx has announced that it will not be applying a 2017 holiday season surcharge for residential shipments – except for packages that are "oversized, unauthorized, or require additional handling". In a [statement](#) issued today (3 August), FedEx said: "The volume of oversized packages moving through the FedEx Ground network during the Holiday season has increased by approximately 240 percent over the past 10 years and is now about 10 percent of all volume handled by FedEx Ground. FedEx has engineered its networks to add sortation and delivery capabilities to accommodate the continued rise in demand for larger, heavier packages, including entire facilities temporarily dedicated to oversized packages. The Holiday season surcharge will be effective Nov. 20, 2017, through Dec. 24, 2017. FedEx Express and FedEx Ground in the U.S. and Canada will increase the surcharge during this period for additional handling by \$3 per package, for oversize goods by \$25 per package, and for unauthorized shipments by \$300 per package."

GovExec: The U.S. Postal Service is failing to reward its top performers under a pay system designed to recognize excellence, according to a new report, instead relying on group metrics that collectively punish employees for the work of their colleagues. Using the Capital Metro Area as a sample, the USPS inspector general [found](#) 30 percent of employees who would have been eligible on their own were denied a pay raise under the agency's pay-for-performance system due to their teams' scores. Only the Postal Service's 48,000 non-bargaining unit Executive and Administrative Schedule employees, who serve in supervisory, technical, administrative and managerial positions, receive performance-based pay. The auditors recommended USPS management improve its communication of the criteria for pay raises to "reduce the risk of negative perception" and disengagement. They also said the Postal Service should reward individual stations, branches and plant departments.

August 2

PostalNews: While Josh Sandbulte gets some things right about the Postal Service in his self-serving opinion piece "Why the Post Office Gives Amazon Special Delivery" (July 14): he provides an inaccurate and unfair account of the package delivery side of our business. By law our competitive package products, including those that we deliver for Amazon, must cover their costs. Our regulator, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), looks carefully at this question every year and has determined that they do. The PRC has also noted that competitive products help fund the infrastructure of the Postal Service. It is that infrastructure that enables us to fulfill our universal service obligation to deliver to each and every address in the United States at an affordable rate. Despite our achievements in improving operational efficiency and growing revenue, we cannot overcome systemic financial imbalances caused by legal and other constraints.

August 1

linns: The cheapest place to purchase United States postage is not always your local post office. It could be a personal-computer (PC) postage firm that has signed up for a little-known U.S. Postal Service program that offers sharply discounted postage rates under a promise to help the USPS generate greater mail volume. Some are offering these postage discounts to small mailers and postal customers who can't generate enough volume to secure the deep discounts on their own. One researcher claims the discounts can be as much as 31 percent below the Postal Service's published postal rates. The discounted prices were to be "somewhere between the Postal Service's published retail prices and Commercial Plus Pricing." CPP represents sharply discounted rates the USPS had offered to large mailers.

Frieghtwaves: Back in 2013, the New York Times reported that the United States Postal Service (USPS) would start making Sunday deliveries for online retail giant Amazon. It initially served as an effort by USPS to stop the financial bleeding of the agency that was happening as Americans sent fewer and fewer letters. With a reported annual loss totaling about \$16 billion, deals with profitable companies like the one Jeff Bezos leads looked like a step in the right direction as far as USPS' efforts to eliminate losses. But according to a report published by Josh Sandbulte in the Wall Street Journal, USPS has been picking up the tab for Amazon. The WSJ contributor, whose expertise is in the shipping industry, detailed how Congress prevents USPS, through the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, from changing the parcel price. This law is designed to avoid "unfair competition" with FedEx and UPS. The report implies that Amazon gets the better end of the deal through the \$1.46 subsidy. It is as if the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act served as a loophole for Amazon to exploit.

International News

August 31

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: *Wam:* The Emirates Post Group, EPG, has discussed cooperation with Universal Postal Union, UPU, in postal field. Both parties sought ways of development and enhancements of postal cooperation within the context of incremental postal growth in the world and benefit from the global growth of e-commerce. The EPG Chairman thanked the vision of the country's wise leadership in creating a strong infrastructure in UAE and making it a unique transit point for international mail and shipping. He expressed close cooperation with the organisation for enhancing the readiness of the region to fully meet with the needs of e-commerce market and free movement of international postal services with highest efficiency and quality to full customer satisfaction.

UNITED KINGDOM: *HuffingtonPost:* The first national postal strike since the privatisation of Royal Mail is set to go ahead unless the company “significantly” shifts its line on pensions, job cuts and pay, union bosses have warned. *Blogging for HuffPost UK,* Communication Workers Union (CWU) general secretary Dave Ward, said that a ballot for industrial action will take place if the deadlock isn't broken in talks this week. Royal Mail was privatised by the Tories four years ago, but is now facing major disruption to postal deliveries – including this year's Christmas post - unless the union gets guarantees on staff pay and conditions. At the heart of the dispute is the firm's plan to change its £9.8 bn 'defined benefit' pension scheme to one that gives staff a cash lump sum, as well as moves to cut 3,000 jobs a year.

August 30

CANADA: *Post&Parcel:* Strong growth in parcel volumes helped Canada Post segment achieve a \$31m profit before tax in the second quarter (Q2), but the steady decline in mail volumes and revenues continued. Parcel volumes grew by 10m pieces or 23.0% compared to Q2 2016, and revenues increased by \$83m or 20.5%. Volumes for Domestic Parcels specifically – the largest product category – grew by 7m pieces or 19.6% and revenues were up \$62m or 21.2%. Canada Post commented: “The growth in parcels is encouraging, but structural challenges – such as Lettermail decline and the pension funding obligation – remain significant long-term threats to financial self-sustainability.”

SWITZERLAND: *Post&Parcel:* Swiss Post has announced that it is running a new test programme using delivery robots in the centre of Zurich. The tests, which will run over the next few weeks, will see online customers of the department store Jelmoli have their goods delivered by Starship Technologies robots. In a notice posted today (29 August), Swiss Post said: “To use this service, customers can select the corresponding delivery option during the checkout process at jelmoli.ch and enter the delivery location of their choice within a predefined area in the city center, along with their preferred delivery time slot. For example, this makes it possible to have a picnic delivered to a park bench by the lake, to have running shoes delivered to a hotel or to have a new shirt delivered directly to the office. “Shortly before the robot arrives, the customer receives a link via SMS, which is needed to open the delivery compartment.” Jelmoli is offering its customers the robot delivery option free of charge during the pilot project.

UNITED KINGDOM: *HuffingtonPost:* This week the CWU is in the final days of talks with Royal Mail management aimed at securing an agreement to avoid a major national industrial dispute. Unless Royal Mail significantly shift their position on pensions, pay, shorter working hours and its operational strategy, then CWU will ballot our members for industrial action in early September. Alongside the pressure on staff terms and conditions, Royal Mail is cutting around 3,000 full time jobs every year and since privatisation almost £200m of property has been sold off as a fifth of mail centres and more than 5% of delivery offices have been shut.

August 28

IRELAND: *TheTimes:* An Post cannot increase prices further to ensure its survival, the postal regulator has said. ComReg has expressed concern that significant price increases in postal charges which were sanctioned this year “seem unlikely to have ensured the continuing survival of An Post”. It follows the decision to permit An Post to raise the cost of posting a standard letter from €0.72 to €1 in April after the company warned that it might not be able to provide a national postal service unless a price cap on postal charges was increased significantly.

QATAR: *Gulf-Times:* Qatar Post (Q-Post) has signed a MoU with the Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) to forge a new partnership that will serve as the basis for collaboration opportunities, including a new creative outdoor gallery and a mobile Qatar Post kiosk at Aspire Park as well as the launch of a new stamp collection. The agreement was signed last week at Aspire in the presence of Q-Post chairman and managing director Falah al-Naemi and AZF director general Abdullah Nasser al-Naemi as well as Katara's Arab Postal Stamps Museum head Khalid Rustom.

Under the new agreement, a retail kiosk will be opened at Aspire Zone, expanding Q-Post's services to the local community. Q-Post will also launch the Aspire Sport stamp collection celebrating the core mission of the AZF as a global reference for sports excellence, in addition to many other planned initiatives in the future.

August 23

INDIA: *TheHindu:* The nationwide one-day strike called by postal employees on Wednesday under the banner of the National Federation of Postal Employees (NFPE) was total in the district and all postal transactions came to a standstill. NFPE leaders said that all the four head post offices, sub-post offices, branch post offices, and the railway mail service office in Kollam remained shut. Only senior officers reported for duty at the Postal Superintendent's and Postal Records offices. The demands raised through the strike include improving the efficiency of postal services by filling up all vacancies and immediate implementation of the wage revision report for grameen dak service (GDS) employees.

ROMANIA: *RomanianInsider:* The Romanian Post has launched a tender to purchase services for sending text messages (SMS) to customers who use postal services and need to be informed about the postal items' date and time of delivery, as well as about the amount to be paid upon receipt. Profit.ro announced earlier this month that the Romanian Post also wants to introduce payment by card at its offices next year. The first POS systems will be installed in postal offices located in urban areas.

UNITED KINGDOM: *DailyMail:* If you receive post in London this month, there's a good chance it arrived to your door via an electric postal truck. Royal Mail is trialling nine British-made fully electric commercial vehicles this month, transporting packages between mail and distribution centres in the capital. The firm hopes that the trial will increase Royal Mail's efficiency, and reduce vehicle emissions. The trucks are 'autonomous-ready', which suggests that Royal Mail deliveries could one day be made by driverless vehicles.

August 22

AUSTRALIA: *Post&Parcel:* Australia Post has teamed up with Alpha Payments Cloud to launch an integrated commerce platform. In a [statement](#) issued last week, Alpha Payments Cloud said that AlphaCommerceHub (ACH) "aims to transform the Australian digital commerce industry by providing vendors with the opportunity to expose their solutions instantly to thousands of Australian merchants as well as Payment Service Providers (PSPs), helping to evolve PSPs into vendor enablement platforms".

NEW ZEALAND: *FutureFive:* New Zealand Post announced that it is partnering with Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) to accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles in New Zealand. With assistance from EECA's Low Emission Vehicles Contestable Fund, New Zealand Post will purchase five electric vans and assess their suitability for use in the courier fleet. The new vehicles will allow courier drivers to see for themselves what it is like to drive an electric van so that they can consider purchasing or leasing their own. The vans will be used at courier depots and delivery branches at different locations around the country.

THAILAND: *Post&Parcel:* Thailand Post has announced plans to develop a logistics hub for the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) project in Chonburi province. According to local sources, the national postal operator is focusing on ways to foster more e-commerce growth in Thailand – by developing e-marketplaces and ramping up its delivery channels for online sellers. The company is also reportedly looking to develop e-payment gateways to support the use of digital wallets. In addition, Thailand Post is using "Smart postboxes" that can be used to deliver tourist information, in addition to their standard postal duties.

August 21

INDIA: *NewIndianExpress:* A postal employees union has threatened to go on a one-day strike on August 23 to protest against non-implementation of benefits suggested by a panel. The National Federation of Postal Employees (NFPE), which represents around 4 lakh staff, has called for nationwide strike on August 23 to press for implementation of benefits suggested by the Gramin Dak Sevaks committee report, the federation's secretary general, R N Parashar, told PTI. There are over 1.55 lakh post offices, including 1.3 lakh rural post offices. There are around 2.7 lakh GDS who handle operations such as money remittances, delivery of Aadhaar and MGNREGA payments in rural post offices, an AIGDSU official said. "GDS handle 89 per cent of postal services and generate 60-70 per cent of total revenue for Department of Posts but we get only 15-20 per cent of share in the expenses. The salary of GDS is very low. We want the government to implement committee report without any delay," AIGDSU General Secretary S S Mahadevaiah said.

August 19

INDIA: *TheHindu:* Urging the Central Government to implement the recommendations of Kamlesh Chandra Committee report, members of Central Rural Postal Employees Association, who were on strike for the third consecutive day, staged a protest outside the post office in Bhavani here on Friday. The one-man committee has recommended a new wage payment system replacing the existing system and increasing the ex-gratia gratuity among others. Protesters demanded eight-hours of work, pension system, and wages in par with other employees of postal department and others. About 380 workers of 189 Gramin Dak Sevaks in the district were on strike from Wednesday seeking fulfilment of their demands.

August 18

THAILAND: *NationMultimedia:* Thailand Post expects to generate Bt26 billion in revenue by the end of this year, with future growth to be supported by plans to set up a logistics hub in Chon Buri province to serve demand in the emerging Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC). The postal operator also aims to invest Bt7 billion on infrastructure that will help improve its operational processes and, in turn, lead to better services. For the first half of this year, it achieved revenue at Bt13.4 billion, up 18 per cent on the same period in last year. It booked net profit of Bt1.97 billion in the first six months. The biggest contributor to revenue in the first half was the transport and logistics sector, with the Bt6 billion take accounting for 42 per cent of the share.

