



Association For Postal Commerce

NEWS ARCHIVES

JUNE 2017

National News

June 30, 2017

KDVR: While many will have a three- or four-day weekend for the Independence Day holiday, the United States Postal Service will still be hard at work. Normal retail and delivery operations will continue on Monday. Post office locations will be closed to observe the holiday Tuesday before resuming operations on Wednesday. The USPS said Informed Delivery is helpful for people who are going out of town or are expecting mail over a holiday.

PostalNews: The 2017 Joint Contract Interpretation Manual (JCIM), a resource for the administration of the 2015-2018 Collective Bargaining Agreement, is prepared and at the printer! In less than two weeks, members can order their bound JCIM for \$6 from the [APWU Store](#). Click [here](#) for an electronic copy. The JCIM is an APWU and the USPS jointly prepared manual. It serves to address and resolve disputes as well as ensure contract compliance.

BDNPortland: U.S. Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, is [concerned about mail service in southern Maine](#). The state's junior senator wrote to Postmaster General Megan Brennan to question the U.S. Postal Service's plan to move automated sorting equipment from the Scarborough distribution center to one in New Hampshire. King said he's worried the move will result in delays for mail and packages processed through the Scarborough facility, as well as the elimination of First Class next-day delivery service for customers in the area, forcing them to instead pay extra for other overnight shipping options. King told Brennan that by next Wednesday, he wants maps of any areas which may be affected by the change, as well as any internal analyses explaining the justification for the move.

WHNT: The U.S. Postal Service could change the look of subdivisions across the country. It's requiring developers to build "Cluster Mailboxes" rather than putting a single mailbox outside each home. In April 2012 The U.S. Postal Service updated its guidelines to specify that centralized delivery is preferred when it comes to new developments. It's now being enforced. The builders association argues "Cluster Mailboxes" pose a safety threat and will make it hard for the elderly and disabled to get their mail. The U.S. Postal Service released the following statement about the new rule: *"The Postal Service is continually working to identify and implement smart business strategies that allow more efficient and economical means of operation, including mail delivery. At roughly \$30 billion annually, delivering mail to 156 million delivery points in the United States is the largest, single fixed-cost we incur. The Postal Service has determined that centralized delivery is the most efficient, cost-effective and safest method of providing service to our customers. The former delivery mode process that allowed residential developers to choose between curb line and cluster box delivery, for new construction, is no longer in place."*

FederalNewsRadio: Nine brave (and smart) Republican members of the House have decided to buck their leadership (not to mention the White House) over the issue of giving federal workers smaller pensions while requiring to pay more for those reduced annuities. If all the proposals were enacted into law, the price tag to federal workers and retirees would be \$149 billion in lost benefits over the next 10 years. Suffice to say, this potentially is a very big deal for federal workers and retirees. They wrote a detailed letter to the House leadership, urging it to stop proposals that would force most current workers to pay as much as 6 percent more for their retirement benefits, reduce cost-of-living adjusts for retirees under the old CSRS plan and eliminate inflation-catchups, forever, for the vast majority of current workers who are under the less generous Federal Employees Retirement System.

June 29, 2017

MailingSystemsTechnology: Digital advertising has been hogging the spotlight lately. Every year, it seems, a new platform or trend emerges, and marketers scramble to hop on the latest bandwagon: Google, Facebook, Instagram, video, augmented reality, Snapchat, influencer marketing — you get the idea. In comparison, direct mail looks almost... quaint. Which raises the question: Is the end near for the humble postcard? Marketers would be foolish to count direct mail out. Check out these numbers: 40% of consumers have made a purchase in the last three months because of direct mail they received (prWeb); 56% of consumers find print marketing to be the most trustworthy (DMR); 92% of millennial shoppers say they prefer direct mail for making purchasing decisions (DMR); 39% of consumers have tried a business for the first time because of direct mail (DMR).

GreenBiz: Ed Rogers joined the United Parcel Service (UPS) 23 years ago in the corporate industrial engineering department, bringing with him more than a decade of experience as a U.S. Air Force Officer and engineering management consultant. He helped formulate UPS's initial sustainability strategy and most recently, as senior director of global sustainability, Rogers oversaw the company's sustainability program and initiatives, bringing clear-minded pragmatism, experienced business reasoning and personal conviction to the role. Today, he sees B to B collaboration as the next frontier of sustainability.

Examples of these efforts are highlighted in [UPS's latest Sustainability Report](#), released this week along with a new set of sustainability goals.

USAToday: United Parcel Service, the nation's largest package delivery company, said Tuesday it will freeze its pension program for 70,000 nonunion employees in five years and replace it with 401k accounts, reacting to a rising pension deficit and joining other large corporations that have phased out traditional retirement plans. Rising pension costs, the volatility in future funding and changing demographics -- mainly the fact that people are living longer -- triggered the move, the company said. The change doesn't affect its 272,000 union employees in the U.S. But their contracts expire in July next year, and negotiations will almost certainly include the issue of retirement funding plans.

June 28, 2017

SATPR: Matheson Trucking, Inc. has been named as a winner in the United States Postal Service's Supplier Sustainability Excellence Award category, which is part of USPS's annual Supplier Performance Award program. Putting this award into a broader context, a USPS spokesperson said that during fiscal year 2016, the Postal Service spent over \$11.9 billion for transportation, supplies, services, facilities and equipment with a supplier base that included nearly 17,000 companies. Matheson Trucking, Inc. is one of only 12 companies being recognized this year.

Linn: It's hardly a surprise to many in Washington's postal community, but the lawmaker who crafted the House's bipartisan postal legislation says his bill appears dead. That is what departed House Oversight chairman Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, told *The Hill* newspaper shortly before his resignation from Congress became effective June 30. "You can continue to get frustrated and whine about it or you can leave, so I've decided to leave," Chaffetz told the paper. The new chairman of the House Oversight Committee, Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., "has expressed an interest in pursuing postal reform," according to Amanda Gonzalez, his spokeswoman. The Chaffetz postal legislation cleared the committee in March, raising hopes that the House would address the financial woes facing the U.S. Postal Service. But given the pending July recess and other measures that the Trump administration has given high priority, the chances of postal legislation clearing Congress this year are considered slim by many postal industry officials.

WashingtonPost: Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, will leave a legacy when he quits Congress at 10 a.m. Friday. After many years of trying, the committee under Chaffetz approved legislation to stabilize faltering Postal Service finances. The [bipartisan bill](#) was supported by postal management, unions and industry mailers. This major accomplishment, however, turned to frustration when the Republican leadership did not schedule the bill for a House vote.

June 27, 2017

Post&Parcel: Delegates at the Post&Parcel Live seminar, which took place in London on Monday (26 June), debated how the postal industry must transform itself to meet the changing needs of its customers. The discussions at the seminar, which was sponsored by The Delivery Group and bakergoodchild, covered a wide range of issues but the overarching theme was: how can the postal industry remain profitable and relevant in the face of declining traditional mail volumes. The key solutions appeared to be: increase the level of competition and access in the market, in order to stimulate greater efficiencies and encourage players to develop more innovative products and services; and redefine, or at least review, the nature of the universal service obligation, so it can be more of an opportunity rather than a burden.

WhatdotheyThink?: Some recent online exchanges involving publishing guru [BoSacks](#) and the head of [the MPA](#) and the USPS via [secretive blogger "D. Eadward Tree"](#) sent me digging into economic data. The basic trends are not surprising, everyone knows the direction, but not necessarily the extent. Postal Service prices are higher than general inflation, television advertising prices are erratic but are generally higher. The CPI shows the overall level of price changes for all goods consumers buy. Advertising agency fees lag inflation (which means they are cheaper), printing prices seriously lag inflation (which means printing is cheaper yet), but nothing compared to the dramatic declines in prices of cellular and wireless services and Internet advertising. It's about time everyone stopped complaining about the USPS and worked diligently toward the destruction of its monopoly. Until that monopoly is ended, anything else that claims to "fix" the USPS is just tweaks, gimmicks, and illusions.

Post&Parcel: Retail giant Walmart and Estonia-based technology company Cleveron have announced they are "consolidating" their cooperation on click-and-collect solutions. Cleveron's robotics based click-and-collect parcel terminal PackRobot was first installed in the US last fall. Walmart tested the terminals before expanding the solution to other stores across country.

June 26, 2017

NALC: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) introduced the Better Care Reconciliation Act last week, following seven years of promising the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA, also known as Obamacare) and after weeks of negotiations following the House of Representatives' passage of the American Health Care Act (H.R. 1628), a bill that the Senate said it could not and would not pass. The Senate's legislation, which is different from what the House passed in May, is expected to be voted on in the Senate in the coming days, before senators depart Washington, DC, for the July 4 recess. Following that vote, the Senate and House bills will need to be reconciled before a single bill heads to President Donald Trump's desk for a signature. Both measures are projected to increase the number of Americans who are uninsured by about 23 million. Among the defining characteristics of the legislation are provisions to deregulate insurance companies, which would allow them to charge older and sicker Americans more for health insurance, and to eliminate the individual mandate to

buy health insurance and the mandate for larger companies (with 50 or more employees) to provide employer-sponsored health coverage.

FoxBusiness: Not long before Don Holman's son Garrett died from an overdose in February, he learned his 20-year-old had his drugs delivered directly to their Virginia home in the mail, in packages from foreign countries. Fentanyl and other synthetic narcotics like U-47700, which was found in Garrett Holman's system, are now streaming into the U.S. through international parcels delivered by the U.S. Postal Service and private carriers like United Parcel Service Inc. and FedEx Corp., according to authorities. The deliveries are helping fuel an opioid crisis that claims tens of thousands of U.S. lives each year, prodding congressional lawmakers to propose tougher rules and new resources to try to stop the flow. Seizures of fentanyl arriving by both international mail and express carriers reached nearly 37 kilograms in the U.S. overall in fiscal 2016, compared with 0.09 kilogram five years earlier, according to Customs and Border Protection data. A measure sponsored by lawmakers including Sen. Sherrod Brown (D., Ohio) would provide customs officials with more screening equipment and lab resources to detect fentanyl arriving by mail or at ports of entry. Another bill in the Senate, sponsored by Ohio Republican Rob Portman, would require overseas shippers that use the U.S. Postal Service to provide certain pieces of information, transmitted electronically to CBP before parcels arrive in the country.

June 25, 2017

PostalNews: In 2013, the USPS Office of Inspector General found that faulty controls over “electronic parcel payment systems, including PC Postage” had cost the agency as much as \$262 million. The OIG says it recommended corrective steps. The USPS disagreed with those recommendations, saying it would instead “review its automated verification capabilities”. Four years later, the USPS has still not implemented its Automated Package Verification (APV) system- it’s scheduled to go online in August. The OIG says the revenue loss has “grown” since the original report, so presumably the loss for the current fiscal year is more than \$262 million. Add them together and you get over half a billion in revenue lost in two years. The USPS says it isn’t really all that bad- the reason they’ve lost more money is that total package revenue is up- in other words, they’ve lost more money because there’s more money to lose! The OIG says the USPS faces significant hurdles to implementing its APV program.

June 24, 2017

BusinessMirror: The US federal “whistle-blower” case against Lance Armstrong is set to go to trial in November, and Armstrong’s attorneys and those of the US government are already locked in battle over what experts each side will be allowed to call upon for testimony. Armstrong was the target of a federal False Claims Act lawsuit brought by former teammate Floyd Landis in 2010 under the assertion that the former cycling star’s doping constituted fraud against the government. Should he lose, Armstrong could owe up to \$100 million, and Landis would be due a cut of the damages. The government asserts that the US Postal Service’s sponsorship had no value because Armstrong and some of his teammates doped, then lied about it to keep the money coming in. Armstrong’s attorneys have long argued that the US Postal Service got far more in marketing value from its sponsorship than the \$32.2 million it paid the team from 2000 to 2004. The government lawyers questioned the competence of Armstrong’s expert witness, Douglas Kidder, who calculated the value of the US Postal Service exposure thanks to the team at \$257 million.

PostalNews: On June 21, the APWU and National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) sent a joint letter to Postmaster General Megan Brennan chastising her administration’s “wholesale and massive job cuts.” APWU President Mark Dimondstein and NPMHU President Paul Hogrogian explained, “The cutting of an already skeletal workforce will not only cause massive disruption to the workforce but will cause further degradation of postal services for the American people throughout the country.” The postal unions have drawn a line in the sand and are standing united against Postmaster Brennan’s continuous “cost-saving” shortcuts – shortcuts that have greatly affected not only the bargaining-unit workforce but also mail processing, mail delivery, customer service and the reputation of the United States Postal Service. The letter concludes with an offer to meet and explore alternatives to the proposed massive cuts that will preserve service and jobs.

TheVerge: Amazon’s drone delivery program stopped being a joke a while ago, but the company still has to overcome serious challenges to make the technology actually work. One of these is getting drones near enough to large populations so they’re more efficient than regular road delivery. Amazon has an idea for that though: Huge. Drone. Beehives. In a patent application published yesterday, Amazon described how “multi-level fulfillment centers for unmanned aerial vehicles” could help put drones where they’re needed. The application notes that due to “their large footprint,” current warehouses are located “on the outskirts of cities where space is available.” But multi-story drone centers could be built vertically, rather than horizontally, allowing them to be placed within “downtown districts and/or other densely populated urban areas.” And, of course, making them high-rises would let the drones fly in and out without getting dangerously close to pedestrians at street level.

June 23, 2017

NHBR: Since 2006, thanks to the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, the U.S. Postal Service has been required to abide by a cap on postal price increases tied to inflation. The price cap protected mailers from runaway price increases and provided them with the means to budget their expenses accurately. Now the USPS is asking the Postal Rate Commission (PRC) to scrap the law’s pricing system and give the USPS unchecked power to set its own rates, with little or no oversight by the PRC. We all want the USPS to be financially successful. A healthy Postal Service is in everyone’s interests, especially those of us who

depend on it for our organizations and businesses. But enabling inefficient operations with unwarranted rate increases causes more harm than good.

Post&Parcel: The governor of Wisconsin, Scott Walker, has signed a new law which will allow delivery robots to operate on sidewalks and crosswalks across the state. Wisconsin joins Virginia and Idaho in passing legislation which allow for state-wide robot delivery usage. The new Wisconsin [rules](#) on delivery robots – enacted through State Senate Bill 148 – law limit the robots to a maximum weight of 80 pounds and a top speed of 10 miles an hour.

Post&Parcel: Amazon has revealed a new service that it hopes will help to make Prime membership a more enticing prospect. The new Amazon Prime Wardrobe – which is in beta mode at the moment – will give Prime members a free and easy, “try before you buy”, returns service. This is how the service will work: Prime members can fill their delivery box with three or more items across the clothing, shoes and accessories ranges. Once the products are delivered, the customers has seven days in which to try on the products and decide if they want them or not. If the customers have products they don’t want, they “just have to drop off [their] box at a UPS location or schedule a free pick-up”.

June 22, 2017

MailOMG: Business mailers celebrated the historic rate cut last year as emergency postage hikes expired. But that celebration will be short lived if the Postal Service has its way with Congress and the Postal Regulatory Commission. And it is increasingly looking like the USPS will prevail on both fronts and that means postage rates will jump 5-10%. A bill making its way through Congress will instantly increase postage rates by 2.15%. Meanwhile, the PRC will rule by early Fall on the current rate setting system. Its options include an “inflation plus system” — for example, inflation +1% or +2% — for annual price hikes. Were the PRC to adopt a plus system or eliminate the rate cap altogether, mailing groups would likely take their case to court, arguing that the PRC does not have the authority to change the inflation rate cap established in the postal reform act of 2006.

