

REGULATORS APPROVE NEW AREA CODE FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE --- State utility regulators gave the go-ahead Tuesday for a new area code to keep up with growth in Central Florida.

The Public Service Commission unanimously approved a proposal that will make the area code 689 available as an overlay to the existing 407 area code in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties, as well parts of Lake and Volusia counties.

The new area code will only affect new numbers and shouldn't be much of a change for existing customers since calls within the counties already require 10-digit dialing.

That's due to an existing overlay with the 321 area code, which was set up for the Space Coast but has a small reach into Central Florida. The new area code won't have an impact on Brevard County.

The new Central Florida prefix has been in the works for more than a decade, but the state received notice on May 16 from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator that the 407 area code would run out of numbers by May 2019.

The 689 area code was initially proposed in 2001, but implementation was delayed a year later due to changes in projections and in the way numbers were assigned to telephone companies.

FPL CUSTOMERS TO RECEIVE HURRICANE MATTHEW RECOVERY REFUND

TALLAHASSEE --- Florida Power & Light customers will see a small, one-time credit in August that in part corrects an "over-recovery" cost for Hurricane Matthew, which whipped the east coast in 2016.

The Florida Public Service Commissioner on Tuesday approved the \$27.7 million agreement between the Juno Beach-based power giant and the Office of Public Counsel. The adjustment should equate to about a \$3.18 credit for a residential customer who uses the industry standard of 1,000 kilowatt hours a month

SUNPASS CONTINUES TO CATCH UP ON TOLL TRANSACTIONS

State transportation officials estimate that about two days' worth of toll transactions will be processed on a daily basis as the SunPass Centralized Customers Service System catches up with what was expected to be a weeklong upgrade. "As improvements to the system move forward, it is anticipated that up to 8 million transactions will be posted on a daily, recurring basis until all accounts are reconciled," Department of Transportation spokeswoman Kim Poulton said in press release Monday evening. As of Monday, more than 20 million backlogged toll transactions had been posted, following a systemwide upgrade that began June 6.

GAS REMAINS AT FOUR-YEAR HIGH IN FLORIDA

Even as the cost of gas in Florida declined by a half-cent over the past week, prices at the pump are the highest in four years, according to AAA auto club. "Reduced global oil supplies have caused summer travelers to pay a higher price at the pump this year," AAA spokesman Mark Jenkins said in a press release. "Fortunately, domestic gasoline production remains strong, which should help prevent major swings in summer gas prices." But Jenkins warned that prices could "pop" if refineries along the Gulf Coast are again threatened by a hurricane.

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