

# POSTAL NEWS

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- 1. Sri Lanka Postal services to boycott work. June 8, 2008.**
- 2. Southland Postal worker food drive a big success. June 9, 2008.**
- 3. U.S. Postal Service Selects Rivermine for Expense Management Solutions. June 9, 2008.**
- 4. ZEC clarifies postal ballot procedures. June 7, 2008.**
- 5. On this Day: U.S. Postal Service Attempts 'Missile Mail' for First and Last Time. June 8, 2008.**

## **1. Sri Lanka Postal services to boycott work**

Sunday, June 8, 2008, 16:25 GMT, ColomboPage News Desk, Sri Lanka.

June 08, Colombo: Due to the long standing dispute between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Post and Telecommunication Union relating to the non-payment of over time allowances, all postal services in the country is expected to come to an abrupt stop next week.

Postal service which is a 24 hour operation faces a severe threat of boycott from trade unions with effect from Tuesday. The work stoppage is expected to impact heavily on country's progress.

Sri Lanka Postal Department established during the British regime reportedly receives step motherly treatment from authorities and is facing a severe shortage of employees that has led the existing employees to work extra hours in keeping the services afloat. Sri Lankan Daily News and Reports

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## **2. Southland Postal worker food drive a big success**

June 9, 2008

Recommend (1)

By Kristen Schorsch, Staff writer

South Siders donated a record 324,000 pounds of food to the National Association of Letter Carriers food drive May 10.

Last year, carriers throughout the southwest suburbs collected 282,000 pounds of food for area pantries, local food drive coordinator Joe Moroney said. This year, he challenged letter carrier branches to collect 10 percent more, or 28,200 pounds more than last year. People who left nonperishable goods out their front doors topped that by 42,000 pounds, or 15 percent.

"That is very encouraging," said Moroney, a Tinley Park U.S. Postal Service letter carrier. "The weather helped us a lot that day. The volunteers that we got also, we benefit greatly from their help. It was a very nice outpouring of good will from the people in these areas."

But Moroney isn't finished challenging donors and letter carriers just yet. Next year, he hopes to shatter this year's record.

"I would like to knock the walls out of the food pantries and make them have to expand," Moroney said with a laugh.

Kristen Schorsch can be reached at [kschorsch@southtownstar.com](mailto:kschorsch@southtownstar.com) or (708) 633-5992. Kristen also blogs about Tinley Park at [blogs.southtownstar.com](http://blogs.southtownstar.com).

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June 09, 2008

### **3. U.S. Postal Service Selects Rivermine for Expense Management Solutions**

By Anil Sharma  
TMCnet Contributing Editor

The U.S. Postal Service has awarded Rivermine (News - Alert), a provider of automated telecom expense management (TEM) solutions, a contract to deploy comprehensive TEM solutions for its entire data network nationwide.

As part of the contract, Rivermine will deliver its patent-pending solutions to automate the U.S. Postal Service's existing TEM processes.

"Rivermine and the U.S. Postal Service share a common vision for an integrated end-to-end automated process from initial telecom service orders through invoice payment. We look forward to working with the U.S. Postal Service to achieve the highest level of visibility into and control over data network expenses -- further reducing network

costs," said Mark Logan (News - Alert), president and CEO, Rivermine, in a statement.

More than 225 companies - including many Fortune 1000 corporations and large government agencies - have selected Rivermine to optimize their overall telecom environments and dramatically reduce costs.

These patent-pending Telecom Expense Management (TEM) solutions automate the entire telecom lifecycle including contract sourcing, ordering, inventory management, invoice processing and auditing, wireless device management and reporting/analytics.

The Rivermine solution will be used by The U.S. Postal Service to help maintain a data network connecting approximately 400 distribution outlets and 37,000 retail locations.

As an independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that visits every address in the nation- 146 million homes and businesses. It has 37,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to pay for operating expenses, not tax dollars. The Postal Service has annual revenues of \$75 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.

The U.S. Postal Service is now going "green" and is offering more environmentally-friendly choices. The U.S. Postal Service has also added an easy, online resource for consumers to make resourceful decisions about their mail.

From eco (News - Alert)-friendly products and services to ideas for recycling and ways to help marketers create greener advertising, [usps.com/green](http://usps.com/green) contains hundreds of facts, suggestions and programs to help improve environmental awareness and make it easier for consumers to go green — including a way to calculate carbon footprint savings by conducting Postal Service business online.

