

POSTAL NEWS

No. 60/2008

Formulated by UNI-Japan Post in cooperation with UNI-Apro,
ASPEK Indonesia and SPPI

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1. Russian Media Protest Averted

May 20th, 2008 • Related • Filed Under

Russia's major print media have called off a May 21st day of protest, which was prepared in response to skyrocketing postal delivery rates. As the Interfax news agency reports, the newspapers and magazines have cancelled their demonstration after the presidential administration stepped in.

It was earlier reported that a row of Russia's most prominent publishers were planning to print a blank front-page on May 21st, with only five lines of text. The protest was meant to signify what would happen if the price for delivering newspapers continued to rise, and if consumers could no longer afford subscriptions. "Freedom of the press can be strangled in different ways," a group of editors said in a statement. "For instance, by a sharp jump in subscription rates." Participating publications included the *Argumenty i Fakty*, *Izvestia*, and *Komsomolskaya Pravda* newspapers.

By the late afternoon, the event was dropped.

"White lines won't be issued tomorrow," Pavel Gusev, the editor-in-chief of the *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, told Interfax. "The fact of the matter is that the presidential administration and the Ministry of Telecommunications and Print got involved in the affair, and most likely, all of our demands will be satisfied." Gusev, who heads a federal advisory committee on matters of freedom of speech in the media, said that special negotiations will take place Thursday.

According to the publishers, the Russian Post has broken promises to keep price hikes tied to inflation.

Vladimir Sungorkin, the editor in chief of *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, said that "prices have recently grown by 100%, 200%, and even 400% in some regions." He added that corruption and mismanagement at the postal service was partly responsible.

Vladimir Mamontov, the editor-in-chief of *Izvestia*, said that "the action [was] directed to sparing the print media, for now."

“Commercially successful newspapers are taking part in the action, but they are also worrying,” Mamontov continued. “And what of those publications, that don’t have the capacity to use the resources of the advertising market to such an extent?!”

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2. Liberia: Postal Ministry Sponsors Four To ITU-Youth Forum

The Analyst (Monrovia)

22 May 2008

Posted to the web 22 May 2008

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and its Partners International Telecom Union have sponsored two Liberian students to participate in a four- day ITU Telecommunication Africa Youth Forum in Cairo, Egypt.

The Africa Telecom 2008 Youth Forum began yesterday and will end on May 15 with students Emerson Makien of the University of Liberia and Sadia Williams of Stella Marie Polytechnic representing Liberia through the hospitality of the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry.

According to the communication, the four-day ITU Telecom Africa Youth Forum will focus on the participation of young people in the use of information communication technology (ICTS) for socio-economic development and how ICTs can contribute to peace and stability within the African continent.

A Postal Affairs release said the selection of the two students came as a result of a thorough screening process carried on by the Africa Telecom Youth Forum selection procedures.

The release said the youth forum seeks a mix of competencies and interested students as their way of helping young people through the Posts and Telecommunication.

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May 21, 2008 08:10 AM Eastern Daylight Time

3. Zazzle Recognized with Strategic Business Development Award from U.S. Postal Service at 2008 National Postal Forum

ANAHEIM, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Zazzle (www.zazzle.com), the only on-demand, online retail platform to offer billions of products that ship in 24 hours, was recognized by the U.S. Postal Service with its Strategic Business Development Award

for the company's commitment to a successful business partnership with the Postal Service.

The Strategic Business Development Award is one of three "best in class" awards presented annually at the Forum, recognizing companies who have taken steps to implement new technologies and best practices to maximize efficiencies in the mail value chain. Award recipients have employed modern technologies and automation in their mail operations to improve productivity, streamlining their production and providing their customers with a mail product that delivers increased value and business results.

Zazzle is a premier partner of the USPS through its volume business in shipping product to consumers, as well as its unique offering of customizable, real U.S. postage, www.zazzle.com/custom/stamps.

