

## National News

### July 31

**WashingtonTimes:** When the U.S. Postal Service's top marketing officer agreed to hire Goldman Sachs nearly two years ago without a written contract, top executives inside postal headquarters scrambled to make the unauthorized deal square with postal procurement rules. But the no-bid contract they eventually awarded to Goldman Sachs was backdated and was for the wrong kinds of services: The company was hired under a banking services agreement, but Goldman Sachs' postal work didn't have anything to do with banking, records show. In trying to fix a \$1.5 million deal that already generated misgivings, officials may have only added to the list of problems that remain under review by the Postal Service's office of inspector general even after the contract's expiration. Key details about the arrangement have surfaced through the inspector general's recently released report on the tenure of the Postal Service's former president of shipping and mailing services, Robert Bernstock.

**TeamBHP:** Mahindra has bagged a \$11 million prototype contract from the US Govt. for next-gen postal delivery vehicles. Mahindra Automotive North America will deliver 14 prototypes for approval by November, 2017. According to media reports, the prototypes will be built in Detroit and will be delivered for road-testing in two phases. The first batch of eight prototypes will be delivered in September and the remaining six by November. If approved, Mahindra will have to build 1.8 lakh vehicles over a six year period. The price of each vehicle is expected to be around \$35,000 and also a maintenance and repair contract will be awarded.

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### July 30

**Linn's Stamp News:** The nation's post office lobbies are a mess. That's the verdict of the United States Postal Service's Office of Inspector General. In a July 21 posting titled "This Old Post Office," the inspector general said, "It makes no difference what part of the country you're in, post offices nationwide are in need of upkeep and repair." That finding was based in part on a review of post office lobbies in the Postal Service's Eastern Area of the country, but the inspector general's blog said the same problems can be found elsewhere. In the Eastern Area, one of seven postal areas, "more than 60 percent of the facilities reviewed had building and security issues as well as Occupational Safety and Health Administration violations," according to the report. "Almost half of facilities had cleanliness and maintenance issues," the blog said.

### July 29

**Fortune:** People living in apartments and condominiums have a new, more secure way to receive Amazon packages instead of having their deliveries tossed in lobbies and in hallways. Amazon debuted its Hub delivery lockers this week for multi-unit residential properties. Resembling a large, white filing cabinet with a touchscreen, the Hub is intended to prevent residents' packages from being stolen. Customers use the touchscreen to enter a code that unlocks the compartments containing their orders. Delivery people from other organizations UPS or FedEx will be able to access the Hub.

**PostalNews:** The U.S. District Court in Washington, DC, denied the request of two NALC members for a preliminary injunction that would have deferred the counting of ballots on the proposed tentative 2016-2019 National Agreement between NALC and the U.S. Postal Service. Thomas Houff of Richmond, VA Branch 496 and David Noble of Washington, DC Branch 142 filed a lawsuit to cancel the ratification vote. The court's denial of their motion means that the counting of ballots will proceed as scheduled next week. Ballot committee members will arrive in Washington, DC, on July 30 to monitor and observe the receipt and tabulation of the ratification ballots.

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### July 27

**Q13Fox:** Lines at the post office could get a little longer as USPS announced its eliminating 12,000 positions nationwide. The American Postal Workers Union says if these cuts go through, you'll feel the effects. "The public's going to have to wait a lot longer in line at a lot of these post offices. The phone won't get answered, and the level of service the public has gotten used to could decline if these job cuts go through," said David Yao with the union.

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### July 25

**CCJDigital:** SmartDrive Systems announced that [Postal Fleet Services, Inc.](#), a major mail hauler primarily servicing the United States Postal Service, has adopted the [SmartDrive](#) video-based safety system following a competitive review and pilot program. In piloting the SmartDrive program in its St. Louis, MO service area, Postal Fleet Services improved its SmartDrive Safety Score by 85 percent within a few weeks, and successfully used video footage to exonerate drivers in three collisions —

leading to cost savings that more than paid for the SmartDrive platform. These results, coupled with the driver coaching tools, led company leaders to choose the SmartDrive platform over competing offerings.

**PostalNews:** The value of the U.S. Postal Service's (USPS) letter delivery and mailbox monopolies was \$5.45 billion in fiscal year 2015, according to the most recent estimate prepared by the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), the regulator of USPS. This figure suggests that USPS's net income would decline by this amount if its monopolies were eliminated. To develop these estimates, PRC identifies the mail covered under USPS's monopolies for which a potential entrant might compete to provide service if the monopolies were to be eliminated; such mail is referred to as "contestable." PRC's estimated value of these monopolies has increased substantially in recent years—it was \$3.28 billion in fiscal year 2012—and PRC staff expects that the value will continue to increase in the next few years due to increased volumes of contestable mail. Narrowing or eliminating USPS's letter delivery and mailbox monopolies would likely have varied effects, according to views provided by postal stakeholders, experts, USPS, and PRC.

**FederalNewsRadio:** Rep. Todd Rokita (R-Ind.) finally re-introduced legislation that would classify all new federal hires as "at-will" employees. Rokita introduced similar legislation last September, but the bill ultimately died in the previous session of Congress. Yet the congressman indicated that he planned to reintroduce the Promote Accountability and Government Efficiency (PAGE) Act during the 115th Congress, stirring immediate opposition from federal employee groups and unions. Much of the legislation would apply to federal employees hired on or after one year of the bill's enactment. Each agency would be asked to develop their own standards for implementing the provisions in the bill. Specifically, agencies would determine how they'll plan to notify employees of an at-will status, which senior officials would have the authority to remove at-will workers from federal service and how they'll ensure those employees aren't fired or disciplined for discrimination. The harshest provisions would target new hires, but other provisions in the PAGE Act would impact current employees and senior executives.

**LaconiaDailySun:** Just a few years ago, seeing a decline in first-class mail as customers turned to email, instant messaging, and social media for regular communications, the postal service was looking to restrict mail delivery to five days a week, eliminating Saturday deliveries. Now it delivers Express Mail and packages seven days a week, although not all locations handle the Sunday mail. Steve Doherty, USPS communications specialist, said the internet age has not only transformed the way people purchase products, it has shifted their mail habits. Doherty said, "Years ago, people didn't expect Sunday delivery. Now they want it right away, and we're adapting. "Doing away with six-day delivery and going to five days was a thought at one time, but with this new era of overnight packaging, I don't foresee that coming back up as a suggestion. I don't think the public was generally opposed to the elimination of Saturday mail deliveries, but when you put packages into it, it's a different story. That shifts our dynamic away from the thought of five-day delivery," Doherty said.

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### July 23

**FreightWaves:** A report from Fox News on a report published by the Office of Special Council, noted that an unnamed USPS employee spotted "unnecessary overtime costs" that were "improperly coordinated" with the [National Association of Letter Carriers](#) (NALC). Nevertheless, it highlighted the bad financial situation that USPS is in. In another report, this time by Fox Business, USPS seemed like it is bleeding money. USPS lost \$5.1 billion for the year 2016. The financial crisis is one possible reason that chassis specialist [Spartan Motors](#) withdrew from the USPS Next Generation Delivery Vehicle Program (NGDV) as its body builder. The withdrawal fueled doubts about the \$37.4 million granted by USPS in contracts to Utilimaster and other companies selected to participate in the NGDV according to a [report by Heavy Duty Trucking](#). The troubles for USPS also affect thousands of trucking companies that rely on contracts with the mail carrier. In a press release announcing that Sacramento-based Matheson Trucking, Inc. was one of 12 companies to be recognized by USPS in its annual awards (Matheson won the Sustainability *Excellence Award*), it was noted that some [17,000 plus companies](#) participate in USPS's supplier base providing transportation-related services.

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### July 21

**EcommerceBytes:** On August 1st, the USPS will begin verifying that shippers have paid the correct amount for postage purchased online for packages they send through the Postal Service and will bill them or their vendor if postage is due. The Automated Package Verification System will roll out on August 1st and promises to compensate shippers for over-payments as well. The USPS notified Click N Ship customers, and PC postage providers have begun emailing customers over the past week or so to let them know about the program. Some sellers say the program could be positive in that it would prevent unscrupulous sellers from cheating the Postal Service. One seller said they always overestimated their postage, so hoped they'd receive credits through the program. A major area of concern among sellers is whether they will be able to dispute a claim they underpaid for a package's postage, which the Post Office collects through vendors.

**PostalNews:** From the National Association of Letter Carriers: On July 19, the House Budget Committee released and adopted its Fiscal Year 2018 budget resolution, and it also published a non-binding policy statement. Drawing inspiration from the White House budget, proposed in May, and from a 2010 presidential commission on deficit reduction, the two documents train their sights on postal and federal employee benefits and target the U.S. Postal Service for massive cuts. One of the more troubling proposals introduced by the Budget Committee is one to fold the financially independent U.S. Postal Service, which is an "off-budget" agency, into the formal federal budget. Moving USPS to "on-budget" status could expose the agency to across-the-board spending cuts under the Budget Control Act of 2011—better known as "sequestration." Such a move might also tempt members of Congress to pay for their spending priorities using Postal Service cuts that would threaten the quality of

service we provide—and perhaps even our jobs. Another troubling proposal being floated (actually, *recycled*) in the budget debate is to cut the rate of return on Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) retirement savings invested in the plan's government securities index fund (or G Fund).

**FedWeek:** The Postal Service is revising its policies on granting employees leave without pay for politically related purposes through their unions after a finding by the Office of Special Counsel that the agency had violated the Hatch Act in 2016. The OSC made its determination after the postal IG referred findings of an investigation into the grant of LWOP to nearly 100 carriers, involving some 2,700 days off, belonging to the National Association of Letter Carriers for work on partisan campaigns on behalf of the union's favored candidates, including presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. USPS told the hearing that in response, it will exclude political activity from the acceptable uses of LWOP for union purposes, that it will not require or suggest that union members be released to engage in political activity, and that it will expand its internal communications about the Hatch Act restrictions on political activity.

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## July 20

**TownHall:** The U.S. Postal Service is in steep decline. Today, the U.S. Postal Service [fails to meet](#) even their own watered-down standards for letter mail delivery service and management has run up [over \\$121 billion](#) in debt and unfunded liabilities. First-Class mail service, which every American relies on, has not been fulfilled in a satisfactory manner. In fact, [USPS failed to meet on-time delivery targets for every single First-Class mail product](#). Additionally, according to the Postal Service's regulators, USPS has failed to meet performance goals for Standard Mail letters for five consecutive years. Despite declining volumes since the dawn of the internet age, letter mail delivery remains one of their most profitable services. First-Class mail [covered costs](#) by \$21 billion last year. As these government-protected monopoly products continue to be profitable, there are many doubts about the financial viability of other new offerings. Delivery services like [Amazon packages, flowers, and fish deliveries](#) in New York City are all part of its recent marketing campaigns and unfortunately the USPS is [less transparent about revenue and costs associated with these competitive product lines](#). All we know for sure is, the more these services increase in volume, the more their debt increases.

**GovExec:** The U.S. Postal Service agreed to change its policy that allowed union employees to take unpaid time off to engage in political activity after an independent investigation found the agency engaged in "systemic violations" of the Hatch Act that led to an "institutional bias" in favor of certain candidates. Postmaster General Megan Brennan announced the changes in a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs hearing Wednesday, which followed an inspector general's report that brought the issue to light. That report found USPS spent [\\$90,000 on overtime](#) to cover for employees who took time off to campaign in advance of the 2016 election. The Office of Special Counsel followed up those findings with a [report](#) of its own—made public at Wednesday's hearing—that the Postal Service's actions had violated the Hatch Act, which bars federal employees from engaging in political activity in an official capacity.

**Linns:** The United States Postal Service allowed 97 letter carriers to work for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign last year in what investigators told Congress was a systemic violation of a law prohibiting federal workers from engaging in partisan politics. The accusation, made at a July 19 Senate hearing, drew an immediate apology from Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan. She called the Postal Service's violations of the Hatch Act "unintentional" and promised to end the abuses. To stop "these systemic violations" the Office of Special Counsel said the Postal Service should "not require, direct or suggest that local supervisors release union members to engage in political activity." It urged the USPS to adopt a "hands off" approach to the union's political activities. It also said the USPS should drop reference to political activities being allowed for leave without pay.