TownHall: Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, is on his way out as chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. But the work he has begun on Postal Service reform will go on. The Postal Reform Act of 2017, which Rep. Chaffetz shepherded to approval in his committee in March, now has 16 cosponsors – seven Republicans and nine Democrats. The cosponsors have asked the Congressional Budget Office to score the legislation, so it can be prepared for consideration by the House Ways & Means Committee. The score did find some features of the bill would achieve “savings,” but for the most part, money-wise, it will be about the enormous costs related to the Postal Service’s massive unfunded liabilities in its pension and retiree health care funds. Similar legislation has been introduced in each of the last two Congresses but has not moved forward. This time, it’s bipartisan cosponsors say they have a better chance at passage.

June 21, 2017

Ecommercebytes: We reported [last year](#) that the USPS was testing a new system designed to make it easier for sellers to get an initial scan on packages entering the mail stream. The USPS published more information this week. “The Automated Parcel Drop (APD) is a self-service machine that allows customers to mail pre-paid and merchandise return parcels. Customers scan the package’s pre-paid label barcode at the APD, deposit the package through its door and collect a paper receipt with acceptance scan date, time and tracking information.” The Postal Service said the APD kiosks accept parcels with PC Postage online labels including eBay and Click-N-Ship, merchandise return labels, and self-service kiosk labels. The machines are [being tested](#) in five retail lobbies in California, Florida, New York, North Dakota and Virginia. While it seems using SCAN forms with pickup would be more efficient for volume shippers, the kiosks could be ideal for sellers who must bring packages to the PO.

MentalFloss: At the core of the USPS are its postal carriers, the men and women who run up and down porch steps, dodge unfriendly animals, and brave inclement weather to make sure your personal correspondence arrives on time. We spoke to several to learn more about the job, from their biggest fears (aside from mean dogs) to hidden surprises in mail receptacles.

June 20, 2017

NPR: The first day of summer doesn’t begin until Wednesday but United Parcel Service already is looking ahead to the colder seasons with plans to charge retailers an extra fee for orders placed around Black Friday and Christmas. And consumers could end up carrying that extra weight if retailers decide to pass on the cost by raising shipping fees. Between Nov. 19 and Dec. 2 this year, UPS says it will add a 27-cent charge on all ground packages sent to homes. Those dates include Black Friday, which is Nov. 24, and Cyber Monday, which is Nov. 27. Consumers then get a two-week reprieve from the additional charge, but the fee makes a comeback to usher in the final holiday rush.

NextGov: While most media coverage of “disruptive” digital transformation focuses on gains in the business sector—publishing, film and the auto industries, for example—the public sector is catching up fast. Today, it’s using digital communications to improve interactions between government and citizens, domestically between government departments, and internationally with other government bodies. For government chief information officers, digitization holds great promise. Paper suppression, unlocking information value and satisfying citizens’ appetite for digital services. Digital mail—the digitization and delivery of paper-based communications—is helping postal services retain existing customers (government, business and consumer), and attract new customers who wish to avail of its convenience and integration with other services.

PostalNews: Mike Causey suggests that Donald Trump’s attacks on federal employees’ pay and benefits may galvanize employee organizations into taking united action: The good news about the retirement plan bad news is that it has given federal unions, management groups, retiree organizations and others their biggest issue — and reason to work together — in decades. Assaulting the retirement plan, breaking promises as workers and retirees see it, is the perfect banner to rally

around. The 30-member Federal-Postal Coalition says active and retired federal and postal workers could lose \$139 million in take-home pay (because of higher retirement plan contributions) and reduced or frozen annuities if the diet-and-zero-COLA plans become law. They've also gotten a written pledge from over 100 House members to block the proposed cuts.

June 19, 2017

Post&Parcel: The usage of Fulfilment By Amazon (FBA) among Amazon Marketplace sellers is continuing to grow, according to new research. In a [notice](#) posted on its website last week, Marketplace Pulse said: "Since the last time we looked at FBA usage among marketplace sellers in January, it has grown in all countries." Marketplace Pulse added: "Based on our research we didn't see much growth among top sellers in the US – it only went up by one point to 58 percent. This can be explained by already high FBA penetration, and the stability of the market. "However all European markets have grown considerably, by 3 to 5 percentage points. We think there is a lot of interest from foreign sellers to sell there, both from China and from the US, so they are pushing the FBA usage.

June 18, 2017

PostalEmployee: On June 14, the APWU and the Postal Service reached an agreement resolving a Step 4 National Dispute that career Clerk Craft employees assigned to a POSTPlan office are entitled to a uniform allowance. The parties agreed that career Clerk Craft employees who staff POSTPlan offices will be considered eligible to participate in the uniform allowance program per existing provisions for career employees in the Clerk Craft, which require: 1. The official assignment at a retail counter is for a minimum of 4 hours daily for 5 days a week on a continuing basis, or; 2. For a minimum of 30 hours a week. The dispute arose because the Postal Service essentially excluded career Clerk Craft employees from a uniform allowance solely because they worked in POSTPlan offices.

June 17, 2017

MultiBrief: One of the largest problems stumping efficiency and profitability experts is arguably the most difficult: getting goods through the gauntlet of the "last mile" — the final leg of a product's transportation journey before it lands with the customer. While striving for competitive pricing, 3PLs know this dilemma all too well. That means that low-cost options are limited to even large e-commerce players, particularly in the case of rural deliveries. While traditional delivery providers such as UPS, FedEx and USPS are trying to innovate to keep pace with demand, a new collection of unusual solutions has cropped up, giving customers more choices at the hands of the gig economy. The last mile is getting smaller, and it's shrinking due to a joint effort from the gig economy, consumer demand and technological innovation. While automated or drone delivery may still be a few years off, it's safe to say that large retailers have managed a network of solutions that's about as close to a win-win as home delivery can hope to achieve.

PostalNews: From the American Postal Workers Union: Throughout the country, the Postal Service has launched an all-out assault on our jobs and is blatantly violating the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) in their staffing of post offices. The USPS is reducing service to the community and disrupting the lives of postal workers by reducing duty assignments (reversions and abolishments) and issuing excessing notices potentially affecting hundreds of post offices and thousands of employees. The APWU and the USPS agreed in Article 37.3.A.1 of the CBA that, "Every effort will be made to create desirable duty assignments from all available work hours for career employees to bid." This includes hours worked by PSEs. This provision was part of an overall agreement for more APWU jobs. "We are gearing up for a large fight," said President Dimondstein. "I know that if we stick together and stay united, then – just like the *Stop Staples* and contract campaigns – we will be victorious."

June 16, 2017

TheStreet: The United States Postal Service denied J.C. Penney Co. Inc. ([JCP](#)) CEO Marvin Ellison's assertion [made earlier this week](#), which was first reported by *TheStreet*, that it would be the one to hold back future e-commerce growth. A USPS spokesman said in an email to *TheStreet* that the agency's "unrivaled network and infrastructure" will "enable" and "facilitate" e-commerce's "future growth," pointing out that its workers delivered 154 billion pieces of mail to the U.S. in 2016. "The Postal Service continually adapts to a dynamic marketplace," the spokesman said on Friday. "We operate an extensive and integrated retail, transportation, processing and delivery network to serve residential and commercial customers."

Financial Times: Amazon has agreed to buy upmarket grocer Whole Foods for \$13.7bn, the largest deal so far for Jeff Bezos's company as it seeks to exploit its online scale to disrupt food retail. Whole Foods, the biggest premium US grocer, will radically accelerate [Amazon's](#) ambitions to take a foothold in the \$800bn US food and grocery sector, where the Seattle-based group has been trying to make inroads with grocery deliveries. Having already upended sectors from bookstores to cloud computing and film, the arrival of Amazon in bricks-and-mortar grocery sent rivals' shares sharply lower on Friday in both the US and Europe. The online retailer has been running its own grocery delivery programme, AmazonFresh, since 2007 and has been experimenting with grocery pick-up kiosks in Seattle.

Post&Parcel: Amazon has extended the geographical coverage of its Prime Now delivery service to Denver, Colorado. With Prime Now, Amazon Prime members can book a one-hour delivery for \$7.99, or opt for a free two-hour delivery. Prime Now and delivery from Sprouts Farmers Market is available from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. Prime Now is currently available in more than 30 cities across the US, and Amazon has also launched the service in other international markets.

USToday: Lance Armstrong and the federal government are having at least one more fight in court before Armstrong goes to trial for his sins in cycling -- this time a dispute over when his trial should start. Later this year or a year from now? U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper will make the call once again in the government's \$100 million civil fraud lawsuit against the former cyclist. Armstrong has been banned for cycling for life and was stripped of all seven of his Tour de France victories from 1999-2005. After denying doping for more than a decade, he finally confessed to it in January 2013. His attorneys have not disputed his doping in the USPS case but say USPS suffered no damages and instead received far more in value from the sponsorship than the \$32.3 million it paid for it. The government has said the sponsorship is worth zero because the USPS bargained for a clean cycling team but didn't get one.

GovExec: Did you know that more than 25 percent of total spending under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program goes to prescription drugs? Rising drug prices and increasing drug utilization continue to drive up FEHBP premiums. Every year, the Office of Personnel Management sends a [call letter](#) to all FEHBP carriers. This year's edition encourages the carriers to thoroughly evaluate options to improve affordability, reduce costs, boost the quality of care, and protect the health of their enrollees. The first item that OPM is setting as a theme for the upcoming health insurance open season is a focus on prescription drugs.

June 15, 2017

PIWorld: Idealliance and Printing Industries Alliance have announced that Karen E. Kringsman of J.Crew Group, Inc., Traci L. Lucien of AARP, and Joe Schick, recently retired from Quad/Graphics, will be honored with 2017 Luminaire Awards. The awards, which recognize exceptional professionals for their positive contribution and service within the media and visual communications industries, will be presented at the annual Franklin Luminaire Awards event on Oct. 18 at The Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers in New York City.

USPSLink: The Postal Service is a national leader in employing veterans, according to a new survey by U.S. Veterans Magazine. The publication polls government agencies, educational institutions and hundreds of Fortune 1000 companies for the annual survey. For the second consecutive year, USPS ranked among top veteran-friendly companies. The Postal Service also ranked among the top government agencies for hiring veterans. "The Postal Service is proud to be a national leader in employing veterans," said PMG Megan J. Brennan. "Throughout our organization, veterans perform roles critical to the future of the Postal Service. We know that when we hire veterans, they have been trained to be highly organized, responsible and to deliver results." Approximately 113,000 Postal Service employees, or about 18 percent of the USPS workforce, are veterans. The Postal Service has increased the number of veterans hired each year through partnerships with several veteran-friendly organizations and by participating in job fairs that target veterans. U.S. Veterans Magazine, a quarterly publication, serves military readers across the nation.

The Cleveland American: The Westport Community Center was filled to capacity last Monday, June 14, at the Keystone Peninsula Property Owners Association's monthly meeting. Guest speaker for the evening was Cleveland Postmistress, Tena Moody, who spoke about the up-coming change-over from 'route and box' address numbers to 'street and house number' addresses... She said six day delivery will soon be a thing of the past, and the postal service will be reduced to a five-day week. Small town post offices may be forced to close, she noted. She said the 74020 zip code will be the same, but the next four numbers will be new plus two more numbers will be added. These new addresses will change in the future by the federal government if they do not work well for the emergency vehicles, and then all street names will eventually go away to numeric, she explained.

Politico: According to Postmaster General Megan Brennan, The [R Street Institute's trip down memory lane](#) about the U.S. Postal Service ("*The lost genius of the Post Office*") gets a few things correct, but on balance is woefully ill-informed and misguided. What the piece's author, Kevin Kosar, got right is that the Postal Service has a long and proud history of innovating in our core business. However, he was flat out wrong when he wrote, "The Postal Service—once one of the most impressive and fast-moving information networks ever devised—may end up as a lesson in how not to meet the future." To the contrary, we have and we will continue to innovate aggressively to maximize value for our customers now and into the future. We continue to power America's e-commerce growth by constantly enhancing our shipping products and solutions — through new Priority Mail features, Sunday delivery, and digital integrations. We were the first — and continue to be the only — major provider of Sunday delivery for e-commerce packages; today we make more e-commerce deliveries than any other company and we are committed to playing an ever larger role in America's e-commerce economy.

June 14, 2017

CyclingNews: Armstrong was the target of a federal False Claims Act lawsuit brought by former teammate Floyd Landis in 2010 under the assertion that the former cycling star's doping constituted fraud against the government. Should he lose, Armstrong could owe up to \$100 million, and Landis would be due a cut of the damages. The government asserts that the US Postal Service's sponsorship had no value because Armstrong and some of his teammates doped, then lied about it to keep the money coming in. Armstrong's attorneys have long argued that the US Postal Service got far more in marketing value from its sponsorship than the \$32.2 million it paid the team from 2000-2004.

BLS.gov: The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) decreased 0.1 percent in May on a seasonally adjusted basis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the last 12 months, the all items index rose 1.9 percent.

Post&Parcel: UPS today (June 13) revealed plans for a new US\$260m package processing facility in Plainfield, Indiana. In addition to improvements to existing buildings, UPS expects to add more than 575 new full-time equivalent positions over the

next five years. A portion of the 893,000ft² hub will open this fall for trailer processing with a delivery operation in time for the holiday season. The Plainfield facility will be completed by late 2019. Advanced package scanning and sortation equipment will provide UPS with greater flexibility when transferring large volumes of parcels to other facilities. Customers will also benefit from speed and processing accuracy and once completed. The hub will have a customer center and may contain additional infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles.

June 11, 2017

SupplyChainDive: Last-mile delivery is often referred to as the final frontier of logistics, and investors have apparently decided it's time to breach the market. Yet, parcel delivery companies (think UPS or FedEx), corner stores and restaurants (7-Eleven, Domino's) have long sought to address the cost-challenge of delivering products to residences on demand, so what changed? For one, technology — mainly the proliferation of smartphones and apps — has allowed greater access between consumers and service providers. As stakeholders research the optimal balance between price and delivery speed, results have shown consumers are increasingly willing to pay for speed and convenience. Meanwhile, retailers themselves are investing into various options to help consumers fulfill the last mile themselves.

SLTrib: As a former governor and the first secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, my number one priority will always be the safety and security of our nation, so it is with alarm that I have watched the rise of the opioid epidemic across the nation. And as this crisis has evolved, it's turned a little-known security loophole in the global postal system into a serious national security threat, one that has created a pipeline for these deadly opioids directly into our communities. Every day, nearly one million packages arrive in the United States without critical security data that would assist law enforcement in screening and stopping dangerous packages, including harmful, synthetic drugs. I'm working with Americans for Securing All Packages (ASAP), a bipartisan coalition of families, health care advocates, security experts, businesses and nonprofits who all agree that we need to close this postal loophole. There is not a single solution to combating the opioid epidemic, but no approach is satisfactory without taking a serious effort to disrupt the supply chain of these drugs.