August 17

AUSTRALIA: *Post&Parcel:* Australia Post has announced that it will introduce its newly developed Digital iD technology across a range of companies and government departments, offering Australians a more convenient way to verify their identity online and access important services. Digital iD allows people to verify their identity information once, so they can then easily prove who they are online and in person through the platform's smartphone app. This removes the need for Australians to repeatedly use several forms of identity to prove who they are or have numerous passwords to access products and services. According to Australia Post research, existing identity verification processes were time consuming and cost the Australian economy up to A\$11bn (US\$8.6bn) a year.

GERMANY: *Post&Parcel:* Deutsche Post DHL Group and Ford have presented their first jointly produced electric delivery van, called the StreetScooter WORK XL. The vehicle is based on a Ford Transit chassis fitted with a battery-electric drivetrain and a body designed and built to DHL specifications. DHL plans to build 150 WORK XL vans this year at its StreetScooter plant in Aachen,

Germany. The operator will use the e-vans to support its urban parcel delivery service in Germany. Deutsche Post DHL Group, StreetScooter and Ford plan to build 2,500 e-vans by the end of 2018. Like StreetScooter's existing electric models, the WORK and WORK L, the WORK XL could be also sold to third-party customers. Each WORK XL van has the potential to save around five tons of CO₂ and 1,900 liters of diesel fuel each year. With 2,500 vehicles in service as planned, this could result in a total saving of 12,500 tons of CO₂ and 4.75 million liters of fuel every year.

INDIA: *TheHindu:* Members of All India Gramin Dak Sevak Union (AIGDSU), Vellore division, launched an indefinite strike on Wednesday to press for their demands including regularisation of jobs. According to S. Moorthy, president of the union's Vellore division, there are 280 rural postal employees in the division. "We have been fighting for our rights for several decades. We do the same work as that of a postman in a Head Post Office or sub-office in rural areas. But we are paid less and do not get pension after retirement as we are not permanent employees," he said. He pointed out that the rural employees constituted 80% of the postal staff strength.

TANZANIA: *AllAfrica:* The Deputy Minister of Works, Transport and Communication Mr Edwin Ngonyani has called on the Tanzania Postal Corporation (TPC) to upgrade its salary scales and motivate staff with better pay. According to a statement from the ministry, the minister also called upon TPS staff to work hard and increase the corporation's income. He advised the corporation to expand its network to the Southern highlands and the Lake Zone regions because their services in the areas have been shaky.

August 16

NEW ZEALAND: *NZ Herald:* New Zealand Post has scrapped its FastPost service as the number of letters being sent continues to significantly decline, the national postal service says. FastPost, which aimed to deliver letters, documents and postcards between major New Zealand centres within one business day, will stop being available from next January. "New Zealand Post is making this change following a review of its priority mail network," the organisation said in a statement. "The amount of all letter volumes continues to decline significantly, at a rate of approximately 60 million items a year, and despite ongoing cost reductions this change is necessary."

UNITED KINGDOM: *FT:* Royal Mail has been set a September deadline by a trade union to resolve a simmering dispute over pension reform — or face industrial action. The Communication Workers Union said it would give the privatised postal operator until September 6 to reach a settlement over a thorny issue that has soured industrial relations at the FTSE 100 group. Royal Mail wants to replace its defined benefit pension scheme, which guarantees a level of income in retirement, with a less generous arrangement. The company currently pays about £400m a year into the pension pot, but says that could more than double to above £1bn if no changes are made. Royal Mail said it was "committed" to continuing negotiations with the CWU on pay and pensions.

August 14

UNITED KINGDOM: *TameBay:* This week it's possible that [Royal Mail](#) workers who belong to the CWU may move one step closer to strike action. CWU Deputy General Secretary Terry Pullinger has given a deadline of the 15th of August for the Union and the Royal Mail to agree some firm principles in talks, otherwise the Postal Executive of the Union will consider setting a timetable for industrial action. The Union are call for their 'Four Pillars' which are: A pension solution for all; a shorter working week; extending legal protections; and a redesigned operational pipeline. On Pensions Royal Mail have had one of the best pensions going but in today's world it's increasingly unrealistic for a "wage in retirement" which is what the CWU want to remain in place. Most pensions are now a contribution scheme and it's up to the person retiring to decide if they want a lump sum and which annuity provider they choose to provide their retirement income. This is a major sticking point for the union.

August 13

NEW ZEALAND: *RadioNZ:* The Postal Workers Union is calling on New Zealand Post to stop recording audio on the cameras it installs in new postal vehicles. The new electric postal vehicles have a forward-facing camera on the dashboard for security, which tracks the postie's GPS and automatically records both video and audio any time the vehicles is turned on. The union agrees the cameras should be used for safety purposes but argues that audio is a step too far. New Zealand Post has refused the union's request to stop all audio recordings until any potential privacy issues can be figured out with the Privacy Commission.

August 11

INDIA: *Post&Parcel:* DHL eCommerce has announced it is opening of a new distribution center in Delhi, as part of Deutsche Post DHL Group's plans to invest over €250m in India by 2020. In a [statement](#) issued yesterday (10 August), Malcolm Monteiro, CEO, DHL eCommerce Asia Pacific, said: "India is one of the top ten e-commerce markets and the fastest-growing globally with e-commerce expected to grow at a CAGR of 31% to reach €2bn by 2020."

NIGERIA: *Guardian:* The Minister of Communications, Abdur-Raheem Adebayo Shittu, has called on the National Assembly to expedite action in deliberating, and subsequently passing the Postal Reform Bill, and other related bills pending before it, aiming at restructuring the Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST). Shittu made the urgent call while launching two documents: Restructuring and Modernising Nigerian Postal Service, and NIPOST Vision 2020, and inaugurating a steering committee for NIPOST reform in his office on Monday. He said Government needed the collaboration and synergy of the lawmakers to deliver on its campaign promises to Nigerians by expediting actions on bills targeted at social reformation of the Nigerian society, one of which is the services provided by NIPOST.

UNITED KINGDOM: *WarehouseNews:* Employee-owned company Kite Packaging are specialists in supplying packaging to a broad cross-section of different industries. The newest product in the Kite range is corrugated triangular postal tubes. Delivered flat packed and easy to assemble these tubes are a great alternative to traditional round postal tubes. The unique design of the all-in-one

solution makes them hugely popular with companies despatching goods through the courier and parcel delivery networks. The triangular design ensures the tubes do not roll on courier sortation conveyors. Courier despatch labels can be applied to one flat surface of the tube, guaranteeing they can pass through sortation scanners without any issues.

August 10

GERMANY: *Post&Parcel*: Deutsche Post DHL Group has announced that its revenue for the second quarter (Q2) increased by 4.4% to €14.8bn and operating profit was up 11.8% at €841m. In a [statement](#) issued today, the group said that its international parcel and eCommerce business and “the global Express business in particular” drove the growth. Revenue in the Post – eCommerce – Parcel (PeP) division was up 4.8% to €4.3bn. This was primarily attributable to the eCommerce – Parcel business unit, whose revenue increasing by 13.6% to €2.0bn. Parcel Europe (+61.5%) and eCommerce (+15.1%) were the main drivers behind this growth. In the Post business unit, revenue was down 1.8% to €2.3bn due to structural volume declines, mainly in the area of Mail Communication. The Express division saw revenues increase by 8.7% to €3.8bn. This was supported by an 8.5% increase in daily volumes in the international time-definite (TDI) delivery business.

SOUTH AFRICA: *Post&Parcel*: The trade-only airfreight and express wholesaler AMI has announced the South African launch of its all-inclusive online service, click2ship Express Imports. The new service is the imports counterpart of click2ship Express Exports, which was launched in South Africa in 2014. click2ship Express Imports provides online quotes and bookings for imports from any location in the world. Prices include collection at origin, Customs export entries, freight, Customs clearance on arrival, and local delivery from airport to agent or consignee. The new service is aimed both at freight agents at point of origin, and those in South Africa.

UKRAINE: *BBC*: Ukraine's national postal service has been hit by a two-day-long cyber-attack targeting its online system that tracks parcels. Unknown hackers carried out a distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack against Ukrposhta's website. The attack began on Monday morning, but ended shortly after 21:00 local time (1900 BST). However, Ukrposhta reported on Facebook that the DDoS attack continued again on Tuesday. This is not the first time that Ukraine's postal service has been targeted this year - in June, Ukrposhta was hit by the NotPetya ransomware attacks, as part of a wider national attack on Ukrainian banks, the state power provider, television stations and public transport services.

August 9

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION: *The Peninsula Qatar*: Minister of Transport and Communications H E Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti met yesterday with Bishar Hussein, Director-General of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), in response to the complaint the State of Qatar had submitted to the UPU about blockading countries' infringements on the UPU Constitution and General Regulations, which are the first of their kind in the world and a dangerous precedent to the UPU conventions. The two officials discussed blockading countries' violations of UPU systems, particularly Article 4 of UPU conventions relating to freedom of transit of postal items. The meeting also emphasised the postal correspondences is a human right and delivering them to their destinations is a social matter. The meeting also reviewed cooperation in the field of post and means of furthering enhancing and developing them, as well as boosting relations between Qatar and the UPU.

CHINA: *Post&Parcel*: UPS has appointed Harld Peters as the new President of UPS China. A UPS veteran with 18 years of logistics experience, Peters will be responsible for leading strategic initiatives across UPS's package delivery and supply chain operations in China. Peters succeeds Richard Loi, who will be retiring after 26 years of dedicated service with UPS.

DENMARK: *Post&Parcel*: REJA's capabilities have enabled Europa to increase its daily Danish services. The route, which previously ran one way for exports, will now operate in both directions every day between Copenhagen and Denmark's second largest city, Aarhus, and Europa's £30m groupage facility, 1hub, in Dartford. Europa said that the new daily routes, paired with a competitive pricing strategy and efficient service, help to further expand Europa's European footprint and “realise its ambition to become market leader between the UK and the continent by 2018”.

NETHERLANDS: *Post&Parcel*: PostNL has introduced its new ‘Delivery by appointment’ service. PostNL said that the new service means that “the consumer can directly determine when their online order is to be delivered by PostNL, at the moment they purchase it”. The postal operator explained the reasoning behind the new offering: “If consumers can choose the delivery time themselves, this increases the chance of them making their purchase in an online shop in preference to a physical shop. Using the delivery option ‘Delivery by appointment’, the consumer chooses the day and two-hour time slot during which PostNL will deliver the parcel. This service offers everyone the opportunity to plan for themselves when they will receive their parcel.”

SLOVAKIA: *Spectator*: Slovakia's main postal service operator, Slovenská Pošta, is likely to buy shares in Swan Mobile, which runs the smallest mobile provider in the country: Štvorka (or 4ka). It plans to pay €1 million for the stock, the Sme daily reported. 4ka has had an exclusive place in post offices in Slovakia since it launched its services in 2015, with Slovenská Pošta taking commissions from sales. The agreement on cooperation signed by the company's previous management states that it also has the right to obtain 10-percent stock in Swan Mobile.

August 8

UKRAINE: *IBTimes*: The computer networks of Ukrposhta, the national postal service in Ukraine, have reportedly been disrupted by a two-day distributed-denial-of-service (DDoS) cyberattack. According to the [Interfax news agency](#), the computer systems targeted by the unknown hackers are linked to the tracking of customer parcels. It is believed that the attack started on the morning of Monday 7 August and, despite a brief period of respite, continued into the next day. In an update on its Facebook page on Tuesday 8 August, a spokesperson said: "Today, hackers have become more active, due to their actions, both the website and services are working slowly and with interruptions". Officials have stressed that technicians are currently working on the issues, hoping to restore service soon.

GERMANY: *AutomotiveNews:* Deutsche Post DHL Group is seeing increased interest in its new electric delivery van after a debate on diesel emissions has gathered pace in Germany. The group is producing and selling its own electric delivery vans, known as Streetscooter and in June said it was teaming up with Ford Motor Co. as a components supplier for a new line of larger vehicles. The move to sell to external customers has taken on new significance given the debate over diesel and gasoline engines in Germany, with politicians and car bosses last week agreeing measures to cut pollution and repair the car industry's battered reputation.

August 5

SWITZERLAND: *ipe.com:* Switzerland's CHF15.8bn (€14.7bn) pension fund for postal employees has joined several of its compatriot Pensionskassen in the mortgage lending business in a bid to obtain more yield. It described mortgages as an "interesting alternative to bonds". Andres Haueter, head of investment management at Pensionskasse Post (PK Post), said: "The yield is significantly higher than traditional investments and risk is limited because of the claim on the property."