**WSJ:** While Josh Sandbulte gets some things right about the U.S. Postal Service in "[Why the Post Office Gives Amazon Special Delivery](#)" (op-ed, July 14), he provides an inaccurate and unfair account of the package delivery side of the USPS's business. By law our competitive package products, including those that we deliver for Amazon, must cover their costs. Our regulator, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), looks carefully at this question every year and has determined that they do. The PRC has also noted that competitive products help fund the infrastructure of the Postal Service. It is that infrastructure that enables us to fulfill our universal service obligation to deliver to each and every address in the U.S. at an affordable rate. The PRC has also concluded every year that products covered by the letter monopoly do not cross-subsidize the Postal Service's competitive products. The reason we continue to attract e-commerce customers and business partners is because our customers see the value of our predictable service, enhanced visibility and competitive pricing.

**FederalNewsRadio:** Don't look for Postal Service letter carriers out on the campaign trail in 2018. The Postal Service will no longer permit leave without pay for union political activities, after an Office of Special Counsel Hatch Act investigation recommended a "hands off" approach to the service's union political activities. OSC's report highlighted that not only are postal unions and employees allowed to maintain political action committees and endorse candidates, "the law, in fact, encourages them," along with enlisting union members to help support campaign agenda on their own time. What OSC found, however, was that despite concerns from local supervisors that the carriers on union official leave without pay would have an impact on operations, and objections to the some carriers' release, "USPS managers instructed the local supervisors to release all listed carriers so they could participate in NALC's political activity."

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## July 18

**CIO:** Forrester forecasts global mobile device usage will reach more than 5.5 billion users by 2022. Powered by rising mobile adoption in Asia Pacific and Africa, mobile penetration should reach 70 per cent of the world's population in five years. This is nearly double the total number of users in 2008, says [Forrester](#). "We expect the number of global smartphone subscribers to reach 3.8 billion by 2022, crossing the 50 per cent mark for smartphone penetration by population in 2017 and reaching 66 per cent by 2022."

**STLNews:** Following reports from United States Postal Service (USPS) managers in Missouri that their staffing needs have been disregarded, U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill is calling for answers on what USPS will do to make sure it is maximizing efficiency at post offices in Missouri and across the country. McCaskill serves as the top-ranking Democrat on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, which has oversight and legislative authority over USPS. In a letter to Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan, McCaskill detailed the concerns that mid-level and senior USPS managers in Missouri shared over insufficient staffing at their post offices. Too often, there are not enough entry-level clerks and mail handlers, which "add[s] to inefficiencies in the system [and]...can cause direct financial harm to USPS." McCaskill is also seeking answers on if USPS is making cost-effective decisions when it considers hiring fulltime versus temporary employees.

**FoxNews:** The U.S. Postal Service violated federal law by letting employees do union-funded work for Hillary Clinton's campaign and other Democratic candidates while on leave from the agency, according to an Office of Special Counsel report obtained by Fox News. The OSC determined the USPS "engaged in systemic violations" of the Hatch Act, a federal law that limits certain political activities of federal employees. According to [the report](#), roughly 97 NALC members requested the leave without pay to participate. The NALC, which endorsed Clinton last June, compensated those USPS workers using the Letter Carrier Political Fund, the union's PAC. But USPS Postmaster General Megan Brennan said that "senior postal leadership did not in any way guide union leadership in selecting the candidates for whom NALC employees could campaign" and that USPS "did not approve or choose candidates for the unions to support" or "ask the union to advocate for political candidates on behalf of the Postal Service."

**WashingtonPost:** The House budget proposal released Tuesday continues Republican efforts to cut federal employees' compensation by making them pay more for retirement benefits. While the Republican's "Plan for Fiscal Responsibility" did not provide details, it echoes previous proposals, including one offered by President Trump this year. He proposed increasing individual out-of-pocket payments toward retirement by 1 percentage point each year until they equal the government's contribution for those in the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). Over a six-year period, this would result in increased payments of about 6 percent. With no increase in benefits, that would equal a 6 percent drop in pay. Unlike Trump's proposals, the House plan does not mention basing federal pensions on the average of the high five years of salary, instead of the high three, which is now the case. Using more years in the calculation would lead to lower pensions.

**WorkdayMinnesota:** Federal and postal union members nationwide will conduct a mass call-in to Congress on Tuesday, July 18, to campaign to save their pay and pensions from deep cuts proposed by President Trump. The cuts could cost the workers \$149 billion, the leader of the largest federal worker union says. The call-in and campaigns are necessary because the Trump administration and the GOP-run Congress again propose deep cuts in federal workers' pay, by forcing them to contribute even more to their pensions, with no corresponding benefit increases at retirement. Trump also demands most agencies submit personnel-cutting plans for fiscal 2018, which starts Oct. 1, and beyond. In response to Trump's schemes, unionists from AFGE, the [Treasury Employees\(link is external\)](#), the [Letter Carriers\(link is external\)](#), the [Postal Workers\(link is external\)](#), the Mail Handlers-Laborers and the [Machinists\(link is external\)](#), among others, will call their lawmakers on July 18.

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## July 17

**PostalNews:** From the National Postal Mail Handlers Union: USPS management continues to implement its ill-conceived plans to realign its work force. Their plans involve massive bid reversions and job abolishments in almost every mail processing facility throughout the country. In most cases, management is basing its staffing needs on the flawed Function 1 Scheduler that the Postal Service uses to determine staffing levels at the large mail processing plants. Postal management continues to argue that these reversions and/or abolishments are necessary because of the continuing decline in mail volumes. In response to these unwarranted attacks on the postal workforce, [NPMHU President Paul Hogrogian and APWU President Mark Dimondstein sent a joint letter to Postmaster General Megan Brennan protesting the Postal Service's proposed actions](#). The two Presidents vowed that both unions would work together to combat the Postal Service's attacks on its employees.

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## July 15, 2017

**FedSmith:** Legislation has been introduced in the House to make the pension information of retired federal employees public information subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The Taxpayer Funded Pension Disclosure Act ([H.R. 3200](#)) was introduced in the House this week by Ron DeSantis (R-FL). In an [editorial in the Washington Examiner](#), DeSantis said that the cost of providing pensions to retired federal workers is over \$100 billion, yet there is currently little transparency to the information.

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## July 14

**CPI:** The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) was unchanged in June on a seasonally adjusted basis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the last 12 months, the all items index rose 1.6 percent. The energy index declined again in June, falling 1.6 percent; this offset an increase in the index for all items less food and energy. All the major

energy component indexes declined, with the gasoline index falling 2.8 percent. The food index was unchanged in June, with the index for food at home declining slightly as five of the six major grocery store food group indexes decreased.

**WallStreetJournal:** The U.S. Postal Service delivers the company's boxes well below its own costs. Like an accelerant added to a fire, this subsidy is speeding up the collapse of traditional retailers in the U.S. and providing an unfair advantage for Amazon. In 2007 the Postal Service and its regulator determined that, at a minimum, 5.5% of the agency's fixed costs must be allocated to packages and similar products. A decade later, around 25% of its revenue comes from packages, but their share of fixed costs has not kept pace. First-class mail effectively subsidizes the national network, and the packages get a free ride. An April analysis from Citigroup estimates that if costs were fairly allocated, on average parcels would cost \$1.46 more to deliver. It is as if every Amazon box comes with a dollar or two stapled to the packing slip—a gift card from Uncle Sam. Amazon is big enough to take full advantage of “postal injection,” and that has tipped the scales in the internet giant's favor. Select high-volume shippers are able to drop off presorted packages at the local Postal Service depot for “last mile” delivery at cut-rate prices. With high volumes and warehouses near the local depots, Amazon enjoys low rates unavailable to its competitors.

**LATimes:** The U.S. Postal Service has stopped delivering mail to a neighborhood in Glassell Park once considered among the most dangerous in Los Angeles after a carrier was nearly shot there last month, a USPS official said. “Our primary goal is to ensure the safety of our employees while providing service to our customers,” spokeswoman Evelina Ramirez said in a statement. “We are reviewing all options to come up with the best solution.” For now, residents living in the 3300 and 3400 blocks of Drew Street have to travel about a mile to the Glassell Park Station office to pick up their mail, Ramirez said.

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### July 13

**FoxBusiness:** State officials from Rhode Island, Virginia, Maryland, and Kentucky testified before the House Energy & Commerce Committee Wednesday to urge Congress to close a loophole in the Global Postal System that is allowing deadly synthetic drugs to be shipped from abroad. Kentucky Secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet John Tilley asked Congress to pass the STOP ACT—which was introduced back in February—that will require all packages to have electronic security data that would allow law enforcement officials to screen and stop deadly material—like fentanyl (a drug 50 to 100 times more powerful than morphine) and other synthetic opioids from coming into the U.S.

**PostalNews:** The American Postal Workers Union reached a tentative collective bargaining agreement with Salmon Companies, the largest ground transportation supplier to the United State Postal Service. Truck drivers for the private-sector company are members of the APWU Support Services Division. The contract covers locals from Dallas, TX, Shreveport, LA, Little Rock, AR, and Memphis, TN. “We were able to strengthen language regarding job bidding, bumping rights and seniority classifications. We also overhauled language concerning the use of Extra-boards and dispatching procedures,” reported Support Services Director Steve Brooks. “Another highlight of the agreement is the expansion of authorized physicians for drug testing and Department of Transportation (DOT) physicals, and clarification on language regarding company-covered expenses.”

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### July 12

**IMAG:** The International Mailers' Advisory Group (IMAG), the premier representative of the U.S. international mailing sector, is telling outbound international mailers to prepare for a significant mid-August price increase that was not part of 2017 budgets. The price changes will affect two outbound international mail products offered by the U.S. Postal Service: International Priority Airmail (IPA) and International Surface Air Lift (ISAL). Both are popular ecommerce mailing services and used heavily by sellers on the ecommerce platforms. The price increase is due to a change in the negotiated service agreement contracts that the Postal Service has with outbound international consolidators, its workshare partners that perform onboarding, preparation and transportation services for international mailers and shippers.

**Campaigns&Elections:** Eighty-six percent of registered voters check their mailboxes at least 5 times per week, according to a newly released [joint paper](#) from the United States Postal Service® and the American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC). But how do Americans interact with their mail as they sort, read and process it? Based on listening sessions with AAPC member political consultants, we heard the *mail moment* is more important than ever: “People are consistently inundated with information in the 24-hour news cycle,” says one Democratic political consultant. “Mail can be really helpful because it is physical and feels real. Voters slow down and will actually look at a piece of mail.” “Our firm found that targeting with mail is more precise than with any other form of media,” says a Republican political consultant. “It allows you to get hyper-targeted with messages. There can be a lot of waste in radio and TV advertising, the geographic targeting is not as precise as you can be with mail.”

**WashingtonPost:** Rep. Rob Bishop is a Utah Republican known as a solid right-winger. Like many Republicans, he generally doesn't get good grades on federal workforce issues. But wait — while he has voted against positions favored by employee groups on many issues, he recently led a letter from nine Republicans opposing federal retirement cuts proposed by President Trump. Citing the various ways Trump's budget plan would hit feds, despite his call for a 1.9 percent pay raise, the letter says “our strongest objection is how the proposals break a promise to employees and retirees who have based career planning on longstanding promised benefit calculations. They and their families don't deserve to be treated in this cavalier manner.”

**STLToday:** Fentanyl and carfentanil have been identified as coming mainly from overseas, particularly from factories in China. But despite their very real national security threat (carfentanil has been used as a chemical weapon), traffickers can easily send drugs and ingredients undetected by law enforcement through the mail, due to a loophole in the global postal system.