FiscalTimes: The government would save billions of dollars in health care costs for federal employees and retirees under a U.S. postal service reform act pending on Capitol Hill, although much of the long-term "savings" claimed by advocates may be achieved by massive cost-shifting. The idea apparently is to remove postal workers and retirees — who generally have greater health care costs than other workers because of the physical demands of their jobs — from the larger pool of federal workers to gradually reduce the overall cost of health insurance for the workforce. Active postal workers would receive their health insurance coverage under a new program established by the U.S. Postal Service while postal retirees would be required for the first time to enroll in Medicare for their health care and subsidized prescription drugs. Medicare would pick up most of the costs while the new postal insurance program would cover co-payments and other deductibles. Without predicting the savings that FEHB enrollees could claim under this new approach, the CBO estimated that the government's portion of premium costs would decline by \$1.9 billion for current employees and \$1.4 billion for federal retirees over the coming decade — or a total of \$3.3 billion.

June 9, 2017

Linn: The United States Postal Service is hinting about doing away with stamps. At least that's the suggestion being made on a YouTube video that touts a proposed experimental postal project that would place a small electronic box on the top of those familiar blue mail collection boxes. Officials acknowledged that the Postal Service is planning to test the "Smart Blue Box" concept, created by MRM/McCann, a New York advertising agency, but offered no details about when and where the project might begin. According to the video, the solar-powered device would allow a customer to ask whether mail has been collected from that box. It contains a scale that would allow a small parcel to be weighed for mailing and apparently a device that would produce a mailing label with postage to be affixed to a parcel. No stamps would be used.

FiscalTimes: The government would save billions of dollars in health care costs for federal employees and retirees under a U.S. postal service reform act pending on Capitol Hill, although much of the long-term "savings" claimed by advocates may be achieved by massive cost-shifting. At a time when Congress and the Trump Administration are looking for ways to restructure government to reduce overall costs, the legislation would use a complicated bookkeeping maneuver to shift postal workers out of the government-wide Federal Employees Health Benefits plan into a separate new Postal Service Health Benefits program. The idea apparently is to remove postal workers and retirees — who generally have greater health care costs than other workers because of the physical demands of their jobs — from the larger pool of federal workers to gradually reduce the overall cost of health insurance for the workforce.

PostalNews: The APWU scores another victory today, defending postal employees in the union's bargaining unit. Arbitrator Goldberg issued an award in a national-level case over what remedy was due for the Postal Service's failure to staff 'POSTPlan' offices following an original award on September 5, 2014 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) negotiated afterward. The APWU and the Postal Service agreed that after December 22, 2014, the 'POSTPlan' Remotely-Managed Post Offices (RMPOs) open 4 or 6 hours a day would be staffed with bargaining unit clerks, as well as replace Postal Support Employees (PSEs) in Level 18 offices with career employees. Long after the agreement, Postmaster Reliefs (PMRs) were still working in 4 or 6 hour RMPOs across the country and Level 18 offices reported still using PSEs instead of career employees. The Postal Service admitted to their widespread violations of the 'POSTPlan' MOU. Arbitrator Goldberg held that the USPS owed the bargaining unit for all the hours improperly worked by PMRs and PSEs.

DailyMail: Walmart has recently unveiled its latest attempt to surpass Amazon in the battle of the retail giants. The Arkansas-based firm is testing an automated kiosk in Oklahoma City where shoppers can pick up grocery orders placed online. After placing and paying for their order online, customers receive a pickup code that allows them to retrieve their groceries inside of the kiosk. A Walmart spokesperson told Money that the machine can fulfill ‘hundreds of orders’ in a day and although Amazon Fresh delivers its orders to the customer’s home, Walmart’s kiosk allows them to pick them up the same day. Its service offers more than 30,000 times that can be ordered for free, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week – there is however, a \$30 minimum.

June 8, 2017

MailOMG: The USPS is restricting use of International First-Class Mail, IPA, and ISAL to documents only (and no flats), in its efforts to conform postal regulations with newly passed Universal Postal Union (UPU) requirements it helped write. It filed notice of the changes that take effect January 1, 2018. Mailers have until July 17 to comment. The impact will be huge, especially on publishers whose products could be considered “goods” and not documents and thus cost more to mail. Clarification is needed on whether published products are considered merchandise. It also will hit mail consolidators, who count on ISAL and IPA to move all kinds of matter and not just documents. The proposed changes have some consolidators looking at non-postal alternatives.

Politico: The Republican Steering Committee on Thursday backed Rep. Trey Gowdy to become the next chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Gowdy would replace outgoing Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), who will resign at the end of June. Rep. Steve Russell (R-Okla.) had also put his name in for consideration to replace Chaffetz.

PIWorld: Idealliance, the association for the Visual Communications and Media Industry, reports that results of its Second Annual Mail Industry Survey have underscored the importance participants throughout the mail supply chain place on effective communication with the U.S. Postal Service. More than 200 individuals from across the mail supply chain participated in this year’s survey, with two-fifths (43.3%) identifying their company’s primary function as mailing service providers, including lettershops and presort houses. Other respondents included print providers (13.4%), mail owners (11.0%), software providers (9.1%), marketing services/creative and design services (6.1%), and logistics (4.9%). In addition, 7.9% defined their companies as some combination of print, mail service, and marketing service provider.

Politico: In 1897, a year when mail was still largely delivered by horse and wagon, construction began on an innovative scheme beneath the streets of Philadelphia. Using an intricate network of compressors and metal pipes, the new system could shoot a capsule holding a few hundred letters across a city in several minutes, far faster than a postman could get it there—a speed that matched the increasing velocity of American commerce. The investor in this new technology wasn’t some kind of delivery startup, the FedEx or UPS of its day. It was the U.S. Post Office.

June 7, 2017

GovExec: All federal employees could see a better rate on their health insurance premiums under a bill to overhaul the U.S. Postal Service, according to an analysis from the Congressional Budget Office. CBO did not estimate the savings FEHB enrollees would themselves receive, but it did predict the government’s portion of premium costs would decrease by \$1.4 billion for federal retirees and \$1.9 billion for current employees over 10 years. USPS would save \$2.2 billion for current postal workers and \$2.5 billion over 10 years under the postal-specific health care program.

June 6, 2017

Post&Parcel: UPS has revealed plans for a new US\$180m package processing hub in Goodyear, Arizona, a rapidly growing commercial and residential community. The phased hub construction will expand an existing 618,000ft² structure. A portion of the building is expected to begin operating later this year in time for the holiday season, providing additional processing and efficient automated sorting capacity for lightweight small packages typical of e-commerce. With its planned total completion expected in late 2019, the new facility will have more than 970,000ft² of advanced operational technologies and sortation equipment and bring more than 1,500 jobs to the Goodyear area.

June 5, 2017

Benzinga: An under-the-radar Postal Service [reform bill](#) would save the country \$6.2 billion over the next decade, according to the Congressional Budget Office. The bill would allow the USPS to raise prices on certain mail categories and phase out direct-to-business mail delivery. In addition, it would establish a new health benefits program for USPS employees. While budget-minded Americans and USPS employees are eagerly-anticipating the changes, the changes may take a while to go into effect, Height Securities analyst Edwin Groshans said. The reason the bill hasn’t gotten much media coverage is because it’s not a [top priority](#) at the moment in Washington. “The impending retirement of House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT), the bill’s lead sponsor, and other legislative priorities that Congress must tackle (healthcare reform, tax reform, infrastructure, debt ceiling to name a few), presents an uphill battle for postal reform to make its way onto the crowded legislative agenda in the near future,” Groshan’s wrote this week. He predicts the postal reform bill won’t be approved before the end of 2017.

Federal Times: The magnitude of the U.S. Postal Service’s unfunded liabilities for its retiree pensions and health benefits imperils the agency and its workforce. Now a Congressional proposal seeks to brighten the agency’s future finances – by shifting these liabilities onto federal taxpayers through the Medicare system. Postal legislation passed by the House Oversight

and Government Reform Committee in March would make major changes to the current system and effectively transfer large shares of the gaping liabilities to U.S. taxpayers. The proposed changes are aligned with the recommendations of Postal Service leadership, which sees them as their best bet to improve their agency's desperate financial outlook. Postal Service management affirmed the intent of its legislative strategy by describing the legislation as improving "the affordability of our retiree health benefits system by virtually eliminating the unfunded [retirement health benefits] obligations," in the agency's latest quarterly 10-Q report. A recent article by the Postal Service elaborated further, declaring that if its retiree health plans were "fully integrated with Medicare," it would be relieved of its prepayment requirements under current law, allowing it to reallocate these funds in hopes of restoring financial stability. Postal Service leadership has aggressively encouraged Congress to adopt the changes to retiree benefits as a solution, not only for what the OIG estimates as \$63 billion in unfunded retirement liabilities, but tens of billions in mounting operating deficits as well.

MailersHub: An email arrived in the Mailers Hub inbox, conveying an op-ed piece released by three DC-based associations: the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, DMA – the Association of Magazine Media, and PostCom (The Association for Postal Commerce). While the associations' comments on the Postal Service's recently-concluded labor agreement with the city carriers' union take an approach that's different from that of the preceding commentary, their criticisms are valid; we agree with the points they make and support their perspective. The writers especially skewer the USPS – and justifiably so – for belying its claims of tight cost management; the agency can't tout efficiency and tight budgets while concurrently agreeing to more raises, continued COLAs, more career workers, and – above all – the guarantee of no layoffs. And doing so, as the writers note, is not demonstrative of what an agency should be doing if it wants greater latitude in ratesetting; the writers' concerns that overly-generous contract terms will translate into higher rates are not far-fetched. Of course, whether our commentary or that of the associations will change the negotiating behavior of either the unions or the Postal Service remains to be seen, but we're not betting on it.

GovExec: Officials at the 401(k)-style retirement savings plan for federal employees fear that President Trump's proposal to increase employee contributions to the Federal Employees Retirement System will lead feds to reduce voluntary saving for retirement. If approved by Congress, Trump's fiscal 2018 budget would require federal workers to contribute an additional 1 percent more to FERS each year over a period of six years. The measure is one of [several changes](#) to federal employee retirement programs proposed by the Trump administration. During the monthly meeting of the Thrift Savings Plan board earlier this week, external affairs director Kim Weaver said the increase in required contributions could cut into the disposable income workers could invest in their retirement through the TSP. On another matter of concern to federal retirees, Weaver said she has received assurances from the Office of Management and Budget that the Trump budget proposal would not alter the interest rate of the TSP's government securities (G) fund, which is currently statutorily set at 2.25 percent per year.

June 4, 2017

PostalNews: The National Office has been in contact with Postal Headquarters to discuss the deluge of bid reversions and abolishments that are being implemented across the country as a result of the Function 1 Scheduler. Postal Management has argued that these reversions/ abolishments are necessary because of the continuing decline in mail volumes. The most recent figures (for the period from October 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017 indicate a decline of over 6 billion pieces in total mail volume from the same period last year. In an extreme over reaction to these mail volume figures, USPS Headquarters has directed all Postal Areas to assess their current workforce complements and make the necessary adjustments to reflect the decline in mail volume. Not surprisingly, the Area Managers are now over reacting to Postal Headquarters' initial over reaction.

PostalNews: Yesterday, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [published its report](#) on Postal Service Reform Act of 2017 (H.R. 756). It is standard practice for the CBO to "score" pending legislation introduced into Congress in order to report its impact on the federal budget. They estimate that H.R. 756 would result in a savings of \$6.2 billion over the next ten years. These savings are technically "off-budget" because the USPS' cash flow is recorded in the federal budget (in the Postal Service Fund) is classified as "off-budget." The cash flow for the Postal Service Retirement Health Benefit Fund (PSRHBF) is classified as "on-budget." The net "on-budget" cost of the legislation is only \$0.2 billion. The bill is now off to two House of Representatives' committees: Ways & Means, chaired by Kevin Brady (R-TX-8) with ranking member Richard Neal (D-MA-1) and Energy & Commerce, chaired by Fred Upton (R-MI-6) with ranking member Bobby Rush (D-IL-2). In both committees the bill must be approved in order to be voted on by the full House of Representatives. Then the legislation will move to the Senate for a similar process.

June 3, 2017

DeadTree: Three mailers' organizations blasted a labor deal with the National Association of Letter Carriers today as proof that the "spendthrift monopolist" U.S. Postal Service "cannot be counted on to control its costs or prices." "Rather than bringing compensation more in line with the private sector – as required by postal law – the tentative agreement with NALC worsens the problem," said a [joint statement](#) from Postcom—The Association for Postal Commerce, MPA—The Association of Magazine Media, and the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers. In defending the current inflation-based price cap on most postal rates, the statement said, the coalition has presented expert testimony showing "that postal workers are paid nearly twice what the private sector pays for similar work." "The NALC contract confirms that the Postal Service cannot be trusted to make the tough decisions needed to control its own costs."

BerkeleyDailyPlanet: The conservative leaning Postmaster General, Patrick Donahoe, in his farewell press conference claimed that postal banking was a bad idea because "We don't know anything about banking". Is historical memory that short? For 55 years, from 1911 to 1966, United States Postal Service (USPS) provided traditional banking services. Ironically, postal banking was initiated and strongly advocated by a conservative Republican, President Taft. But without any public discussion, postal banking was abolished by President Johnson, a Democrat who was liberal on domestic issues. What the public needs is not predatory banking institutions. It needs postal banking, which proved its worthiness in the 55 years of its existence. Moreover, the 32,000 local branches makes the post office accessible to almost everyone, regardless of income bracket. As the Washington Post noted, "customers could walk down the street to the post office with their money and deposit it in a savings account there". Poor Americans could cash their checks for a small fee and obtain loans on good terms at low interest rates. In fact, postal banking is able to charge for its services relatively low rates and with far more integrity than private banks and payday lenders.

Linns: Forty-eight years after President Richard M. Nixon pleaded with postal unions to support his plan for an independent postal service, another Republican president appears to be saying those unions might have achieved too many benefits with their collective-bargaining rights. That seems to be what Donald Trump's proposed federal budget for fiscal 2018 is saying. The president wants to roll back some of the gains the postal unions have made in the almost five decades since Nixon gave them bargaining rights in return for their support of his plan for a new United States Postal Service. The Trump budget for fiscal year 2018 says it offers the USPS \$46 billion in "savings" by reducing mail deliveries and hitting postal workers' benefits. Not surprisingly, the postal unions are in full battle mode with the president. Three large mailing organizations have attacked the Postal Service's new wage agreement with the National Association of Letter Carriers, saying the pact shows that the USPS "cannot be trusted ... to control its own costs." In a June 1 essay, titled "USPS — Spendthrift Monopolist," the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, the Association of Magazine Media, and the Association for Postal Commerce argued that a price cap is essential to force the Postal Service to control its spending.

June 2, 2017

CBSDFW: Walmart says it's testing a delivery service using its own store employees, who will deliver packages ordered online while they are driving home from their work shifts. The "associate delivery" program would use Walmart's 4,700 U.S. stores and roughly 1.2 million employees to speed delivery and cut costs. The world's largest retailer says workers can choose to participate and would be paid. The service is being tested at two stores in New Jersey and one in Arkansas. It's the company's latest effort to compete with online giant Amazon.

Post&Parcel: UPS is planning a new hub in Goodyear, Arizona, which it says will ramp up processing capacity for e-commerce. In a [statement](#) issued on its website yesterday (1 June), UPS said: "E-commerce already has changed the local landscape as UPS expands its capability for Saturday ground delivery and pickup service that began last month in Mesa and starts this Saturday, June 3, in Phoenix. These Saturday services will continue to expand as the new Goodyear facility is completed."