August 4

INDIA: *TheHindu:* The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) recently found that smugglers are using the postal service to sell parts of endangered animals. They stumbled upon feathers of the grey jungle fowl being smuggled out by the hundreds. These feathers with eyespots are used as fishing lures and were being sent to certain European countries. Earlier this year, another case came to light: Pangolin scales were smuggled to Southeast Asian countries, using the services of India Post. WCCB representatives and the Border Security Force took stock of their preparedness to check turtle smuggling for which West Bengal is a transit route. During last winter, over 15,000 turtles were seized from West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

ITALY: *Post&Parcel:* Poste Italiane has reported an increase in both revenues and profits for the first half (H1) of 2017, with consolidated revenues up 2% to €18bn and operating profits up 0.5% to €847m. Net profit, however, down 9.7% to €510m. The Postal and Business Services division posted market revenues of €1.8bn (which was down 3.8%) and total revenues of €4.27bn (down 1.4%). Poste Italiane commented: "The fall in market revenues from mail volumes (-6.7% compared with the first half of 2016), is linked to the expected drop in the volume of postal products (-9.6%), though smaller than the 2016 trend compared with the same period of 2015 (-10.3%). "Combating the slide in revenues, besides the new tariffs and the development of the parcels segment, are the measures taken to improve the quality of traditional postal services and the efficiency of the related operating processes." The bright spot of the division was the Parcel Segment which handled 55m parcels in H1, up 19.6% on last year.

NETHERLANDS: *Post&Parcel:* DHL Express has extended its "City Hub" concept for environmentally-friendly inner-city deliveries to The Hague, Netherlands with a new pilot involving electric vehicles. This pilot will also see the first deployment of Deutsche Post DHL Group's StreetScooter electric delivery van in the global DHL Express delivery network. The pilots in these cities combined the use of a DHL "Cubicycle" – a cargo bicycle that can carry a specialized container with a load of up to 125kg – with a customized trailer carrying up to four containers. A DHL van brings the trailer into the city centre, where the containers are then loaded on to Cubicycles for delivery over the last mile. The standardized containers used in the City Hub concept match the dimensions of a standard shipping pallet and can be transferred more easily and quickly between the different modes of transport within the DHL Express network. While the initial pilot in The Hague will involve electric vehicles, the company is also planning to add Cubicycles at a later date to support deliveries over shorter distances or routes with heavier congestion.

SINGAPORE: *StraitsTimes:* Singapore Post reported on Friday (Aug 4) a 13.6 per cent drop in first-quarter net profit to S\$31 million from S\$35.9 million in the year-ago period. This was despite a 6.2 per cent year-on-year rise in revenue for the three months to end-June to S\$354.1 million from growth in its postal and logistics businesses. But SingPost said underlying net profit fell 24.7 per cent, due mainly to lower domestic mail volumes, costs from planned investments, increased competition in the logistics segment, and associates that were investing for growth. SingPost said strong international mail growth drove postal revenue to a 9.3 per cent increase, even as domestic mail revenue decreased with more organisations moving to electronic statements.

UNITED KINGDOM: *Post&Parcel:* In its latest Communications Market Report, published today (3 August), the UK regulator Ofcom has noted that although the total addressed letters volumes fell by 4% between 2015 and 2016 to 11.8bn items, nearly nine in ten people (88%) said that they value the option to be able to use the postal service. Ofcom said that the decline in letter volumes "was driven by a 9% decline in Royal Mail's end-to-end letter volume, to 4.7bn items, which accounted for 40% of total letter volumes in 2016". And, as one would expect, the postal service was most prized by the older generation. Around 82% of 16-24s said they valued being able to use the post, and this rose to 85% among 25-44s; 91% from the 45-64s; 93% for the 65-74s and 97% among the over 75s.

UNITED KINGDOM: *Post&Parcel:* A Clean Vehicle Retrofit Accreditation Scheme (CVRAS) is being launched in the UK today (3 August). By providing a single standard that shows an emission technology meets standards set out in the UK government's Clean Air Zone Framework for England, the scheme will enable the existing fleet of urban vehicles to be fitted with proven emission control solutions. The scheme will initially focus on buses, but will then extend rapidly to a wide range of vehicles. Andy Eastlake, LowCVP's Managing Director, added: "The most effective retrofit technologies can cut polluting emissions by over 95%. But it is critical that these systems are properly calibrated and matched to the vehicle and its operation and that we have a common and robust approval system. "By making sure that we fit a range of the most appropriate technologies to the right vehicles, retrofitting can make a very significant, immediate impact on our air quality problems, supporting the complementary strategy to adopt new vehicles as quickly as economically viable.

August 2

NIGERIA: *PremiumTimes:* Preparatory to the take-off of the electronic commerce system in the country, the Nigeria Post & Telecommunications service, NIPOST, says it was adopting a system that would improve the delivery of its services. The

“what3words address” is an innovative global addressing system designed to help the postal service increase the number of homes it is capable of delivering to. The NIPOST said in a statement on Wednesday that Nigeria was the seventh country, and the third in Africa to adopt the system, already in use for mail deliveries in Mongolia, Saint Maarten, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Tonga and Solomon Islands. Reputed to be Africa’s largest economy with over 180 million people, Nigeria is noted to have a poor addressing system that allows only 20 per cent of its inhabitants to receive their mails at home while only about 478,000 boxes are available in the post offices. To redress the situation and improve its services, NIPOST said it had set a target to raise its own home delivery services to over 70 per cent within the next two years.

SAUDI ARABIA: *Aliyarth*: The Albareed Al-Mumtaz Company, a subsidiary of Saudi Post, has launched a new postal service between Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam, which will deliver shipments within 24 hours. The new service, called "Tomorrow", was launched in the presence of the Saudi Post Chairman. It comes in line with the Post's new strategy aimed at providing outstanding services to customers. The Saudi Post Board of Directors has adopted a modern strategy to expand postal and non-postal operations of the express mail. It further seeks to enhance services in rapid transportation between the Kingdom's major cities, and develop its e-commerce and e-government applications.

August 1

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: *Post&Parcel*: Eniverse Technologies, a Dubai based technology group, and drones company Skycart of San Francisco, California, are to collaborate on drone delivery service Space Autonomous Drones in the UAE. Space Autonomous Drones plans to build strategic collaborations with companies such as Souq, DHL, Amazon, UPS, Aramex, and Alibaba Group. The company will offer drone shipping solutions, providing cost savings and faster delivery times. Once officially launched, Space Autonomous Drones’s technology will enable a wide range of customers to ship goods and products weighing 5kg or less to locations across Dubai. The autonomous, self-flying drones operated by Space Autonomous Drones will be run through a mobile app that enables businesses to manage and track their orders, and will drastically cut down delivery times. Operations will take place 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days of the year.

Postal/Industry News

August 31

Industry Alert: Mail Spoken Here. [Latest Issue.](#)

Industry Alert: *Flat Redirection to Las Vegas MPA (NASS LAS) Cancelled* Due to a new Bundle sorting machine being added into the Las Vegas P&DC (NASS 890) the Flat redirection to the Las Vegas MPA (NASS LAS) will be cancelled. Flats can begin to be dropped at the Las Vegas P&DC on September 1st, 2017. There will be an extended Grace Period at the Las Vegas MPA for 60 days. The P&DC will accept Flat mail that has already been prepared for the MPA. Miss-ship eInduction errors will be removed from the Mailer Scorecard and will not be assessed.

Industry Alert: Newly Elected MTAC Vice-Chair Mailer Technical Advisory Committee members recently voted on the selection of Bob Schimek as their new Vice-Chair beginning in January 2018. With over 28 years of experience in the mailing industry, Bob brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new position. He stated, "I am very honored to have been elected as the next Vice-Chair of MTAC. MTAC has been an important resource for the Postal Service for over 50 years now. I look forward to working with the Executive Committee to continue to evolve MTAC to ensure it continues to be effective for both the Postal Service and themailing industry." Schimek joins Wanda Senne, Elected Industry Co-Chair, and USPS Marketing VP Steve Monteith as part of the new leadership structure. In keeping with the MTAC charter, the Industry Co-Chair and Vice-Chair are elected from among current industry representatives. They each serve a two-year term. At the end of their two-year terms:

- The Co-Chair becomes the immediate past industry Chair, and serves in that role for another two-year term, and
- The Vice-Chair automatically succeeds the Co-Chair and serves a two-year term in that role.

Members of the MTAC Executive Committee are Steve Monteith, Postal Co-Chair; Erv Drewek, Industry Co-Chair; Judy de Torok, Postal Co-Vice Chair; Tom Hughes, Postal Co-Vice Chair; Wanda Senne, Industry Vice-Chair; Chris Lien, Immediate Past Industry Chair; Lindsey Taylor, Acting Program Manager/Secretary.

Industry Alert: *USPS Industry Webinar on Impact of Tropical Storm Harvey* The United States Postal Service is holding a webinar on Friday, September 1, 2017 at 2 PM EST to provide information and answer questions regarding hurricane/tropical storm Harvey's impact on Retail Operations, Delivery Operations and Drop Shipments. Please join us using the webinar information below. Thank you.

ATTENDEE INFORMATION Toll-Free Attendee Dial In: 866-381-9870 Conference ID: 79428518

Attendee Direct URL: <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=e0e32787091a1b655b3c422849235ee21>

If you cannot join using the direct link above, please use the alternate logins below:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Alternate URL: | https://usps.webex.com |
| Event Number: | 391 152 796 |

Industry Alert: *Attention PostalOne! Users: PostalOne! Release 45.3.1.2* will deploy on Sunday, September 3, 2017 from 4:00 AM CT to 9:00 AM CT. The *PostalOne!* system will be available during this time. ***PostalOne! Test Environment for Mailers (TEM) Release 45.3.1.2*** will deploy on Sunday, September 3, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 9:00 AM CT and TEM will be available during this time.

Office of the Inspector General: [Internal Controls Over Stamp Stock Shipments — Woodbury, MN, Post Office](#) Using data analytics examining lost and stolen stamp shipments, OIG auditors identified discrepancies in stamp inventory and shipments at the Woodbury, MN Post Office. The latest audit report examines whether internal controls over stamp stock shipments were in place and effective.

Read our findings and recommendations in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRAA7>

Industry Alert: Rio Grande District-Updates Updated: Wednesday, August 30, 2017

BME Operations are as follows:

- **779 Affected Areas BMEU Services to Victoria Main Office, 312 S. Main Street, Victoria, TX 77901**
- **783 Affected Areas BMEU Services to Corpus Christi Main Office, 809 Nueches Bay Blvd., Corpus Christi TX 78469**

The following offices resumed normal operations on Wednesday, August 30, 2017

- **Dripping Springs TX 78620**, 1450 W Highway 290, Dripping Springs TX 78620-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78419**, Cpu Naval Air, 630 Lexington Blvd, Corpus Christi TX 78419-9996
- **Kingsville TX 78363**, Cpu Texas A&M, 700 N University Blvd, Kingsville TX 78363-9996
- **Weesatche TX 77993**, Weesatche, 195 W FM 884, Weesatche TX 77993-9800
- **Columbus TX 78934**, 1221 Walnut St, Columbus TX 78934-9998

Until further notice, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, and Drop Shipments have all been suspended at the following offices:

- **Aransas Pass TX 78335, Post Office Box Customers in ZIP Code 78335**, 634 S Commercial St, Aransas Pass TX 78336-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Ingleside TX 78362, Ingleside, 2230 State Highway 361, 78362-4139
- **Aransas Pass TX 78336, Customers with street delivery in ZIP Code 78336**, 634 S Commercial St, Aransas Pass TX 78336-9998

- Alternate location for mail pick up: Corpus Christi TX 78405, Roy Miller Station, 1340 S Port Ave, Corpus Christi TX 78405
- **Bayside TX 78340**, 715 Third St, Bayside TX 78340-3019
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Gregory TX 78359, 102 W Fourth, Gregory TX 78359
- **Fulton TX 78358**, 301 Cactus St, Fulton TX 78358-9800
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Ingleside TX 78362, Ingleside, 2230 State Highway 361, 78362-4139
- **Meyersville TX 77974**, Meyersville, 2233 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville TX 77974-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Cuero TX 77954, 301 E Main St, Cuero TX 77954
- **Port Aransas TX 78373, Post Office Box Customers in ZIP Code 78373** 1211 State Highway 361, Port Aransas TX 78373-9998
 - Mail Pick Up Available in Retail Mobile Unit located in Port A, 1211 State Highway 361, Port Aransas TX 78373
- **Port Aransas TX 78373, Customers with street delivery in ZIP Code 78373**, 1211 State Highway 361, Port Aransas TX 78373-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Corpus Christi TX 78405, Roy Miller Station, 1340 S Port Ave, Corpus Christi TX 78405
- **Port Lavaca TX 77979**, 1201 Half League Rd, Port Lavaca TX 77979-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Victoria James Moody, 2804 Sam Houston, Victoria TX 77904
- **Rockport TX 78381, Post Office Box Customers**, 1550 FM 2165, Rockport TX 78382-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Ingleside TX 78362, Ingleside, 2230 State Highway 361, 78362-4139
- **Rockport TX 78382, For residential customers with ZIP Code 78382**, 1550 FM 2165, Rockport TX 78382-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Corpus Christi, HP Garcia, 809 Nueces Bay Blvd, Corpus Christi TX 78469
- **Seadrift TX 77983**, 518 S Main St, Seadrift TX 77983-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Victoria James Moody, 2804 Sam Houston, Victoria TX 77904
- **Skidmore TX 78389**, Skidmore, 122 E Patricio St, 78389-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Mathis TX 78368, 121 S Bee St, Mathis TX 78368
- **Telferner TX 77988**, 319 FM 1686, Telferner TX 77988-9800
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Edna TX 77957, 603 Rose, Edna TX 77957
- **Victoria MPO**, 312 S. Main, Victoria TX 77901-9998
 - Mail Pick Up Available in Retail Mobile Unit located at 198 E. Church Street, Victoria, TX 77901
- **Westhoff TX 77994**, Westhoff, 16 Houston Ave, Westhoff TX 77994-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Cuero TX 77954, 301 E Main St, Cuero TX 77954
- **Woodsboro TX 78393**, Woodsboro, 501 First St, Woodsboro TX 78393-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Refugio TX 78377, 507 Osage, Refugio TX 78377

The following offices resumed DELIVERY/DROP SHIPMENT operations, Monday, August 28, 2017 – NO RETAIL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE until further notice.