"I congratulate Zazzle for having recognized the vital importance of innovation, teamwork, communications and customer satisfaction using the mail," said Susan Plonkey, vice president, customer service.

"As an on-demand retail platform, we produce and ship product out to consumers in 24 hours, and are committed to offering new technological innovations with partners to deliver a more robust experience," said Bobby Beaver, co-founder and chief technology officer, Zazzle. "We are thrilled to be recognized by the U.S. Postal Service with the Strategic Business Development Award, and look forward to continuing our strong work together."

The National Postal Forum is the mailing industry's premier trade show and event. More than 7,000 industry professionals attend the annual conference which features 140 workshops and special sessions, four symposiums and 13 professional certificate programs.

For more information about Zazzle, www.zazzle.com, and for more on the 2008 National Postal Forum, visit www.npf.org.

About Zazzle

Infinite and Instant, Zazzle is the only on-demand retail platform for consumers and major brands, offering billions of retail quality, one-of-a-kind products shipped within 24 hours. With the largest library of customizable digital images from world-class brands, Zazzle enables content owners to unlock their entire libraries of content, making it available for purchase and customization by consumers. Through Zazzle's innovative on-demand retail and technology platform, users can instantly create, customize to fit their personal style, purchase and sell a near infinite array of products online. The company launched in 2005 and is based in Redwood City, California. For more information, www.Zazzle.com.

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4. Put mailboxes on spring cleaning list, Postal Service urges

By JOE LAMB
LOG CABIN STAFF WRITER

Is your mailbox getting a bit run-down these days? Now's the time to get it in shape, according to the U.S. Postal Service, which designates the third full week of May as Mailbox Improvement Week.

Conway and Faulkner County residents are "usually pretty good" about keeping their mailboxes in good working order, Conway Postmaster Dana Urbanski said, but, and this is true almost anywhere in the nation, some could use some work.

"Every year, we ask our customers to take a look at their mailboxes," Urbanski said. "It's the time most people are doing their spring cleaning, and it's a good time to see if the mailbox needs attention too."

Time and weather takes its toll on mailboxes, she said, as do the inevitable teenaged motorists with baseball bats. It's the mail carriers who reap what the people and things that damage mailboxes sow.

Not only is a poorly-placed or damaged mailbox an inconvenience, she said, "a lot of carriers get their hands gashed open on beat-up mailboxes.

- Advertisement -

"Most of them are made of aluminum, and when aluminum deteriorates, it leaves jagged edges."

The ones that aren't aluminum are generally made of steel, which rusts after it gets knocked around, meaning that the mail carriers they injure are in for a second painful experience when they go in for a tetanus shot.

Mail carrier Janie Bryant said she looks out for jagged edges when she's delivering mail, but she also has to look out for the critters she sometimes finds in mailboxes.

Flowers at or on mailboxes attract insects, Urbanski explained, and these insects attract spiders and wasps which prey on them. For a nest of red wasps or a black widow spider, a mailbox is an inviting place to set up shop, and they're not always happy to receive their daily delivery there.

Mailboxes also need to be a reasonable height and distance from the road. Though there do sometimes have to be exceptions, mailboxes should be 41 to 45 inches from the road surface and near enough to the curb that a carrier can reach them from their vehicle. They must also be properly secured.

"Sometimes you try to open the mailbox door and the whole thing falls over at you," Bryant said.

And, of course, Urbanski said, residents need to make sure their mailboxes are properly lettered on both sides of the box.

New mailboxes are available at most any hardware or home improvement store, Urbanski said, and once lettered and erected become the property of the U.S. Federal Government. This means motorized Joe DiMaggios trying to improve their mailbox batting average could face a \$250,000 fine or imprisonment of up to three years for each act of vandalism.

(Staff writer Joe Lamb can be reached by e-mail at joe.lamb@thecabin.net or by phone at 505-1238. Send us your news at www.thecabin.net/submit)

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Collected by Chairul Anwar, Bandung, Indonesia.

E-mail address : chairulanwar49@operamail.com, uyungchairul@plasa.com.