While packages sent through private carriers require electronic data that helps Customs and Border Protection target specific dangerous shipments, foreign postal services are not required to include this data. Fortunately, lawmakers have made some progress toward closing this security gap and cutting off the flow of the deadly opioids. The bipartisan Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention Act is steadily gaining support, with 18 co-sponsors in the U.S. Senate and over 180 in the House of Representatives, including Missouri Rep. Ann Wagner, Emanuel Cleaver II, Sam Graves, Billy Long and Jason Smith. This bill would require security data for all packages shipped to the United States, placing the same standards on foreign postal services as private carriers and ensuring that law enforcement has the best tools at its disposal to screen and stop dangerous material.

**HeatStreet:** The United States Postal Service has been on the brink of complete bankruptcy for nearly two decades, but that didn't stop it from paying out \$90,000 to cover for paid employees who took time off to campaign for Hillary Clinton. According to an Inspector General's report, 100 USPS workers took extended leaves of absence to hit the campaign trail on behalf of the postal union—the National Association of Letter Carriers. The union, which had by then endorsed Hillary Clinton, used these same postal workers to supplement their grassroots political operations in swing states. Technically, postal workers are allowed to take unpaid holidays in order to help the union, but government employees aren't supposed to actively campaign for a candidate. The Inspector General is currently investigating whether the postal workers who took time off violated that precept.

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### July 11

**CNBC:** Amazon's third annual Prime Day has a new piece to its shipping puzzle: airplanes. The new Prime Air fleet will help deliver the Echo devices, flat-screen TVs and countless other marked-down goods expected to lure consumers' dollars with the easy swipe of a tab. The 30-hour Black Friday-like sales event is marketed to Prime members, meaning the millions of projected shipments destined for doorsteps will have two days or less to get there. Enter Prime Air — the air cargo service Amazon officially introduced last summer. Traditional cargo flights typically involve hub stops; flying point to point means flying direct to a final distribution area from where a shipment will depart on a vehicle on the so-called last mile of delivery to a residence. The direct option can shave 12 to 15 hours off of a cross-country journey — a crucial reduction when the turnaround is a tight 48 hours or less.

**PIWorld:** The ROI that can be achieved from personalized and targeted direct mail sent through the U.S. postal stream is undeniable. Add to that innovative mobile and other technology applications like AR, QR, NFC, snap tags, watermarks, direct-to-digital, tactile and sensory direct mail, video-in-print and even the addition of color to traditional transactional bills and statements and the response rates and recipient interactivity soar even higher. That's why smart marketers often rely on direct mail as a key spark to help them electrify their omnichannel campaigns. Recognizing how the combination of digital technologies and print amplifies the power of direct mail, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is committed to demonstrating how direct mail continues to be a relevant part of the marketing mix and how it offers greater value. The USPS does so, in part, through an annual Mailing Promotions program that encourages marketers, brand managers and direct mailers to adopt and invest in technologies that enhance how consumers interact and engage with mail. Another program has been the creation of the irresistiblemail.com website and a companion sample book featuring practical samples that harness an array of virtual and augmented reality experiences, and the latest in sensory printing techniques.

**GovExec:** The U.S. Postal Service spent \$90,000 on overtime to cover for employees who took time off to campaign in advance of the 2016 election, according to a new report. Unionized postal workers are allowed to take unpaid leave to engage in official activities on behalf of their labor groups, according to the USPS inspector general, but the agency did not follow proper protocols to ensure it should have granted the time off. Ninety-seven letter carriers across the country took leave without pay to “participate in political activities on behalf of” the National Association of Letter Carriers in the months leading up to the November election. Headquarters did not coordinate the leave requests with the proper staff to ensure that the employees taking off would not be disruptive to local operations.

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### July 10

**InsiderLouisville:** The third annual Prime Day is Tuesday, July 11, but 30 hours of sales for those Amazon Prime members (who typically pay \$99 a year) begin tonight at 9, the company said in its primer “Get the most out of Prime Day.” Even though Amazon does not seem to have its clever [Amazon Lockers](#) in the Louisville area yet, there are ways to secure your shipments. If you know you'll be at work, have the package shipped there, or to your neighbor or a family member who can secure the package for you. Amazon suggests tracking your package to know when it shipped and when it was delivered. One handy service the United States Postal Service offers is [USPS Package Intercept](#), for customers who know they won't be home for delivery. For a fee prior to delivery, most domestic shipments can be rerouted. You can also have the item held at your post office branch using the [Request Hold Mail](#) service, which is great if you are away for a few days on vacation. Or, if you plan to order online routinely, the Postal Service suggests you rent a Post Office Box.

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### July 7

**TownHall:** The U.S. Postal Service is an iconic institution – based in the Constitution and older than the country itself – that's every bit as relevant today as ever. It provides Americans and their businesses with the industrial world's most-affordable delivery network while serving as the centerpiece of the \$1.3 trillion national mailing industry, which employs 7 million Americans in the private sector. And yet, a good deal of misinformation circulates about the Postal Service's financial situation

and, by extension, about postal legislation. After all, if you are led to believe that USPS is awash in red ink because business is dwindling, that would suggest one type of legislative response. If, however, you realize that the business model is solid but that flawed public policy needs fixing, it's easier to understand why some legislative adjustments are needed – without breaking what works.

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### **July 6**

**USAToday:** Lance Armstrong's longtime agent and business partner have agreed to pay \$158,000 to get out of a \$100 million federal lawsuit scheduled to go to trial against Armstrong in November. The agreement was part of a deal with former cyclist Floyd Landis, who sued them and Armstrong on behalf of the United States government in 2010. Their dismissal clears the deck for Landis and the federal government to go after Armstrong alone in the upcoming trial in Washington, D.C. The government is suing Armstrong on behalf of the Postal Service, alleging that Armstrong's cycling team violated its sponsorship contract with the Postal Service by using performance-enhancing drugs and blood transfusions to cheat in races. It argues the Postal Service would not have paid the cycling team if it had known about the doping and says that Armstrong concealed the violations to keep getting paid, effectively causing false claims to be submitted to the government.

**Post&Parcel:** The International Post Corporation (IPC) announced today (6 July) that preliminary 2016 results show the global postal industry grow by 1.3%, despite challenging market conditions and ongoing declines in mail volumes. Increasing parcels and express volumes – especially B2C e-commerce items – supported revenue growth for many posts, added IPC, and revenue diversification continued across the industry and remains a key driver for growth. While mail volumes declined across most markets, mail divisions remained profitable on average as posts further streamlined mail operations and increased efficiency. Posts also continued to expand their parcel networks to capitalize on the growth in e-commerce and improve customer convenience.

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### **July 5**

**Post&Parcel:** Birmingham-based direct mail fulfilment and print management services provider, bakergoodchild, has responded to industry reports that targeted direct mail material volumes are on the increase, stating that strategic print does appear to be on the rise, as marketers increasingly are turning to print to get their messages across. Although print volumes are not returning to the highs of previous years, bakergoodchild has revealed that print and promotional material are increasingly being used more as effective communication tools for direct mail cross-media marketing campaigns, that also include the use of digital media as a complementary tool.

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### **July 2**

**PostalEmployeeNetwork:** USPS – Once again, Brian McNicoll misleads readers of [Townhall.com](http://Townhall.com) about efforts to return the U.S. Postal Service to financial stability. Surprisingly, the conservative commentator takes issue with a bill that would cut billions of dollars in federal spending and require a federal entity to follow private-sector best practices. Contrary to what Mr. McNicoll would have you believe, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 did not give the Postal Service “real control” over its fate. For instance, the 2006 law created an austere price cap that restricted the Postal Service's ability to adjust prices of products that generate over 70 percent of our revenue. The current cap does not take changes in Postal Service volumes and costs into account, and hence is wholly unsuitable to ensuring the Postal Service's continued ability to provide prompt and reliable universal services in a self-sufficient manner. Without legislative and regulatory reform, our net losses will continue and our financial position will worsen — threatening our ability to meet America's evolving mailing and shipping needs. It's also important to understand that the Postal Service did not choose its current pension and health care systems — they are the result of a federal statute. Because of declining mail volumes, the current pension and health care systems and unique pre-funding requirements imposed by Congress are unaffordable, and that's the reason the Postal Service has defaulted on the huge prefunding payments.

**SWTimes:** By acquiring Whole Foods, Amazon is buying not just an established, upscale supermarket brand, but also a vast distribution network of warehouses and more than 460 stores worldwide — replete with back rooms and cold storage — in some of the most affluent ZIP codes in America. That's a significant boost in numbers for the Seattle company, which currently operates fewer than 100 distribution centers in the U.S. More hubs mean quicker and fresher delivery, which will bolster Amazon's existing grocery delivery service, AmazonFresh. While the bid for Whole Foods may not bridge Amazon's “last mile,” it certainly brings it closer, experts say. The deal could also make competing delivery services superfluous. Why pay for food delivery elsewhere if Amazon is cheaper and easier? To that end, Amazon is encroaching on territory long dominated by the likes of UPS, FedEx and the U.S. Postal Service. In the past two years, it has leased 20 Boeing 767 air cargo jets from Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, won shipping licenses that allows it to pay for containers at wholesale rates and rent them out for more expensive retail rates, and added thousands of long-haul trucks emblazoned with the Amazon logo.

**MontgomeryHerald:** Like most monopolies, the U.S. Postal Service isn't interested in changing its business model. An enterprise hemorrhaging cash in a free market would cut prices, improve service, look for new revenue streams, or simply close its doors. The USPS solution, as usual, is to raise prices and hope for the best. Alternative proposal: Let's put it out of its misery. The Service posted losses of \$562 million in the first quarter of 2017, the Associated Press reports. This year will likely bring the Service's sixth straight annual operating loss. While its package delivery revenues have grown, the areas in which it enjoys a monopoly — “first class” (letter) mail and “marketing” (junk mail) — are in decline thanks to the ascendance of email

and other Internet technologies. In truth, we've known for nearly 175 years that the Service's government-granted monopoly is all that keeps it afloat. Its prices don't reflect the market value of its services.

**TheOutlet:** The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, has long required employers in the 29 states under its jurisdiction to report when a worker dies on the job. But in 2015, the agency began requiring employers to report when workers get "severely injured" to better identify dangerous workplaces and prevent future incidents. From the beginning of 2015 through the end of 2016, the United States Postal Service reported 395 severe injuries, the most of any employer. Behind it was Walmart, with 155 severe injuries and the United Parcel Service with 136. No other employer during that time period had more than 75. The high numbers can be partly explained by the USPS's gargantuan workforce. After all, the Postal Service is one of America's largest employers with roughly 640,000 employees. Another possible contributing factor in the high injury rates is the fact that the Postal Service has had a surge of new hires in recent years. In a statement provided to The Outline, the USPS maintains that worker safety is of the utmost importance to the organization.



## International News

### July 31

**PAKISTAN:** *DailyTimes:* Senate's Standing Committee on Communications on Friday expressed concern over the non-implementation of its recommendations for introducing reforms in the post offices of the country. Committee Chairman Senator Daud Khan Achakzai said that the committee had been sending recommendations regarding reforms in the post offices for the last four years. The committee stated that the Postal Services Department had been given seven months for computerising its offices. The Postal Services DG told the meeting that the institution had received a very low budget this year.

**PORTUGAL:** *TechExplore:* A warm meal was quickly delivered by a drone from an ESA business incubator start-up to the last inhabitant in a remote village in Portugal. "Even if the village is not far away, it takes a driver by car over half an hour to deliver the meal to Joaquim Reis in Podentinhos and come back due to bad and unpaved roads. Our [drone](#) arrived in just three minutes, without the need of a pilot," explains Raphael Stanzani of Connect Robotics, hosted at ESA's business incubator in Portugal. "One operator can handle six of our drones at the same time. The drone takes off by itself, taking care of weather, elevation and flight routes. After dropping the package, it returns automatically."

**UNITED KINGDOM:** *Post&Parcel:* In a statement sent to Post&Parcel today (31 July), Mobileye said that the technology provides automated aural and visual warnings to drivers in real time if they're at risk of a collision with another vehicle, pedestrian or cyclist. According to Mobileye: "Unlike other safety systems, Mobileye alerts a driver before an incident, enabling them to take avoiding action. The technology works on 'last mile' delivery vans as well as larger vehicles moving between hubs." Mobileye added: "One UK fleet that had an average of one 'at fault' collision per month in the previous 18 months reduced their collision rate to zero during a three month trial of Mobileye's technology." As well as warning against imminent collisions, Mobileye detects unintended lane departure, speeding and driving an unsafe distance from the vehicle in front. The system, which uses built-in software to continually analyse images from its cameras, can be installed on vans for a cost of around £600 per vehicle.

