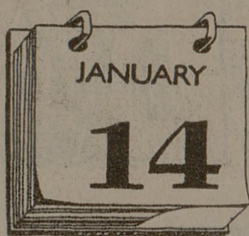


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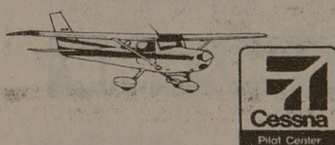
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Mayor says city faces little damage from bombings

Pensacola still in race for ship

United Press International
PENSACOLA, Fla. — Despite the dubious publicity Pensacola has received lately because of a series of abortion clinic bombings, a report to Navy officials looking for a home for a battleship group admires the city's tolerant citizens.
Mayor Vince Whibbs, chairman of the Pensacola Homeporting Commission, said Tuesday he doesn't believe the negative stories will jeopardize the chances for the port being

chosen as home of the USS Wisconsin.
Whibbs said the bombings were isolated cases and Navy officials he talked to recognized it as such.
The executive summary of the 101-page report Pensacola officials gave to the Navy last week says Pensacola is "a tolerant, sophisticated community which can extend its welcome to a contingent of Navy men, women and families, offering them a family oriented homeport city that is safe and delightful."

The report includes charts, graphs and analyses of services. It also includes letters of support from individuals and organizations.
The report also lists several former nicknames for Pensacola, including "Snapper Capital of the World." It notes that the Naval Air Station was once known as the "Cradle of Naval Aviation," but is now called the "Mother-in-law of Naval Aviation."
Under a section on hurricanes, the report says the entire Gulf Coast

is at risk of tropical storms, but adds that most of Pensacola is above storm surge levels.
Pensacola is competing against other Gulf Coast ports, including nearby Mobile, to become the home of the Battleship Surface Action Group.
Jack Hornsbeck, executive director of the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce, said he was not certain how many of the original 17 ports followed through and submitted reports to the Navy.

HL&P
PUC slashes rate request

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Public Utility Commission, expressing concern over the planning and management of the troubled South Texas Nuclear Project, Tuesday awarded Houston Lighting & Power Co. less than one-third of the \$554 million rate increase it sought.

Instead, the three-member commission voted to raise HL&P's annual revenues by only \$168.2 million, which would apparently translate into about a 3 percent increase for the utility's residential customers.

The PUC rejected a recommendation by its hearing examiner, who proposed a \$271 million rate hike.
Company spokesman Don Beeth said it was too soon to say whether HL&P would appeal the order, but he said the order could spell trouble for the utility's future capability.

"We have some serious concerns about our ability to keep power for jobs and homes," he said. "It (order) is certainly cause for a lot of concern."

Revenues in the rate case were lowered dramatically when the commission decided not to allow HL&P to include \$617 million in STNP construction costs because the company failed to prove the plant — as required by state law — had been efficiently and prudently planned and managed.

HL&P is the managing partner in the nuclear plant under construction at Bay City.

The plant was originally forecast to cost \$1.4 billion and be completed in 1980, but estimated construction costs have soared to \$5.5 billion. Unit 1 is expected to go on line in 1987.

PUC Chairman Philip Ricketts told reporters that HL&P and its customers would probably have been better off if the STNP had never been started. But he added, "The problem right now is dealing with it as it is."
"I'm very concerned about the record as it reflects on the progress or lack of progress in the construction planning on this project."

Jim Boyle, director of the state Office of Public Counsel, said he thought the rate increase was "too high." Boyle's office, which represents residential ratepayers, had recommended an \$85 million rate decrease.

"The ratepayers should not be paying for mismanagement," he said.
The commission ordered authorized HL&P to earn 16.3 percent return on its common equity, but Boyle said the earnings level should be lower because customers should not have to bear the increased risk associated with STNP.

Because of HL&P's management record, the PUC voted against authorizing a portion of the rate hike for an "executive bonus" plan.

Although the company appears to be doing a better job of management, Commissioner Peggy Rosson said she could not support an incentive and bonus program for managers.

The commission also agreed to conduct hearings on the economic feasibility of STNP's Unit 2, which is about 40 percent complete and scheduled to be operational in 1988 or 1989.