GovExec: Unfortunately, the budget President Trump recently sent to Congress shows how much disdain he has for federal employees and the taxpayers they help and support every day. President Trump would *eliminate* annual cost-of-living adjustments for people in the Federal Employee Retirement System—including for current retirees—and reduce them by half a percentage point for people in the old Civil Service Retirement System—including for current retirees. According to certified financial planner Art Stein, a FERS annuity would lose one-third of its value over 20 years if inflation averages between 2 percent and 3 percent annually (and nearly one-half of its value if inflation averages 4 percent). According to the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, the average FERS annuitant would lose approximately \$100,000 over 20 years and the average CSRS annuitant would lose \$60,000 over 20 years under the Trump budget.

June 1, 2017

OfficialMailGuide: The Postal Service is now allowing specific quantities of lithium batteries — when installed in the equipment they are intended to operate — to be sent to many international destinations, including Army Post Office (APO), Fleet Post Office (FPO) and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) locations when permitted by the destination or host country. The postal operators of Germany and Italy are not accepting packages containing lithium metal or lithium-ion batteries to German or Italian addresses. Postal employees will decline electronic items containing lithium batteries to addresses in those two countries. This does not apply to shipments to and from German or Italian APO, FPO or DPO locations. Domestic shipments of packages containing lithium batteries, and electronic devices containing lithium batteries aren't affected.

Post&Parcel: US retailer Walmart has submitted a patent for a delivery system which uses drones, automated lockers and blockchain technology. Walmart filed the [patent](#) on 23 November last year, and the US Patent and Trademark Office (UPTO) published it on 25 May. With the delivery model described in the patent, the drone – or the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) – will drop off the parcel/payload into an automated locker / delivery box, which will open in response to a message validating the identity of the UAV. The key advantages of using this sort of automated delivery box, rather than having the drones drop parcels on someone's front lawn, is that is both safer and more secure. The patent also includes references to using blockchain technology for extra security and to track shipments that are fragile or temperature sensitive.

SDCExec: President Donald Trump's proposed budget would let the U.S. Postal Service cut back on delivery days, a move that helps the unprofitable agency save money while putting it at odds with longstanding congressional demands. The USPS currently delivers mail six days a week across the country, while also offering package delivery on Sunday for internet giant

Amazon.com and others. The White House budget released last week would let the quasigovernmental agency scale back delivery frequency "where there is a business case for doing so." It is one of several solutions proposed to address the financial struggles at the USPS.

LinkedIn: Informed Delivery just rolled out in April nationally, and has fewer than two million households signed up so far – but Megan Brennan, the Postmaster General, said that consumers were signing up for the service at a pace of 10,000 households a day. As the Postal Service begins to actively advertise the program, expect that pace to grow. In a couple of years, 10%- 20% of US household could be signed up for Informed Delivery – maybe more, particularly if it becomes a native app on new smart phones, a very real possibility. There's a lot more to Informed Delivery than black and white pictures of your mail. Mailers can add full color clickable "ride-alongs" - viewable, clickable images to prospects receiving your mail piece today. Getting these images into the system is still a largely manual process, and cannot yet be personalized at a piece level, but the Postal Service promises that that is coming. In the not-too-distant future a unique web address can be assigned for each mail piece, so you can embed a PURL in your Informed Delivery ride-along.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

June 30, 2017

INDIA: *Hindu:* Members of All India Postal Employees Union staged a demonstration here on Thursday. K.D. Manohar Devarajan, divisional secretary of the union, who led the agitation, said the house rent allowance should be hiked as per the recommendations of the seventh pay commission with effect from January 1, 2016. Previously, the HRA for staff of the Department of Posts, working in cities under categories of A, B and C class was 8%, 16 % and 24 %, respectively. As per the revised recommendations, it needs to be hiked to 10 %, 20% and 30% respectively. A committee was formed to monitor the implementation of recommendations but even after a year, no modification was made in the HRA.

AUSTRIA: *Post&Parcel:* DPD Austria has announced that it opened its new “City Hub” in Salzburg early this month (June). The company said that the new hub demonstrates the importance of innovation for deliveries in urban environments. This is the second City Hub that DPD has opened in Austria. The first was opened in Aspern, Vienna in October. The City Hubs provide temporary storage for parcels which are then delivered to residents in the local district using electric-powered delivery bicycles and vehicles. The City Hubs also serve as pick-ups point for parcels that could not be delivered, and customers can drop off parcels too.

CHINA: *FT:* SF Express has completed commercial drone deliveries after receiving China’s first drone airspace licence, state media reported on Friday. China’s logistics and technology companies have announced such delivery services before but little commercial use has followed. However, there are some signs that the SF Express launch was different. Chu Xuejian, professor of modern logistics at Shanghai University, called the granting of a drone licence to SF Express a “significant” move for the budding drone delivery sector because of China’s strict controls on airspace. The granting of the licence indicates that national regulators are now more willing to open airspace to drone delivery companies, say analysts.

SRI LANKA: *DailyMirror:* The postal strike which had dragged on for three days had been temporarily called off last night following a written assurance given by the sub-committee set up to resolve issues faced by the postal employees headed by ministry secretaries, Post Master General Rohana Abeyratne announced. During a discussion held with the United Postal Trade Union’s Front yesterday the committee members had agreed to find solutions to their problems within a two-week period after submitting a proposal to the Cabinet. The Islandwide strike that went on for three days had resulted in many delays and severely inconvenienced employees both in the State and private sector. With over 600 sacks of airmail piling up at the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) and another 500 left at the Central Mail Exchange (CME) due to the strike, court operations, the work of leasing companies and other private and State institutions also suffered due to a shortage of stamps.

June 29, 2017

CANADA: *Qtelegram:* The banking group Banque Postale acquired the participative financing platform KissKissBankBank & Co, announced on Tuesday June 27 the two entities in a joint statement. For the banking establishment, this acquisition, the amount of which has not been revealed, makes it possible to “widen the offer of products and services to meet customers’ expectations as well as new banking practices”.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION: *Post&Parcel:* The Universal Postal Union (UPU) and International Post Corporation (IPC) have agreed to enhance their cooperation for the development of the postal sector worldwide. In a [statement](#) sent to Post&Parcel, UPU Director General Bishar A. Hussein said: “The UPU’s foremost aim is to secure the organization and improvement of postal services worldwide and to promote international collaboration in this area. We are therefore particularly pleased to engage in a partnership that brings measurable benefits for the industry by contributing to the development of accessible, efficient and innovative postal services in our member countries. This joint cooperation program supports the advancement of the UPU’s goals and strategy while conforming to its principles for cooperation with the private sector.”

GERMANY: *BusinessLive:* Germany’s Deutsche Post subsidiary Street-Scouter and Ford’s commercial vehicle division in the country are entering a partnership to manufacture battery-electric delivery vehicles. Deutsche Post has already made its mark in the smaller van segment by designing and producing the emission-free StreetScouter, but now the partners are working on a larger vehicle type. The chassis of the Ford Transit will provide the technical basis and the vehicle will be equipped with a battery-electric drivetrain and fitted with a special body construction based on Deutsche Post and DHL specifications. A statement declared that Deutsche Post DHL Group and Ford shared the same objective of building future mobility by reducing emissions and creating new traffic solutions. This partnership is an important and tangible step towards achieving these goals.

June 28, 2017

CANADA: *DailyStar:* Canada's postal service confirmed Tuesday that it has suspended mail delivery to a Vancouver neighborhood after repeated attacks on its carriers by a crow. Canuck the crow would often swoop in and peck at carriers delivering to three homes on the city's east side.

GERMANY: *Reuters:* German postal and logistics company Deutsche Post said systems of its Express division in the Ukraine have in part been affected by a cyber attack. “We have taken measures to continue to be able to process deliveries and are working to solve the problem and to restore the affected systems,” a company spokesman said on Tuesday, adding that customers will be kept informed.

MEXICO: *Post&Parcel:* UPS is planning to double the number of shipping centers available to customers in Mexico from 50 to more than a hundred by the end of 2017. The UPS centers have trained personnel to help small and medium-sized business

owners with their domestic and international shipping. On-site experts assist consumers and SMEs with proper packaging techniques and completing customs documentation. Businesses can also track packages in real time.

June 27, 2017

AUSTRALIA: AP: The new boss of Australia's postal service will be paid less than half the 5.6 million Australian dollar (\$4.3 million) salary package that made her predecessor Australia's highest-paid public servant. Christine Holgate was named as the new managing director and chief executive officer of Australia Post on a salary of AU\$1,375 000 plus a performance pay of up to the same amount. Her predecessor Ahmed Fahour announced in February he would quit the government-owned corporation, two weeks after his pay was made public by a Senate committee and sparked a political furor.

EUROPEAN UNION: FullyLoaded: The European Union has taken Australia's lead on cross-border parcel identification through standardised labelling. More than a year after GS1 Australia and the Australian Logistics Council unveiled the Australian Transport Standards for Freight Labelling and EDI and the GS1 Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC), the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) has chosen the SSCC to help transform international parcel deliveries to and from Europe. The aim is to transform cross-border parcel delivery services using a single, common parcel label that includes a parcel identification code. The GS1 SSCC exists for importing and exporting to Europe and will help to increase value by enabling more delivery options and reduce costs by increasing efficiency in the value network.

JAPAN: Asia.Nikkei: Myanmar's state-owned postal service has begun renting out advertising space on public mailboxes in a Japanese-supported effort to cover the cost of setting up and maintaining the mail collection network. Myanma Posts and Telecommunications initially will place 250 ad-festooned mailboxes in Yangon, Naypyitaw and Mandalay -- the country's three largest cities. Installing one mailbox costs more than \$5,000, a sum that will be recouped by five years of monthly ad payments. The attention-grabbing mailboxes are also meant to highlight efforts to reform a state-run postal system that inspires little trust among the public.

UNITED KINGDOM: Post&Parcel: Secured Mail, part of The Delivery Group, has saved £160,000 by implementing a driver behaviour programme underpinned by telematics. The company has used the TomTom Telematics [WEBFLEET](#) fleet management system to analyse driver performance and make targeted improvements. This has resulted in an average eight per cent uplift in mpg and a 15 per cent decrease in incidences of unsafe driving. This has helped the FORS Gold Member to realise a £130,000 annual saving on fuel and £30,000 annual saving on maintenance, despite an increase in miles travelled by the 75-strong fleet. The WEBFLEET system, implemented with support from TomTom Telematics reseller Fleet Trak, includes [OptiDrive 360](#), which scores drivers based on a range of key performance indicators, including speeding, driving events and idling.

June 26, 2017

SRI LANKA: The Island: Postal workers will launch a continuous strike from today (27) as the government has failed to redress their long standing grievances, Convener of the Joint Postal Workers Union Front Chinthaka Bandara says. The postal unionists had been protesting against a government move to sell the post offices of historical value in the Galle Fort and Nuwara Eliya to foreigners and several administrative problems, Bandara said. Bandara said their aim was to protect the postal service and the interests of the postal workers and not to topple or inconvenience the government. The present government had come to power, promising not to sell public assets, but that promise had been reneged on, Bandara said.

June 25, 2017

NEW ZEALAND: TVNZ: From July 1, NZ Post will increase the cost of sending items by FastPost by 50 cents per item (a medium-sized letter rises to \$2.30). In March it said the drastic decline in mail volumes meant the price rise was needed. But the union has slammed the service, saying NZ Post should first ensure it comes up to scratch. Posties and mail sorters are "frustrated and embarrassed" to see the FastPost date stamps showing that they may have missed the service delivery promise, says union spokesman John Maynard. "NZ Post had deliberately slowed down the delivery of standard letter mail because the company wanted customers sending letters for next day delivery to have to pay extra."

SRI LANKA: SundayTimes: Postal trade unions have resolved to go ahead with a strike from Tuesday after talks with Posts Minister M.H.A Haleem failed yesterday. United Postal Trade Unions Front Chief Chinthaka Bandara said the minister was unable to give an assurance with regard to their demands which included abandoning the move to convert several old post office buildings into hotels, the restoration of the old General Post Office (GPO) opposite the President's House in Fort and workers' problems. The Unions have been opposing the sale of some of the old post office buildings, including the historical post office building in Nuwara Eliya.

June 24, 2017

INDIA: NYOOZ: Panaji: Following the dak adalat meeting on Friday, the department of posts has decided to improve delivery of services with special preference to senior citizens. It also suggested that the Indian Post tap the market of 50 lakh-odd tourists who visit Goa regularly. A number of new services have been introduced in post offices without really looking into the availability of staff. Complaints, grievances regarding postal services which have not been settled within six weeks are invited at the quarterly dak adalat.

June 23, 2017

COSTA RICA: *Post&Parcel*: Costa Rican delivery company Go Pato is reportedly set to launch a drone delivery service next week. According to a report published by The Costa Rica Star today (23 June), Go Pato has received the necessary authorization from Costa Rica's Civil Aviation Direction and deliveries will start on Monday (26 June). Go Pato will start offering drone deliveries in Cartago, which is about 25km east of the capital San José, and then look to expand the service to other towns. Convenience stores AmPm and Fresh Market are reportedly among the businesses that will be participating in the drone service.

SWITZERLAND: *Post&Parcel*: Swiss Post has reported that it has "taken another step" in the structuring of its postal network. In a [statement](#) issued today (23 June), Swiss Post said: "After discussions with all the cantons there are already 3,854 access points available to customers across Switzerland. By 2020, there will be more than 4,200. Furthermore, additional services such as cash inpayments at the front door have been introduced and the range of services offered in the agencies has been expanded. In the long term, the postal network of the future will comprise between 800 and 900 traditional post offices."

June 22, 2017

CANADA: *BarrieToday*: A Canadian postal bank, operating within the framework of a Crown corporation, would focus on providing services that are affordable for consumers, rather than profitable for the institution itself. For the individual, this could include many improvements such as reduced interest rates, easier access to loans, and fewer service charges. Another benefit often cited is improved accessibility. Unlike bank branches, post offices are already located throughout the country. These branches could easily be expanded to offer financial services to all Canadians, including those in our most remote corners. Several studies and experts predict that Canada Post would be able to tap into the more than \$35 billion in profits that Canada's largest banks received last year. At a time when our postal service is striving to retain its relevance, this change would present a viable and affordable service to the Canadian public.

FINLAND: *YLE*: Finnish Parliament has approved a change to Finland's Postal Act which will permit the national postal service Posti to reduce mail deliveries to three times per week in some urban areas. The law change allows Posti to make exceptions to its previous requirement of five-days-per-week deliveries in urban areas where morning newspaper deliveries are carried out. Posti will, however, continue five-day-a-week mail deliveries in areas that aren't already served by newspaper delivery services - a stipulation that allows newspapers to continue to be delivered five days per week in most rural areas. Deliveries in rural locations will be carried out by outsourced services.

JAPAN: *Post&Parcel*: Amazon Japan is reportedly looking to build up a network of independent couriers in the Tokyo region, in order to reduce its dependence on the major parcel delivery companies. In an article published today (22 June), Nikkei Asian Review said that Amazon was looking to build up "a team of 10,000 independent couriers in the Tokyo region by 2020". Major parcel operator Yamato has reportedly found its network under strain from the pressure of meeting the voracious demand for same-day delivery from Amazon's customers.

SWITZERLAND: *Post&Parcel*: Swiss Post has launched a new app - called My Local Services - which allows users to connect with local businesses, services and events in their municipality. Four municipalities from the Bienne region - including Bienne itself, Switzerland's largest bilingual city - are participating in a pilot project which was launched yesterday (20 June). The new Swiss Post app "My Local Services" will make it possible to integrate services, information and offers of all kinds on a single platform and digitally link them to physical services.

