

PUC chooses 3-way split for area code 409

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) voted to order the industry to implement a 3-way split of area code 409, which serves a sprawling, diverse segment of Southeast Texas.

This was the option initially preferred by the Commission, which had to choose among what is considered several bad choices for a region where multiple high-growth centers that are widely dispersed over more than 25,000 square miles.

The two new area codes will be announced within the next few weeks. To allow for sufficient customers education, the permissive dialing period for the new area codes will begin in early Feb. 2000. The new area codes will be official in early Sept. 2000.

But if callers dial the old code, their calls will still be connected until early Oct. 2000 when the new codes become official.

"This was not an easy decision, but we will believe a split will extend the life of these area codes far longer than any of the other options presented," said Pat Wood III, Chairman. "This is

one of the prices we have to pay for our booming economy."

"None of the choices were good, but a 3-way split imposes less disruption in the long run and preserves 7-digit dialing," said Commissioner Judy Walsh.

"We thank everyone who responded. This was an extremely complex decision because of the geography and regional diversity," said Commissioner Brett Perlman.

Established in 1983 with the geographic split of area code 713, area code 409 currently extends up most of the Texas-Louisiana border, stretches down the eastern third of the Texas Gulf coast and surrounds Houston. The 409 area code will be split into three geographic regions.

The eastern region, which is the most populous and contains Galveston, Texas City/La Marque, Port Arthur and Beaumont, will retain the area code 409.

This same criteria was used in earlier middle region, that contains Nacogdoches, Huntsville, Lufkin, Na-

vasota and Conroe will be assigned a new area code, as will the Western region, which contains Bryan/College Station, Brenham, Matagorda and Angleton.

Austin, Colorado and Fayette counties rest in the western region.

In March PUC held public meet-

ings in Columbus, Galveston, Beaumont, Lufkin, Huntsville and Bryan to give residents the opportunity to voice their opinions about how to add one or more new area codes.

PUC commissioners extended the comment period and asked citizens to express their preference for the three-

way split or a non-concentrated growth overlay.

Since July, the PUC received approximately 200 comments on the two options. Neither option received a clear majority. Most business respondents preferred the overlay, while most residential respondents opted for

the split. In Texas' changing regulatory environment, the PUC facilitates competition and customer choice while regulating electric and telephone utilities to ensure rates, operations and services are just a reasonable for customers.

Grants enhance technology in Texas public schools

Texas public schools are moving faster than ever on the road to advanced technology with the help of the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board (TIF Board).

The TIF Board awarded 1,081 grants to Texas public districts and campuses making it the single largest grant offering of the agency to date. These public schools will receive a total of more than \$50 million in Technology Advancement and Distance Learning grants.

The Public School Technology Advancement and Distance Learning grants allow Texas public schools to enhance existing Internet connections

and to purchase equipment for videoconferencing. Grants for up to \$600,000 will fund workstations, networking hardware, ISP costs, videoconferencing equipment and other related telecommunications costs. These grant projects began Sept. 1.

"This grant reaches Texas public school districts and campuses," says Arnold Viramontes, Executive Director of the TIF Board. "Grantees will extend existing telecommunications infrastructure so that Texas public schools can further assist their students to become the leaders of tomorrow. Our vision is to improve access to the Internet and make distance learn-

ing a reality."

Since its creation by the 74th Legislature in 1995, the TIF Board has awarded approximately \$202 million in telecommunications grants to 1,018 districts and charter schools (out of 1145), 57 community colleges (out of 57), 69 public and private institutions of higher education, 592 libraries and branches (out of 789), 300 public and not-for-profit healthcare facilities (out of 742), 11 collaborative of model projects, and 13 collaborative of rural school districts. The agency receives approximately \$150 million per year in revenues from telecommunications assessments to disburse over