### July 29

**UNITED KINGDOM:** *DailyRecord:* ANARKSHIRE residents are among the most likely to see their post delivered on time. The ML postcode saw 93.9 per cent of first-class post delivered within a day in 2016/17. That was ahead of the target – which was set at 91.5 per cent. And it was also better than the previous year's figure that saw 92.8 per cent delivered within 24 hours. Across the country, 111 out of 118 postcode areas reached the target to deliver 91.5 per cent of first-class post on time – up from 104 in 2015/16.

### July 28

**BOTSWANA:** *Mmegi:* The increasing usage of the internet for communication purposes seems to have reduced the volumes of the traditional postal mail, figures released by Statistics Botswana (SB) show. The statistics show that the total volume of posted parcels decreased by 1.3% in 2015, from 18,571 total parcels dispatched in 2014 to 18,815 parcels in 2015. Foreign received parcels decreased by 56.3% in 2015, reducing from 7,202 parcels in 2014 to 3,148 parcels in 2015. Registered items posted also decreased by 25.1% in 2015, from 319,920 items recorded in 2014 to 400,217 items recorded in 2015. However, foreign registered items increased by 25.1% from 19,230 items in 2014 to 24,057 in 2015. Both dispatched and received express mail service (EMS) items decreased in 2015. Foreign dispatched express mail items decreased by 35% while foreign received EMS items decreased by 6.1% compared to the previous year.

### July 27

**ESTONIA:** *Post&Parcel:* Last-mile delivery specialist Cleveron is attempting to make commercial drone delivery a reality by offering customers an opportunity to order cold drinks delivered by drones at a public beach in Viljandi, Estonia. Cleveron promises to fulfill orders in less than five minutes as part of a two-week trial to demonstrate the safe application of last-mile drone delivery. The public drone delivery service enables any customer to order a drink via a text message, which are then deployed from the other side of the lake via drone.

**UNITED KINGDOM:** *BelfastTelegraph:* Royal Mail is to buy 100 electric vans for postal workers to use on their delivery rounds. The Peugeot Partner Electric vehicles will be based in delivery offices across the UK from December, with charging stations installed at some sites. Paul Gatti, Royal Mail fleet director, said: "Our research has shown that electric vans are a good operational fit with our business and we are delighted to be ordering such a large volume to use in our daily operations."

**CANADA:** *CBC:* According to the federal government, the rate of disabling injuries to postal workers is on the rise. As part of Canada Post's postal transformation project, mail carriers are lugging more parcels for home delivery. In 2013, there were fewer than four out of every 100 full-time postal contractors with a disabling injury. By 2015, that number had shot up to more than seven out of every 100 — higher than any other federal sector — according to a report on occupational injuries among federal employers.

**FINLAND:** *YLE:* The newspaper Karjalainen reports that businesses that want to continue sending and receiving mail on Tuesdays will require a special zip code in future. Purchase of the new postal code would put firms back 5,500 euros, and the service will cost upwards of 100 euros monthly to maintain. The national postal carrier Posti announced this week that it would soon discontinue Tuesday mail deliveries in Finland in order to save on operating expenses. Other added charges may be added to this, dependent on the volume of deliveries and the sorting methods that are required, a cost the paper estimates at anywhere between 200 to 5,000 euros per month.

**INDIA:** *EconomicTimes:* Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) is in race for a \$6 billion order from the US government for postal delivery vehicles, and will submit over a dozen prototypes for road-testing between September and November this year as the process enters its final round. M&M is competing with four other companies for this high-value contract. While the per vehicle cost is expected to be over \$35,000, the company also hopes to gain from the maintenance and repair contract.

**SINGAPORE:** *TodayOnline:* After months of hype and speculation, Amazon finally launched its services in Singapore on Thursday (July 27). The online retail giant's Amazon Prime Now service promises "ultra-fast deliveries" in two hours for thousands of items with a minimum spending of S\$40, or at a S\$5.99 fee for orders below S\$40. One-hour delivery is also available "in most postal codes serviced by Amazon Prime Now" with an additional fee of S\$9.99, according to Amazon's Singapore website. It also states that deliveries are available from "10am to 10pm, seven days a week".

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### July 26

**INDIA:** *NewsOnAir:* Government will open 81 Sub-Post Offices and 100 Branch Post Offices during the current financial year under the Rural Business and Access to Postal Network Scheme. Communications Minister Manoj Sinha said this in a written reply in Lok Sabha today. Mr Sinha said, more than 99 percent of the post offices are computerised. He said, the Department of Posts takes action, from time to time, to upgrade the system to cater to the growing market requirements and to increase revenue earnings. The Minister said that the increase or revision of rates of postal products and services is an ongoing exercise carried out from time to time. He also said there is no proposal to increase the rates of premium Business Development products at present.

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### July 25

**AUSTRALIA:** *CulturalCaboose:* Online beauty and makeup business owner Seren Brussaard says it's 'phenomenal' how many customers she loses to high shipping costs set by Australia Post. It comes after the Australia Small Business and Family Enterprise ombudsman Kate Cornell's report found Australia Post favoured big business before small business. Ombudsman Ms Cornell said she was looking at options to level the playing field for small businesses owners like Ms Brussaard and Ms Crittedon. "One of the biggest barriers that small businesses face online is the cost of sending parcels," she said. "In one example, a music shop in regional South Australia was quoted \$75 to send a small guitar to a post office in North Queensland, while a big business competitor was able to offer free postage. Australia post is currently trialling new small business initiatives.

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### July 24

**UNITED KINGDOM:** *Post&Parcel:* Royal Mail is to trial a new doorstep mail collection service for residential customers in four postal areas over the next two months. This will be the first time that Royal Mail postmen and women have collected letters and small parcels direct from customers in urban areas while on their delivery rounds. Customers will be able to give First Class or Second Class stamped or online postage paid letters and small packets to their postman or woman for delivery instead of taking them to a post box or post office branch. They will also be able to hand over prepaid postage such as business replies and freepost items.

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### July 21

**INDIA:** *HimalayanTimes:* Ambassador of India Manjeev Singh Puri handed over a cheque for an amount of INR 148.37 million, which is equivalent to Rs 237.39 million, to Devendra Karki, secretary at the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport here on Wednesday. The amount has been released towards 25 per cent of tendered cost, including 10 per cent mobilisation advance, of the two contracted road stretches namely Maisthan-Gaushalabazaar-Samsi Road and Birendrabazaar-Yadukuha-Mahinathpur Road being implemented under Postal Highway Project in Nepal with Indian government's grant assistance worth Rs eight billion, as per a media release.

**NEW ZEALAND:** *Stuff.NZ:* Move aside mobility scooters, a different kind of electric vehicle could soon be hitting footpaths in Marlborough as New Zealand Post rolls out its new delivery fleet. The state-owned enterprise is working with the council on a legal agreement to allow it to use the distinctive red buggies, known as Paxsters, in Blenheim. The vehicles, designed and manufactured in Norway, are already in use in several centres across the country following a successful trial in New Plymouth in 2015.

**UNITED KINGDOM:** *Post&Parcel:* UK-based postal operator Whistl has officially opened its new super depot located on the Logistics North development in Bolton, North West England. The Bolton hub has consolidated operations from Leeds and Warrington and is able to expand its capacity by more than 30% to accommodate future mail, packet and parcel business. The move to Bolton will help improve the operational efficiency of Whistl as the building has four level access doors, 20 dock levelers, 50 trailer parking spaces, 31 loading positions and 222 car parking spaces. The company expects to create 500 jobs at the site and has been working with Bolton Council to recruit people.

**UNITED KINGDOM:** *Post&Parcel:* Royal Mail trading figures for the last three months have shown a 1% increase in revenue for the group, which has been predominantly attributed to GLS and a 3% rise in parcel revenue. Royal Mail's other core division, UKPIL, suffered a 1% decrease in overall revenue and a 4% decline in letter revenue. Parcel volumes were up 5% overall, with a good performance in Royal Mail's tracked services which saw strong volume growth of 39%. Addressed letter volumes decreased by 6% but benefitted from certain mailings associated with the 2017 General Election, which had a 1% positive impact on the overall figure.

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## July 20

**DENMARK:** *TheLocal:* Postnord, the company responsible for distribution of Denmark's post, has doubled its losses during the first half of 2017. The company, which has 60 percent Swedish and 40 percent Danish ownership, lost 748 million Swedish kronor (78 million euros) during the first half of 2017, more than double the amount 304 million Swedish kronor (32 million euros) loss from the same period last year. Turnover for the company has dropped by ten percent to 4.3 billion Swedish kronor (450,000 euros) during the first half of 2017, according to DR's report. Postnord cites digitalisation, with both private customers and businesses turning to email and Denmark's secure digital mail system Eboks, as the basis for the decrease in turnover. In addition to the decline in mail, Postnord still employs several thousand numbers of civil servants who are very difficult to lay off, reports DR.

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## July 19

**IRELAND:** *BreakingNews:* The Government has been warned that more post offices will close around the country, because postmasters cannot make a living from the business. Postmasters are holding a protest outside the Department of Communications at noon today seeking the involvement of the Minister in their stalled talks with An Post. The Union pulled out of talks because it says a new contract on offer from the company will see them losing earnings.

**NIGERIA:** *WorldStageGroup:* The Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST) has resolved to tap into the money remittances business as Nigerian migrant workers are said to be remitting between \$23 and \$24 billion into the country annually. Post Master-General of NIPOST, Adebisi Adegbuyi who revealed this in Ilorin on Tuesday after his visit to the service's facilities, said "we are going to start financial services. We stand to make a lot of money from remittances in Africa. Our migrant workers all over remit home between 23 and 23 billion Dollars every year.

**UNITED KINGDOM:** *ThisisMoney:* Even the slew of post sent during the UK's [general election](#) was not enough to halt the decline of [Royal Mail](#)'s letters business. The privatised postal service said volumes of official letters pushed through letterboxes for local authorities and government bodies only put a 1 per cent dent in the rate of decline, which was still 6 per cent. This did not include post sent to voters by political parties, a trading update for the three months to June 25 said yesterday.

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## July 18

**BULGARIA:** *Seenews:* Online commerce in Bulgaria has expanded by 14% in 2016, ahead of the average growth rate of 12% recorded in Europe in the same year, the country's deputy minister of transport, information technology and communications, Dimitar Genovski, said. The dynamic growth of e-commerce in recent years is a significant factor for the postal sector, according to Genovski. In 2016, the total number of consignments and services provided by postal operators in Bulgaria rose to 184 million, an increase of 5% compared to 2015, Genovski said.

**INDIA:** *IndianExpress:* Snail mail is in the throes of rapid, fundamental and widespread change. With the introduction of other means of communication, the postal department's growth has, contrary to popular perception, not quite been stalled. Far from it. A peek into the changes the department has undergone in the last two decades reveals that it has kept pace with the changing times — embracing technology, introducing innovation. The adoption of technology has resulted in a drop in the number of post offices as well as staff strength, though not drastically.

**IRELAND:** *TheLiberal:* There was good news for online shoppers today as An Post unveiled its new postal service that will allow consumers to avail of products from the UK and the US more easily. The new service named AddressPal will give customers a proxy address for online delivery that is usually restricted in countries such as the UK and the US. An Post say the new service will now allow Irish consumers to avail of products they were unable to get their hands on in the past due to leading websites restrictions on postage. The new service will cost from as little as €3.75 to €53.99 depending on the weight of the item and its location.

**SINGAPORE:** *StraitTimes:* The former board of directors of Singapore Post did not fully consider certain key risks before signing off on the postal service provider's largest acquisition, an independent review has found. In particular, information relating to certain key risks identified in the course of due diligence and the valuation of TradeGlobal - the loss-making United States e-commerce business that SingPost acquired for US\$168.5 million (S\$236 million) in October 2015 - was not raised to the board before it approved the acquisition, a report from SingPost's legal counsel has found.