June 21, 2017

GERMANY: *Post&Parcel*: Deutsche Post subsidiary StreetScooter and Ford-Werke have entered into a partnership to manufacture large electric delivery vehicles. Deutsche Post DHL already produces the emission-free StreetScooter and now both partners are working on a larger vehicle type. The partnership is another step toward reducing emissions and creating new traffic solutions. Production is scheduled to begin in July, with at least 2,500 vehicles supporting Deutsche Post's urban delivery activities by the end of 2018, making this joint project the largest manufacturer of battery-electric medium-duty delivery vehicles in Europe. In addition to the new assembly line, the manufacture of current StreetScooter models will be significantly expanded. StreetScooter is planning to manufacture 20,000 units per year of its small electrical delivery van, in different versions in Aachen and North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany.

MALTA: *Post&Parcel*: MaltaPost has launched a parcel locker solution, enabling its customers to pick up their online shopping at any time from various locations around the islands of Malta and Gozo. Online shoppers can use an Easipik address as their delivery address of choice when buying from online stores. When the parcel arrives in Malta and is processed for delivery, this is immediately forwarded to the most recent Easipik parcel locker chosen by the client. Customers will receive an SMS message with a security code, which will enable them to pick up their items.

UNITED KINGDOM: *Post&Parcel*: Two in three online shoppers (69%) in the UK have had parcels lost, damaged or delivered late in the last year, according to new research by Citizens Advice - a UK-based non-profit organization that provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to the public. Citizens Advice says problems with late deliveries affect online shoppers the most - including those who paid for a premium service guaranteeing next day or a named day delivery. Other common issues include parcels being left in unsecure locations, such as bins, and unnecessary failed deliveries - where people waited at home for a parcel, only to receive a note saying they'd missed it. The research also found that half of consumers were unsure about who was responsible for the delivery of their parcel in the first place.

UNITED KINGDOM: *Post&Parcel*: A new report by Peoplevox, a provider of warehouse management systems (WMS) for the e-commerce industry, has found that 82% of businesses reported an increase in online sales in 2016, and that only 6% reported a decrease in orders compare to the previous year. The *2017 E-Commerce Fulfilment Report* found that, while many voiced concerns over increasing competition, Brexit and currency fluctuations, the majority (88%) expected a further increase in orders during 2017. Despite such positive results and the generally upbeat outlook for this year, only 53% of respondents said they were happy with their fulfilment and warehouse operations. Purchasing and forecasting was highlighted as the most common challenge overall with almost a quarter (24%) saying this was the one area requiring the most improvement in 2017.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION: *RFIDJournal*: The Universal Postal Union (UPU), a specialized United Nations (UN) agency that coordinates postal policies among member nations, has issued a request for proposals for the procurement of ultrahigh-frequency (UHF) radio frequency identification equipment. The supplied RFID hardware must be capable of monitoring postal items in real time at the operational facilities where postal traffic is received and processed.

June 20, 2017

CHINA: *QuartzMedia*: Jingdong, or JD.com, China's second-biggest e-commerce company after Alibaba, sent robots to deliver items for the first time yesterday (June 18), on the last day of a two-week-long shopping bonanza that recorded sales of around \$17.6 billion, according to a spokesman with the company. Designed by JD, the white, four-wheeled droid can carry five packages at once and travel 20 km (12.4 miles) if fully charged. It can climb up a 25-degree incline and find the shortest route from warehouse to destination. Once it reaches its destination, the robot sends a text message to notify the recipient of the delivery. Users can accept the delivery through face-recognition technology or by using a code, according to China's state broadcaster CCTV.

June 19, 2017

GHANA: *PeaceFM*: Patrons of the Ghana Post can now receive their letters within 2 days of postage. Those within Accra can even be received within 24 hours. The minister for communications, Ursula Owusu-Ekuful says the Ghana post will be revamped to keep up with modern technological trends. In times past, the postal system used to be the main medium of sending and receiving letters and parcels by individuals and organizations. The emergence of information and communication technology has however changed the tide. The postal service is now viewed as a slow option. This has affected income generation of the Ghana postal service, resulting in the closure of some of its offices such as that of Senya Bereku in the central region.

INDIA: *Nyoooz*: Following the Smart Postman project, 176 city postmen would be equipped with the smart Android phones and these will update information about the delivery of parcels and mails on a mobile application. With the emergence of new courier and postal private companies, the postal department was facing a tough competition. Charanjit Singh TejaTribune News ServiceAmritsar, June 18Postmen in the city would be equipped with GPS devices for the timely delivery of parcels and mails. With the help of the GPS-enabled mobile application, one can easily track letter or parcel on the department's website. The postal department would update the tracking and delivery details on its website.

JAPAN: *JapanTimes*: Japan Post Holdings Co. said Monday it called off a plan to acquire Nomura Real Estate Holdings Inc. after the two companies apparently failed to agree a purchase price and other terms. The postal group said May 12 that it is "considering various possibilities on forming new capital and business alliances", following reports that it was looking to buy a stake in Nomura Real Estate to both strengthen its real estate business and compensate for its sluggish mainstay mail operation. The move comes after Japan Post logged a group net loss of ¥28.98 billion (\$260 million) for fiscal 2016, its first red ink since its privatization in 2007, due to a massive write-down of its Australian logistics arm, Toll Holdings Ltd., which it purchased in 2015.

UGANDA: *AllAfrica*: The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Postbank of Uganda (PBU) and Posta Uganda signed a grant agreement today aimed at expanding the role of postal networks in the delivery of remittances and access to financial inclusion across the country. Under the agreement, Postbank Uganda will leverage Posta Uganda's broad network of rural post offices to expand access to financial services for the rural population. The post offices will be equipped with modern digital and mobile technologies for remittance delivery and financial services transactions, and postal staff will receive specialized training. By March 2019, the project aims to increase the number of remittance recipients it serves by 50,000. In addition, it expects to provide remittance delivery services to 20,000 refugees as well as training in financial literacy.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION: *Post&Parcel*: Universal Postal Union (UPU) Director General Bishar A. Hussein has highlighted how posts help more of the world's citizens to participate in the economy. Hussein noted that several projects the UPU has launched recently are directed at improving inclusion, such as financial services, the Ecom@Africa e-commerce project, and .POST, a secure top-level domain being used by Posts to offer services such as web shops. "Our current primary focus is on the development of electronic commerce, financial services and diversification of products through innovation," added Hussien. "All these address empowerment of communities through making access to basic economic services, including trade, achievable and affordable."

June 18, 2017

CHINA: *Post&Parcel*: As Amazon continues to work on its plans for autonomous delivery vehicles and checkout-less supermarkets, a Swedish startup appears to have stolen a march on the retail giant. Working in association with Himalafy and

Hefei University, Wheely has launched what it claims to be “the world’s first autonomous, staffless, mobile store”, which can “turn every parking space in the world into a potential new 24-hour store. The company said that it has been Beta testing the Moby Mart in Shanghai and is “currently working with tech to make the Moby self-driving”. The Moby Mart will stock a range of grocery goods, and other consumables can also be ordered in advance online to be collected from the Moby Mart.

UNITED KINGDOM: [Post&Parcel](#): Whistl has become the first UK member of the Global Parcel Alliance (GPA) which has been launched at a ceremony in China. The GPA, which has been two years in development, is led by Chinese Courier YTO Express and includes 50 courier and parcel members from 25 countries. The aim the Alliance is to provide an international package service network covering the major global markets.

June 17, 2017

CANADA: [Cantech](#): Retail juggernaut Amazon is poised to become its own delivery service, a move that could prove to be the final blow for Canada Post, which now relies more than ever on parcel delivery for its bread and butter. Once again, Amazon is showing the world that its ambitions are truly bottomless, having just announced the acquisition of U.S. grocery chain Whole Foods for \$13.7 billion USD. Not happy with just owning its own online grocery store, Amazon Fresh delivery, the company is said to be interested in having bricks and mortar stores to further boost its online business by providing local distribution hubs for faster delivery. Which means big trouble up North for Canada Post, the crown corporation which is now fully dependent on parcel delivery — and on Amazon, its biggest customer— to stay afloat.

QATAR: [MalaysiaDigest](#): The suspension of postal services with Qatar by United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain is a clear violation of the constitution and agreements of Universal Postal Union (UPU), said Qatar Postal Service Company (Q-Post) Chairman and Managing Director, Faleh Mohamed Al Naemi. In a statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Al Naemi said the constitution and agreements should be respected by all member states, adding that Q-Post has contacted the UPU Director General and briefed on the current situation. Q-Post also sent a written notice and called for urgent and bold actions needed to enforce the constitution and agreements of UPU, he added.

UNITED EMIRATES: [TradeArabia](#): Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council (QCC), the entity responsible for developing quality infrastructure in the emirate of Abu Dhabi, has signed a collaboration agreement with Emirates Post Group to verify the accuracy of legal measuring instruments used in its business operations in Abu Dhabi. Under its terms, QCC inspectors will collect samples of controlled product shipments handled by the Emirates Post Group and verify their compliance with the relevant quality and safety requirements before they enter the market. This helps the two parties identify products with potential risks and safety concerns, and prevent their circulation.

June 16, 2017

IRELAND: [Post&Parcel](#): An Post plans to extend its financial offerings with the launch a new current account product. The roll-out for the new An Post Smart Account is starting this week at larger post offices and will be made available across the Irish post office network later this year. The Smart account will combine a MoneyBack feature, along with other facilities such as the Smart Account Wallet, a household budgeting tool. Account holders will be provided with a Smart Account Debit Card in partnership with MasterCard which is accepted across the full MasterCard network internationally, along with access to online payments and a Smart Account App.

KENYA: [MediaMax](#): Hundreds of postal workers could soon lose their jobs if a report by the task force assigned to oversee transformation of Postal Corporation of Kenya is implemented. The team appointed by Ministry of ICT last year has advised the government to lay off workers at the corporation as part of a strategy to revamp operations of the parastatal. Mary Basweti-Nyachae who chaired the task force on rationalisation of postal in line with the market trends and emerging competition said the corporation’s staff compliment was bloated and needed to be downsized to make it more efficient.

KENYA: [CapitalFM](#): Postal Corporation of Kenya and Huduma Centre have unveiled a Mobile-based postal service that allows consumers to use their mobile numbers as postal address, eliminating the need to have a physical P.O.Box. MPost will deliver Government documents like Identification Cards, NHIF and NSSF cards processed by Huduma Centres to any of the 622 post offices or at a location preferred by the user. MPost has so far signed up 31,000 subscribers during the one-year trial period in Kibera, with 1,300 mail delivered.

MALAWI: [Mmegi](#): BotswanaPost has opened the fifth inter-postal money transfer corridor in Malawi as part of its effort to diversify its product and service offerings. The new money order transfer corridor will accord customers from Malawi and Botswana the chance to send and receive money hassle free.

QATAR: [GulfTimes](#): Chairman and Managing Director of Qatar Postal Service Company (Q-Post) Faleh Mohamed al-Naemi has termed the suspension of postal services with Qatar by the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain as a clear violation of the constitution and agreements of Universal Postal Union (UPU), which should be respected by all member-states. He stressed that the suspension of these postal services with Qatar has had a significant impact on the daily life of millions of citizens and residents of Qatar, who have been unfairly targeted by the one-sided decision of stopping services. Q-Post chairman added that the UPU conventions and regulations consider countries which endorsed the UPU constitution as a single postal area for the exchange of parcels among themselves under the name of the UPU, adding that the freedom of transit is guaranteed throughout the territory of the union.

June 15, 2017

AZERBAIJAN: *Azernews:* Payment terminal e-GovPay with a currency exchange function will be installed in the service centers of – Shabaka Azerpost next month. The currency exchange terminals will function in the centers of Shabaka located in Yasamal, Khazar districts of Baku city, as well as in the General Post Office building. It will be possible to pay through the terminal for utility and communication services, Internet, etc. The main advantage of the new terminals will be the functions of accepting coins and giving change.

INDIA: *TimesofIndia:* Over 24 postal employees from different districts gathered at the office of postmaster general of Bareilly region in solidarity with their counterparts who have been suspended and are facing departmental enquiry against them. The postal employees union – Sanyukt Sangharsh Samiti – alleged that senior officials took action against employees in an arbitrary manner without any substantial ground. The agitators said that the suspended employees have not been given reasons for suspension since five weeks. The union threatened to intensify their protest and interrupt postal services if the suspensions were not revoked.

SRI LANKA: *DailyMirror:* More than 300,000 mails had been jammed inside the Central Mail Exchange (CME) to date due to the 48-hour strike since Monday midnight, United Postal Trade Unions' Front said today. However, Post Master General Rohana Abeyratne rejected the Union's statements and told the Daily Mirror that the CME was dispatching mails at the end of each day. "A backlog of mails is not possible at CME as claimed by the TUs," he said. Front's President Chinthaka Bandara charged that though the country's entire mail delivering and collection had come to a standstill, the Postal Department had not come forward to hold discussions to find solutions to their demands.

ZIMBABWE: *AllAfrica:* Conrad Mwanawashe and Kudakwashe Mhundwa POST Offices, which boast an expansive network reaching out to even the very remote areas should tap into the \$65 billion potential remittances and diversify their activities to accommodate the needs and preferences of the unbanked majority. As such, post offices should partner with central banks and develop financial inclusion strategies which will make them bigger players in the financial services sector, Information Communication Technology Postal and Courier Services Minister Supa Mandiwanzira has said. Africa alone is believed to have more than 30 million migrants with over \$65 billion in potential remittances and Minister Mandiwanzira challenged the post offices to sweat their expansive network reaching out to even the very remote areas, as well as their ability to foster local and international business partnerships.

June 14, 2017

GERMANY: *Reuters:* German logistics group Deutsche Post DHL Group is expanding its foray into electric delivery vans, signing Ford Motor as a components supplier for a new line of larger vehicles. Deutsche Post initially developed an electric minivan dubbed Streetscooter for its own operations to avoid inner-city emissions after growth in online shopping resulted in increased parcel deliveries. But in April it took on carmakers by unveiling **plans to step up production and sell to other delivery firms**. For the larger van, Ford will supply vehicle technology based on the Transit model, with Deutsche Post keeping assembly, distribution and sales in-house, a Germany-based Ford spokesman told Reuters.

SRI LANKA: *NewsFirst:* The strike action launched by Postal Trade Unions Monday at midnight June 12 will conclude at midnight today June 14, said Postmaster Rohana Abeyrathne. The postmaster said letters have not piled up at the Colombo Central Post Exchange during the strike. According to the Postmaster, no letters have been collected, as all postal employees joined the strike action. Meanwhile, the Joint Postal Trade Union Alliance says that if proper solutions are not provided to their demands, the trade unions will launch a strike again.

TAJIKISTAN: *GlobalVoices:* Tajikistan, a country with an atrocious state postal service, has shut down several international courier firms such as DHL, UPS, TNT, and Pony Express. The government says that the firms that have been working in the country for the bulk of its 25-year independence will now need licenses to operate. Last week the buildings of the companies in the capital Dushanbe were sealed off and their employees ordered to leave the premises, several local and international news agencies reported.