- **Corpus Christi TX 78413**, Southside, 6742 Weber Rd, Corpus Christi TX 78413-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78418**, Flour Bluff, 10139 Security Dr, Corpus Christi TX 78418-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78412**, Gulfway, 1345 Crescent Dr, Corpus Christi TX 78412-9998
- **Corpus Christi 78401**, Dwtm Corpus Christi, 802 N Tancagua St, 78401
- **Victoria TX 77904**, James Moody, 2804 Sam Houston Dr, Victoria TX 77904-9998
- **Berclair TX 78107**, Berclair, 15864 Us Highway 59 S, 78107-9800
- **Bloomington TX 77951**, Bloomington, 41 E 2nd St, 77951-9800
- **Driscoll TX 78351**, Driscoll, 201 W Main, 78351-9800
- **Edna TX 77957**, Edna, 603 Rose St, 77957-9998
- **Edroy TX 78352**, Edroy, 17916 Highway 234, 78352-9800
- **Fannin TX 77960**, Fannin, 9931 Us Highway 59 N, 77960-9800
- **Goliad TX 77963**, Goliad, 151 W End St, 77963-9998
- **Inez TX 77968**, Inez, 126 Church St, 77968-9998
- **La Salle TX 77969**, La Salle, 1999 FM 616, 77969-9800
- **La Ward TX 77970**, La Ward, 13059 State Highway 172, 77970-9800
- **Lolita TX 77971**, Lolita, 8966 FM 1593, 77971-9998
- **Nursery TX 77976**, Nursery, 12685 Nursery Dr, 77976-9800
- **Odem TX 78370**, Odem, 223 Main St, 78370-9998
- **Placedo TX 77977**, Placedo, 5037 FM 616, 77977-9800
- **Refugio TX 78377**, Refugio, 507 Osage St, 78377-9998
- **Taft TX 78390**, Taft, 110 Victoria Ave, 78390-9998
- **Thomaston TX 77989**, Thomaston, 264 Fordtran Rd, 77989-9800
- **Tynan TX 78391**, Tynan, 508 Highway 359, 78391-9998
- **Vanderbilt TX 77991**, Vanderbilt, 5825 FM 616, 77991-9800
- **Victoria TX 77901**, Cpu Rogers Pharmacy, 4402 N Laurent St, Victoria TX 77901-2794

Industry Alert: Louisiana District Update As of Wednesday, August 30, 2017 Until Further Notice, Due to Hurricane Harvey, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations and Drop Shipments Have All Been Suspended at the Following Offices: Avery Island RMPO 70513, 100 Main Rd, Avery Island LA 70513-9998

- Alternate location for retail and collections will divert to:
- New Iberia Post Office, 817 E Dale St, New Iberia LA 70560-5598
 - New Iberia Hours: Mon – Fri: 08:00 to 5:00, Sat: 08:30 to 12:00

The following offices will resume normal operations on Thursday, August 31, 2017:

Cameron Post Office 70631, 144 Adam Roux St, Cameron LA 70631-9998

Hackberry Post Office 70645, 904 Main St, Hackberry LA 70645-9997

August 30

Office of the Inspector General: Transportation Cost System — Air USPS transportation costs were about \$7 billion in FY 2016, \$2.5 billion of which was related to air transportation costs. The Postal Service uses the Transportation Cost System (TRACS) – Air, a statistical sampling, and data tool, to get information to allocate air transportation costs to mail products and services and to set prices. Our OIG Audit looks at the TRACS tests conducted in FY 2016 to assess their accuracy and reliability. Read the full report here: <https://go.usa.gov/xRAmW>

Office of the Inspector General: Internal Controls Over Stamp Stock Shipments- Rosemeade Station Carrollton, TX Using data analytics examining lost and stolen stamp shipments, OIG auditors identified discrepancies in internal controls over stamp inventory and shipments at the Rosemeade station in Carrollton, TX, from June through August of 2017. Read our findings and recommendations in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRAMJ>

Industry Alert: Updated: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 @ 7:00PM All Priority Mail Express service to the following 3-Digit ZIP Code: 759, is suspended until Friday, September 1, 2017 at 5:00pm. The Postal Service is suspending the shipment of live animals destined for the 3-Digit 759 until further notice

Industry Alert: UPDATED: 7:00PM, Tuesday, August 29, 2017 The Postal Service is suspending the shipment of live animals destined for the following 3-Digit ZIP Codes until further notice: 770, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777 and 778. All Priority Mail Express service to the following 3-Digit ZIP Codes: 770, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777 and 778 is suspended until Friday, September 1, 2017 at 5:00pm.

North Houston P&DC

- The North Houston P&DC, located at 4600 Aldine Bender Rd, North Houston, TX 77315-9997 will not be accepting drop shipments beginning at 2:00PM on Sunday, August 27, 2017.
- The North Houston P&DC is planning to resume accepting Drop Shipments, **with the exception of Marketing Mail**, on Friday, September 8, 2017.
 - The North Houston P&DC will resume accepting Marketing Mail on Monday, September 11, 2017

All Post Offices/Stations/Branches/Finance Units within the 3-Digit ZIP Codes of 770, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777 and 778 will suspend Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, BME Operations and Drop Shipments on Monday, August 28, 2017 until further notice.

August 29

Industry Alert: USPS Marketing Mail™ (Standard Mail®) Markings and Labels Update The Postal Service™ published a *DMM Advisory* on Friday, June 30, 2017, and Friday, July 7, 2017 providing updates about the rebranding of Standard Mail® as USPS Marketing Mail™. The update stated the Postal Service continues to work with the industry on a timeline for implementation for the required use of new postage markings, permit imprint indicia, and sack, tray, and pallet labels. As information, this messaging applies to all USPS Marketing Mail shapes. We updated the *Domestic Mail Manual* and *Quick Service Guides* in the applicable preparation sections and added the statement “Customers should not convert to the USPS Marketing Mail markings until a date is announced.” We continue to receive requests to test the new name and to convert to the new markings since the new name appeals to many customers. If you are interested in testing, please respond to this Advisory with your name and contact information. Testing data will assist all customers as we move forward with implementation. In the meantime, we continue to request that customers do not transition to the new markings until we publish the final details through a *DMM Advisory* and *Industry Alert*.

Office of the Inspector General: Survey Says...! What encourages you or discourages you from filling out a survey? Our latest Pushing the Envelope blog looks at a recent white paper on POS surveys, which the U.S. Postal Service uses to assess customer satisfaction across various points of contact with customers, including retail and delivery. Some minor enhancements to these surveys would likely improve USPS’s ability to assess and act on customer sentiment. Read more at: <https://go.usa.gov/xRG6s>

Industry Alert: Updated: Monday, August 28, 2017 @ 10:00pm **The following offices have resumed DELIVERY/DROP SHIPMENT operations, Monday, August 28, 2017 – NO RETAIL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE until further notice.**

- **Corpus Christi TX 78410**, Stonewall Sta, 10515 Stonewall Blvd, Corpus Christi TX 78410-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78413**, Southside, 6742 Weber Rd, Corpus Christi TX 78413-9998
- **Dripping Springs TX 78620**, 1450 W Highway 290, Dripping Springs TX 78620-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78418**, Flour Bluff, 10139 Security Dr, Corpus Christi TX 78418-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78412**, Gulfway, 1345 Crescent Dr, Corpus Christi TX 78412-9998
- **Victoria TX 77904**, James Moody, 2804 Sam Houston Dr, Victoria TX 77904-9998

The following offices will be accepting DROP SHIPMENTS beginning Tuesday, August 29, 2017. NO RETAIL OR DELIVERY SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE until further notice.

- **Berclair TX 78107**, Berclair, 15864 Us Highway 59 S, 78107-9800
- **Bloomington TX 77951**, Bloomington, 41 E 2nd St, 77951-9800
- **Corpus Christi 78401**, Dwtm Corpus Christi, 802 N Tanchua St, 78401
- **Driscoll TX 78351**, Driscoll, 201 W Main, 78351-9800
- **Edna TX 77957**, Edna, 603 Rose St, 77957-9998
- **Edroy TX 78352**, Edroy, 17916 Highway 234, 78352-9800
- **Fannin TX 77960**, Fannin, 9931 Us Highway 59 N, 77960-9800
- **Goliad TX 77963**, Goliad, 151 W End St, 77963-9998
- **Inex TX 77968**, Inex, 126 Church St, 77968-9998
- **Ingleside TX 78362**, Ingleside, 2230 State Highway 361, 78362-4139
- **La Salle TX 77969**, La Salle, 1999 FM 616, 77969-9800
- **La Ward TX 77970**, La Ward, 13059 State Highway 172, 77970-9800
- **Lolita TX 77971**, Lolita, 8966 FM 1593, 77971-9998
- **Nursery TX 77976**, Nursery, 12685 Nursery Dr, 77976-9800
- **Odem TX 78370**, Odem, 223 Main St, 78370-9998
- **Placedo TX 77977**, Placedo, 5037 FM 616, 77977-9800
- **Skidmore TX 78389**, Skidmore, 122 E Patricio St, 78389-9998
- **Taft TX 78390**, Taft, 110 Victoria Ave, 78390-9998
- **Thomaston TX 77989**, Thomaston, 264 Fordtran Rd, 77989-9800
- **Tynan TX 78391**, Tynan, 508 Highway 359, 78391-9998
- **Vanderbilt TX 77991**, Vanderbilt, 5825 FM 616, 77991-9800
- **Victoria TX 77901**, Victoria, 312 S Main St, 77901-9998
- **Refugio TX 78377**, Fefugio, 507 Osage St, 78377-9998

Other impacted Rio Grande Offices:

Until Further Notice, Due to Hurricane Harvey, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, BME Operations and Drop Shipments Have All Been Suspended at the Following Offices:

Drop Ships and BME Operations have been moved to San Antonio P&DC located at 10410 Perrin Beitel Rd, San Antonio TX 78284 for the offices below:

- **Aransas Pass TX 78336**, 634 S Commercial St, Aransas Pass TX 78336-9998
- **Austwell TX 77950**, 611 Vandenberg St, Austwell TX 77950-9800
- **Bayside TX 78340**, 715 Third St, Bayside TX 78340-3019
- **Corpus Christi TX 78419**, Cpu Naval Air, 630 Lexington Blvd, Corpus Christi TX 78419-9996
- **Fulton TX 78358**, 301 Cactus St, Fulton TX 78358-9800
- **Kingsville TX 78363**, Cpu Texas A&M, 700 N University Blvd, Kingsville TX 78363-9996
- **Mcfaddin TX 77973**, 2207 FM 445, Mcfaddin TX 77973-9800
- **Meyersville TX 77974**, Meyersville, 2233 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville TX 77974-9998
- **Point Comfort TX 77978**, 3 Lamar St, Point Comfort TX 77978-9800
- **Port Aransas TX 78373**, 1211 State Highway 361, Port Aransas TX 78373-9998
- **Port Lavaca TX 77979**, 1201 Half League Rd, Port Lavaca TX 77979-9998
- **Port O Connor TX 77982**, 611 W Adams St, Port O Connor TX 77982-9800
- **Rockport TX 78382**, 1550 FM 2165, Rockport TX 78382-9998
- **Seadrift TX 77983**, 518 S Main St, Seadrift TX 77983-9998
- **Telferner TX 77988**, 319 FM 1686, Telferner TX 77988-9800
- **Thomaston TX 77989**, Thomaston, 264 Fordtran Rd, Thomaston TX 77989-9800
- **Tivoli TX 77990**, 211 W Scott St, Tivoli TX 77990-9998
- **Victoria TX 77901**, Cpu Rogers Pharmacy, 4402 N Laurent St, Victoria TX 77901-2794
- **Weesatche TX 77993**, Weesatche, 195 W FM 884, Weesatche TX 77993-9800
- **Westhoff TX 77994**, Westhoff, 16 Houston Ave, Westhoff TX 77994-9998
- **Woodsboro TX 78393**, Woodsboro, 501 First St, Woodsboro TX 78393-9998

As further impacts to USPS operations are identified, updated information will be posted to USPS Service Alerts website accessed through <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm> and the PostalPro website, <http://postalpro.usps.com/>. Additional Industry Alerts will be released as impacts warrant.