**UNITED KINGDOM:** *Yahoo:* Election-related letters and growth from its continental European parcel business helped Britain's Royal Mail to eke out a 1 percent gain in first-quarter revenue, the resilience boosting its shares. After years of underinvestment, the former monopoly was privatised in 2013 and has since reduced layers of management, upgraded technology and cut its property bill. However, the company was left struggling last year as its domestic parcels business faced stiff competition and as uncertainty following Britain's vote to leave the European Union worsened the rate of decline in its letters business. Royal Mail has been bulking up its GLS delivery business, as it has forecast continued challenging conditions in Britain and now faces an uphill battle negotiating pension arrangements with some of the country's largest unions.

**UNITED KINGDOM:** *Post&Parcel:* DHL Supply Chain has started work today (18 July) on a new 150,000 sq. ft cross-dock facility at Avonmouth which is scheduled to be completed in January. The new site is an extension of DHL's existing capabilities at Avonmouth and represents a total investment of €24.75m. It will bring increased capability for customers that require a clean retail/food grade environment and will consist of a 30,000 sq. ft. tri-temperature controlled cross-dock chamber and an ambient cross-dock chamber of approximately 110,000 sq. ft. The Avonmouth facility will also support

delivery into Bristol and Bath city centres using all-electric vehicles and the collection and disposal of recyclable products and management of waste.

**UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION: *NewVision*:** Uganda will host a five-day meeting of the East African Communications Organisation (EACO) Congress, starting July 24. According to a statement from the Uganda Communications Commission, dated July 14, 2017, the meeting with about 300 participants expected to attend, will be held at the Silver Springs Hotel in the city suburb of Bugolobi. Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda, is expected to officiate at the opening ceremony. The stakeholders are expected to deliberate on the fast-paced technological developments and how it can benefit the masses.

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### **July 17**

**VIETNAM: *Post&Parcel*:** DHL eCommerce has launched its nationwide domestic delivery operations in Vietnam. In a [statement](#) issued today (17 July), DHL said that the domestic delivery network will offer a range of services “tailored” for the e-commerce sector. Charles Brewer, CEO, DHL eCommerce, commented: “The Vietnamese e-commerce market represents a huge and relatively untapped potential for local retailers, e-tailers and marketplaces: in 2016, total e-commerce spending hit US\$1 billion despite barely over 50% of the population being online. “With e-commerce spending expected to grow at around 23% per year between now and 2020, local e-tailers need scalable, high-quality logistics solutions with nationwide coverage more than ever before.” “Only 15% of Vietnam’s e-commerce shoppers paid online in 2016, making cash on delivery a must-have feature for e-commerce to succeed. That, combined with concerns about the hassle of returns and refunds, has made growth an uphill battle for many local e-tailers,” said Thomas Harris, Managing Director, DHL eCommerce Vietnam.

**NETHERLANDS: *Post&Parcel*:** Prime Vision and Unmanned Life have performed a live demonstration of their “Autonomous Sorting” solution to an invited audience at Zoetermeer, The Netherlands. The proof-of-concept demonstration, which took place in an empty warehouse last Tuesday (11 July), aimed to show how a sorting centre can be run using autonomous robotic unmanned vehicles (UVs). The two companies are working together to develop the solution for the broader mail and parcel industry. According to Prime Vision: “This ‘pop-up’ sorting centre can be deployed in any building in less than a day. These UV’s or ‘Rovers’ as Prime Vision like to call them, require no other equipment or existing plant to operate and are safe to work alongside human workers. The system can be scaled up or down and rovers can even be dispatched to other locations depending on the days requirements.”

**UNITED KINGDOM: *IsleofMan*:** Delegates who attended the Small European Postal Administration Cooperations’ (Sepac) conference, hosted by Isle of Man Post Office, are hailing it a huge success. Last week more than 14 delegates representing small postal administrations from around Europe including Aland, Malta, Luxembourg, Faroe Islands, Channel Islands, Gibraltar and the Vatican visited the Island for a two-day forum held at the Sefton Hotel, Douglas. The forum was by invitation only and allows Sepac members to share experiences and gain knowledge from their counterparts from across Europe. The members meet once a year to discuss topical issues and challenges as each postal administration considers how the industry will develop in the future.

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### **July 16**

**CANADA: *ChronicalJournal*:** The time has come to bring Canada Post into the banking business. With the big six in banking scrambling to know where their next billion dollars is coming from, they continue to cut jobs and services, particularly in small, rural communities. It might be possible to demand that banks continue to provide in-person service to small communities but it’s not necessary. Postal banking is a realistic option. The mandate of the banks is to make as much money as possible. The mandate of a postal bank would be broader and more socially oriented. Postal banking can play a meaningful role in building and maintaining the quality of life in Canada. Another important benefit of postal banking is the boost it would give to a struggling Canada Post. It would create a new source of income for the post office which would then assist in maintaining other desired services such as door-to-door delivery.

**TUNISIA: *Post&Parcel*:** The Universal Postal Union (UPU) and Tunisia have signed an agreement for the development of e-commerce in the country under the Ecom@Africa project initiative. In a [statement](#) issued yesterday (13 July), the UPU said: “The cooperation agreement formalizes commitment to implement the Ecom@Africa Tunisian platform. Experts from the UPU and Tunisia have for the past months been setting up suitable technical and operational structures that will enable the roll out of the project.” The UPU launched the Ecom@Africa initiative to assist African countries develop and facilitate online trade using the postal network.

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### **July 15**

**NIGERIA: *GuardianNG*:** The Senate has begun moves to carry out comprehensive reforms in the country’s postal industry and make it more economically beneficial. The Postal Sector Reform Bill, which has reached an advanced stage, establishes the Postal Service Commission as the new regulatory authority in the sector in place of the Nigeria Postal Service (NIPOST). Chairman of Senate Committee on Communications, Gilbert Nnaji, who confirmed this yesterday, lamented what he observed as “the erosion of public confidence in the country’s postal system,” pointing out that the waning confidence was on account of the inability of NIPOST to deliver on virtually all statutory obligations, including basic and core postal services.

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### **July 14**

**UNITED KINGDOM: *FT*:** The main trade union at Royal Mail has repeated its opposition to a proposed new pension arrangement, increasing the possibility of a first nationwide strike since the postal operator was privatised four years ago. The

defiant stance from the Communication Workers' Union came as another union representing managers at Royal Mail said it would seek out its members' views on what it called "the best achievable [offer] in the circumstances". The impasse sets up a summer of crunch negotiations between the CWU and Royal Mail, who are also in the middle of pay talks. Solving the issue peaceably is one of the biggest challenges facing chief executive Moya Greene, who is leading a modernisation of the 500-year-old organisation.

**UNITED KINGDOM: *Post&Parcel*:** Royal Mail will be running an online price trial for second class medium parcels between 2kg and 5 kg. The cost of sending a second class medium parcel will be reduced from £13.75 to £6.29 for a three-month period starting 17th July, online only. The trial ends on 16 October. In addition, the cost of sending second class Signed For, medium parcels will be £7.29, reduced from £14.75. A spokesperson informed Post&Parcel today: "The trial is designed to test the popularity of this price point rather than being a trial of the online channel. We're offering this trial price point online simply because it makes it easier for us to execute."

**UNITED KINGDOM: *Post&Parcel*:** UPS is set to increase the number of electric vehicles operating from its Camden depot in central London depots by almost 50%. The project, which has been awarded funding of £3m to help improve London's air quality, will see the Camden depot become a testbed for leading edge technology aimed at reducing the cost of charging freight electric vehicles. Working with UK Power Networks, UPS will increase the number of electric freight vehicles operating in the fleet from 50 to 70 – and pave the way for running more than 150 vehicles from the site.

**UNITED KINGDOM: *Invezz*:** Shares in Royal Mail Group have fallen into the red in London this morning, as the company updated the market on its pension review, having warned that its current defined benefit scheme is unaffordable beyond next year. Royal Mail announced in a statement this morning that following extensive talks with its unions, it was now offering its employees a choice between a new defined benefit scheme and a defined contribution scheme. The postal operator expects the overall cost of the proposal to be funded within its current £400 million annual pension contribution.

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### July 13

**IRAN: *FinancialTribune*:** Iran and Vietnam are going to cooperate on exchange of international postal money order through the International Financial System in Universal Postal Union. IFS is a standalone application that takes care of the electronic transfer of international money orders.

**NIGERIA: *DailyPost*:** The Chairman, Senate Committee on Communications, Senator Gilbert Nnaji has raised fears on regulatory crisis if the Nigeria Postal Services and Telecommunications (NIPOST) was allowed to act as a regulator and operator at the same time in the proposed reforms. "I want to stress on the imperativeness of the reform, but I want to caution that any arrangement that allows the Nigerian Postal Service, (NIPOST) to act as regulator and operator at the same time would pose serious setback to government efforts, particularly at a time government needs revenues to take the country out of recession", he said. Nnaji said reform of NIPOST was occasioned by the lack of delivery on its statutory responsibilities, noting that the proposed establishment of Postal Service Commission and that of Nationwide Toll-free Emergency Number bill would generate healthy revenues for the country.

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### July 12

**AUSTRIA: *EthNews*:** The Vienna-based startup firm BitPanda published a [press release](#) announcing its new partnership with the Österreichische Post (Austria's official postal service). "BitPanda to go" now facilitates the exchange of euros for cryptocurrencies in post offices all over Austria. As of July 10, 400 post branches and 1,300 postal partners in Austria have implemented BitPanda to go, and the crypto startup claims to have favorable prices due to its ability to sell the digital assets at cost. In addition, freshly purchased coins need no verification. They will be sent directly to the integrated wallet of the customer, at which point they can be spent "freely and instantly."

**RUSSIA: *TheMoscowTimes*:** The final chapter of Dmitry Strashnov's controversial reign over Russia's postal service ended Friday with the appointment of his successor, handpicked by Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. Under Strashnov, the company generated record revenues and profits. Today, Russian Post has 42,000 post offices, servicing 6.5 million customers daily. Apart from selling stamps and sending letters, the company processes utility payments, cash transfers and consumer loans. It even sells lottery, flight and theater tickets. By 2016, Russian Post had successfully [handled](#) 225 million international packages — twice as many as 2015 and 10 times more than 2012. Its revenues ballooned 24 percent to 165 billion rubles from 2013 to 2016, with [profits soaring](#) 72-fold to 1.7 billion rubles over the same period. The company paid its main shareholder, the federal government, a dividend of 913 million rubles (\$15 million). As parting advice to Podguzov, Strashnov said the company must continue to modernize and adapt to market demands. It should capitalize on Russia being a bridge between Asia and Europe, he said, citing plans for a regular postal route between Beijing, Moscow and Berlin.

**CANADA: *CBC*:** Some Canada Post workers on rural routes near Ottawa have become so concerned about exhaust spewing into the cabs of their aging delivery trucks that they've started carrying carbon monoxide detectors. But Canada Post denies there's a widespread problem and says the vehicles are well maintained. The Grumman LLV ceased production in 1994. Originally built under contract for the U.S. Postal Service, the right-hand-drive trucks were supposed to be safer, healthier and more ergonomically suited to mail delivery. In 2010 Canada Post signed a deal with Ford Canada to supply replacement vehicles that the Crown corporation promised would be "much more efficient and environmentally friendly" than the Grummans. But the Grummans are still on the road, and the newest among them is 23 years old. Replacement parts are becoming difficult to find.

**GERMANY:** *Post&Parcel:* Deutsche Post DHL Group and technology manufacturer Wärtzilä have completed a pilot project testing mobile robots from Fetch Robotics for warehouse applications. The pilot was carried out in Wärtzilä's central distribution center in Kampen, the Netherlands, where DHL is responsible for running the warehouse and ensuring the smooth operation of the entire logistics chain, from order intake to customer delivery. The autonomous mobile robots have a loading capacity of 78kg (172 lb) and can cover a distance of 2m/s (4.5mph). When the battery life of maximum nine hours comes to an end, the freight robot independently makes its way to the charging unit. The intelligent robots recognize their location and surroundings, and can differentiate between dynamic and static obstacles, thus enabling evasive action to work safely with and around people.

