

POSTAL NEWS

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1. WHAT'S ON: Exhibition looks at 200 years of the postal industry

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By Laura Kempzell

Discovery Centre hosts touring exhibition

A touring exhibition about the postal industry is coming to Luton's new Stockwood Discovery Centre on January 31. The display, called Moving The Mail by The British Postal Museum and Archive (BPMA), explores the story of road transport in the postal industry over the last 200 years.

Rare vehicles from the BPMA, as well as an original 1840s Royal Mail Coach from Luton's own Mossman collection, will be on show. Images from the Royal Mail archive will also be on display, giving an interesting insight into the men, women and machines that have been delivering UK mail.

The exhibition is free and runs until September 13.

BPMA curator Chris Taft will give a talk on the Underground Postal Service on Thursday, February 19, at 3pm. This talk will also be British Sign Language interpreted. Anyone is welcome.

For more information call 01582 546722 or visit www.lutonculture.com

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2. Private postal rival picks up market share

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BUSINESS Post yesterday said it was on track to meet expectations after the Royal Mail rival grabbed a bigger slice of the collection market.

The Slough-based company said its mail operation – which picks up and sorts post ahead of delivery by Royal Mail – said its market share had reached 15 per cent in the final three months of last year.

UK Mail – Business Post's division that sorts corporate letters – achieved the growth by winning new business and taking on more mail from existing customers, helping overall revenues for the quarter increase by 3 per cent compared with the previous year.

Revenues for specialist services also rose, driven by improved courier business, but fell for the group's parcels arm. Business Post blamed the current economic crisis but said increased efficiency as operating costs were cut compensated for the lower revenues. The company said: "Our plans continue to be based on moderate overall revenue growth combined with a strong improvement in our courier business."

Companies such as Business Post have been steadily growing as corporate customers turn their backs on Royal Mail following the liberalisation of the postal market.

In November, Business Post reported a 25 per cent rise in half-year profits, aided by the performance of UK Mail.

Business Post's shares were unchanged last night at 250p.

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3. Postal dept launches Project Arrow

25 Jan 2009, 0000 hrs IST, TNN

KANPUR: 'Look and feel', is guiding force of the postal department these days.

Kamlesh Chand, deputy director general (personnel), launched the second phase of 'Project Arrow' here on Saturday. Three post offices -- Kanpur GPO, Nawabganj and Cantt were selected for modernisation and computerisation.

Project Arrow began in May 2008 to revitalise the postal department and develop it into a brand for customers. In the first phase, 50 post offices, 450 in the second and 4,500 in the third phase will come under the umbrella of Project Arrow all over the country. Akbarpur post office was selected in first phase and in third phase 30 post offices will be selected.

The postal department is going through a facelift and all the departments of postal offices are being improved by bringing in more transparency and responsive working. The lower level staff is being technically trained."

The service will be quicker than ever and mails, money-orders and all types of remittances will be delivered the same day, he added.

All the data will be fed and signatures scanned in computers. All the post offices will be having a new logo of 'India Post' and homogeneous architectures of white building with red lines will be reflected at all the post offices under the purview of Project Arrow.

Announcing benefits to postal customers, Krishna Kumar Yadav, chief post master, Kanpur zone, said, "Under the Project Arrow, all types of post will be dispatched by 10 in the morning. With special emphasis on speed post, 10 additional postmen have been deployed. A new computerised pass book is being issued to every savings account holder in post offices."

Touch screen facility, in which all postal facilities and their rates will be displayed and quiz and net surfing will be the added services. Speaking on the occasion, Uday Krishna, Post Master General, said, "It will give a sense of commonality to customers and conducive environment for staff to function. A clean environment will be provided and potable water, clean toilets and sitting facilities will be provided."

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4. Free Press adds more options for delivery

Sales at senior centers, same-day mail offered

BY BEN SCHMITT • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • January 25, 2009

The Free Press has announced two more components of the new home-delivery plan that will start March 30.

One new delivery option will involve partnerships with more than 200 senior residences, elder care facilities and apartment complexes to take bulk delivery of newspapers and make them available for sale to residents.

And the Free Press will also offer same-day mail delivery of newspapers in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday -- the days that the newspaper will not be home-delivered.

The delivery options also will be available to Detroit News readers.

"When we made the announcement last December about frequency and distribution changes, we immediately heard from a significant number of people who were concerned about seniors, housebound residents and others who, regardless of delivery time, want their Free Press or News delivered every day," said Dave Hunke, chief executive officer of the Detroit Media Partnership and publisher of the Free Press. "These programs will be helpful for those who find it difficult to go to their neighborhood retailer to purchase a copy regularly."

The following home-delivery options are available:

- Three-day delivery on Thursday, Friday and Sunday, with access to daily electronic editions that provide access to stories, photos, graphics, headlines and advertisements exactly as they appear in the printed newspaper. Subscribers will be able to magnify the content, e-mail it or download it -- including ads and coupons.

The e-edition will be available only to subscribers and is separate from the freep.com Web site, which will continue to be accessed by any reader.

- Three-day delivery on Thursday, Friday and Sunday without daily access to electronic editions.

- Same-day mail delivery on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday within Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. The cost for the four-day delivery will be \$19.33 per month. To subscribe to same-day mail delivery, call 800-395-3300.

Those subscribing to postal delivery four days a week will receive their newspaper at the same time they receive their mail. Fees are subject to change based on U.S. postal rates.

Resident facilities interested in offering newspapers for sale should contact John Bentley of the Detroit Media Partnership at 313-222-8662.

And readers can visit www.freep.com/transform for more information and updates.

Contact BEN SCHMITT at 313-223-4296 or bschmitt@freepress.com.

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