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission: Market Tests of Experimental Product—Customized Deliveries ,41074–41075 [2017–18292] [[PDF](#)], New Postal Products,41075 [2017–18212] [[PDF](#)]

Industry Alert: Southern Area - Hurricane Harvey - Dallas District UPDATED: 7:00PM, Monday, August 28, 2017 All Priority Mail Express service to the following 3-Digit ZIP Code: 759, is suspended until Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 5:00pm. **Updated Closures/Impacted Offices** All Post Offices/Stations/Branches/Finance Units within the 3-Digit ZIP Code of 759 will suspend Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, BME Operations and Drop Shipments until Wednesday, August 30, 2017.

August 28

Office of the Inspector General: [Postal Inspection Service Consumer Fraud Fund](#) OIG auditors have released a report, Postal Inspection Service Consumer Fraud Fund. Read it at: <https://go.usa.gov/xR7GT>

Industry Alert: Discontinued Support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) for Product Tracking & Reporting (PTR)

System REMINDER: Convert to a Secure Transmission Method by August 31, 2017 Effective August 31, 2017, the United States Postal Service (USPS) will discontinue support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) for mailers to send and/or receive shipping files and data through the Product Tracking & Reporting (PTR) system. Mailers using FTP to send and/or receive shipping files and data through PTR will need to set up a secure transmission method utilizing one of the methods below:

Industry Alert: *Trays Placed on Pallets* The following has been created to address instances of pallets of trays that may be rejected due to the direction tray labels are facing once stacked on a pallet. Any combination of trays (1-foot, 2-foot, EMM) can be stacked on the same pallet as long as the finished pallet is sturdy and meets all height and weight requirements. Pallets of trays must not be rejected, held, or sent back to mailer for rework solely because some or all trays are not:

- Facing outward
- Counter-stacked
- Stacked right side up

Although not required:

- Trays on pallets should be stacked right side up with labels facing outward.
- Trays should be counter-stacked where possible to build the sturdiest pallet possible.

For more information on Pallets, Pallet Boxes, and Trays on Pallets reference Quick Service Guide 705a at Postal Explorer: <https://pe.usps.com/text/qsg300/q000.htm>

Office of the Inspector General: [Field Material Handling Projects](#) The U.S. Postal Service uses more than 200 miles of conveyors and more than 8,500 pieces of mail processing equipment to sort letters and parcels. Our latest OIG Audit examines whether the Postal Service achieved its anticipated return on investment for field material handling projects completed in FY 2016. Read the findings at <https://go.usa.gov/xR7dT>

Office of the Inspector General: [Postal Customer Satisfaction: A Primer of Four Surveys](#) Enhancements to the U.S. Postal Service's robust customer survey program could provide more detailed and nuanced insights into customer satisfaction, according to a new white paper by the Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG). The OIG examined four specific USPS surveys and identified potential enhancements to gather additional information that would help USPS thrive in an increasingly competitive market. Read Postal Customer Satisfaction: A Primer of Four Surveys <https://go.usa.gov/xR75v>

Industry Alert: *Southern Area Hurricane - Harvey Update – Rio Grande District* Updated: Sunday, August 27, 2017 @ 9:00PM. **The Southern Area and Rio Grande District announce the following offices will resume normal operations on Monday, August 28, 2017**

- **Alice TX 78332**, Alice, 401 E 2nd St, Alice TX 78332-9998
- **Beeville TX 78102**, 111 N Saint Marys St, Beeville TX 78102-9998
- **Bishop TX 78343**, 201 S Ash Ave, Bishop TX 78343-9998
- **Concepcion TX 78349**, 2239 FM 716, Concepcion TX 78349-9998 Corpus Christi TX 78469, **Corpus Christi TX 78469**, H P Garcia TX 78469, 809 Nueces Bay Blvd, Corpus Christi TX 78469-9995
- **Corpus Christi TX 78411**, Lamar Park, 4801 Everhart Rd, Corpus Christi TX 78411-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78415**, Portairs, 4213 S Port Ave, Corpus Christi TX 78415-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78405**, Roy Miller, 1340 S Port Ave, Corpus Christi TX 78405-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78404**, Six Points, 902 Ayers St, Corpus Christi TX 78404-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78413**, Southside, 6742 Weber Rd, Corpus Christi TX 78413-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78410**, Stonewall Sta, 10515 Stonewall Blvd, Corpus Christi TX 78410-9998
- **Cuero TX 77954**, 301 E Main St, Cuero TX 77954-9998
- **Encino TX 78353**, 291 S Business Highway 281, Encino TX 78353-9998
- **Falfurrias TX 78355**, 218 E Chapote St, Falfurrias TX 78355-9998
- **Francitas TX 77961**, Francitas, 66 Bryan St, Francitas TX 77961-9800
- **Freer TX 78357**, 320 S Main St, Freer TX 78357-9998
- **Ganado TX 77962**, Ganado, 101 W Rogers St, Ganado TX 77962-9998
- **Gregory TX 78359**, 102 W 4th St, Gregory TX 78359-9800

- **Hallettsville TX 77964**, 206 S La Grange St, Hallettsville TX 77964-9998
- **Hebbronville TX 78361**, 502 N Smith Ave, Hebbronville TX 78361-9998
- **Kingsville TX 78363**, 103 E Kleberg Ave, Kingsville TX 78363-4502
- **Mathis TX 78368**, 121 S Bee St, Mathis TX 78368-9998
- **Moulton TX 77975**, 206 S Main St, Moulton TX 77975-9998
- **Oilton TX 78371**, 118 W Laredo Ave, Oilton TX 78371-9800
- **Orange Grove TX 78372**, 214 S Eugenia St, Orange Grove TX 78372-9998
- **Premont TX 78375**, 305 S Agnes, Premont TX 78375-9998
- **Realitos TX 78376**, 6417 Highway 359, Realitos TX 78376-9998
- **Riviera TX 78379**, 120 S 7th St, Riviera TX 78379-3623
- **Robstown TX 78380**, 313 E Main Ave, Robstown TX 78380-3302
- **San Diego TX 78384**, 111 N Victoria St, San Diego TX 78384-1829
- **Sandia TX 78383**, 12140 Highway 359, Sandia TX 78383-9998
- **Sarita TX 78385**, 103 N Mallory St, Sarita TX 78385-9800
- **Shiner TX 77984**, 217 W 7th St, Shiner TX 77984-9998
- **Sinton TX 78387**, Sinton, 104 S San Patricio St, Sinton TX 78387-9998
- **Sweet Home TX 77987**, 22 County Road 391e, Sweet Home TX 77987-9800
- **Yoakum TX 77995**, 112 Nelson St, Yoakum TX 77995-9998

The Following Offices Will Be Attempting Street Delivery, But There Will Be NO Retail Service Available

- Banquete TX 78339, 4376 Elia St, Banquete TX 78339-9800
- Bayside TX 78340, 715 Third St, Bayside TX 78340-3019
- Corpus Christi TX 78412, Gulfway, 1345 Crescent Dr, Corpus Christi TX 78412-9998
- Corpus Christi TX 78418, Flour Bluff, 10139 Security Dr, Corpus Christi TX 78418-9998
- Driscoll TX 78351, 201 W Main, Driscoll TX 78351-9800
- Edna TX 77957, Edna, 603 Rose St, Edna TX 77957-9998
- Edroy TX 78352, 17916 Highway 234, Edroy TX 78352-9800
- Goliad TX 77963, 151 W End St, Goliad TX 77963-9998
- Lolita TX 77971, Lolita, 8966 FM 1593, Lolita TX 77971-9998
- Odem TX 78370, Odem, 223 Main St, Odem TX 78370-9998
- Port Lavaca TX 77979, 1201 Half League Rd, Port Lavaca TX 77979-9998
- Refugio TX 78377, 507 Osage St, Refugio TX 78377-9998
- Seadrift TX 77983, 518 S Main St, Seadrift TX 77983-9998
- Skidmore TX 78389, 122 E Patricio St, Skidmore TX 78389-9998
- Taft TX 78390, 110 Victoria Ave, Taft TX 78390-9998
- Tivoli TX 77990, 211 W Scott St, Tivoli TX 77990-9998
- Tynan TX 78391, 508 Highway 359, Tynan TX 78391-9998

Industry Alert: Southern Area Hurricane - Harvey Update – Louisiana District Effective Monday, August 28, 2017 All Facilities in Louisiana District will be Fully Operational.

Industry Alert: Houston Industry Alert As of 5:30pm, Sunday, August 27, 2017

The Southern Area and Houston District are announcing the following update to impacts from Hurricane Harvey. All Priority Mail Express service to the following 3-Digit ZIP Codes: 770, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776 and 778 is suspended until Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 5:00pm.

Updated Closures/Impacted Offices All Post Offices/Stations/Branches/Finance Units within the 3-Digit ZIP Codes of 770, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776 and 778 will suspend Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, BME Operations and Drop Shipments on Monday, August 28, 2017 until further notice.

North Houston TX P&DC The Houston P&DC, located at 4600 Aldine Bender Rd, North Houston, TX 77315-9997 will not be accepting drop shipments beginning at 2:00PM on Sunday, August 27, 2017. The Houston P&DC is planning to resume accepting drop shipments on Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 5:00PM

Until Further Notice, Due to Hurricane Harvey, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, BME Operations and Drop Shipments Have All Been Suspended at the Following Offices:

- Bay City TX 77414**, 1309 Baywood Dr, Bay City TX 77414-9998
- Blessing TX 77419**, 800 FM 616 W, Blessing TX 77419-0015
- Cedar Lane TX 77415**, 13412 FM 457, Cedar Lane, TX 77415-0177
- Collegeport TX 77428**, 15235 FM 1095, Collegeport TX 77428-0015
- Elmaton TX 77440**, 10430 Highway 35, Elmaton TX 77440-0077
- High Island TX 77623**, 2008 S 5th St, High Island TX 77623-0135
- Iola TX 77861**, 23329 FM 39, Iola TX 77861-5367
- Markham TX 77456**, 610 Broadway St, Markham TX 77456-9800
- Matagorda TX 77457**, 750 Market St, Matagorda TX 77457-0062

Midfield TX 77458, 275 Junetta Ave, Midfield TX 77458-9801
Palacios TX 77465, 700 Henderson St, Palacios, TX 77465-9998
Port Bolivar TX 77650, 2500 Broadway Ave, Port Bolivar TX 77650-0736
Port Bolivar TX 77650, Crystal Beach, 2200 Highway 87, Port Bolivar TX 77650-0717
Sabine Pass TX 77655, 5424 Tremont St, Sabine Pass TX 77655-0310
Van Vleck TX 77482, 8901 State Highway 35 N, Van Vleck TX 77482-9899
Wadsworth TX 77483, 13622 Highway 60 S, Wadsworth TX 77483-9800
West Columbia TX 77486, 350 W Brazos Ave, West Columbia TX 77486-9998

August 26

Industry Alert: Southern Area Hurricane - Harvey Update – Rio Grande District As of Friday, August 25, 2017 @ 4:00PM Updated Closures/Impacted Offices

- **Ft Sam Houston TX 78234**, Fort Sam Houston, 2492 Stanley Rd, Ft Sam Houston TX 78234-9998
- **Lackland TX 78236**, Lackland AFB, 2261 Hughes Ave, Lackland TX 78236-9998

The Southern Area and Rio Grande have updated the following impacts from Hurricane Harvey. Corpus Christi P&DC

- Corpus Christi Plant located at 809 Nueces Bay Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78469-9998 will not be accepting drop shipment beginning at 6:00am on Friday, August 25, 2017.
 - Drop shipments should be diverted to San Antonio P&DC located at 10410 Perrin Beitel Rd, San Antonio TX 78284.
 - Corpus Christi is planning to resume accepting drop shipments at 6:00am Sunday, August 27, 2017.
- o Mailers can contact the FAST Help Desk at 877.569.6614 with concerns
- o Non-eInduction mailers will continue to submit PS Form 8125

Other Rio Grande District offices impacted: Until Further Notice, Due to Hurricane Harvey, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, BME Operations and Drop Shipments Have All Been Suspended at the Following Offices:

- o DROP SHIPS and BME Operations have been moved to San Antonio P&DC located at 10410 Perrin Beitel Rd, San Antonio TX 78284.