**UNITED KINGDOM:** *Post&Parcel:* UK-based parcel comparison website Parcel2Go has entered the postal market with the new Letters and Small Parcels service. According to *Parcel2Go*, the *service* - which is "powered by Whistl" - will enable small businesses, online sellers and micro SMEs to send their letters and small parcels on a pay-as-you-go basis at "significant discounts". Parcel2Go added that the service will offer "heavily discounted rates (compared to Royal Mail 2nd class stamps) giving businesses a huge saving of up to 35% off whilst still having their items delivered by a local postman". Businesses using the service will be offered the option of having their items collected, or dropped off at a local drop shop.

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### July 11

**BARBADOS:** *BarbadosAdvocate:* Postmaster General, Margaret Ashby, is urging members of the postal sector across the region to see the post as being critical for the vibrancy of their economies. She said this can only be achieved by embracing the fast-growing industry of E-Commerce. Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Gayle Francis-Vaughan, said that according to the Regional Development Plan 2017-2020 for the Caribbean and Latin American region, UPU has projected that parcel post growth rates will increase by five per cent by 2020 - up from three per cent in 2014. She noted that other research on E-Commerce suggest that in 2018, 139.3 million people in Latin America are expected to buy goods and services online - this is up from 84.7 million in 2013.

**IRAN:** *Irna:* Post Bank of Iran and Vietnam Post signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on exchanging international postal bill through International Financial System in Universal Postal Union.

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### July 10

**COSTA RICA:** *Post&Parcel:* Correos de Costa Rica is running a pilot programme, testing the use of parcel lockers installed at AMPM and Fresh Market stores. The pilot programme began in three supermarkets this month (July) and sources report that the plan is to "expand nationwide soon". Sources at Correos de Costa Rica said that the parcel lockers have been introduced in response to the continuing increase in the volume of parcels ordered by online shoppers.

**JAPAN:** *Asia.Nikkei:* Japan's Finance Ministry will not sell shares in Japan Post Holdings this summer as originally planned, instead opting to wait until the price recovers to a more profitable level. The government looks to reduce its roughly 80% remaining stake in the postal holding company to a little more than 30% as soon as possible, as required by Japan's postal privatization law. The roughly 20% stake sold in the company's November 2015 initial public offering brought in 1.4 trillion yen (\$12.2 billion).

**NETHERLANDS:** *NLTimes:* The Dutch postal service is in urgent need of a reassessment, Minister Henk Kamp of Economic Affairs said on Monday. Fundamental choices must be made to keep postal delivery affordable and available. This could entail less frequent deliveries at higher costs, he said in a statement, NU.nl reports. Recent studies done on behalf of the Ministry of Economic Affairs show that WhatsApp is now the number one means of communication in the Netherlands. Mobile calling and email came in second and third. Physical mail dropped to sixth place. Over 60 percent of respondents called communication by post a hassle. In 2012 more than half called post communications easy. Dutch consumers and businesses now send 35 percent less post than in 2011. Though the actual number of postal items remained stable at around 2.9 billion. Businesses account for 2.7 billion of these mail items. The unregulated parcel delivery market is seeing an increase, on the other hand. Every year around 350 million parcels are sent and received through this market, an increase of 81 percent compared to 2011.

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### July 7

**ETHIOPIA:** *Post&Parcel:* UAE postal operator Aramex has reached a Master Franchise Agreement with Indian logistics firm Logix Express to expand its last-mile delivery solutions in Ethiopia, East Africa. As part of its business expansion strategy, Aramex is now present in 23 African countries and will inaugurate another five outlets in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa by August 2017, taking the total number of outlets in the city to 10. Aramex's operations in Ethiopia include door-to-door delivery and pickup, customs clearing, freight forwarding and e-services.

**MALAYSIA:** *MalaysianDigest:* Malaysia has proposed that the cooperation of the postal network between countries in the Asia-Pacific region be strengthened to support the rapid growth of the digital economy. Deputy Minister of Communications and Multimedia Datuk Jailani Johari said the postal network was a strategic infrastructure and crucial component of the digital economic ecosystem which must be strengthened from time to time. At the session, he urged the government to take proactive steps to rejuvenate the Universal Postal Services policy to ensure that postal services continued to be in tune to the behavioural habits of consumers and fast-changing market demands.

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### July 6

**JAPAN: [Post&Parcel](#):** Toyota's subsidiary Hino Motors is reportedly looking to partner with other auto manufacturers to develop autonomous parcel delivery vehicles. In an article published today (6 July) by The Japan Times, Hino's President Yoshio Shimo is quoted as saying that his company is looking to form partnership with overseas firms, as part of their efforts to address the shortage of drivers for parcel delivery services in Japan. The Japan Times also quoted Shimo as saying that he was confident technological hurdles can be overcome to introduce delivery services using unmanned trucks.

**UNITED KINGDOM: [ECommerceNews](#):** Parcel companies could improve the efficiency of their delivery by 30 percent if they use What3words, the UK startup claims. With What3words, you don't refer to addresses the usual way ("Main Street 1"), but by pinpointing exact delivery locations using a unique combination of three different words. What3words, which won the Game Changer and Rising Star awards at the ecommerce event Deliver last year, spoke to delegates at the [recent Deliver #2 conference](#) in Berlin. It revealed that its system has been adopted by seven national postal services since the event of last year. In a recent test in London, on-demand delivery company Quiquip was able to take 30 percent off their delivery time when they used the 3 word addresses. And in the Caribbean island of Sint Maarten, global fast-food giant Dominos has also tested this system.

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### **July 5**

**HAITI: [HaitiLibre](#):** As part of the modernization and installation of new postal services in all offices of the Office des Postes d'Haïti (OPH) through the national territory, Carel Alexandre, the Director General of the OPH proceeded on June 30, at the inauguration of a standardized reception structure at the OPH Tri Center located to the National Society of Industrial Parks (SONAPI). The SONAPI sorting center will now be equipped with an EMS service Express Mail Service); A home delivery service (extracts from archives, baptismal acts, marriage, etc.) and the continuation of the shipment and the receipt of different parcels.

**IRAN: [IRNA](#):** Iran Post Company and China Post signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Wednesday expecting a rise in cooperation on financial software and electronic commerce. The MoU is expected to promote Iran-China postal cooperation with some steps to be taken for launching a financial software.

**IRELAND: [LBBOnline](#):** Ireland's national postal service, An Post, today launches a dramatic new brand campaign, focusing on their stance against a turbulent world that's closing its borders and turning in on itself. Created by award-winning Dublin agency, Target McConnells, the campaign heralds a new beginning for Ireland's postal service. PJ Brigdale, An Post Head of Marketing adds; "This campaign marks the beginning of an exciting new era for An Post as we signal our intent to aggressively grow our Parcels business. In the coming weeks you will see a range of great new An Post products and services, that throws the world wide-open for Irish shoppers and businesses, with huge relevance for younger customers. The launch ad is cinematic and bold, it's really a calling card for An Post's new direction."

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### **July 4 - Happy Fourth of July**

**UNITED KINGDOM: [LFPRESS](#):** The sight of a Canada Post letter carrier walking their route has almost vanished from London streets. As part of a national plan by Canada Post, letter carriers at four of five London postal depots now use small vans to deliver mail and parcels to homes and community mailboxes. Canada Post's Sylvie Lapointe said the Crown corporation is gradually eliminating walking routes by providing carriers with vans. She said vans are needed to deliver the growing number of parcels delivered for online retailers, a valuable market for Canada Post as the volume of traditional letter mail drops.

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### **July 3, 2017**

**AUSTRALIA: [Post&Parcel](#):** Australia Post has announced that its employees have voted their approval of the EBA2017 enterprise agreement, which offers a guaranteed 6% pay increase over three years and protection of key existing terms and conditions of employment. In a [statement](#) issued today (30 June) Australia Post said that the vote from its 29,500 Award level employees secured a 74% majority in favour of EBA2017. Australia Post also agreed to continue the commitment for the life of EBA2017 to no forced redundancies for any employee impacted by reform of letters, provided they are looking for another job in the business, and an additional \$22m to fund skills training for frontline employees.

**QATAR: [MenaFN](#):** The international shipping services of Qatar Post are continuing normally and not affected by the current blockade. Maud Daniel, Head of Marketing and Communications of Qatar Post while talking to The Peninsula has said that 'CONNECTED, Q-Post's e-commerce service, was one of company's strongest and most appreciated products. 'Despite the current diplomatic crisis, our international shipping service continues to operate and deliver with no interruption, showcasing the reliability of this star product, she added. To a question about Q-Post's revamp, she said that Qatar Post was currently going through a major structural change across all business departments, aimed at providing 21st century postal services to each citizen's and each business' door step. In parallel, Maud said that Qatar Post had also launched a Qatarization process aimed at building a strong Qatari workforce driving the Nation's postal sector. 'Qatar Post is partnering with the best organisations in the sector on a global scale in order to exchange best practices. Since SingPost (Singapore Post) and Turkish Post are leaders in the postal sector, they are natural players to team up with and learn from.

**QATAR: [MenaFN](#):** The Smart Innovation Lab of the Ministry of Transport and Communications in collaboration with Qatar Post has successfully completed a pilot project on drone delivery system. 'The pilot project was a success and now we are exploring potential routes and assessing the market demand, said Maud Daniel, Head of Marketing and Communications of Qatar Post while talking to The Peninsula. She said that drone delivery was at the heart of the current innovation debate within the postal sector globally. 'While it gives a strong competitive edge to postal organisations, the option of drone delivery

is still in a testing phase with major reliability, safety and regulatory issues currently being examined. At this stage, the debate is still ongoing between key industry stakeholders, regulatory authorities and civil society, she added. Daniel said that Qatar Post had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Transport and Communications aimed at developing an autonomous drone delivery service 'changing the way we deliver parcels and goods in Qatar.

**UNITED KINGDOM:** *CWU:* Royal Mail has revealed that over the last five years there have been around 14,500 dog attacks on postmen and woman across the UK, with around 2,500 in the last year alone. The number of dog attacks on postmen and women has fallen on the previous year. This reduction in attacks is encouraging but it is still too high at 2,500 a year. Every dog attack is one attack too many. On average there is still as many as seven attacks take place each day, some leading to a permanent and disabling injury.

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### ***July 2, 2017***

**KENYA:** *BusinessDailyAfrica:* The number of letters Kenyans sent locally fell by almost half in the quarter to March 2017, highlighting the continued decline of the postal sector. According to statistics released by the Communications Authority on Friday, Kenyans sent 8.2 million letters in the three months to March, 48.3 per cent lower than the 15.9 million in the previous quarter. While this decline is expected with the end of the holiday and examination season, the numbers are still significantly lower than the 12.9 million letters that were sent during a similar period last year. These trends point to the urgency of measures being taken by the government to find alternative sources of revenue in the sector and to rescue the ailing Postal Corporation of Kenya. One of the solutions touted is e-commerce.



## Postal/Industry News

**July 31, 2017**

**Office of Inspector General:** [Using all the Tools in the Toolbox](#). Because mail processing efficiency is a key goal for the U.S. Postal Service, it's important that postal management uses all the tools at its disposal – such as the Mail Processing Variance (MPV) model – to improve productivity. MPV measures annual mail processing performance and efficiency, but a recent OIG audit report indicated that USPS was not employing it to its fullest extent. In this week's *Pushing the Envelope* blog, we discuss the benefits of the MPV model. The OIG also wants your opinion: What ideas do you have to improve the MPV model? What ways could plant managers improve operations? Tell us on our blog: <https://go.usa.gov/xRQtk>

**Industry Alert: Mail Spoken Here.** The [electronic newsletter](#) summarizing recent Postal Service news and developments.

