

Infants' deaths investigated

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — A Kerr County doctor and a nurse have been subpoenaed to testify before a Bexar County grand jury investigating the deaths of 12 infants in a pediatric care unit in

1981 and 1982.
Dr. Kathleen Holland and Gene Jones, a licensed vocational nurse, will testify before the grand jury today the San Antonio Light reported Wednesday.

Holland and Jones were both named in a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the father of 15-month-old Chelsa Ann McClellan, who reportedly died after receiving medical care at Holland's Kerrville office on Sept. 17, 1982.

Grand juries in both Bexar and Kerr counties are investigating the mysterious deaths of at least 12 infants in 1981 and 1982 at San Antonio's Medical Center Hospital, formerly called the Bexar County Hospital.

Holland and Jones were both employed at Medical Center Hospital between 1978 and 1981.

The Light, quoting an attorney close to the investigation, said other witnesses, including Medical Center Hospital's "top brass," have been "smuggled" into the grand jury room for the past two weeks.

The attorney said he suspected that the infants were given excessive doses of hepar-

in, a blood thinner, and succinylcholine, a muscle relaxant, the Light reported. The infants reportedly died of cardiac arrest or respiratory failure.

"We have been told that the hospital administrators were aware of the mysterious deaths among infants and, instead of taking action, attempted to cover the whole thing up," the attorney said.

However, hospital officials denied any wrongdoing.

"I do not personally believe there was any wrongdoing," said Dr. B.H. Corum, executive director of the Bexar County Hospital District. "They (citizens) need to understand we are a good institution and we're getting better. We hope whatever the truth is, it comes out."

William Reid McClellan, who filed the Kerrville lawsuit, said his daughter died from seizures as she was being transported to San Antonio by the Kerr County Medical Service.

New PUC appointment approved by committee

United Press International
AUSTIN — A Senate committee today approved El Pasoan Peggy Rosson's appointment to the Public Utility Commission and forwarded her name to the full Senate for a final confirmation vote.

With a 7-0 vote, the Senate Subcommittee on Nominations approved Rosson's nomination after more than an hour of intense questioning.

Rosson and Alan Erwin of Houston were appointed to the PUC by Gov. Mark White after the resignations of cur-

rent commission members George Cowden and Tommie Gene Smith.

White said Rosson's appointment fulfilled his pledge to appoint a housewife to the PUC.

In response to questions from senators, Rosson said she and Erwin's appointments do not mean utility rates will go down.

"I certainly have never inferred they would go down unless there is a massive breakthrough in technology," Rosson said. "I think the best think we can hope for is to put

a lid on it." According to Rosson, the commission needs more time to decide complicated rate cases and also needs a bigger staff.

"You cannot go in and examine in 185 days what a utility has spent six months preparing and expect to find the bones in there," she said. "We need more time."

Rosson also said she favors abolishment of the controversial fuel adjustment clause, a PUC rule that allows utilities to directly pass their increased costs for fuel.

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Brutality investigated in Klan march protest

United Press International
AUSTIN — The FBI said Wednesday it is monitoring an internal police investigation into charges of police brutality against individuals who protested a Ku Klux Klan march on the state Capitol last Saturday.

Eleven people were injured and 13 arrested in the march, which turned violent at the conclusion.

Some 2,000 demonstrators turned out for the march which included about 70 Klansmen.

The police probe was prompted by reports that law enforcement officers used excessive force against some of the rock-throwing demonstrators.

A television tape showed police beating Hispanic activist Paul Hernandez, who was charged with assaulting a police

officer. Police said Hernandez who suffered cuts and bruises provoked the incident. A reporter was also struck with a police baton.

Austin FBI agent Jim King said the federal agency is maintaining contact with the local authorities in this matter. King said the FBI has not launched an investigation of its own.

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