- **Victoria TX 77901**, 312 S Main St, Victoria TX 77901
- **Victoria TX 77904**, James Moody, 2804 Sam Houston Dr, Victoria TX 77904-9998
- **Austwell TX 77950**, 611 Vandenberg St, Austwell TX 77950-9800
- **Bloomington TX 77951**, 41 E 2nd St, Bloomington TX 77951-9800
- **Inez TX 77968**, 126 Church St, Inez TX 77968-9998
- **Mcfaddin TX 77973**, 2207 FM 445, Mcfaddin TX 77973-9800
- **Nursery TX 77976**, 12685 Nursery Dr, Nursery TX 77976-9800
- **Placedo TX 77977**, 5037 FM 616, Placedo, TX 77977-9800
- **Point Comfort TX 77978**, 3 Lamar St, Point Comfort TX 77978-9800
- **Port Lavaca TX 77979**, 1201 Half League Rd, Port Lavaca TX 77979-9998
- **Port O Connor TX 77982**, 611 W Adams St, Port O Connor TX 77982-9800
- **Seadrift TX 77983**, 518 S Main St, Seadrift TX 77983-9998
- **Telferner TX 77988**, 319 FM 1686, Telferner TX 77988-9800
- **Tivoli TX 77990**, 211 W Scott St, Tivoli TX 77990-9998
- **Aransas Pass TX 78336**, 634 S Commercial St, Aransas Pass TX 78336-9998
- **Fulton TX 78358**, 301 Cactus St, Fulton TX 78358-9800
- **Gregory TX 78359**, 102 W 4th St, Gregory TX 78359-9800
- **Ingleside TX 78362**, 2230 State Highway 361, Ingleside TX 78362-4139
- **Port Aransas TX 78373**, 1211 State Highway 361, Port Aransas TX 78373-9998
- **Portland TX 78374**, 120 Lang Rd, Portland TX 78374-2626
- **Rockport TX 78382**, 1550 FM 2165, Rockport TX 78382-9998
- **Taft TX 78390**, 110 Victoria Ave, Taft TX 78390-9998
- **South Padre Island TX 78597**, 4701 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island TX 78597-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78401**, Downtown Corpus Christi, 802 N Tanchua St, Corpus Christi TX 78401-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78404**, Six Points, 902 Ayers St, Corpus Christi TX 78404-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78405**, Roy Miller, 1340 S Port Ave, Corpus Christi TX 78405-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78410**, Stonewall Sta, 10515 Stonewall Blvd, Corpus Christi TX 78410-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78411**, Lamar Park, 4801 Everhart Rd, Corpus Christi TX 78411-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78412**, Gulfway, 1345 Crescent Dr, Corpus Christi TX 78412-9998

- **Corpus Christi TX 78413**, Southside, 6742 Weber Rd, Corpus Christi TX 78413-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78415**, Portairs, 4213 S Port Ave, Corpus Christi TX 78415-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78418**, Flour Bluff, 10139 Security Dr, Corpus Christi TX 78418-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78469**, Corpus Christi, 809 Nueces Bay Blvd, Corpus Christi TX 78469-9998
- **Alice TX 78332**, Alice, 401 E 2nd St, Alice TX 78332-9998
- **Edna TX 77957**, Edna, 603 Rose St, Edna TX 77957-9998
- **Fannin TX 77960**, Fannin, 9931 Us Highway 59 N, Fannin TX 77960-9800
- **Francitas TX 77961**, Francitas, 66 Bryan St, Francitas TX 77961-9800
- **Hallettsville TX 77964**, Hallettsville, 206 S La Grange St, Hallettsville TX 77964-9998
- **La Salle TX 77969**, La Salle, 1999 FM 616, La Salle TX 77969-9800
- **La Ward TX 77970**, La Ward, 13059 State Highway 172, La Ward TX 77970-9800
- **Lolita TX 77971**, Lolita, 8966 FM 1593, Lolita TX 77971-9998
- **Mathis TX 78368**, Mathis, 121 S Bee St, Mathis TX 78368-9998
- **Meyersville TX 77974**, Meyersville, 2233 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville TX 77974-9998
- **Moulton TX 77975**, Moulton, 206 S Main St, Moulton TX 77975-9998
- **Odem TX 78370**, Odem, 223 Main St, Odem TX 78370-9998
- **Refugio TX 78377**, Refugio, 507 Osage St, Refugio TX 78377-9998
- **Sinton TX 78387**, Sinton, 104 S San Patricio St, Sinton TX 78387-9998
- **Skidmore TX 78389**, Skidmore, 122 E Patricio St, Skidmore TX 78389-9998
- **Sweet Home TX 77987**, Sweet Home, 22 County Road 391e, Sweet Home TX 77987-9800
- **Thomaston TX 77989**, Thomaston, 264 Fordtran Rd, Thomaston TX 77989-9800
- **Tynan TX 78391**, Tynan, 508 Highway 359, Tynan TX 78391-9998
- **Vanderbilt TX 77991**, Vanderbilt, 5825 FM 616, Vanderbilt TX 77991-9800
- **Westhoff TX 77994**, Westhoff, 16 Houston Ave, Westhoff TX 77994-9998
- **Woodsboro TX 78393**, Woodsboro, 501 First St, Woodsboro TX 78393-9998
- **La Villa TX 78562**, La Villa, 852 S Mike Chapa Dr, La Villa TX 78562-9800
- **Ganado TX 77962**, Ganado, 101 W Rogers St, Ganado TX 77962-9998

As further impacts to USPS operations are identified, updated information will be posted to USPS Service Alerts website accessed through <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm> and the PostalPro website, <http://postalpro.usps.com/>. Additional Industry Alerts will be released as impacts warrant.

Industry Alert: Southern Area Hurricane - Harvey Update – Louisiana The Southern Area and Louisiana District have announced the following update: Until Further Notice, Due to Hurricane Harvey, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations and Drop Shipments Have All Been Suspended at the Following Offices:

Cameron Post Office 70631, 144 Adam Roux St, Cameron LA 70631-9998

- Alternate location for drop shipments and collection will divert to:
- Lake Charles Main Post Office, 921 Moss St, Lake Charles LA 70601-9998
 - Lake Charles Hours: Mon – Fri: 8:00 to 5:00, Sat: 8:00 to 12:00
 - *must have proper ID*

Hackberry Post Office 70645, 904 Main St, Hackberry LA 70645-9997

- Alternate location for drop shipments and collection will divert to:
- Sulphur Post Office, 800 S Post Oak Rd, Sulphur LA 70663-5244
 - Sulphur Hours: Mon – Fri: 8:30 to 4:30, Sat: 10:00 to 12:00

The following offices will resume normal operations on Saturday, August 26, 2017

LAcassine LA 70650 - 18327 Highway 90, LAcassine LA 70650-5000

Hayes LA 70646, 7760 E Highway 14, Hayes LA 70646-4600

As further impacts to USPS operations are identified, updated information will be posted to USPS Service Alerts website accessed through <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm> and the PostalPro website, <http://postalpro.usps.com/>. Additional Industry Alerts will be released as impacts warrant.

Industry Alert: Southern Area Hurricane - Harvey Update – Houston District The Southern Area and Houston District have announced the following updated impacts: Until Further Notice, Due to Hurricane Harvey, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, BME Operations and Drop Shipments Have All Been Suspended at the Following Offices:

- **Palacios TX 77465**, 700 Henderson St, Palacios, TX 77465-9998
- **Collegeport TX 77428**, 15235 FM 1095, Collegeport TX 77428-0015
- **Bay City TX 77414**, 1309 Baywood Dr, Bay City TX 77414-9998
- **Matagorda TX 77457**, 750 Market St, Matagorda TX 77457-0062
- **Markham TX 77456**, 610 Broadway St, Markham TX 77456-9800
- **Wadsworth TX 77483**, 13622 Highway 60 S, Wadsworth TX 77483-9800
- **Van Vleck TX 77482**, 8901 State Highway 35 N, Van Vleck TX 77482-9899
- **Blessing TX 77419**, 800 FM 616 W, Blessing TX 77419-0015

- **Midfield TX 77458**, 275 Junetta Ave, Midfield TX 77458-9801
- **Elmaton TX 77440**, 10430 Highway 35, Elmaton TX 77440-0077
- **Port Bolivar TX 77650**, Port Bolivar, 2500 Broadway Ave, Port Bolivar TX 77650-0736
- **Sabine Pass TX 77655**, Sabine Pass, 5424 Tremont St, Sabine Pass TX 77655-0310
- **Houston TX 77002**, Sam Houston Finance, 701 San Jacinto St, Ste 149, Houston TX 77002-3629

Federal Register: Postal Service - Product Changes: Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 40811 [2017-18128] [PDF]; 40811-40812 [2017-18129] [PDF]

August 25

Industry Alert: Southern Area Hurricane - Harvey Update – Louisiana. Until Further Notice, Due to Hurricane Harvey, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations and Drop Shipments Have All Been Suspended at the Following Offices: **CAMERON POST OFFICE 70631**, 144 ADAM ROUX ST, CAMERON LA 70631-9998 Alternate location for drop shipments and collection will divert to: LAKE CHARLES MAIN POST OFFICE, 921 MOSS ST, LAKE CHARLES LA 70601-9998. LAKE CHARLES HOURS: Mon – Fri: 8:00 to 5:00, Sat: 8:00 to 12:00 **HACKBERRY POST OFFICE 70645**, 904 MAIN ST, HACKBERRY LA 70645-9997 Alternate location for drop shipments and collection will divert to: SULPHUR POST OFFICE, 800 S POST OAK RD, SULPHUR LA 70663-5244 SULPHUR HOURS: Mon – Fri: 8:30 to 4:30, Sat: 10:00 to 12:00 **LACASSINE LA 70650**, 18327 HIGHWAY 90, LACASSINE LA 70650-5000. Alternate location for drop shipments and collection will divert to: WELSH Delivery Unit, 202 CROWLEY ST, WELSH LA 70591-9998 WELSH HOURS: Mon – Fri: 8:00 to 12:00, 1:00 – 4:00, Sat: Closed **HAYES LA 70646**, 7760 E HIGHWAY 14, HAYES LA 70646-4600 Alternate location for drop shipments and collection will divert to: IOWA LA 70647, 218 S THOMSON AVE, IOWA LA 70647-9998 IOWA HOURS: Mon – Fri: 8:30 – 4:30, Sat: 9:00 – 12:00 As further impacts to USPS operations are identified, updated information will be posted to USPS Service Alerts website accessed through <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm> and the PostalPro website, <http://postalpro.usps.com/>. Additional Industry Alerts will be released as impacts warrant.

Industry Alert: Southern Area Hurricane Harvey Update: Service Disruption- Rio Grande District Until Further Notice, Due to Hurricane Harvey, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, BME Operations and Drop Shipments Have All Been Suspended at the Following Offices:

DROP SHIPS and BME Operations have been moved to **San Antonio P&DC located at 10410 Perrin Beitel Rd, San Antonio TX 78284.

VICTORIA TX 77901, 312 S MAIN ST, VICTORIA TX 77901 **VICTORIA TX 77904**, JAMES MOODY, 2804 SAM HOUSTON DR, VICTORIA TX 77904-9998 **AUSTWELL TX 77950**, 611 VANDENBERGE ST, AUSTWELL TX 77950-9800 **BLOOMINGTON TX 77951**, 41 E 2ND ST, BLOOMINGTON TX 77951-9800 **INEZ TX 77968**, 126 CHURCH ST, INEZ TX 77968-9998 **MCFADDIN TX 77973**, 2207 FM 445, MCFADDIN TX 77973-9800 **NURSERY TX 77976**, 12685 NURSERY DR, NURSERY TX 77976-9800 **PLACEDO TX 77977**, 5037 FM 616, PLACEDO, TX 77977-9800 **POINT COMFORT TX 77978**, 3 LAMAR ST, POINT COMFORT TX 77978-9800 **PORT LAVACA TX 77979**, 1201 HALF LEAGUE RD, PORT LAVACA TX 77979-9998 **PORT O CONNOR TX 77982**, 611 W ADAMS ST, PORT O CONNOR TX 77982-9800 **SEADRIFT TX 77983**, 518 S MAIN ST, SEADRIFT TX 77983-9998 **TELFERNER TX 77988**, 319 FM 1686, TELFERNER TX 77988-9800 **TIVOLI TX 77990**, 211 W SCOTT ST, TIVOLI TX 77990-9998 **ARANSAS PASS TX 78336**, 634 S COMMERCIAL ST, ARANSAS PASS TX 78336-9998 **FULTON TX 78358**, 301 CACTUS ST, FULTON TX 78358-9800 **GREGORY TX 78359**, 102 W 4TH ST, GREGORY TX 78359-9800 **INGLESIDE TX 78362**, 2230 STATE HIGHWAY 361, INGLESIDE TX 78362-4139 **PORT ARANSAS TX 78373**, 1211 STATE HIGHWAY 361, PORT ARANSAS TX 78373-9998 **PORTLAND TX 78374**, 120 LANG RD, PORTLAND TX 78374-2626 **ROCKPORT TX 78382**, 1550 FM 2165, ROCKPORT TX 78382-9998 **TAFT TX 78390**, 110 VICTORIA AVE, TAFT TX 78390-9998 **SOUTH PADRE ISLAND TX 78597**, 4701 PADRE BLVD, SOUTH PADRE ISLAND TX 78597-9998

As further impacts to USPS operations are identified, updated information will be posted to USPS Service Alerts website accessed through the RIBBS webpage, <http://ribbs.usps.gov/> and <http://about.usps.com/service-alerts/welcome.htm/>. Additional Industry Alerts will be released as impacts warrant.