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**July 26, 2017**

**Office of Inspector General:** [Prohibited Inbound International Mailings](#). The USPS Office of Inspector General released an audit report titled Prohibited Inbound International Mailings. Read more here: <https://go.usa.gov/xRQRr>

**Industry Alert: Discontinued Support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) \*REMINDER\***

**REMINDER: Only 5 weeks left to convert to a Secure Transmission Method.** Effective August 31, 2017, the United States Postal Service (USPS) will discontinue support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) for mailers to send and/or receive shipping files and data through the Product Tracking & Reporting (PTR) system. 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:

**Option 1 - 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](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](https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_package/documents/tech_guides/PUB199IMPBImpGuide.pdf).

**Option 3 - 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/PDXOnlineUserGuide.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](mailto: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>.

**In addition:** Effective September 30, 2017, USPS will no longer support FTP for mailers enrolled in IMb Tracing or Informed Visibility (IV). Migrations will be performed in two steps: First, IMb Tracing customers will be migrated to IV once the pilot is complete. That date will be shared with the impacted users when it is available. Then, IV participants will also need to transition to Secure FTP once they have migrated from IMb Tracing. Migration documentation is available on both PostalPro and RIBBS under Informed Visibility (<https://postalpro.usps.com/visibility-and-tracking/informed-visibility-iv>), and the Informed Visibility Help Desk can be contacted at [InformedVisibility@usps.gov](mailto:InformedVisibility@usps.gov).

**Office of the Inspector General:** [Registered Mail](#) Registered Mail is the U.S. Postal Service's most secure method for customers needing to mail extremely valuable or irreplaceable items. When not in transit, Registered Mail pieces must be stored in a locked safe, room, or cage separated from other mail. The latest OIG audit report evaluates USPS's internal controls over Registered Mail and identifies potential improvements and efficiencies. Read our findings and recommendations at <https://go.usa.gov/xRRd3>.

**Federal Register: Postal Service:** Mailing Standards; Revisions: Lithium Batteries , 34712–34715 [2017–15624] [\[PDF\]](#) Product Changes: Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement , 34712 [2017–15620] [\[PDF\]](#)

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**July 24, 2017**

**Industry Alert: Western Area Impacts Due to Flooding – Wisconsin and Iowa.** Operations have been temporarily suspended as a result of flooding in the following areas in Wisconsin and Iowa. **WISCONSIN** The Rock Springs Post

Office (53961) has suspended services, customer may visit North Freedom Post Office for retail service and to pick up their mail. **North Freedom Post Office** 102 E Walnut St. North Freedom, WI 53951. Hours of operations: Mon-Fri, 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Sat. 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., and closed on Sunday. Please check back for updates. **IOWA** The Sumner Post Office (50674) has suspended services, customer may visit either Fayette or Elkader Post Office for service. **Fayette Post Office** 201 E Water St. Fayette, IA 52142 Hours of operations: Mon-Fri, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and closed Saturday and Sunday. **Elkader Post Office** 105 Mulberry St. Elkader, IA 52043 Hours of operations: Mon-Fri, 9:30 a.m. to Noon, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sat 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., and closed Sunday.

**Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne!® Users** Program Registration Release 18.2.0.0 is complete and the application is available.

**Office of the Inspector General: This Old Post Office.** The post office is the business office of the U.S. Postal Service and often the only close-up look at postal operations that many customers get. Our latest blog looks at the most recent report in a series of audits examining the upkeep and safety of post office buildings across the country. A majority of the post office lobbies reviewed were in need of upkeep and repair. Read the blog to find out more: <https://go.usa.gov/xRW3R>

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### July 21, 2017

**Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne!® and FAST Users.** The USPS will deploy a Linux patch on Sunday, July 23, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 8:00 AM CT. This will be a rolling deployment, however mailers may experience periodic interruptions for the *PostalOne!*, FAST, and SASP applications. Program Registration Release 18.2.0.0 will deploy on Sunday, July 23, 2017 from 12:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT. The Program Registration application will not be available during this time.

**Federal Register: Postal Service: Rules of Conduct: Postal Employees , 33806–33807 [2017–15311] [PDF]**

### July 20, 2017

**Office of the Inspector General: Mobile Delivery Device Program** Mobile Delivery Devices (MDDs) are handheld scanning tools used by letter carriers to track deliveries in real-time. The new devices allow the U.S. Postal Service to provide enhanced tracking capability, which is essential for USPS to remain competitive. OIG auditors have just published a report examining whether the Postal Service met goals for performance, savings, and costs identified in its initial plans. See the full results and recommendations in the audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRjvf>

**Market Dominant Billing Determinants: Process Review** Billing determinants are manually produced spreadsheets that the U.S. Postal Service uses to track volume and revenue for every price in each market-dominant mail class. USPS uses billing determinants to estimate future revenue, develop prices for each class of mail, and ensure price increases do not exceed the Consumer Price Index. A new OIG audit report examines the current efficiency of the process as well as Postal Service responses to previous audits. Read the results and recommendations in the full report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRjpb>

**Industry Alert: Discontinued Support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) \*\*Reminder\*\* REMINDER: 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 provided.

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### July 19, 2017

**Office of the Inspector General: Oral Statement on USPS Actions During the 2016 Campaign Season: Implications for the Hatch Act** Acting Deputy Inspector General William Siemer's [oral statement](#) during the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs hearing on the Postal Service's Actions During the 2016 Campaign Season: Implications for the Hatch Act.

**Industry Alert: Pacific Area Post Offices Impacted by Central California Wildfire.** The Pacific Area and Sacramento District are reporting two post offices being impacted by the Detwiller Fire in the area. The fire has caused mandatory evacuations of the **Mariposa PO** at 5109 Jessie St, Mariposa CA, 95338 and **Catheys Valley PO** at 2675 State Hwy 140, Catheys Valley CA, 95306. At this time, no alternative locations for service are available.

**Federal Register: Postal Service - Notices:Environmental Assessments; Availability, etc.: Commercial Off-the-Shelf Vehicle Acquisitions, Nationwide, 33167–33168 [2017–15082] [PDF] Product Changes: Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 33168 [2017–15081] [PDF]**

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### July 18, 2017

**News: BusinessWire:** Gordian, the leading provider of facility and construction cost data, software and expertise, announced today it is the winner of the United States Postal Service's 2016 Supplier Performance Awards Program. Gordian was recognized for superior supply chain management efforts which allowed the Postal Service to more effectively achieve its mission of providing exceptional mail service to the American public. During the fiscal year of 2016, the Postal Service worked with a supplier base of 17,000. To place the award into context, Gordian is one of only 12 companies to receive recognition this year.

**Federal Register: Postal Service - Rules: Production or Disclosure of Material or Information: Adding the Definition of a Record and Clarifying Language Concerning the Timing of Responses to Requests and Specific Categories of Records, 32766–32767 [2017–14934] [PDF]**

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**July 17, 2017**

**Office of the Inspector General:** [Direct Mail Enhances an Integrated Strategy](#). Direct mail still has value even in a changing marketing landscape. In a series of focus groups and online surveys, marketers identified direct mail's particular value as its ability to stand out from the many advertisements people see and hear daily. Marketing Mail, which is how direct mail is generally sent, is valuable to the U.S. Postal Service's bottom line as well. It earned over \$17 billion in revenue for the U.S. Postal Service in FY2016, despite declines since 2007. Read more and let us know what you think <https://go.usa.gov/xNzuB>

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**July 16, 2017**

**Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne!® and FAST Users: FAST Release 36.0.0.0** deployment complete and the FAST system is available.

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**July 15, 2017**

**Federal Register:**

- **Postal Regulatory Commission** - Competitive Product List, 32636-32641 [2017-14865], [\[PDF\]](#); New Postal Products, 32727 [2017-14911], [\[PDF\]](#)
- **Postal Service** - Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 32727-32728 [2017-14879], [\[PDF\]](#)

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**July 14, 2017**

**Federal Register:**

- **Postal Regulatory Commission** - New Postal Products, 32589 [2017-14796] [\[PDF\]](#)
- **Postal Service** - Inspection Service Authority; Technical Correction, 32474 [2017-14763] [\[PDF\]](#), Product Changes: Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 32589 [2017-14765] [\[PDF\]](#)

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**July 13, 2017**

**Industry Alert: FAST Message Board Mail Direction File Issue for July** - Please be aware that there was an issue with one posting of the Mail Direction Files published on June 30th, 2017 (for the August 1st, 2017 effective date). If you pulled the MDF file from [FAST@USPS.Com](mailto:FAST@USPS.Com) prior to July 12th using this path: Resources -> Mail Direction Files -> Effective Date 08/01/2017; the files did not properly post, please re-download them at this time. All other access points for the MDF file contained the correct Data.

**Industry Alert: July DMM® Update.** Postal Explorer® ([pe.usps.com](http://pe.usps.com)) is your source for up-to-date mailing standards. The *Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM®) is fully searchable on Postal Explorer and features fly-out menus, cross-reference links, and an extensive subject index. Monday, July 10, 2017, we updated our mailing standards to include the following changes:

- Parcel Select Lightweight® Dimensional Criteria- We revised [201.7.6](#) and [201.8.5.3](#) to clarify the dimensional criteria of Parcel Select Lightweight® (PSLW) parcels. We published this information in the June 22, 2017, *Postal Bulletin*.
- Preparing Pallets - We revised [705.8.0](#) to clarify the maximum number of pallets that may be stacked, and the securing method for trays prepared on a pallet. We published this information in the June 8, 2017, *Postal Bulletin*.
- Domestic Mail Manual Simplification - We revised DMM in various chapters as we continue our simplification initiative without changes to standards to make it quicker, easier, and more convenient. To assist in this transition the Postal Service will post a crosswalk for each section of the DMM. We published this information in the [June 8, 2017, Postal Bulletin](#).
- Address Information System Services - We revised [509.1.0](#) to clarify the processes for obtaining delivery statistics and update the required method to receive product updates from the Postal Service. Additionally, various DMM subsections will also have minor revisions related to the aforementioned clarification and update. We published this information in the May 25, 2017, *Postal Bulletin*
- Our next scheduled DMM update is August 7, 2017.

**Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne!® and FAST Users: PostalOne! Release 45.3.0.3** will deploy on Sunday, July 16, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT. A quarterly Oracle patch will deploy during this maintenance window and the *PostalOne!* system will not be available during this timeframe. **FAST Release 36.0.0.0** will deploy on Sunday, July 16, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT and the FAST application will not be available during this timeframe.

**Federal Register: Postal Service** - Product Changes: Parcel Select Negotiated Service Agreement, 32386 32386 [2017-14633] [\[PDF\]](#)

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**July 11, 2017**

**Office of the Inspector General:** [Internal Controls Over No-Fee Money Order Refunds for Misc Non-Postal Revenue -Yale Station - New Haven, CT](#) The OIG used data analytics to identify post offices that issued the largest amount of no-fee money order refunds for miscellaneous non-postal revenue. The Yale Station Post Office in New Haven, CT, issued the second largest

amount of refunds compared to other offices nationally. We then looked at whether Yale Station had effective internal controls in place for issuing such refunds. Read our findings and recommendations in the full report <https://go.usa.gov/xNear>

**Industry Alert: Wildfire Impacts - Arizona Office.** Due to the “Burro Fire, the Western Area and Arizona District are reporting the disruption of operations at the **Mount Lemmon AZ Post Office** located at 12984 N Sabino Canyon Pkwy, Mount Lemmon AZ 85619-9997. Mount Lemmon customers are being serviced by the **Fort Lowell Station – Tucson PO** located 6460 E Grant Rd, Tucson AZ, 85715-9998. Customers can pick up their mail or receive retail service at this alternate location.

**Federal Register:**

**Postal Regulatory Commission** - Periodic Reporting, 31930 [2017-14422], [\[PDF\]](#); 31929-31930 [2017-14423], [\[PDF\]](#)

**Postal Service** - Product Changes: Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 32021-32022 [2017-14421] [\[PDF\]](#)

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**July 10, 2017**

**Industry Alert: Attention Business Customer Gateway and PostalOne! Users: Discontinued Support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP).** REMINDER: **Only 6 weeks left to convert to a Secure Transmission Method.** Effective August 31, 2017, the United States Postal Service (USPS) will discontinue support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) for mailers to send and/or receive shipping files and data through the Product Tracking & Reporting (PTR) system. 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](https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_package/documents/tech_guides/PUB199IMPBImpGuide.pdf)

**Option2 - 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](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/PDXOnlineUserGuide.PDF); [https://ribbs.usps.gov/evs/documents/tech\\_guides/pubs/APIUserGuide.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](mailto: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>.