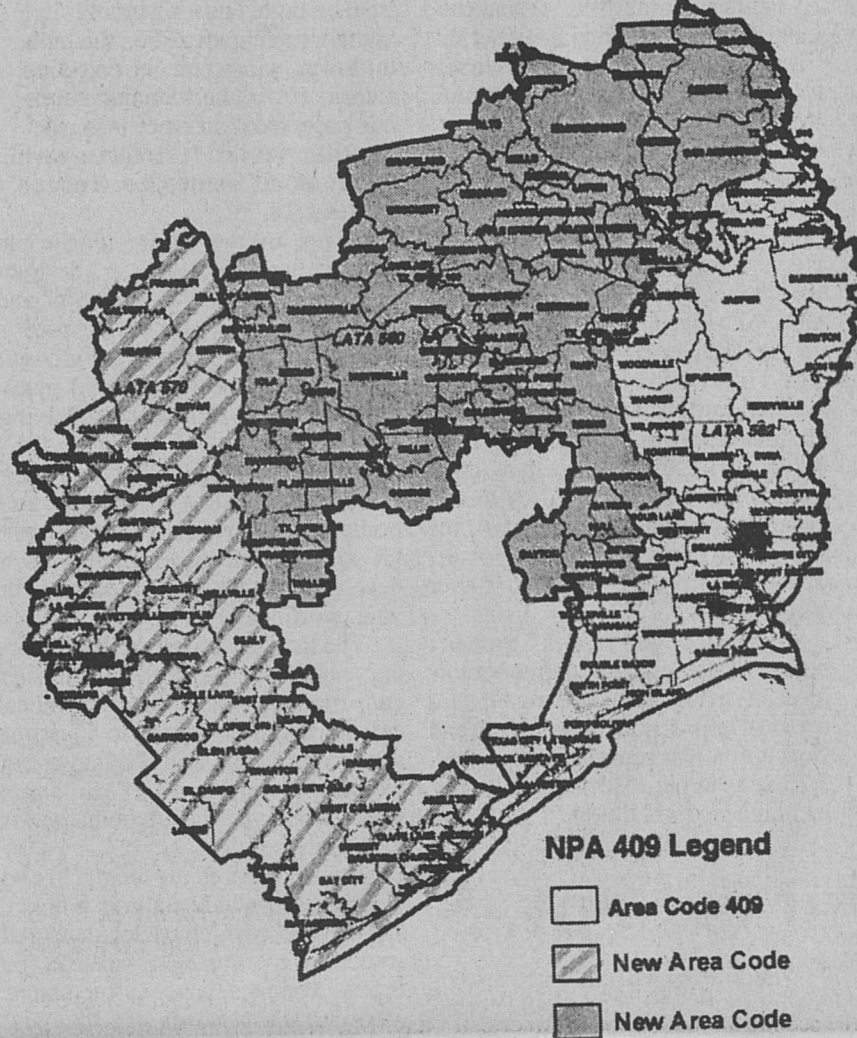
a 10 year period. For more information, contact the TIF Board at 512-344-4300 or 1-888-533-8432.

Additional information is available at <http://www.tifb.state.tx.us>.

Bible Verse of the Week

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper." — Proverbs 28:13

Submitted by Neddy Phillips



NPA 409 Legend
 □ Area Code 409
 ■ New Area Code
 ■ New Area Code

24 & 48

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group of approximately 70 friends called at their lovely new home south of Eagle Lake Recreation Center for a "Housewarming Party" Sunday, March 3, from 6 to 8 p.m....

A miscellaneous shower honoring Mrs. William Moore, formerly Miss Glenda Wilkerson, bride of William Moore, was given on Friday, Feb. 15, at Didner Hall...

Mrs. August (Olga) Gold, 59, resident of the Heritage House in Eagle Lake for only a short time, passed away at the nursing home last Saturday morning...

Lonnell Blunston of Garwood, a member of the 4-H Club, was one of 16 lucky boys to be a winner in the calf scramble at the Feb. 22 evening performance of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo...

Mrs. Joe Wesselski, longtime resident of Nada, passed away in her home Friday, Feb. 22...

Friends will regret to learn of the death of Mrs. Fannie Williamson Jones of Garland, a native of the Eagle Lake community. She was a former employee of the Texas Highway Department for 35 years before retiring in 1959...

Mr. & Mrs. E.S. Horton of Eagle Lake celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Thursday, Feb. 14...

Mrs. Linda Matura is a new operator at Lena's Beauty Salon at 112 N. McCarty in downtown Eagle Lake...

Mr. & Mrs. James A. Miller of Rock Shores wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Denise Ann, to Robert Martin Griffith, son of Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Griffith of Eagle Lake. The couple plan a May 4th wedding in Waco...

The home of Mr. & Mrs. George Andel and George Jr. on S. McCarty was named the winner of the "Yard of the Month" award for this month...

Friends in the community learned with regret of the death Tuesday of B.H. Tolliver of the Egypt community and a resident here for many years...

Aug. 16, 1951

Alfred Marx's new service station building next to Marx Drive-Inn on Highway 200 is now complete and will be opened as a Humble Dealer Service Station Saturday, Aug. 18...