June 13, 2017

DENMARK: *RT:* Postal service PostNord has stopped delivering mail to a district in the Danish city of Odense, citing threats and harassment received by postal workers in that area. The halt has been criticized by local politicians. "We have decided to prioritise consideration for the safety of our staff above the very large inconvenience to many of our customers," PostNord's head of distribution, Michael Frølich, told Ritzau news agency, as cited by the *Local*. Two postal workers were threatened last week, and a PostNord car was broken into in the Vollsmose district of Odense. The incidents prompted the postal service to stop delivering letters, advertisements, and packages to local residents on Monday and Tuesday. Mail delivery is expected to resume on Wednesday, with Vollsmose citizens now having to pick up the parcels from the nearest post offices themselves.

AUSTRALIA: *Post&Parcel:* Australia Post postal delivery workers are trialing a new three-wheel electric delivery vehicle in Brisbane. The new e-vehicle, which will be operating in Coorparoo, Woolloongabba and East Brisbane over an eight week period, has three times the parcel carrying capacity of the current postal delivery motorbike and can hold up to 100 small parcels and 1,200 letters at a time. The pilot comes off the back of Australia Post announcing a \$197m before-tax half-year profit – a result which the company said was "driven largely by a 5.7% volume growth in the parcels business and postal losses reduced to breakeven".

AUSTRALIA: *Post&Parcel:* E-commerce shipping solution provider ShipStation has launched an integration with the Australian parcel delivery service Sendle. The ShipStation-Sendle integration gives Australian e-commerce businesses access

to the best in Australian domestic shipping, time-saving automation and customer support. ShipStation is integrated with the likes of eBay, Amazon, WooCommerce, Shopify, Squarespace, Opencart, Magento and BigCommerce — and now Sendle.

June 11, 2017

EUROPEAN UNION: *Post&Parcel:* The European Council has announced that it has agreed its position on the draft regulation for cross border parcel delivery services in the European Union. In a [statement](#) issued on Friday (9 June), the Council said the intention is to make the services “more transparent and better monitored”. The Council added: “Increased price transparency and more effective oversight should make the market more efficient and help bring down those tariffs which are not fully justified by objective factors such as wages or geographical distance.” As part of the Council’s general approach, the Commission will set up a website to display the cross-border delivery rates offered by delivery firms.

SINGAPORE: *Post&Parcel:* Singapore Post (SingPost) has announced a new initiative, called SmartPost, which brings together technologies such as near-field communication (NFC), radio frequency identification (RFID), digital imaging and electronic notifications. According to SingPost, SmartPost will raise quality and efficiency “across the entire postal operation: from collection to sorting, last mile delivery and quality assurance”. The first phase will focus on delivery of registered mail, SmartPac and other trackable postal items. Postmen will be issued smartphones loaded with a customised postal delivery app. Used with NFC and serialised code scanning, the app will help postmen keep track of deliveries made and generate real-time prompts of standard operating procedures. In addition to equipping postal delivery staff with smartphones, SingPost will be installing NFC tags on more than 50,000 delivery and collection points across the island.

SRI LANKA: *DailyMirror:* The Postal Department today issued a circular immediately cancelling the leaves of all its employees from June 13 to 14, soon after postal trade unions announced that they would launch a 48-hour countrywide token strike midnight today. Post Master General Rohana Abeyrathne told Daily Mirror that the circular was sent to all the offices across the country and that disciplinary action will be taken against those who neglect the administrative decision.

SRI LANKA: *DailyMirror:* 48-hour strike will be launched by employees of the United Postal Trade Union’s Front from midnight today. The trade union staged a protest outside the Postal Headquarters in Colombo today over a number of unresolved issues in the Postal Department. The protestors charged that the government was trying to handover several buildings which house postal offices in Nuwara Eliya, Galle and Kandy to an Indian company to build hotels. “These buildings have historical value but they are in grave danger today. Since the government has failed to take prompt action, we will go for a 48-hour token strike from midnight today. If the government comes up with solutions before midnight, we will not engage in the strike,” United Postal Trade Union’s Front President Chinthaka Bandara said.

June 9, 2017

AUSTRALIA: *BankingTech:* Australia Post is partnering with processor i2c to “expand and modernise” its digital payments offerings. Under the pact, the Australian postal service will use i2c’s Agile Processing platform to roll out enhanced digital functionality for its payments products, including the Load&Go GPR Visa card, along with gift, multi-currency travel and corporate incentive cards. Australia Post is one of several postal services across the globe that have moved into offering payments and financial services products, leveraging their established footprints and high levels of trust among consumers.

GERMANY: *SupplyChainLogistics:* Deutsche Post DHL has collaborated with Plug and Play to support the development of startups in mobility, supply chain and logistics. The partnership will engage in the development of early-to-growth stage technology startups. The program will work with a select group of startups that join the Plug and Play accelerator program, offering executive mentoring, technical expertise and potentially piloting startups’ solutions within its own operations to support their development.

KENYA: *Star:* The Postal Corporation of Kenya, Posta, wants to increase letter sending tariffs by 43 per cent despite dwindling postage business. The state agency has written to the industry regulator Communications Authority of Kenya seeking approval to raise rates for sending domestic letters from Sh35 to Sh50 per letter. This rate was last revised five years ago, in 2012. In a request to CA, Posta cited increasing costs of doing business as the reason for the increment. Posta has been struggling to remain afloat in the advent of rise in technology use for communication. Revenue from postal and courier services has dropped by 36.7 per cent since 2011 to stand at Sh4.8 billion as at end of 2015/2016 financial year on June 30, 2016.

June 8, 2017

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION: *MailOMG:* The Universal Postal Union (UPU), is the primary forum for cooperation among national postal designated operators. Among other activities, it sets the rules for international mail exchanges with rules and regulations set out for Letter Mail and Parcel Post. The 192 member countries meet in a quadrennial Congress, most recently in Istanbul in October 2016, to set policy and direction for the UPU. At the Istanbul Congress, a proposal for an Integrated Product Plan was passed. This document will form the basis of changes to the regulations for international letter mail, beginning in January 2018. The changes will apply to mail to and from the United States, but any UPU actions requiring changes to USPS mailing requirements are reviewed and implemented according to US laws and procedures. Domestic mail is not affected by UPU regulations. But the changes are substantial and any mailer sending items internationally needs to be aware of what’s coming.

CANADA: *MastHeadOnline:* Canada Post has introduced Postal Code Targeting. This new Canada Post Smartmail Marketing program allows marketers to directly connect with their receptive audience with more precise reach. You can now mail directly by postal code targeting. Postal Code Targeting can be applied to geographic, demographic and lifestyle criteria to

selected postal codes. Digital printing with variable print capabilities will possibly benefit the most from Postal Code Targeting.

JAPAN: *AsiaNikkei:* [Japan Post Holdings](#) aims to sell more mutual funds by offering investment advice and opening sales windows at post offices across the country. The postal service operator aims to shift the focus of its business from deposits to investments, thereby generating more transaction fees. According to the plan released Wednesday, the number of post offices selling mutual funds will grow by 100 this fiscal year from 1,315 currently. Those offering advice on investments will balloon 20-fold to nearly 16,700 locations after July 10. These advising sites will provide customers with information on asset formation and guidance on planning their financial future.

UNITED EMIRATES: *GulfNews:* Emirates Post Group, upon instructions of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, has suspended all postal services to Qatar in all its postal offices in the UAE from June 6, 2017, and will remain so until further notice. This decision also includes advising all customers that apart from temporarily stopping the delivery of mail items to the State of Qatar, all undelivered items will also be returned with corresponding postal fees according to the procedures and regulations.

June 7, 2017

CANADA: *CalgaryHerald:* Members of the Canadian Union of Postal Services walked the streets of Calgary on Saturday — not to deliver the mail — but to make the case for the return of door-to-door service. The postal service began converting to community mailboxes in 2015 under the watch of the previous federal Conservative government. Nearly 900,000 Canadian households were converted by the time Canada Post froze the program when the Liberals took office in 2015. Union representative Suzie Moore said 110 people in Calgary lost their jobs due to the service change. The door-to-door postal service also tends to be the eyes and ears of the community, Moore said. The service has even helped save people's lives, she added. Last December, a House of Commons committee recommended Canada Post come up with a plan to reinstate door-to-door delivery in parts of the country that lost the service in the past year and maintain a freeze on the installation of community mailboxes. The committee said at the time that 830,000 addresses had been moved to community mailboxes to date, resulting in an annual savings of \$80 million.

June 6, 2017

CANADA: *Post&ParcelInternational:* Canada Post and PayPal Canada have unveiled a new integrated payment and shipping solution for solopreneurs, small businesses and casual sellers. The solution means online sellers can track their orders, print shipping labels and pay for shipping using their PayPal account. This new functionality automatically sends tracking information and delivery confirmation alerts to both the seller and the customer once a shipping label is created. Users can also schedule a parcel pick-up from Canada Post. The collaboration aims to make e-commerce more easily accessible for entrepreneurs and small businesses, including 83% of Canadian small and mid-sizes businesses that currently do not sell online, according to PayPal Canada research.

CANADA: *CalvaryCTVNews:* People who purchase products online have likely experienced long shipping delays on packages from overseas and for many it can be frustrating trying to track down the merchandise. CTV Calgary's Consumer Specialist Lea Williams-Doherty looked into the delivery delays and found out that the holdup is here in Canada. Jurgen Kraus has ordered electronics from Asia for years and says that since last fall, packages that used to take one month now take up to five. Kraus learned of a Russian website that somehow accesses Canada Post's international tracking numbers, which customers aren't given, and managed to trace several parcels. He says in every case, his packages arrived in Canada within two weeks and then sat at either Canada Post or Canada Border Services Agency for months.

COLUMBIA: *Post&ParcelInternational:* UPS has opened its new 76,000ft² healthcare-dedicated facility in Colombia, the company's latest investment in healthcare logistics. The multi-client facility is equipped with the newest technology for storing temperature-sensitive healthcare products. The building offers distribution services, warehouse management, and late-stage customization solutions such as labeling, product kitting and configuration, and repackaging. The Colombia facility features sorting, processing and data capture technology available through UPS's validated warehouse management system, providing customers full inventory visibility, standardized processing and reporting. Customers will also have access to UPS's global transportation technology network for complete control of their supply chains.

ISRAEL: *GlobesIT:* Israel Postal Company survey: 82% of Jewish adults in Israel buy from foreign websites. Figures published today by the Israel Postal Company show that the company delivered 52 million parcels in 2016, and the number is expected to rise to 59 million in 2017 and 100 million in 2020, depending on growth in Internet shopping. The survey reported that the most popular overseas website was Chinese website AliExpress, followed by eBay, UK fashion website Next, Amazon, and Asos. The most popular Israeli websites were Groupon and WallaShops.

KOREA: *Post&ParcelInternational:* DHL Express Korea is to launch its first DHL Mobile Service Station (MSS), a vehicle fully equipped to handle shipment processing on the move. The MSS has an electronic weight, label printer and video image transmitting scanner, all of which is linked up to the DHL operations network. The registration system enables the MSS to head directly to the airport for shipment export, without the need to stop off at DHL service centers. The MSS could benefit many exporting companies, which can now have more time to prepare shipments for same-day connectivity due to DHL's extended pick-up cut-off time. The MSS also has the capacity to process up to 300 shipments daily.

June 5, 2017

CANADA: **CtvNews:** The union representing postal workers wants Canada Post to release the number of community mailboxes that have been broken into across the country. Mike Palecek, national president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, said he's frustrated by the Crown corporation's unwillingness to share how frequently mail theft occurs. The union has campaigned for the restoration of door-to-door service since the former Conservative government announced in 2013 it would be cutting the service. The Liberals campaigned in the last federal election to restore home delivery, and the results of a review into the future of Canada Post are expected to be released later this year. Canada Post spokesman Jon Hamilton disputed the union's claims, saying there are only 1,000 townhomes in Richmond that are without postal service, and none of them receive mail via community mailboxes.

MALAYSIA: **Post&Parcel:** Pos Malaysia has been promoting its new Pos Laju EziBox service, which enables customers to pick up their parcels free of charge at 24/7 parcel lockers. The service is primarily designed as an alternative means of getting parcels to customers who missed a home delivery. Customers receive an SMS notifying them to collect their parcel at a PosLaju EziBox within 48 hours, along with a secure one-time PIN number that they use to open the lockers.

SINGAPORE: **SamarNews:** The Department of Trade and Industry's Philippine Trade and Investment Center (PTIC) in Singapore is working closely with four Filipinos from Cebu who are presently based in Singapore, to officially introduce Geopik, an app that will revolutionize the postal system in the Philippines. Geopik converts long addresses or the absence of house numbers which is common in the Philippines, into more exact, customizable and easy-to-remember single codes. The app reduces the hassle brought by additional information to the actual address such as "house with blue gate, in front of a mango tree" by simply converting addresses to simple digital codes.

June 2, 2017

CHINA: **Reuters:** China's postal authority has asked SF Holding Co and Alibaba Holding Group Ltd's logistics unit, two of the nation's top logistics players, to end a spat that disrupted deliveries when the two firms abruptly cut ties on Thursday. SF is one of several top logistics firms that have a strategic partnership with Alibaba's Cainiao Network, which supports an app that allows users to track and pay for deliveries and links directly to Alibaba's top e-commerce platform Taobao. The firms severed a data sharing agreement on Thursday following SF's claims the Alibaba unit had requested user data not related to the current partnership, a claim Cainiao denies. The State Post Bureau said agricultural shipments were among those affected, including deliveries of fresh fruit. On Thursday Cainiao urged users and merchants to select alternative logistics firms.

June 1, 2017

FINLAND: **Post&Parcel:** Posti's new "delivery day reform" programme is being rolled across parts of Finland this summer, and will take effect for the whole of the country from 18 July. Explaining how the new system will work, Posti said: "Mail will still be delivered five to seven days a week, depending on the services that the sending customers have purchased from Posti. "The number of delivery days will not change in the reform, though there will be less mail to be delivered on Tuesdays. "Some newspapers, along with parcels, express letters and laboratory items, will still be delivered on Tuesdays. There will be no changes to the early morning delivery for newspapers. Items requiring signature and parcels to be picked up from service points can be picked up from Posti outlets. For Corporate Postal Code customers, items will be also be delivered on Tuesdays. "Universal service letters posted on Mondays will primarily be delivered on Wednesdays. Posti will pick letters and parcels normally on Tuesdays."

HONG KONG: **Post&Parcel:** FedEx Express has launched a self-service locker network across 35 locations in Hong Kong. The system is powered by PCCW Solutions' digital logistics platform. Anthony Leung, managing director, FedEx Express, Hong Kong and Macau, commented: "FedEx has a culture of innovation that drives us to pioneer new solutions and address customers' evolving needs. "The introduction of the new self-collection service to strengthen our last-mile delivery capability is a testament to that."

IRELAND: **IrishTimes:** An Post has confirmed its local delivery staff do not use the State's new Eircode system developed at a cost of €38 million. This is despite the fact that An Post franks letters with a reminder to its customers to use the Eircode system. The issue was raised by Fianna Fáil spokesman on communications Timmy Dooley who said it was "simply inconceivable that An Post, despite promoting the use of Eircodes, do not make use of them when delivering post". In response, An Post said its customers were "strongly" advised to use Eircode when posting mail and for Eircode to be integrated as part of a postal address.

POLAND: **CPExecutive:** UPS has expanded its footprint in Europe by investing in a new distribution facility in Mysłowice, Poland. The 118,403-square-foot package center will replace the company's former 34,229-square-foot sorting facility in Katowice. Poland is an important market for UPS and in the first quarter of this year we grew our export volume by more than 20 percent," said Pavel Adamovsky, manager with UPS Poland, in prepared remarks. "This investment demonstrates our long-standing commitment to helping our customers in Poland grow and connect to markets all over the world."