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission - New Postal Products, 40604 [2017-17981] [PDF]

August 24

Office of the Inspector General: [Unscheduled Leave in the Baltimore District](#) Unscheduled leave – employees absent without giving prior notice or receiving authorization – drives up the U.S. Postal Service’s cost of overtime and related expenses. It can also negatively affect productivity, efficiency, and employee morale. Our Human Resource Risk Model monitors key Postal Service metrics, including unscheduled leave, and identified the Baltimore District in the Capital Metro Area as having the fourth highest percentage of unscheduled leave in the Postal Service. Our latest audit report examines the unscheduled leave practices and resulting costs in the Baltimore district. Read our findings and recommendations in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRGNS>

Industry Alert: Enterprise PO Boxes Online (EPOBOL) Enrollment Enterprise PO Boxes Online (EPOBOL) is now available for enrollment. Enterprise PO Boxes Online allows customers to open, close, and pay for their PO Boxes, Caller Service Boxes and Reserve Boxes online from one account with ACH Debit or Trust in a secure environment. Eliminating the need to make a payment at each post office where a PO Box, Caller Service Box and Reserve Box is held. This new feature provides a modernized view of account payments, balance and transaction history. Once enrolled in Enterprise PO Boxes Online, you will receive account notifications, alerts and you are able to customize payment reporting and dashboard capabilities. Signing up for the new Enterprise PO

Box Online is quick and easy – follow the steps below and simply provide us with your PO Box, Caller Service Box or Reserve Box inventory. We will upload all your PO Boxes to the Enterprise Payment PO Box Online System for you to pay and manage your PO Boxes.

1. Establish a Business Customer Gateway (BCG) Account: <https://gateway.usps.com>
2. Provide your PO Box, Caller Service or Reserve Box inventory
3. Open an Enterprise Payment Account
4. USPS uploads your boxes to the Enterprise PO Boxes Online system
5. Access/Manage Boxes online

If you have any questions, contact the *PostalOne!* Helpdesk at: (800) 522-9085.

Federal Register:

- **Postal Regulatory Commission** - New Postal Products: 40174–40175 [2017–17885], [\[PDF\]](#)
- **Postal Service** - Product Changes: First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 40175 [2017–17879] [\[PDF\]](#) Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement , 40175 [2017–17881] [\[PDF\]](#) 40175 [2017–17894] [\[PDF\]](#) 40175 [2017–17895] [\[PDF\]](#) Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement , 40176 [2017–17888] [\[PDF\]](#)

August 23

Industry Alert: Product Management Executive Appointments The following key USPS Product Management Executive appointments were announced at the August Mailers Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) meeting. Elke Reuning-Elliott – Director, Product Management Mailing; Jay L. Smith – Director, Product Management Shipping; Dale Kennedy – Manager, Product Management Special Services

The USPS has been discussing the need for product management leadership with the industry for some time. The purpose of this Product Management Team will be to ensure USPS mailing and shipping products and services continue to add value and meet customer needs. Most importantly, these individuals will serve as advocates of their respective areas to work with key internal stakeholders and industry and business partners to grow the mailing industry.

All three of these executives will report to Thomas (Tom) J. Foti, previously announced in July as the new Executive Director, Product Management, in the Marketing Group.

Industry Alert: Reminder: First-Class Mail Parcels transfer to the Competitive Price Listing On August 9, 2017, the Postal Regulatory Commission (“PRC”) approved the transfer of the First-Class Mail Parcels (“FCMP”) product from the market-dominant product list to the competitive product list. The approved new rates (13 rate cells in total) can be viewed on the Postal Explorer website at pe.usps.com and will go into effect on September 3, 2017.

Office of the Inspector General: [Postal Service Employee Sentenced for Lying About Cancer to Take Sick Leave](#) Read the full news release [here](#).

Federal Register:

- **Postal Regulatory Commission** - Postal Rate Change, 40024–40025 [2017–17795], [\[PDF\]](#)
- **Postal Service**
 - Rules - First-Class Package Service—Retail, 39957–39966 [2017–17799], [\[PDF\]](#)
 - Notices - International Product Changes:ADPR 1 Contracts, 40025–40026 [2017–17826] [\[PDF\]](#); Product Changes: Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 40025 [2017–17870] [\[PDF\]](#), 40026 [2017–17874], [\[PDF\]](#)

August 22

Industry Alert: Navigating the Postal Explorer® Website Webinar. On Monday, August 28, 2017 at 1:00pm (EDT), please plan to join Product Classification for a Postal Explorer Website demonstration webinar. The webinar will highlight tips to navigate Postal Explorer publications, rate calculators, service guides, and more—to better help you and your customers. The website has been enhanced to improve engagement with today’s media tools.

What is Postal Explorer? Postal Explorer is a virtual library of postal information and tools designed for Postal Service customers, business mailers, and employees. It puts a wealth of postal requirements for mailing and shipping domestically, internationally, and to APO/FPO/DPO destinations, at your fingertips in an easy-to-use format. [Postal Explorer](#) is more than a reference website; it is part of the Postal Service's continuing effort to make using the mail system easier and simpler for all customers. It was developed in direct response to what you have told us, both informally and through customer surveys, about your postal information needs. It affords an unprecedented opportunity for mailers to draw on the same information used by postal employees - - with ease, speed, and convenience. With a powerful search feature, you can enter a word or phrase which lets you quickly find information in a single publication or across a range of publications. You can also view an individual publication by clicking on the publication title.

The webinar agenda will cover the following:

- **Navigating the Postal Explorer Website**
- **Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)**
- **International Mail Manual (DMM)**
- **Calculators**

- **Quick Service Guides**
- **Publications**
- **Q&A Session**

Instructions for participating in the webinars are below. Attendee Information: Monday, August 28, 2017 at 1:00pm (EDT) US/Canada Attendee Dial-in: (855) 860-7461 Meeting Number: 748 101 564 To register and add webinar to your calendar [click here](#): Attendee Direct

URL: <https://uspsmeetings.webex.com/uspsmeetings/j.php?MTID=mfdbd60e77b3c02ac937e7b188ce27e5a>

If you cannot join using the direct link above, please use the alternate logins below:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Alternate URL: | https://usps.webex.com |
| Conference Code: | 865 202 1218 |

Industry Alert: Attention Business Customer Gateway, FAST, and PostalOne!® Users: The issue impacting access to the Business Customer Gateway, *PostalOne!*, FAST, eInduction, Electronic Verification System (eVS), Product Tracking and Reporting (PTR), Seamless Acceptance and Service Performance (SASP), Centralized Account Processing System (CAPS), Intelligent Mail Business Accounting (IMba), and other applications is resolved. If mailers and acceptance units still experience a delay in jobs appearing on the *PostalOne!* dashboard, we will continue to accept the mailings under the *PostalOne!* and eInduction contingency plan as described below, for the next 48 hours.

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission - New Postal Products, 39919 [2017–17729] [\[PDF\]](#)

August 21

Industry Alert: Attention Business Customer Gateway, FAST, and PostalOne!® Users: We are continuing to work to resolve the issue impacting access to the Business Customer Gateway, *PostalOne!*, FAST and other applications. In the interim, mailings will continue to be accepted under the *PostalOne!* Contingency Plan posted on PostalPro at: <https://postalpro.usps.com/node/852>. eInduction mailers should follow the eInduction contingency plan.

Office of the Inspector General: Sustainability and the Triple Bottom Line The Postal Service has released a Sustainability Report outlining its goals to improve economic, environmental, and social practices. This year’s report included a stakeholder survey that revealed several critical issues for success. Our latest OIG Blog examines the report and the goals outlined by USPS. Read the blog post here: <https://go.usa.gov/xRwCx>

Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne!® and Program Registration Users: PostalOne!/BIDS Release 45.3.1.0 is complete and the *PostalOne!* system is available. Release notes are posted on PostalPro at: <https://postalpro.usps.com/mailing#cat-subsection-3>. As a reminder:

- Mail.dat Client 45.3.1.0_PROD is available with this release. The new Mail.dat client accommodates a security update and is required. Users can download Mail.dat client version 45.3.1.0_PROD from the Business Customer Gateway (BCG) using the following path: Mailing Services/Electronic Data Exchange {Go to Service}/Mail.dat Download (Windows 32-bit, Windows 64-bit or Solaris).

- Mail.dat Client 45.3.0.0_PROD is being retired. **Program Registration Release 18.3.0.0** is complete and the Program Registration application is available. **PostalOne! TEM Release 45.3.1.0** is complete and the TEM environment is available.

August 19

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission - New Postal Products, 39620–39621 [2017–17592] [\[PDF\]](#), 39620 [2017–17608] [\[PDF\]](#)

Office of the Inspector General: Unscheduled Leave in the Los Angeles District Unscheduled leave – employees absent without giving prior notice or receiving authorization – drives up the U.S. Postal Service’s cost of overtime and related expenses. It can also negatively affect productivity, efficiency, and employee morale. Using its Human Resource Risk model, the OIG identified the USPS’s Los Angeles District with one of the highest percentages of unscheduled leave in the country. Our latest audit report examines the unscheduled leave practices and resulting costs in the Los Angeles district. Read our findings and recommendations in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRwYh>

August 18

Office of the Inspector General: Unscheduled Leave in the Triboro District Unscheduled leave – employees absent without giving prior notice or receiving authorization – drives up the U.S. Postal Service’s cost of overtime and related expenses. It can also negatively affect productivity, efficiency, and employee morale. Using its Human Resource Risk model, the OIG determined that USPS’s Triboro District had reported one of the highest levels of unscheduled leave in its area in fiscal year 2016. Our latest audit report examines the unscheduled leave practices in the district and opportunities to reduce leave and its costs. Read our findings and recommendations in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRvzb>

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission - NOTICES New Postal Products, 39465–39466 [2017–17492] [\[PDF\]](#)

August 17

Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne!® and Program Registration Users: PostalOne!/BIDS Release 45.3.1.0 will deploy on Sunday, August 20, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT. Access to the *PostalOne!* system may be intermittently impacted during this window.

- Mail.dat Client 45.3.1.0_PROD is available with this release. The new Mail.dat client accommodates a security update and is required.

Users should download Mail.dat client version 45.3.1.0_PROD from the Business Customer Gateway (BCG) using the following path: Mailing Services/Electronic Data Exchange{Go to Service}/Mail.dat Download(Windows 32-bit, Windows 64-bit or Solaris).

Program Registration Release 18.3.0.0 will deploy on Sunday, August 20, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 8:00 AM CT. The Program Registration application will not be available during this time.

Industry Alert: IMb Tracing Support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) Extended. The Postal Service has extended the date for IMb Tracing and Informed Visibility (IV) for customers who utilize non-secure FTP from September 30, 2017 to November 30, 2017 to allow them more time to transition to secure options within Informed Visibility (IV). On December 1, 2017 the Postal Service will no longer support FTP for mailers enrolled in IMb Tracing or Informed Visibility (IV) and all users must have converted to a secure option within IV. The IV application has functionality to assist the mailing industry to transition to SFTP. Migration documentation for IV is available on both PostalPro under Informed Visibility (<https://postalpro.usps.com/visibility-and-tracking/informed-visibility-iv>) or RIBBs at https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=informed_visibility The Informed Visibility Help Desk can be contacted at InformedVisibility@usps.gov for additional information.

Federal Register: Postal Service - Product Changes: Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 39142 [2017-17350] [PDF]

August 16

Industry Alert: Discontinued Support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) REMINDER: Only 2 weeks left to convert to a Secure Transmission Method. Effective August 31, 2017, the United States Postal Service (USPS) will discontinue support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) for mailers to send and/or receive shipping files and data through the Product Tracking & Reporting (PTR) system.

Industry Alert: Laredo Veterans Post Office/El Centro Station to Undergo Repairs. According to postal officials, work will begin this week at the Laredo Veterans Post Office Building/El Centro Station, located at 1300 Matamoros St., Laredo, TX 78040. The office will be receiving a facelift that includes remodeling work to the interior and exterior of the facility. To minimize inconvenience to its customers, the Postal Service has installed a temporary facility in front of the post office to house the P.O. Boxes. Retail services will continue to be offered from an alternate location inside the building. This week letters were sent to all the post office's P.O. box holders detailing the temporary operations until work has been completed and operations are returned to normal. The customer letters included keys for their temporary P.O. boxes which will be activated on Thursday, Aug. 17. The last day for P.O. box customers to retrieve mail from their current P.O. Box will be Wednesday, August 16, until 5:00 p.m. Any mail left inside P.O. boxes will be moved to the temporary P.O. box unit and secured. P.O. Boxes will continue to be accessible seven days a week at the temporary location during these hours: Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. This modular unit will be locked and secured after the posted hours of operation. As the project moves forward, retail services such as buying stamps, sending mail and packages, obtaining shipping supplies, and performing other transactions, including retrieval of items for which you receive a “Left Notice” slip in your P.O. Box, will continue to be available from the temporary retail counter at the Laredo Veterans Post Office Building/El Centro Station. Customers should be assured that throughout the remodeling it will be safe to continue doing business at the Laredo Veterans Post Office/El Centro Station. Our customers' and employees' safety and well-being is of paramount importance to the Postal Service. The Postal Service will work hard to minimize any inconvenience to customers. At this time, no firm timeline has been set for completion. The Postal Service will continue to provide updates to customers and notify them of any further changes as needed throughout the process.