Although this year's V-J Day Tuesday was a "scorcher" about 400 people ate barbecue chicken at the American Legion celebration at the swimming pool park and more than twice that many are estimated to have seen the Bathing Beauty Revue and Water Carnival. Chosen as V-J Day Queens were Mary Ann Reese, Patsy

Scott and Carol Ann Sanford...

Sam K. Seymour Sr. died at the age of 90 last Thursday afternoon. He had been ill for three weeks. Mr. Seymour was a widely known businessman and philanthropist and resided in Columbus...

The 1951 rice season got off to a good start with \$9.25 the high price paid for 2000 barrels of the new Century Patna rice grown by Harold Thomas and Wintermann. First rice of the season at the Garwood Dryer was brought in last Wednesday by L.C. Schilling. It was the new Century Patna brand...

Good luck to Arlene Gertson and Betty Kay Meitzen who were accompanied by their swimming coach John Canaris to the Junior Olympics at the Shamrock Pool in Houston...

Miss Martha Lou Morrison's engagement to Pvt. Joe Lee Duncan of Camp Roberts, Calif., was announced last week by her parents, Mr. & Mrs. H. Carroll Morrison of El Campo. Pvt. Duncan is the son of Mr. & Mrs. R.L. Duncan of this city...

Tommy Smith, Gayle Thomas and W.L. Coffey have been having some real experiences on their Scout Jamboree trip. In speaking of the canal of Venice, Gayle wrote, "They may be the famous canals of Venice to you, but they're just 'creeks' to this young Texan cowboy." Tommy wrote that they would sure like to have a good, old, thick Texas-cooked steak instead of spaghetti. The group also experienced a harrowing wild bus ride on the mountainous curves of Austria having had a presumably "tipsy" bus driver...

Mrs. Albert Pustejovsky was hostess at a coffee complimenting her niece, Mrs. Ernest Ondrias, who has recently moved to Eagle Lake from Wharton...

Janie Lee Sheridan celebrated her sixth birthday with a party at the home of her grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. R.L. Lange...

Twenty boys and girls joined Bill Hefner to observe his birthday at the home of his parents, Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Hefner Jr...

Infant Jerry Lee Steinbach died here Monday. Mr. & Mrs. E.H. Stienke and Mrs. Fred R. Frnka attended the services...

S.S. Sinclair has been named local chairman for Oil Progress Week...

Among the new teachers to be at Eagle Lake High School next term are Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Rudd, Grover J. Douglas, Robert Bruce Gregory and Miss Dayne Gau. New vocational agriculture teacher at E.H. will be Willie Fitzgerald and James Gordon will also be a new teacher.

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15 Oz. Can

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Coronet

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- Regular, Diet, Caffeine Free Mr. Pibb, Barq's Root Beer, Fresca, Minute Maid Flavors, Sprite, Cherry Coke or **CLASSIC COKE** 2 Liter Bottle **99¢**
- MILLER LITE BEER** 18 Pk. Cans **\$9.99**
- COORS LIGHT BEER** 18 Pk. Cans (Limit 4) **\$8.99**
- Regular or Light **BUDWEISER BEER** 18 Pk. Cans **\$10.29**
- Assorted Nabisco **OREO COOKIES** 20 Oz. Pkg. **\$1.99**
- Blue Bell **MOOO BARS** 12 Pk. **\$1.99**
- Town Talk Hamburger or **HOT DOG BUNS** 8 Ct. Pkg. **2 for \$1**
- Royal Oak Regular or Mesquite **CHARCOAL BRIQUETS** 10 Lb. Bag **\$2.49**
- Assorted Kraft **BBQ SAUCE** 18 Oz. Bottle **79¢**
- Wesson Vegetable or **CORN OIL** 48 Oz. Bottle **\$1.79**
- Parade Hamburger Sliced **DILL PICKLES** 32 Oz. Jar **99¢**
- Parade Squeeze **MUSTARD** 20 Oz. **59¢**
- Austex Hot Dog **CHILI SAUCE** 10 Oz. Can **3 for \$1**
- Oasis **DRINKING WATER** Gal. **2 for \$1**
- Lipton Family Size **TEA BAGS** 24 Ct. Box **\$1.49**
- Pre-Priced \$3.99; Regular Kraft **VELVEETA CHEESE** 2 Lb. Loaf **\$3.88**
- Parade Fluid **CHARCOAL STARTER** 32 Oz. **99¢**
- Tuff Stuff Foam **PLATES** 40 Ct. Pkg. **79¢**
- Soft-N-Gentle **BATH TISSUE** 4 Roll Pkg. **79¢**
- Regular Kraft Miracle Whip or **MAYONNAISE** 32 Oz. Jar **\$1.99**
- Assorted Chinest **PAPER PLATES** 12 Ct. 25 Ct. Pkg. **\$1.79**
- Bush's Original or Onion **BAKED BEANS** 28 Oz. Can **88¢**
- A-1 STEAK SAUCE** 10 Oz. Bottle **\$2.99**

