

Jones, Pontecorvo, Leach seek City Council seats

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of three stories on the Barstow City Council candidates.

By CHUCK MULLER, City Council Member

BARSTOW — Andrew P. Jones, Brian O. Leach and J. Pontecorvo are among nine candidates seeking election to the City Council April 8.

In this article are their comments on major campaign questions asked by The Sun.

Andrew Jones

Jones, 45, a Barstow resident 20 years, is a car inspector for Santa Fe Railway.

He was born in Louisiana, and is a Barstow High School graduate.

Jones is a deacon and trustee of Union Baptist Church, and is a member of the Manassas Ridge Riverside Drive project and the Ad Hoc citizens committee.

He and his wife, Vivian, have three children.

An extremely concerned about our city, its redevelopment program, and our senior citizens and youth programs," Jones said.

Jones said he believes the First Avenue Bridge should be kept open, while making Yucca Valley available to north Barstow.

Should major capital

campaign '80

improvement projects be submitted to public vote?

"Yes, because taxpayers' dollars are being spent for improvements," Jones said.

As to use of eminent domain condemnation of private property for public benefit, Jones said:

"The city should not acquire private property to resell to another private owner."

Jones favors continued redevelopment in areas "where it is warranted," he said.

"Areas that need the money should get it," he added. "We shouldn't receive money for one thing and then spend it on another."

Top priority for the next four years should be for another bridge and for redevelopment projects, Jones said.

"I object, I would like to see citizens become more concerned about local government and we would strive to accomplish a better relationship between city of

friends and voters," he said.

Brian Leach

Leach, 61, who was born in Maine, has lived here 31 years. He is a retired civil servant at the Marine Corps Logistic Base.

He attended North-western Business College in Maine, and is past president of the Mojave Valley United Fruit Club. He is a member of the Elks Lodge.

Leach and his wife, Helen, have two daughters and two stepsons.

Leach would favor continuing First Avenue directly to Irwin Road, connecting north Barstow

in an area not heavily congested.

Should major capital improvement projects go to voters for approval?

"Absolutely," Leach said.

"The taxpayer should determine the necessary improvements. The community may have to vote before making improvements, but democracy is the very foundation of this country. The public should decide what they need and want, not the elected officials."

Leach said he would use the council's right of eminent domain if no other alternatives are available.

But he added: "Eminent domain should never be used to

further the cause of the wealthy and ambitious. With the land we have available, I cannot foresee the need for the use of eminent domain."

If elected, Leach would "return city government to the people of Barstow," to the extent an elected representative is able.

"All too often, the desires and needs of the people have been disregarded," he said.

Pontecorvo

Pontecorvo, 55, a Barstow businessman for 22 years, was born in Pennsylvania to Italian immigrant parents.

He is a World War II veteran, and worked for

the Santa Fe Railway 10 years in Needles, where he served on the City Council.

(Continued on B2, Col. D)

Pleads innocent to second charge

Ludene case moved to Ontario

By SYBIL ALGER
Sun Staff Writer

BARSTOW — School board members accused a second misdemeanor charge to Barstow Municipal Court Monday.

He entered a plea of innocent to cruelty to children.

Judge Leroy Simmons then granted a defense request to move Landreaux's trial out of Barstow, transferring the case to Ontario County Monday.

The judicial panel had cited pretrial publicity on stories stemming from the original charge of endangering the health of a child faced against the Barstow Unified School District trustee earlier this year.

Simmons said a new trial date will be set at a pretrial hearing in Ontario County on April 15.

The case was not available Monday.

Landreaux's trial on the first charge was originally set for today in Barstow.

Detective Toby Tyler of the Crimes Against Children Unit of the Central Juvenile Division of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said the new charge alleges a "failure to obtain medical treatment for one of his Landreaux's sons who apparently has been found to have epilepsy."

Deputy District Attorney Mark Clark told the court that possible sexual misconduct will not be the main focus of the prosecution's case.

"From the beginning, we have not intended to try this as a sexual case," Clark said.