In addition: Effective September 30, 2017, USPS will no longer support FTP for mailers enrolled in IMb Tracing or Informed Visibility (IV). Migrations will be performed in two steps: First, IMb Tracing customers will be migrated to IV once the pilot is complete. That date will be shared with the impacted users when it is available. Then, IV participants will also need to transition to Secure FTP once they have migrated from IMb Tracing. Migration documentation is available on both PostalPro and RIBBS under Informed Visibility (<https://postalpro.usps.com/visibility-and-tracking/informed-visibility-iv>), and the Informed Visibility Help Desk can be contacted at [InformedVisibility@usps.gov](mailto:InformedVisibility@usps.gov).

**Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission** - Proposed Rules, Move Update Assessment, 31736 [2017-14318], [\[PDF\]](#); Notes, New Postal Products, 31789-31790 [2017-14379] [\[PDF\]](#)

**Industry Alert: USPS Marketing Mail™ (Standard Mail®) Markings and Labels Update** The Postal Service™ published a *DMM Advisory* on Friday, June 30, 2017, providing an update about the rebranding of Standard Mail® as USPS Marketing Mail™. The update stated the Postal Service continues to work with the industry on a timeline for implementation for the required use of new postage markings and permit imprint indicia, and we are estimating a “begin to transition” date in mid-2018. The Postal Service would like to clarify that in addition to postage markings and permit imprint indicia, the transition applies to markings included on sack, tray, and pallet labels. We will update the *Domestic Mail Manual* and *Quick Service Guides* in the applicable preparation sections to provide a similar note to the markings and permit imprint sections stating, “Customers should not convert to the USPS Marketing Mail markings until a date is announced.” In the meantime, we continue to request that customers do not transition to the new markings until we publish the final details through a *DMM*

**July 7, 2017**

**Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne! Users:** Good Afternoon, On Sunday, July 9 beginning at 7:00 PM ET USPS plans to perform maintenance to the USPS network. The maintenance duration is expected to be less than 30 minutes. There are no anticipated outages to **PostalOne!**, however, should you encounter issues beyond the expected maintenance window please use standard escalation procedures. Thank you for your business and continued support. If you have any questions, contact the **PostalOne!** Help Desk at 800-522-9085 or via email at: [postalone@usps.gov](mailto:postalone@usps.gov)

**Industry Alert: USPS Marketing Mail™ (Standard Mail®) Markings and Labels Update.** The Postal Service™ published a *DMM Advisory* on Friday, June 30, 2017, providing an update about the rebranding of Standard Mail® as USPS Marketing Mail™. The update stated the Postal Service continues to work with the industry on a timeline for implementation for the required use of new postage markings and permit imprint indicia, and we are estimating a “begin to transition” date in mid-2018. The Postal Service would like to clarify that in addition to postage markings and permit imprint indicia, the transition applies to markings included on sack, tray, and pallet labels. We will update the *Domestic Mail Manual* and *Quick Service Guides* in the applicable preparation sections to provide a similar note to the markings and permit imprint sections stating, “Customers should not convert to the USPS Marketing Mail markings until a date is announced.” In the meantime, we continue to request that customers do not transition to the new markings until we publish the final details through a *DMM Advisory and Industry Alert*.

**Office of the Inspector General: Carrier Leave Without Pay for Union Activities** Following a Congressional request, OIG auditors examined the Postal Service’s leave without pay (LWOP) policy within the Postal Service and whether management followed it in granting carriers LWOP for union activity. its effect on Postal operations. To find the results go to <https://go.usa.gov/xN6Pe>

**Office of the Inspector General: Assessing Marketers’ Barriers to Direct Mail — Management Advisory Report** Direct mail has proven to be an effective form of advertising, but as digital media channels have grown, volume and revenue of direct mail have declined. Yet it still accounts for over \$17 billion – a full 25 percent – of USPS’s total revenue. The OIG’s recent audit looks at marketers’ view of direct mail and why they don’t use it more in their marketing plans. Read the full report: <https://go.usa.gov/xN6Au>

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**July 6, 2017**

**Industry Alert: Executive Director Product Management Announcement.** Vice President of Marketing Steven Monteith announced the appointment of Thomas (Tom) J. Foti as the Executive Director, Product Management in the Marketing Group. In this role, Tom will be responsible for managing all domestic products for the Postal Service. He and his team will own the vision and product strategies that drive contribution, revenue, and volume. This will involve working cross functionally within the Postal Service, as well as with industry to develop and ultimately implement the vision and strategies. Tom has over 27 years of postal experience and was most recently on detail as the Executive Director of the World-Class International Platform Initiative, where he was responsible for defining the Postal Service’s strategies and key infrastructure investments for International products and services. Tom has a bachelor’s degree from the State University of New York at Geneseo and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Maryland. He is also a graduate of the Advanced Leadership Program.

**Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne!® and FAST Users: PostalOne! Release 45.3.0.3** will deploy on Sunday, July 16, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT. A quarterly Oracle patch will deploy during this maintenance window and the **PostalOne!** system will not be available during this timeframe. **FAST Release 36.0.0.0** will deploy on Sunday, July 16, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 10:00 AM CT and the FAST application will not be available during this timeframe.

**Industry Alert: Seamless Acceptance Automated Assessments \*Reminder\*** Automated Seamless Acceptance Assessments for Mail Quality Metrics begin July 11, 2017 for June data. The assessments result in additional postage on those pieces in error above the following established thresholds: Undocumented, Delivery Point, Nesting/Sortation, Postage, Weight, and Mail Characteristic. Automated email Assessment notifications will be sent as described below on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of each month. These automated assessments will be included with the Full-Service and eInduction assessments.

Assessments are generated at the electronic documentation (eDoc) submitter Customer Registration ID (CRID) level when there are errors that exceed the established thresholds for a calendar month. The Postal Service will send automated email notifications to the user associated to the Verification Assessment Evaluator (VAE) service for the eDoc submitters Business Customer Gateway (BCG) profile.

The Postal Service strongly encourages all Seamless Acceptance mailers to request access to the Verification Assessment Evaluator (VAE) service through the BCG. In the event that a VAE user is not identified, the automated email assessment notifications are sent to the associated BCG user roles in the following order of precedence:

- Verification Assessment Evaluator (Business Service Administrator (BSA) or User Role); if no VAE is identified notification is sent to:
- BSA for Manage Mailing Activity if there is no BSA for Manage Mailing Activity notification is sent to:
- BSA for alternate **PostalOne!** service: Audit Mailing Activity, eVS/PRS Customer, Scan Based Payment Customer.

Note: Only users associated to the BSA or user role for Verification Assessment Evaluator or Managed Mailing Activity services can view and take action on Assessments.

**Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission**, New Postal Products, 31355 [2017-14114] [[PDF](#)]

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### **July 5, 2017**

**Industry Alert: USPS Address Management Updates** Effective August 1, 2017, USPS Address Management Products are Moving to a More Secure Encryption Method. The address data files used by the mailing industry are currently secured using the cryptographic function known as Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA-1) to protect the sensitive information contained within the file. Since 2016, the United States Postal Service and its certified and licensed vendors have been transitioning to an even more secure version of this cryptographic hash function technology: SHA-256 (sometimes referred to as SHA-2). Many of these vendors have already started using the new SHA-256 data files. Those still working toward using the SHA-256 version have until July 31, 2017 to complete the transition. Effective August 1, 2017 the SHA-1 version of the data files will not be available. The following software, products, or services used by the mailing industry are affected by this change:

- CASS™ and MASS™ Certified software or services (includes DPV®, LACSLink®, and SuiteLink®) to validate, update, and standardize addresses
- NCOA Link® files used for Move Update processing
- DSF2® for sorting addresses in delivery order and to identify vacancies
- RDI™ to identify Residential addresses

If you are unsure if the application or service you used has been updated, contact your service provider.

**Industry Alert: Seamless Acceptance Automated Assessments.** Automated Seamless Acceptance Assessments for Mail Quality Metrics July 11, 2017 for June data. The assessments result in additional postage on those pieces in error above the established thresholds: Undocumented, Delivery Point, Nesting/Sortation, Postage, Weight, and Mail Characteristic. Automated email Assessment notifications will be sent as described below on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of each month. These automated assessments will be included with the Full-Service and eInduction assessments.

Assessments are generated at the electronic documentation (eDoc) submitter Customer Registration ID (CRID) level when there are errors that exceed the established thresholds for a calendar month. The Postal Service will send automated email notifications to the user associated to the Verification Assessment Evaluator (VAE) service for the eDoc submitters Business Customer Gateway (BCG) profile.

The Postal Service strongly encourages all Seamless Acceptance mailers to request access to the Verification Assessment Evaluator (VAE) service through the BCG. In the event that a VAE user is not identified, the automated email assessment notifications are sent to the associated BCG user roles in the following order of precedence:

- Verification Assessment Evaluator (Business Service Administrator (BSA) or User Role); if no VAE is identified notification is sent to:
- BSA for Manage Mailing Activity if there is no BSA for Manage Mailing Activity notification is sent to:
- BSA for alternate *PostalOne!* service: Audit Mailing Activity, eVS/PRS Customer, Scan Based Payment Customer.

Note: Only users associated to the BSA or user role for Verification Assessment Evaluator or Managed Mailing Activity services can view and take action on Assessments.

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### **July 4, 2017 - Happy Fourth of July!**

**Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission** - New Postal Products, 31107-31108 [2017-13996] [[PDF](#)]

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### **July 3, 2017**

**Office of the Inspector General: [Attention Holiday Shoppers: A New Shipping Surcharge](#)** It is almost the holiday season and online retailers are already getting Scrooged by UPS. The company recently announced new “peak” surcharges on packages delivered to residences between Thanksgiving and Christmas, FedEx may follow suit. Our latest blog examines how the U.S. Postal Service may be positioned to gain business from this move. The Postal Service looks positioned to gain from UPS’ move. Are you willing to pay more for shipping during the holidays? <https://go.usa.gov/xNs7V>

**Industry Alert: Informed Delivery® Webinar Series Begins July 11, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. (EDT)** Starting July 11, a new webinar series will be provided over a three week period for mail owners and mail service providers on Informed Delivery campaigns – recently showcased at the May 2017 National Postal Forum. Feedback from the Forum and other subsequent Industry/Postal meetings indicate there is widespread interest to learn more about the Informed Delivery program. There also have been requests for more information on the intricacies of planning and implementing interactive mailer campaigns. In anticipation of a large turnout and the need to keep attendance at a reasonable level for each webinar, three webinars will be offered “first-come, first-serve.” As you register for the date you want, keep in mind you may be prompted to choose one of the other choices if your first or even second choice is already filled. **Spaces are limited. Please register as early as possible to get the date most convenient for you. The three “Introduction to Informed Delivery” webinars will be offered as follows:**

**Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. (EDT) ATTENDEE INFORMATION** Toll-Free Attendee Dial In: 866-381-

9870 Conference ID: 47454032 **Click the link below to register and add to your Outlook calendar: Attendee Direct**

**URL:** <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=e4f6beb0d6513924d9f48c18c01cc6a0d>

**Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. (EDT) ATTENDEE INFORMATION** Toll-Free Attendee Dial In: 866-381-9870 Conference ID: 49532554 **Click the link below to register and add to your Outlook calendar: Attendee Direct URL: <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=e38112742e2b6a287aa316f6ff849643b>**

**Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. (EDT). ATTENDEE INFORMATION** Toll-Free Attendee Dial In: 866-381-9870 Conference ID: 49541897 **Click the link below to register and add to your Outlook calendar: Attendee Direct URL: <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=e958c7ca67de1ec50c5df50cad23e977e>**