UNITED KINGDOM: **Post&Parcel:** Supermarket Tesco has been testing the use of Starship Technologies' delivery robots in London. Commenting on the tests, Tesco said: "We are always looking at new ways to improve the shopping experience for our customers. "We carried out a one-off trial as part of our Tesco Now initiative in partnership with a technology company. We learnt a great deal from this trial and we'll be reviewing feedback before deciding our next steps." The "Tesco Now" initiative is the new one-hour delivery service that the supermarket giant is rolling out in London – and which has been seen as response to Amazon's Prime Now offering.

Postal/Industry News

June 30, 2017

Mail Spoken Here: Provided is the latest [Mail Spoken Here](#).

Industry Alert: USPS Filed Move Update Price and Classification Changes with Postal Regulatory Commission. Today, June 30, the U.S. Postal Service filed its case for price and classification changes to the Move Update Verification and Assessment methods with the Postal Regulatory Commission. Postal Service regulations on Move Update compliance require mailers submitting commercial First-Class Mail and USPS Marketing Mail to update addresses to reflect Change of Address (COA) orders. Compliance with the Move Update standard is a basic eligibility requirement for these mailers to receive commercial automation and presort rates. In addition, the Postal Service is proposing to extend Full-Service Address Correction Service (ACS) to qualifying mailpieces. The filing does not affect the price of Forever stamps or other Postal Service pricing. With approval, the Move Update changes would take effect January 21, 2018.

Industry Alert: DMM Advisory USPS Marketing Mail™ (Standard Mail®) Markings Update The Postal Service™ published an article in the March 16, 2017, *Postal Bulletin*, providing additional information about the rebranding of Standard Mail® as USPS Marketing Mail™. The article stated that the Postal Service and mailing industry continue to collaborate on an implementation timeline for the required use of new postage markings and permit imprint indicia. Until then, mailers should continue to use the “Standard Mail” markings. Revisions were made to the DMM and Quick Service Guide 604d to support the continued use of the Standard Mail markings. As an update, the Postal Service continues to work with the industry on this change. We are estimating a “begin to transition” date in mid-2018. In the meantime, we continue to request that customers do not transition to the new markings until the final details are published through a *DMM Advisory* and *Industry Alert*. In our effort to gather data, the Postal Service is looking for mailing industry volunteers to conduct new indicia marking tests. Anyone interested in participating should contact Dan Barrett at daniel.j.barrett@usps.gov.

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission: Proposed Rules -Periodic Reporting, 29808–29809 [2017–13830] [\[PDF\]](#)

Postal Service: Notices - Product Changes: Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 29950 [2017–13689] [\[PDF\]](#); Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 29950–29951 [2017–13690] [\[PDF\]](#)

June 28, 2017

Office of the Inspector General: [Global Positioning System Trailer Visibility](#) Since fiscal year 2010, USPS has relied on its Logistics Condition Reporting System (LCRS) in tandem with GPS data to help manage one of the largest trailer fleets of its kind in the world, but inaccurate data reporting and system compatibility issues forced USPS to replace LCRS and the GPS devices. In June 2016, the Postal Service initiated new GPS technology to address the problems. The OIG recently assessed the Postal Service’s plan to improve its management of trailers by using GPS data. Read our findings and recommendations in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xN76P>.

Industry Alert: Mayer, AZ Post Office Closed Due to Fire Damage The Western Area and Arizona District have announced that the Mayer Post Office 12795 E Central Ave, Mayer 86333 has closed due to the Goodwin Fire in Arizona. **Customers will be serviced by the Camp Verde Post Office located at 403 W Finnie Flat Rd, Camp Verde AZ, 86322.**

Industry Alert: Genoa NE Post Office (68640) Closed Due to Storm Damage to Roof The Western Area and Central Plains District have announced the Genoa NE Post Office, 509 Willard Ave, Genoa NE 68640 has closed due to severe weather damage to the roof. Customers will be serviced through the Monroe NE Post Office, located at 406 Gerrard Ave, Monroe NE, 68647.

June 27, 2017

Office of the Inspector General: [Unscheduled Leave in the New York District](#) Unscheduled leave – employees absent without giving prior notice or receiving authorization – drives up the Postal Service’s cost of overtime and related expenses. It can also negatively affect productivity, efficiency, and employee morale. Using a Human Resource Risk model, the OIG determined that USPS’s New York District had reported the highest levels of unscheduled leave in the country for all four quarters of fiscal year 2016. We then audited the unscheduled leave practices of other USPS locations in the region. Read our findings and recommendations in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xN7V4>.

Office of the Inspector General: [Weathering Through the Weather](#) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration tracks weather events throughout the U.S. and works closely with the Postal Service to develop contingency plans to keep the mail system functioning in adverse conditions. While nothing beats Mother Nature, USPS managed to keep up with her last year in the South, which experienced some heavy weather. Check out our latest blog on it, and then let us know how you think USPS has performed during severe weather events in your area: <https://go.usa.gov/xN7yg>

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission: New Postal Products ,29121–29122 [2017–13439] [\[PDF\]](#)

Postal Service: Rules: International Mail Manual, 29004–29005 [2017–13356] [\[PDF\]](#); **Product Changes:** Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 29122 [2017–13348] [\[PDF\]](#), Priority Mail Express Negotiated Service Agreement, 29122 [2017–13349] [\[PDF\]](#), Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 29122 [2017–13352] [\[PDF\]](#), 29122 [2017–13354] [\[PDF\]](#)

June 26, 2017

Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne!® and eVS Users: PostalOne! Release 45.3.0.1 will deploy tonight, Monday, June 26, 2017 from 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm CT to correct ALM 11187 – eVS Manifest Search Issue. This system will not be available during this window. [ALM 11187 – eVS Manifest Search Issue](#) Issue: The eVS Manifest Domestic search functionality is not working. Workaround: Internal and external users can search for a single package using the Universal Search function.

Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne!® and eVS Users: PostalOne!/BIDs Release 45.3.0.0 deployment is complete and the *PostalOne!* system is available. Two issues have been identified:

[ALM 11187 – eVS Manifest Search Issue](#) Issue: The eVS Manifest Domestic search functionality is not working. Workaround: Internal and external users can search for a single package using the Universal Search function.

[ALM 11188 – Mail.XML Subscription Push Messaging](#) Issue: For those mailers who have subscriptions set up to receive push notifications via Mail.XML for example Start-the-Clock and Address Correction, the application is experiencing communication issues and this messaging is not available. This does not impact Postage Statement Create Messages. Workaround: There is no work around. The issue is being actively worked on and should be corrected later today.

PostalOne!/BIDs Release 45.3.0.1 will deploy tomorrow night, Monday, June 26, 2017 at 8:00 pm CT to correct ALM 11187 – eVS Manifest Search Issue. This will be a rolling deployment and the system will remain available. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

As a reminder, a new Mail.dat® client download 45.3.0.0_PROD is required with this release. All previous versions of the Mail.dat client will be expired. The Mail.dat client can be downloaded 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). External Release notes are posted on PostalPro under Major/Minor Releases at: <https://postalpro.usps.com/node/3834>.

PostalOne! TEM Release 45.3.0.0 will deploy on Monday, June 26, 2017 from 5:00 AM to 12:00 noon CT.

June 23, 2017

Office of the Inspector General: Shortpaid PC Postage Parcels PC Postage allows customers to print postage from their own computers. A September 2013 OIG audit found that there were millions of dollars in shortpaid postage. We recommended some internal controls for the Postal Service; USPS implemented limited controls for identifying and collecting shortpaid PC Postage since then. Our recent audit evaluates how effective those controls have been. Read the results and our recommendations on our website at <https://go.usa.gov/xNf7h>

Industry Alert: Nashua (NASS 030PM) Redirection Cancellation 7/1/17 and “Extended” Grace Period. Beginning July 1st, The Letter Mail redirections from White River VT 050 and Manchester NH 030 to Nashua 030PM will be cancelled. Each plant will begin accepting and processing their own drop shipment (Letters). Please continue to make separations ADC 030 for Manchester NH, and ADC 050 for White River Junction VT, for Letters. There will be an "Extended" Grace Period of 60 days in Nashua 030PM which will expire on August 30th. Please contact the FAST Help Desk with any issues.

Federal Register: Postal Service - Domestic Mail Manual, 28559–28560 [2017–13085] [\[PDF\]](#)

Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne!® and Program Registration Users: **Important changes to this weekend's Release Schedule**

PostalOne!/BIDs Release 45.3.0.0 will deploy on Sunday, June 25, 2017 from **2:00** AM to 11:00 AM CT. The *PostalOne!* system **will not** be available during this timeframe. MicroStrategy Reports will not be available during this time.

- A new Mail.dat® client download 45.3.0.0_PROD is required with this release. All previous versions of the Mail.dat client will be expired.

The Mail.dat client can be downloaded 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).

External Release notes are posted on PostalPro under Major/Minor Releases at: <https://postalpro.usps.com/node/3834>.

PostalOne! TEM Release 45.3.0.0 will deploy on Monday, June 26, 2017 from 5:00 AM to 12:00 noon CT.

Program Registration Release 18.2.0.0 is rescheduled and **will not** deploy on Sunday, June 25, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 8:00 AM CT.

Seamless Acceptance and Service Performance (SASP)/Service Performance Measurement (SPM) Release 24.1.70 will deploy on Sunday, June 25, 2017 from 12:00 AM to 5:00 PM CT.

June 22, 2017

Office of the Inspector General: Internal Controls Over Segmented Inventory – El Cerrito, CA, Main Post Office Tripwire analysis is a tool used during audits to look at specific behaviors and patterns which may serve as strong indicators of improper activity. The Office of Inspector General uses this methodology to identify financial abnormalities. Tripwire analysis was conducted in the El Cerrito, California Post Office after 12 perfect inventory counts were reported between April 2015 and March 2016. A resulting audit concluded that Accounting records for segmented inventory at the El Cerrito Main Post Office were not always accurately presented and internal controls needed improvement. Read the full audit report for the OIG's complete findings and recommendations: <https://go.usa.gov/xNw6S>

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission: New Postal Products, 28540 [2017–13069] [\[PDF\]](#)

June 21, 2017

Industry Alert: Mississippi Service Impacts The US Postal Service is monitoring tropical storm impacts in the Gulf of Mexico. In the Mississippi District, the Heidelberg Main Office is currently closed due to storm flooding. The alternate Post Office for retail services is Vossburg Main Office.

<u>Impacted PO/ZIP Code</u>	<u>Alternate PO</u>
Heidelberg Main Office 39439-9998	Vossburg Main Office 39366-9998. Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-12:00pm, 1:00pm -4:00pm Sat-Sun Closed.

We will continue to monitor the situation. As more information is made available and updates are made, we will continue to notify you about the impacts of this situation. Updates on these post offices will be available at <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm>. Customers can also call 1-800-ASK-USPS or go to the Postal Service's Website www.usps.com to get the location of other nearby Post Offices and approved postal retail service providers.

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission: New Postal Products, 28366–28367 [2017–12935] [PDF]

June 20, 2017

Office of the Inspector General: Mail Processing Variance Model The U.S. Postal Service employs statistical models, such as the Mail Processing Variance Model (MPVM), to measure its productivity and effectiveness in processing mail. Postal management uses results from the MPVM to measure whether postal facilities are meeting benchmark levels of mail processing efficiency. We recently conducted an audit to determine if USPS was properly using the MPVM to increase mail processing productivity system-wide. Read the OIG's findings and suggestions in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xNvHV>

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission - Periodic Reporting, 28039–28040 [2017–12779] [PDF]

June 18, 2017

Office of the Inspector General: The Business Side of Business Reply Mail Have you ever sent a donation or payment to an organization in a prepaid envelope? That envelope is known as business reply mail (BRM) — a service from USPS, which allows senders like nonprofit organizations to provide a prepaid postage envelope or card to the recipient. Many nonprofits ask their donors to place their own stamp on the envelope anyway so that the organization can save some money by requesting a refund from USPS for BRM postage not used. OIG auditors evaluated whether USPS internal controls to process BRM refunds and prevent improper payments have been effective. They found that the controls can be improved. This week's Pushing the Envelope blog discusses this latest audit report and asks how people use BRM. Read the blog at: <https://go.usa.gov/xNvCr>

June 17, 2017

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission: Proposed Rules - Periodic Reporting ,27781 [2017–12652][PDF]; New Postal Products ,27903–27904 [2017–12626] [PDF]

June 16, 2017

Industry Alert: Discontinued Support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) Effective 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:

Option1 - Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) - SFTP is a secure connectivity option available to exchange files using USPS's SFTP server (or if the customer prefers, their own SFTP server). We support SFTP login using Key Authentication or username/password. USPS prefers AES or 3DES algorithms if you choose to encrypt your data using PGP (Pretty good privacy). We also support key login using OpenSSL keys rather than username/password login. Mailers must complete trading partner setup through our Data Transfer Services (DTS) group. Allow at least 30 days to complete this setup. For additional information refer Publication 199, Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) Implementation Guide for Confirmation Services and Electronic Verification System (eVS) Mailers, Section 6 Communications, 6.1 Transmission methods, "SFTP" at https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_package/documents/tech_guides/PUB199IMPBImpGuide.pdf

Option 2 - Electronic Data Interchange Internet Applicability Standard 2 (EDIINT AS2) - This option requires that the Business Partner use an EDIINT AS2 capable software product. Mailers must complete trading partner setup through our Data Transfer Services (DTS) group. Allow at least 30 days to complete this setup. For additional information refer Publication 199, Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) Implementation Guide for Confirmation Services and Electronic Verification System (eVS) Mailers, Section 6 - Communications, 6.1 Transmission methods, "EDIINT AS2"

at https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_package/documents/tech_guides/PUB199IMPBImpGuide.pdf

Option3 - Parcel Data Exchange (PDX) - Parcel Data Exchange (PDX) is a web services application that interfaces between the USPS's PTR system and Customers to provide data transfer services. Customers can use this secure method to upload manifest files and receive scan event extract files. For additional information refer the PDX Online user guides on RIBBS at https://ribbs.usps.gov/evs/documents/tech_guides/pubs/PDXOnlineUserGuide.PDF https://ribbs.usps.gov/evs/documents/tech_guides/pubs/APIUserGuide.PDF

Mailers using a USPS certified software vendor or a third party service provider, should contact them to determine the secure connectivity options available or consult your internal technical team prior to contacting the USPS.

Please contact the USPS Confirmation Services Technical Support Team with the selected option at delivery.confirmation@usps.gov or (877) 264-9693. If contacting via email please provide contact name, title, company name, email address and phone number. For additional information, reference the FTP Fact Sheet posted on PostalPro at <https://postalpro.usps.com/node/3636>.

Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne! and FAST Users:The Network issues that impacting several applications including *PostalOne!* and FAST 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. Mailings will continue to be accepted under the *PostalOne!* Contingency Plan posted on RIBBS at https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_latestnews/documents/tech_guides/PostalOneExternalContingencyPlan.pdf. eInduction mailers should follow the eInduction contingency plan.