Defense Attorney Blenden O. Beardsley Jr. protested the charge. "You sure can't figure that out

from reading the description," Clark said. "We didn't allege any specific sexual crimes."

Tyler said the endangering charge will be argued on the basis of "failure to obtain obviously necessary medical treatment," but he would not elaborate.

Landreaux was originally arrested for investigation of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor and another sex charge.

Judge Simmons said a request by Beardsley for a psychiatric examination of the 18-year-old girl involved should be made at the trial itself.

In ruling for the motion for change of venue, Judge Simmons agreed with Beardsley that pre-trial publicity was sufficient to justify moving the trial.

Though he said he had

not seen any prejudice in press reports, Judge Simmons said, "I have personally observed editorialists in the San Bernardino Sun and articles and letters to the editor in the Sun and in Desert Dispatch by local citizens relative to whether the defendant should leave the school board and whether the Sheriff's Office covered up the case."

"If we run a substantial risk that a fair and impartial jury cannot be found here . . .

"If we run a substantial risk that a fair and impartial jury cannot be found here . . . we should advise by various administrators and executives of the school district not to attend the trial," Clark said.

District Superintendent Ray Smith refused to comment on statement or on statement and board chairman Kirland Mahlum could not be reached for comment.

problems getting an impartial jury here. I could go outside and grab 50 people. I'd bet 45 of them wouldn't know about this case."

Since Ontario is in San Bernardino County Judge Simmons said the move is technically not a change of venue.

"Publicity has not been so pervasive that we have to move this out of the county. We can move this to Ontario with a minimal cost to the taxpayers and without the attending publicity which is probable in a small community like Barstow."

Beardsley said his client has been laid off from his job as manager of a local finance company, and has been advised by various administrators and executives of the school district not to attend the trial.

District Superintendent Ray Smith refused to comment on statement or on statement and board chairman Kirland Mahlum could not be reached for comment.

barstow yucca valley 29 palms

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Tuesday, April 1, 1980 B Section

Supervisors back water loan effort

SAN BERNARDINO — The county Board of Supervisors Monday authorized an application to the state Department of Water Resources for a \$520,000-year interest loan to design and construct a new water system for Plowerton.

The county's Special Districts department also is seeking a low-interest loan from the U. S. Farmers Home Administration for the project.

The Department of Water Resources loan would come from funds made available by the state's voter-approved Safe Drinking Water Bond Act of 1976 and would be repaid through assessments on properties benefiting from the proposed system.

The supervisors in January approved leaving fees of \$100 an acre on some 400 properties in the desert community north of Yucca Valley to pay costs of locating an adequate water source and drilling a well.

A special districts official said the new system, which initially would serve about 100 homes and businesses, would replace a private one that is underused and deteriorated and that has about 40 connections. A number of residents now reportedly must have water hauled to their homes.

Census phones jammed

BAKERSFIELD — Telephone lines here have jammed at the U.S. Census Bureau district of five as people try to cope with their census questionnaires.

"We have 12 phone lines and they've been ringing constantly," district manager Cleo Akers said Monday. "We've been getting calls from people complaining that they can't get through."

Instead of asking specific questions, Akers said callers are "sort of overwhelmed by the whole thing. I don't think they read it. They just call us before they start."

Family questionnaires also exist about the April 1 mail-in date.

"This is not an absolute deadline."

Morongo public housing proposal gains approval

SAN BERNARDINO — The county Housing Authority's proposal to build 40 public housing units on Twentynine Palms and Yucca Valley was endorsed Monday by the Board of Supervisors.

The plans encountered opposition during a brief board hearing. The hearing was required by a

ballot measure that voters approved in November 1976 to allow public housing in the county's unincorporated communities.

The Housing Authority, the agency is proposing designs for the low-rent, two-bedroom apartments.

The units in Twentynine Palms, including 20 at the southwest corner of

Joshua and Desert Queen avenues and 10 at the southwest corner of Joshua and Cholla avenues.

In Yucca Valley, the agency is proposing such units on the east side of Cherokee Trail north of Pueblo Trail and four units at the northeast corner of Pueblo and Fox trails.

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