- Assorted Pace Salsa or **PICANTE SAUCE** 16 Oz. Jar **\$1.69**
- Reynold's Economy Aluminum **FOIL** 12' x 75 Sq. Ft. **\$1.79**
- Lewry's **GARLIC SALT** 11 Oz. **\$1.49**
- Libby's Meat or Chicken **VIENNA SAUSAGES** 5 Oz. Can **2 for 79¢**
- Styro "Big Cool" **FOAM CUPS** 16 Oz. 20 Ct. Pkg. **69¢**
- Duncan Hines Chewy Fudge **BROWNIE MIX** 12.9 Oz. Box **79¢**
- DAWN** Dish Liquid 19 Oz. **99¢**
- Gebhardt Regular or Jalapeno **REFRIED BEANS** 16 Oz. Can **2 for \$1**
- Trail Blazer Chunk **DOG FOOD** 18 Lb. Bag **\$3.99**
- Post **HONEY COMB** Cereal 14-1/2 Oz. Box **\$1.79**
- Post **RAISIN BRAN** Cereal 20 Oz. Box **\$1.79**
- I.B.C. Cream Soda or **ROOT BEER** 6 Pk. 12 Oz. Bottles **\$1.99**
- Pre-Priced \$1.99; Kraft Sliced Singles **AMERICAN CHEESE** 12 Oz. Pkg. **\$1.79**
- Bluebonnet **MARGARINE** 1 Lb. Crs. **2 for \$1**
- Assorted Delany Brand **SOUR CREAM** 16 Oz. Cont. **\$1.19**
- Minute Maid **FRUIT PUNCH** Gal. **\$1.99**
- Regular or Light Parkay **MARGARINE** 1 Lb. Crs. **79¢**
- Ore-Ida Mini **COB CORN** 6 Ct. Pkg. **88¢**
- Assorted Tollins **PARTY PIZZAS** 10.2 Oz. **99¢**

- From Our Meat Market**
- USDA "Packer Trim" Whole Boneless **BEEF BRISKETS** Lb. **99¢**
 - USDA Boneless Beef **TRIMMED BRISKETS** Lb. **\$1.49**
 - (Limit 2 Packages) Tyson's Split **CHICKEN BREASTS** Lb. **89¢**
 - USDA Beef **BACK RIBS** Lb. **89¢**
 - USDA Family Pack Fresh Lean **GROUND CHUCK** Lb. **\$1.49**
 - Cook's Shank Portion **HAMS** Lb. **89¢**
 - Cook's Butt Portion **HAMS** Lb. **99¢**
 - Cook's Center Cut **HAM SLICES** Lb. **\$2.49**
 - USDA Fresh Lean Pork **BUTT ROASTS** Lb. **\$1.19**
 - USDA Family Pack Fresh Lean Country Style **PORK RIBS** Lb. **\$1.19**
 - USDA Family Pack Chicken Thighs or **DRUMSTICKS** Lb. **59¢**
 - USDA Family Pack **CHICKEN WINGS** Lb. **89¢**
 - Farm-Raised **CATFISH NUGGETS** Lb. **\$1.39**
 - Oscar Mayer Red Rind Sliced **BOLOGNA OR SALAMI** 16 Oz. Pkg. **99¢**
 - Oscar Mayer Chopped Ham or Oven Roasted White **TURKEY** 16 Oz. Pkg. **\$1.99**
 - Assorted Jimmy Dean's **BREAKFAST SAUSAGE** 1 Lb. Roll **\$1.89**
 - Decker Meat **HOT DOGS** 12 Oz. Pkg. **69¢**
 - Decker Sliced **BACON** 12 Oz. Pkg. **\$1.39**
 - Oscar Mayer Meat or Beef **HOT DOGS** 16 Oz. Pkg. **\$1.49**
 - Sweet California O'Henry **PEACHES** Lb. **69¢**
 - Julcy Sundist **LEMONS** 7 Ct. Bag **99¢**
 - Julcy California **NECTARINES** Lb. **69¢**