For Mail Acceptance:

The following instructions are provided for continuation of operations in the event a mailer is not able to submit an electronic postage statement to the USPS due to a USPS outage or mailer issue. BMEU and DMU locations will accept mailings under the following process:

1. A USPS Record of Mailings Log will be maintained at USPS acceptance units for each mailing presented during a *PostalOne!* or mailer system issue or outage. This log is used to reconcile the mailings accepted during the system delay to postage statements on the dashboard once the outage or issue has been resolved.
2. Postal Wizard, Mail.dat® and Mail.XML™ mailers who normally submit their postage statements electronically must be able to provide, either verbally or in written format, the following information:
 - Permit Holder
 - Total Pieces (An approximate total piece count can be provided if the mailer does not know the exact number of total pieces)
 - Total Postage (An approximate total postage amount can be provided if the mailer does not know the exact total postage for the mailing.)
 - Mailer Job ID
 - eInduction mailing: Yes or No (If yes, mailers are not required to create hardcopy PS Form 8125(s) or provide any additional documentation).
3. Mailers who normally submit hardcopy postage statements will continue to submit the hardcopy postage statement during a *PostalOne!* system outage
 - Mailers who normally submit hardcopy postage statements will be required to continue providing presort documentation with their mailings.
4. Postal Wizard, Mail.dat® and Mail.XML™ mailers who normally submit their postage statements electronically will not be required to provide presort documentation for any mailing submitted during a USPS or mailer issue/outage.

eInduction

For eInduction mailings presented at the dock, PS Form 8125s are not required to be submitted. Mailers and Dock employees will follow the eInduction Contingency Plan. The instruction below are to be followed for eInduction containers:

1. Accept and scan all placarded containers

NOTE: If the load is a mixed load (containing eInduction containers and regular PVDS Mail) reconcile any containers to 8125 forms.

2. Collect 1 placard from each unloaded container for those not reconciled to 8125 forms
3. In the SV-IMD update all unresolved containers with a 99M barcode to Accept status
4. Release reconciled containers, and containers from which a placard was removed, into operations
5. Retain container placards and, for mixed loads, PS Form 8125s for reconciliation.

If eInduction mailings are held at the dock for any reason, mailers should contact the FAST Help Desk at 877.569.6614. Non-eInduction mailings will continue to submit PS Form 8125.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

June 15, 2017

Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne! and FAST Users: The USPS is experiencing Network issues that are impacting several applications including *PostalOne!* and FAST. The issue is under investigation. If you experience an issue, mailings will continue to be accepted under the *PostalOne!* Contingency Plan posted on RIBBS at https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_latestnews/documents/tech_guides/PostalOneExternalContingencyPlan.pdf. eInduction mailers should follow the eInduction contingency plan.

For Mail Acceptance: The following instructions are provided for continuation of operations in the event a mailer is not able to submit an electronic postage statement to the USPS due to a USPS outage or mailer issue. BMEU and DMU locations will accept mailings under the following process:

1. A USPS Record of Mailings Log will be maintained at USPS acceptance units for each mailing presented during a *PostalOne!* or mailer system issue or outage. This log is used to reconcile the mailings accepted during the system delay to postage statements on the dashboard once the outage or issue has been resolved.
2. Postal Wizard, Mail.dat® and Mail.XML™ mailers who normally submit their postage statements electronically must be able to provide, either verbally or in written format, the following information:
 - Permit Holder
 - Total Pieces (An approximate total piece count can be provided if the mailer does not know the exact number of total pieces)
 - Total Postage (An approximate total postage amount can be provided if the mailer does not know the exact total postage for the mailing.)
 - Mailer Job ID
 - eInduction mailing: Yes or No (If yes, mailers are not required to create hardcopy PS Form 8125(s) or provide any additional documentation).
3. Mailers who normally submit hardcopy postage statements will continue to submit the hardcopy postage statement during a *PostalOne!* system outage
 - Mailers who normally submit hardcopy postage statements will be required to continue providing presort documentation with their mailings.
4. Postal Wizard, Mail.dat® and Mail.XML™ mailers who normally submit their postage statements electronically will not be required to provide presort documentation for any mailing submitted during a USPS or mailer issue/outage.

If you have any issues with mail acceptance during this incident, please contact the *PostalOne!* Help Desk at 800.522.9085.

eInduction

For eInduction mailings presented at the dock, PS Form 8125s are not required to be submitted. Mailers and Dock employees will follow the eInduction Contingency Plan. The instruction below are to be followed for eInduction containers:

1. Accept and scan all placarded containers

NOTE: If the load is a mixed load (containing eInduction containers and regular PVDS Mail) reconcile any containers to 8125 forms.

2. Collect 1 placard from each unloaded container for those not reconciled to 8125 forms
3. In the SV-IMD update all unresolved containers with a 99M barcode to Accept status
4. Release reconciled containers, and containers from which a placard was removed, into operations
5. Retain container placards and, for mixed loads, PS Form 8125s for reconciliation.

If eInduction mailings are held at the dock for any reason, mailers should contact the FAST Help Desk at 877.569.6614.

Non-eInduction mailings will continue to submit PS Form 8125.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne!® and Program Registration Users: *PostalOne!*/BIDs Release 45.3.0.0 will deploy on Sunday, June 25, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT. The *PostalOne!* system will remain available during this timeframe. A new Mail.dat® client download 45.3.0.0_PROD is required with this release. All previous versions of the Mail.dat client will be expired. The Mail.dat client can be downloaded 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). External Release notes are posted on PostalPro under Major/Minor Releases at: <https://postalpro.usps.com/node/3834>. Program Registration Release 18.2.0.0 will deploy on Sunday, June 25, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 8:00 AM CT.

Federal Register: Postal Service - Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 27538 [2017-12374] [PDF] 27537 [2017-12375] [PDF], Priority Mail Express and Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 27538 [2017-12372] [PDF] Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 27538 [2017-12373] [PDF]

June 14, 2017

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission - New Postal Products, 27300 [2017-12300] [PDF]

June 13, 2017

Industry Alert: FAST Recurring Appointment Cleanup. USPS is undergoing an initiative to clean up Recurring Appointments in the Facility Access & Shipment Tracking (FAST) system.

Background - FAST is a system designed for business mailers to schedule appointments for entry of mail into Postal Facilities. Mailers are able to schedule one-time and recurring appointments at Postal Facilities through FAST. Mailers schedule Recurring Appointments for drop shipments that arrive consistently on the same day or days of the week, during the same time period, with approximately the same mail contents on the same type of transportation. Recurring Appointments remain valid until the mailers' appointment profile changes and/or no longer meets the schedule originally agreed upon. When mailers schedule appointments but fail to show up within 24 hours after the original appointment time, these appointments are classified as No Shows. For USPS, No Shows result in lost appointment slots, distorted expected mailer volume, inaccurate

staffing models and poor data. For mailers, No Shows impact mailer ratings and result in lost appointment slots for other mailers who would have used the appointments.

Recurring Appointment No Show Issue - USPS MEPT and Operations departments found that there is a 28% Appointment No Show rate across facilities and mailers. And in performing a root cause analysis, USPS discovered that unused Recurring Appointments are a large portion of the high No Show rate, as they are automatically generating appointments that are never being used. For the aforementioned reasons, it is imperative that No Shows are reduced. In coordination with the mailing industry, through Mailers' Technical Advisory Committee User Group 3, USPS is cleaning up Recurring Appointment ID's to address the No Show issue. Eliminating unused and unneeded Recurring Appointments is a quick and effective way to drastically reduce No Show appointments and to open up appointments for other mailers.

Recurring Appointment Solution - USPS is implementing a technical solution to remove unused Recurring Appointment ID's. Per the Pub 804 (Section 3-7), "failure to adhere to scheduled appointments or other abuse of the procedures will result in revocation of recurring appointment privileges." FAST IT created and tested a onetime script that will remove Drop Ship Recurring Appointment IDs with no appointment activity (no cancellations, closed appointments, rescheduled appointments etc.) over a 60 day period. The script will look back 60 days from the script date/time. The automatic script will run on Wednesday, June 14th at 12pm CDT. In addition, FAST IT is creating a batch script that will automatically remove Recurring Appointment IDs. The automatic script will run monthly, and look back 60 days for Recurring Appointment IDs with no activity. USPS is targeting an implementation date of July 2017.

Specific questions concerning the Recurring Appointment Cleanup should be directed to Lance Bell, Program Manager, Business Mailer Support (lance.a.bell@usps.gov).

June 12, 2017

Office of Inspector General: [Our Semiannual Report to Congress](#) Our latest blog looks at the work of the OIG over the first half of fiscal year 2017 that includes 84 audit reports, 1,394 investigations that led to 345 arrests and almost \$20 million in fines, restitutions, and recoveries. \$3 million of which was turned over to the Postal Service. Learn more about how the OIG continues to succeed in its mission for the Postal Service in this week's blog <https://go.usa.gov/xNyJA>

June 9, 2017

Industry Alert: *Attention PostalOne!® and Program Registration Users: PostalOne!/BIDs Release 45.3.0.0* will deploy on Sunday, June 25, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT. The *PostalOne!* system will remain available during this timeframe. A new Mail.dat® client download 45.3.0.0 PROD is required with this release. All previous versions of the Mail.dat client will be expired. The Mail.dat client can be downloaded 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). External Release notes are posted on PostalPro under Major/Minor Releases at: <https://postalpro.usps.com/node/3834>. **Program Registration Release 18.2.0.0** will deploy on Sunday, June 25, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 8:00 AM CT.

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission: New Postal Products, 26817-26818 [2017-12006], [\[PDF\]](#)

Postal Service: Product Changes: Priority Mail Express Negotiated Service Agreement, 26818-26819 [2017-11957] [\[PDF\]](#) Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 26818 [2017-11954] [\[PDF\]](#), 26819 [2017-11955] [\[PDF\]](#), 26818 [2017-11956] [\[PDF\]](#), 26818 [2017-11958] [\[PDF\]](#)

June 8, 2017

Industry Alert: Move Update. The USPS is proposing to change the method for measuring compliance for meeting the Move Update requirement to a Census based approach. Business Mailer Support will host weekly Move Update calls for mailers who have questions or want additional information. The webinars will be held at 2:00 pm eastern each Wednesday, beginning Wednesday, June 7, 2017.

Move Update Webinars

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 7 – August 30, 2017; 2:00 – 3:00 pm eastern

Log on: <https://uspsmeetings.webex.com/uspsmeetings/j.php?MTID=mb196393db64c9ea238020f81860fa9ad>

Conference Code: 563 772 2130

Dial In: -855-860-7461

For further information regarding the Move Update Census Method please refer to Publication 6850 found on PostalPro

at: <http://postalpro.usps.com/node/581> or the Proposed Federal Register Notice found: <http://postalpro.usps.com/node/3111>

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission - New Postal Products, 26719 [2017-11916] [\[PDF\]](#)

Postal Service - Meetings, Sunshine Act, 26719 [2017-12033] [\[PDF\]](#)

June 7, 2017

Industry Alert: Congratulations to The Lincoln Motor Company, Hudson Rouge and Structural Graphics for Winning The 2017 Irresistible Mail® Grand Champion Award, and to the University of Pittsburgh and Unofficial Cardboard for winning the Award for Irresistible Mail Innovative Technology. It is our great pleasure to announce that at the National

Postal Forum **The Lincoln Motor Company's "See It First"** campaign for the Lincoln Continental won the Grand Champion of the 2017 Irresistible Mail Award. Congratulations to **Hudson Rouge** for designing, and **Structural Graphics** for printing the winning campaign. The winner was determined by a vote of attendees at the National Postal Forum in Baltimore, MD.

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission: New Postal Products, 26521–26522 [2017–11711] [\[PDF\]](#); 26522 [2017–11793] [\[PDF\]](#)

June 6, 2017

Office of the Inspector General: [Play to Win in the Parcel Market](#) This week's OIG blog highlights a recent white paper regarding difficulties of pricing parcel delivery in a highly-competitive market. John Panzar, a renowned postal economist, provides a theory that can guide USPS decision makers on how to set prices accordingly, even as the competition in the marketplace continues to shift. Read more at: <https://go.usa.gov/xNPQI>

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission: Public Inquiry on City Carrier Costs, 26146–26147 [2017–11586] [\[PDF\]](#)

Postal Service: Product Changes: Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 26147 [2017–11581] [\[PDF\]](#)

June 5, 2017

Industry Alert: Attention Business Customer Gateway and PostalOne! Users: eVS is experiencing a performance issue loading the verification data - IMpb, Duplicates, Misshipped, and potentially unmanifested reports are impacted, and you may not see the most updated verification data reflected in the reports until the performance issue is addressed. Manifest files are not impacted. We are working on resolving the issue and will provide a daily update until the performance issue around loading verification data is resolved. Thank you for your patience.

Industry Alert: FAST Message Board Nashua Redirection Cancellation. Beginning July 1st, The Letter Mail redirections from White River VT 050 and Manchester NH 030 to Nashua 030PM will be cancelled. Each plant will begin accepting and processing their own drop shipment (Letters). Please continue to make separations ADC 030 for Manchester NH, and ADC 050 for White River Junction VT, for Letters. There will be a Grace Period of 30 days in Nashua 030PM which will expire on July 30th.

Office of the Inspector General: [Internal Controls Over Retail Floor Stock - Potsdam, NY, Main Office](#) Acting on a tip from our Office of Investigations, OIG auditors discovered that the U.S. Postal Service's Potsdam, NY, Main Office was frequently experiencing shortages of stock on the retail floor. While no individual sales and service associate (SSA) is accountable for stock, each SSA is responsible for ensuring accurate reporting of sales as well as the adequate protection and security of retail floor stock. This latest OIG audit report evaluates whether internal controls for controlling stock are in place and effective. Read our findings along with our recommendations at: <https://go.usa.gov/xNEjp>

Office of the Inspector General: [Play to Win: Competition in Last-Mile Parcel Delivery](#) Large parcel delivery companies, including the U.S. Postal Service, are competing against more than just each other — their real battle is against the threat of self-delivery by large retailers. That's among the main conclusions of a new Office of Inspector General white paper that presents a theoretical model of the evolving parcel market. In the past, economic theory would suggest that a simple strategy of setting postal price just slightly below competitors' prices may have worked best. However, in this more evolved parcel market, the post needs to seek out a price higher than the cost of delivery but lower than the competitors' prices, and also low enough to discourage the retailer from self-delivery. For details, read *Play to Win: Competition in the Last-Mile Parcel Delivery* at <https://go.usa.gov/xNEjr>

June 3, 2017

Federal Register: Postal Service - Privacy Act; Systems of Records, 25819–25820 [2017–11489] [\[PDF\]](#)

Industry Alert: Wrightsville GA Post Office Closed The Wrightsville Post Office building, located at 8648 S Marcus St., Wrightsville, GA 31096 has been closed due to recently discovered facility issues. While the Wrightsville Post Office is under a temporary suspension, retail, collections, and P.O. Box services will be provided by a mobile unit located on the premises of the Wrightsville Post Office. Wrightsville customers can conduct normal retail transactions, such as purchasing stamps and mailing packages. P.O. Box customers will be able to pick up their mail at this mobile unit as well. The blue collection box at this Post Office will remain in place and in service. Hours of operation for the mobile unit reflect no changes to the current schedule of: Monday to Wednesday and Friday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The mobile unit will be closed on Sunday. Delivery operations for Wrightsville will be temporarily relocated to the Sandersville Post Office, located at 205 W Church St., GA 31082. Currently, there is no timeline for resumption of postal operations at the Wrightsville Post Office building.

June 2, 2017

Office of the Inspector General: [U.S. Postal Service Contract Labor Substitution.](#) OIG auditors have released a report, U.S. Postal Service Contract Labor Substitution. Read it at: <https://go.usa.gov/xNR6a>