Anil Sharma is a contributing editor for TMCnet. To read more of Anil's articles, please visit his columnist page.

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#### **4. ZEC clarifies postal ballot procedures**

HARARE, June 7 (Xinhua) -- The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) has spelt procedures involved in the postal ballot system ahead of the June 27 presidential run-off and the three by-elections following concern raised by some stakeholders.

The processing of the application for postal ballot commenced this week with political parties and observers being invited to witness the exercise, according to Saturday's The Herald.

In a statement, ZEC said those eligible for the postal ballot were members of the armed forces who will be on duty on the polling day, the election officer and those serving in the diplomatic missions as well as their spouses.

Applications for the postal ballot are made to the chief elections officer on the prescribed form and must be signed by the applicant in the presence of a competent witness. All applications should reach the chief election officer on or before the 10th day before polling.

Before marking the ballot paper, the voter shall produce before a competent witness, the ballot paper issued to her/him showing the number, the declaration of identity and envelope in which the ballot paper was received. The voter will sign the declaration identity in the presence of the competent witness who shall, if satisfied to the identity of the voter, sign the declaration of identity in his or her own handwriting and add the title in which he or she acts as a competent witness.

The voter will then signify the candidate for whom he or she wishes to vote by secretly placing on the ballot box a cross and no other person except the competent witness shall be present and the voter shall not allow the witness to see how he or she has voted.

Immediately after voting, the voter shall in the presence of the competent witness but without disclosing how she or he has voted, place the marked ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope, effectively close the envelope and its cover. The voter shall then dispatch the covering envelope by registered post without delay, or hand it to the constituency elections officer, who shall issue a receipt.

Where the voter is a member of the armed forces and has received his or ballot through the commanding officer, he or she may transmit the envelope to the constituency elections officer through such a commanding officer. The commanding officer shall convey the covering envelope to the returning officer by the most expeditious means consistent with safety.

At the request in person of a voter who cannot read or who is incapacitated by blindness or other physical cause from voting, the competent witness may assist the voter. A competent witness who assists a voter shall ensure that a written statement of what has transpired and the reason are enclosed in the covering envelope together with the ballot paper envelope and the declaration of identity.

ZEC said the sealing of postal ballot boxes would take place on June 20 at wards collation centres in the presence of contesting candidates or their election agents and observers.

Some stakeholders had expressed concern over the postal ballot system, saying it appeared to be shrouded in secrecy.

Zimbabweans go to the polls this month to vote in a presidential run-off pitting President Robert Mugabe of Zanu-PF against MDC-T leader Morgan Tsvangirai. The run-off will be held concurrently with House of Assembly elections in Gwanda South, Pelandaba-Mpopoma and Redcliff, which were postponed following the death of duly nominated MDC candidates in the constituencies before the March 29 polls.

Editor: Yan Liang

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## **5. On this Day: U.S. Postal Service Attempts ‘Missile Mail’ for First and Last Time**

June 08, 2008 12:10 AM  
by findingDulcinea Staff

On June 8, 1959, a U.S. Navy submarine, the USS Barbero, launched 3,000 letters via missile from Virginia to Florida.

The United States Postal Service combined with the Department of Defense to deliver the mail in a revolutionary fashion. President Dwight D. Eisenhower was in full support of the experiment, and one of the letters to be transported was from him.

The unarmed missile and its postal payload arrived safely at the U.S. Naval Station in Mayport, Fla.

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield, who witnessed the event, considered missile mail the future. He told The New York Times, “Before man reaches the moon, mail will be delivered within hours from New York to California, to Britain, to India or Australia by guided missiles.”

However, history has proved Summerfield wrong, at least for the time being. At the time of the launch, the Department of Defense saw the measure more as a demonstration of U.S. missile capabilities during the Cold War. Also, the costs of using missile mail would not have justified the benefits. More recently, the use of e-mail technology has made it that much more unnecessary.

Although missile mail was a U.S. innovation, it was preceded by a 1931 Austrian version known as rocket mail, with which engineer Friedrich Schmiedl successfully fired 100 pieces of mail from one Austrian village to another.

German businessman Gerhard Zucker then tried to popularize rocket mail in the 1930s, although he had his share of failures. In one case, he tried to launch a rocket between two Scottish Islands but an unfortunate explosion destroyed the 1,200 traveling envelopes. British officials then proceeded to deport Zucker back to Germany for “mail fraud.”

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