Other partners in STNP include Central Power & Light Co. of Corpus Christi and the cities of Austin and San Antonio.

**Police shot at during
attempted drug bust**

United Press International
SUGAR LAND — Two undercover police officers were assaulted and shot at early Tuesday during what was supposed to be a cocaine purchase and drug bust, authorities said.

A Fort Bend County major crime task force officer and a Rosenberg policeman were treated for cuts and bruises after being assaulted about 12:35 a.m. Tuesday, said Jim Flagg, task force director.

Police said two Sugar Land broth-

ers in their early 20s and a third suspect approached the undercover officers and offered to sell them cocaine. But police said they do not know whether the suspects ever intended to deliver cocaine because none was found.

After allegedly assaulting the officers, Anthony Ray Kaiser and the unidentified man fled on foot, authorities said. Glen Kaiser then appeared and fired two to four shots at the officers with a .22 caliber pistol, police said.

**Judge justifies jail
ruling in Port case**

United Press International
HOUSTON — Continued confinement in jail is serving the desired purpose with a woman who refuses to answer all of a grand jury's questions about her stepson's possible involvement in a murder, a federal judge ruled.

U.S. District Judge Carl Bue denied a request by Odette Port to be released from the Harris County Jail, where she has been held since Sept. 12 on a contempt of grand jury charge.

Port's attorney, Randy Schaffer, had argued that continued incarceration would not cause her to cooperate, but Bue said, "The record belies this contention."

In court records obtained Tuesday of Bue's Jan. 3 ruling, the judge noted that Port had answered most of about 200 questions in early November after the grand jury extended its term to Jan. 31. She earlier had refused to answer the same questions.

Schaffer also had argued that the half-dozen questions Port refused to answer were not relevant to elevating the charge against

David Port from murder to capital murder and could only be used to assist the prosecution in trial preparation.

Bue ruled that Port "lacks standing to challenge the propriety of the grand jury proceedings" or to set the limits of its investigation. He further said there has been no abuse of the grand jury process.

"It is clear that while some pre-trial discovery may flow from the investigation performed by the grand jury, the questions propounded to Mrs. Port may well be relevant and material to the question of whether a capital murder had occurred or whether one or more individuals were involved," Bue said.

David Port is charged with murder in the June 7 shooting death of letter carrier Debora Sue Schatz, 23. He is free on \$20,000 bond and is scheduled to go to trial Feb. 25 in New Braunfels. His father, Bernard Port, was jailed from Sept. 12 to Nov. 9, when he answered all of the questions asked of him by the grand jury.

**Man sentenced to 15
years for mail fraud**

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Investment promoter Joel David Nelson, who pleaded guilty to cheating hundreds of elderly people out of more than \$20 million in what was described as the country's longest-running pyramid scheme, was sentenced Tuesday to 15 years in prison.

U.S. District Court Judge Consuelo Marshall also placed Nelson on 10 years probation after his release from prison and ordered him to repay \$8 million to his victims.

Nelson, 50, pleaded guilty to five counts of mail fraud in August in exchange for a government promise to drop 30 other charges against him. He was accused of operating a pyramid investment scheme that lasted 13 years before finally collapsing.

Prosecutors said many of the nearly 520 elderly people caught up in the scheme lost their life savings to Nelson.

"I can't convey the sense of loss and pain these people have gone through," Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Kendall told the court while

"For a period exceeding 13 years from 1968 through 1981, the defendant masterminded a pyramid or Ponzi scheme, that victimized at least 517 investors. As far as the government is aware, defendant operated the longest-running pyramid scheme in history," Kendall wrote in a sentencing memo to the court.

Nelson was captured by federal agents in June in San Antonio after evading authorities for 2 1/2 years. He vanished from his Hollywood Hills mansion on New Year's Eve 1981, with his secretary, Donna Santiago, and a briefcase filled with \$150,000 in cash.

Nelson's elaborate schemes included an insurance premium refinancing business known as the Shirley Company and a lucrative Texas real estate deal, neither of which actually existed, prosecutors said.

"What these people lost was the expectation that they could retire with the money they gave to Mr. Nelson," the prosecutor said. "It's pure fantasy to argue that people did not lose much."

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