August 15

Office of the Inspector General: U.S. Postal Worker Sentenced in case of Accepting Bribe to Deliver Marijuana Read the full news release [here](#).

Industry Alert: The Postal Service will shut down remote.usps.gov access to USPS online applications Monday, Aug. 28. The shutdown is part of the Postal Service's *ongoing effort* to protect its networks. Employees who use remote.usps.gov will need to request Virtual Private Network (VPN) access to connect remotely. Similarly, USPS suppliers or contractors will need to request Business Partner Virtual Private (BP VPN) access. The Chief Information Security Office's *Blue page* has more information. Employees who have further questions should call the Information Technology help desk at 800-877-7435.

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission - New Postal Products, 38723 [2017-17217] [PDF]

Industry Alert: Hawkinsville, GA, Post Office - Services Temporarily Relocated. Effective Monday, August, 14, both delivery and retail operations at the Hawkinsville Post Office, located at 148 Commerce St, Hawkinsville, GA 31036, will be temporarily moved to the Eastman Post Office, located at 400 2nd Ave Eastman, GA 31023. This temporary relocation is being implemented to allow for needed repairs to the facility in Hawkinsville. In an effort to minimize inconvenience to our customers during this time, the Postal Service is providing services as indicated here. For Hawkinsville P.O. Box holders, all Post Office Box mail will be sorted and available for pickup at the Eastman P.O. retail counter during regular business hours – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Wednesday and Saturday, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Mail pickup will not be available on Sunday. Retail and P.O. Box services are expected to return to the Hawkinsville P.O. within 7-10 business days. Retail and P.O. Box services will be provided by a mobile unit, located on the premises in the parking lot. Delivery operations will continue at the Eastman Post Office until repairs are completed. The blue collection box located outside the Hawkinsville P.O. will remain in service and on the posted

collection schedule. All Destination Delivery Unit (DDU) package drops will be redirected to the Eastman P.O., effective August 12. Customers can call 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777) to obtain information, including available, alternate Post Office retail locations, or check the Postal Service website, www.usps.com, the Post Office that's always open.

August 14

Office of the Inspector General: [Delayed Mail Validation](#) The U.S. Postal Service considers mail to be delayed when it is not processed in time to be delivered on the expected day. Postal facilities are required to report the volume of delayed mail on a daily basis. This information is stored in the Mail Condition Reporting System (MCRS) and is used for analysis, forecasting, and planning. A new OIG audit examines the process for reporting delayed mail in eight Processing and Distribution Centers across the country. Read our findings and recommendations in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRp7Z>

Industry Alert: *Attention PostalOne!® Users*: A system issue impacted the complete generation of the automated email notifications associated to the Streamlined Mail Entry Assessment process. Email notifications indicating that a postage assessment is or is not due are scheduled to be sent no later than the 12th of the month to any mailer enrolled in Full-Service, eInduction or Seamless Acceptance. Some email notifications were sent and we are currently working to generate the remaining notices and expect them to be completed today. We apologize for the inconvenience. To view the detailed mail quality metrics please click [here](#) and go to Mailing Reports > Mailer Scorecard. More information about the Streamlined Mail Entry programs and the notification process can be found in the Publication for Streamlined Mail Acceptance for Letters and Flats located on the PostalPro website: <https://postalpro.usps.com/streamlinedpub>

Office of the Inspector General: [Goin' Mobile](#) The U.S. Postal Service is striving to become the “shipper of choice” and has invested in Mobile Delivery Devices (MDDs) to all carriers to track package delivery. Our latest blog examines the findings of a recent audit report on the Postal Service's MDD program. Read the blog here: <https://go.usa.gov/xRp2W>

Industry Alert: In the interest of safety and security, postal officials will seal the Postal Service's collection boxes in relation to the presidential visit, to remain closed until Wednesday, Aug. 16, in New York City. Route Impacting Collection Boxes for U.S. Mail in these areas:

1. Both sides of 56th Street – between 6th Avenue and Park Avenue
 2. Both sides of 57th Street – between 6th Avenue and Park Avenue
 3. Both sides of 5th Avenue – between 51st Street and 60th Street
 4. Both sides of Madison Avenue – between 51st Street and 60th Street
 5. Both sides of FDR service road – between Broad Street and Old Slip
-

August 11

Office of the Inspector General: [USPS OIG Investigations Lead to Convictions](#). Read the full news release of the conviction of a former carrier [here](#). Read the full news release of the conviction of a drug dealer [here](#).

Industry Alert: *DMM Advisory - First-Class Mail Parcels transfer to the Competitive Price Listing*. On July 20, 2017, the Postal Regulatory Commission (“PRC”) conditionally approved the transfer of the First-Class Mail Parcels (“FCMP”) product from the market-dominant product list to the competitive product list. The transfer was conditioned on the subsequent proposal, review, and approval of prices for the transferred product. On July 28, 2017, pursuant to Governors' Decision 16-9, the Postal Service filed a notice of price change seeking to implement new prices for the transferred product. The Commission approved the new rates (13 rate cells in total) on August 9, 2017, *See* Order No. 4032 in Docket No. CP2017-230, and they will go into effect on September 3, 2017. After implementation, the FCMP product will become a new “Retail” rate category within the existing First-Class Package Service (“FCPS”) product. The new “Retail” price category will be called “First-Class Package Service – Retail” while the existing FCPS price category will be renamed “First-Class Package Service – Commercial.” The new FCPS-Retail product has the same characteristics as the former First-Class Mail Parcels product.

August 10

Office of the Inspector General: [Compensation, Benefit, and Bonus Authority in Calendar Year 2016](#). Salary and other compensation for senior U.S. Postal Service employees is set by the Board of Governors. The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 sets limits for the total compensation of senior Postal Service executives, including salary, federal annuity, merit lump sum, incentive, and other bonuses. OIG auditors recently issued a report examining whether the Postal Service complied with the applicable maximum total compensation provisions set out in the Act. Read our findings and recommendations in the audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRV4J>

Federal Register: Postal Service - Product Changes: Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 37472 [2017–16833] [\[PDF\]](#) Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 37472 [2017–16834] [\[PDF\]](#)

August 9

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission - New Postal Products, 37242–37243 [2017–16729] [\[PDF\]](#); 37243–37244 [2017–16800] [\[PDF\]](#)

August 8

Industry Alert: *New Informed Delivery® Advanced Webinar Series Coming August 15 and August 29, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. (EDT)* On August 15 and August 29 a new *advanced* Informed Delivery webinar series will be provided for mail owners and mail service providers on Informed Delivery. This series will cover the intricacies of planning and implementing interactive mailer

campaigns. In July, introductory webinars on Informed Delivery were conducted. They provided the basics of how this innovation works and how it enhances the value of hardcopy mail in a digital age by creating new opportunities to engage with potential customers across all industries. With the August 15 and August 29 webinars, we will discuss the specific campaign elements required, including image specifications, MID and IMb Serial Number ranges, and submission methods. This series will include a glimpse into the Mailer Campaign Portal which, when launched, will provide businesses and other organizations a convenient, self-serve option to initiate interactive campaigns and obtain reports. Going forward, additional webinars will be provided as industry educational needs dictate – examples include a more detailed look at the Mailer Campaign Portal and topics initially introduced at the 2017 National Postal Forum such as Informed Delivery Campaigns Using Mail.dat® and Using and Understanding Informed Delivery Data. **Registration is required and spaces are limited. Please register as early as possible to get the date most convenient for you. The two advanced webinars will be offered as follows:**

Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. (EDT) ATTENDEE INFORMATION Toll-Free Attendee Dial In: 866-381-9870 Conference ID: 68028455. **Click the link below to register and add to your Outlook**

calendar: <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=e2ece4f9bbb6596a13188f03b2be74360>

Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. (EDT) ATTENDEE INFORMATION Toll-Free Attendee Dial In: 866-381-9870 Conference ID: 68070809. **Click the link below to register and add to your Outlook calendar: Attendee Direct**

URL: <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=e3752838e8a0505731cd7e8f97f3f1c62>

Visit the Informed Delivery for Business Mailer website for information about Informed Delivery by clicking [here](#).

Office of the Inspector General: Appointment of Contracting Officers' Representatives Contracting officers (COs) manage and oversee contract administration for the U.S. Postal Service. COs may appoint contract officer representatives (CORs) to support their work. A recent OIG Audit examines whether CORs were correctly appointed in the Tech Infrastructure portfolio using a statistical sample of 109 contracts valued at \$1.4 billion and managed by 51 CORs. Read the full report to see what our auditors found: <https://go.usa.gov/xRy9D>

Industry Alert: National Association of Letter Carriers ratifies 40-month deal - The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) membership has ratified a new 40-month labor contract with the Postal Service. The contract covers approximately 211,000 USPS employees represented by the union. "This is a fair, responsible agreement that serves the best interests of our employees, customers and other stakeholders," said Labor Relations VP Doug Tulino. The new agreement, which was *announced* in May, runs through Sept. 20, 2019.

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission - Periodic Reporting, 37036–37037 [2017–16611] [\[PDF\]](#)

Postal Service - Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 37133 [2017–16660] [\[PDF\]](#); Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 37133 [2017–16661] [\[PDF\]](#)

August 7

Office of the Inspector General: Proof of Delivery. Registered Mail is a premium service that provides tracking as soon as the sender presents the mail to the U.S. Postal Service and ends at delivery. When not in transit, Registered Mail pieces must be stored in a locked safe, room, or cage separated from other mail. The latest blog from the OIG examines the results of a recent audit report evaluating USPS's internal controls over Registered Mail. How has your experience been with Registered Mail? Read the blog and give us your thoughts at <https://go.usa.gov/xRmcj>

Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne!® and Program Registration Users: PostalOne!/BIDS Release 45.3.1.0 will deploy on Sunday, August 20, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT. Access to the *PostalOne!* system may be intermittently impacted during this window. Mail.dat Client 45.3.1.0_PROD is available with this release. The new Mail.dat client accommodates a security update and is required. Users should download Mail.dat client version 45.3.1.0_PROD from the Business Customer Gateway (BCG) using the following path: Mailing Services/Electronic Data Exchange{Go to Service}/Mail.dat Download(Windows 32-bit, Windows 64-bit or Solaris). **Program Registration Release 18.3.0.0** will deploy on Sunday, August 20, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT.

Industry Alert: Discontinued Support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP). REMINDER: Only 3 weeks left to convert to a Secure Transmission Method. Effective August 31, 2017, the United States Postal Service (USPS) will discontinue support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) for mailers to send and/or receive shipping files and data through the Product Tracking & Reporting (PTR) system. For additional information, reference the FTP Fact Sheet posted on PostalPro at <https://postalpro.usps.com/node/3636>.

August 5

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission - Periodic Reporting, 36706–36707 [2017–16517] [\[PDF\]](#); 36705–36706 [2017–16543] [\[PDF\]](#); New Postal Products, 36835–36836 [2017–16596] [\[PDF\]](#)

August 4

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission - New Postal Products, 36459 [2017–16467] [\[PDF\]](#)

Postal Service - Meetings; Sunshine Act, 36459–36460 [2017–16622] [\[PDF\]](#)

August 3

Industry Alert: Media Call on U.S. Postal Service FY 2017 Quarter 3 Financial Results. Thursday, August 10, 2017 9:00 a.m. ET. Postmaster General & CEO Megan Brennan and Chief Financial Officer Joseph Corbett will host a media conference call to discuss the FY17 Quarter 3 financial results in more detail. The call is open to the news media and all other interested parties. **How to**

Participate: To ensure your computer is set up to join the event, click on the link: <https://www.webex.com/ip/jointest/> US/Canada
Attendee Dial In: 855-293-5496 Conference ID: 53431188 Attendee Direct

URL: <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=ebec30eb81d8866f844cbd8d2b4d0ef85>

Office of the Inspector General: [Fiscal Year 2015 Pay for Performance Program](#) The United States Postal Service uses the pay-for-performance (PFP) program to pay Executive and Administrative Schedule employees who work both in the field and at Postal Headquarters. PFP uses a set of criteria, which can vary based on location, to evaluate employee performance. OIG auditors recently assessed the PFP program, determining whether the Postal Service's FY 2015 PFP program was sufficiently consistent and transparent to allow management to recognize employee performance. Read our findings here: <https://go.usa.gov/xREKG>

August 1, 2017

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission - Postal Rate and Classification Changes, 36007 [2017-16199] [\[PDF\]](#)

Postal Service - Meetings; Sunshine Act, 36007-36008 [2017-16301] [\[PDF\]](#)
